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Peach County's Newspaper

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Man sent to hospital after shooting at Westside Villas apartments in Fort Valley

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — A man was hospitalized after a shooting took place at a Fort Valley apartment complex on Thursday, May 7, according to Fort Valley Police Chief David Wilson.

Wilson said that the police responded to a reported shooting around 1:40 p.m. at Westside Villas on Brooks Boulevard. When officers arrived on scene, they found a man who had been shot.

The man was taken to a local hospital to undergo surgery. At the time of the report, the victim was listed in critical condition and his current status is unknown.

Wilson said the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) responded to the scene and would handle the investigation.

At this time no arrests have been made.

This is a developing story. *The Leader Tribune* will provide updates as they become available.

Georgia Open Burn Ban in effect from May to September

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — Georgia’s annual summer burn ban went into effect Friday, May 1, which bans citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris. The ban is designed to protect air quality in North and Middle Georgia.

The Open Burn Ban is enforced by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and will last from May 1 to Sept. 30 in 54 counties, which include Peach and its surrounding counties.

According to a release from the EPD, during the summer months, sunlight and heat combine with pollutants—such as

smoke from outdoor burning—which form ozone. Ozone can irritate the lungs and worsen respiratory conditions.

According to James Boylan, Chief of the EPD Air Protection Branch, “Smoke from open burning includes small particles and gaseous air pollutants that can form ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone can cause inflammation of the lungs, especially in children, elderly people, and people with preexisting conditions. When open burning creates smoky conditions, reducing exposure is important.”

Recreational activities such as campfires and grilling are exempt from the open burning ban.

Peach County Board of Education honors substitutes, upcoming graduates



(photo above) PCHS seniors and (photo below) substitute teachers awarded.

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The Peach County Board of Education recognized multiple Peach County High School seniors—including the 2025-2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian—and outstanding substitute teachers within the Peach County School system during the May board meeting.

Joey Hinson, Peach County High School’s Work-Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, brought forth two students to participate in the “Teach in the Peach” signing day for future educators sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education.

PCHS students Fisher Fuller and Malena Borders both plan to become future educators. Fuller is finishing the Early Childhood Education pathway through the dual enrollment program with Central Georgia Technical College. He plans to attend Middle Georgia State University, where he will pursue a degree in physical education.

Borders finished her Early



Childhood Education pathway through dual enrollment with CGTC when she was a junior and has since worked at Byron Elementary School as a volunteer and part of the work-based learning program. She plans to attend the University of West Georgia and pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Georgia students. You will be a great asset as we work towards preparing all students for life,” Hinson said before Fuller and Borders signed the Teach in the Peach documents.

Dr. Angela Hambrick, Principal of PCHS, recognized five students of the 2026 graduating class for their hard work and dedication through their education. Hambrick first recognized the 2025-2026 Valedictorian, Elandra Reese, and Salutatorian,

HONORS
CONTINUED PG 6A



Georgia Governor signs law that bans cell phones in high schools

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed a bill that will restrict high school students from using personal electronic devices during the school day, in an effort to improve student focus.

school day.

HB 1009 is an extension to House Bill 340, also known as the Distraction-Free Education Act, which banned students in kindergarten through eighth grade from using electronic devices in classrooms.

“Here in the No. 1 state for business and opportunity, our classrooms must be safe learning environments that serve as launching pads for success in the workforce,” said Governor Brian Kemp. “The bills I signed today implement proven strategies to improve literacy and

math scores, reduce distractions in the classroom, expand pathways to graduation, and further support hardworking educators and families. These are just the latest steps we’ve taken to create opportunity for all Georgians, no matter their zip code.”

According to the newly passed law, all public high schools must establish policies restricting access to electronic devices in the classroom. Georgia high schools will have to implement these new restrictions by July 1, 2027.



CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION CEREMONY
Friday, May 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

PEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
3665 PEACH PARKWAY
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030



8 08805 93482 3

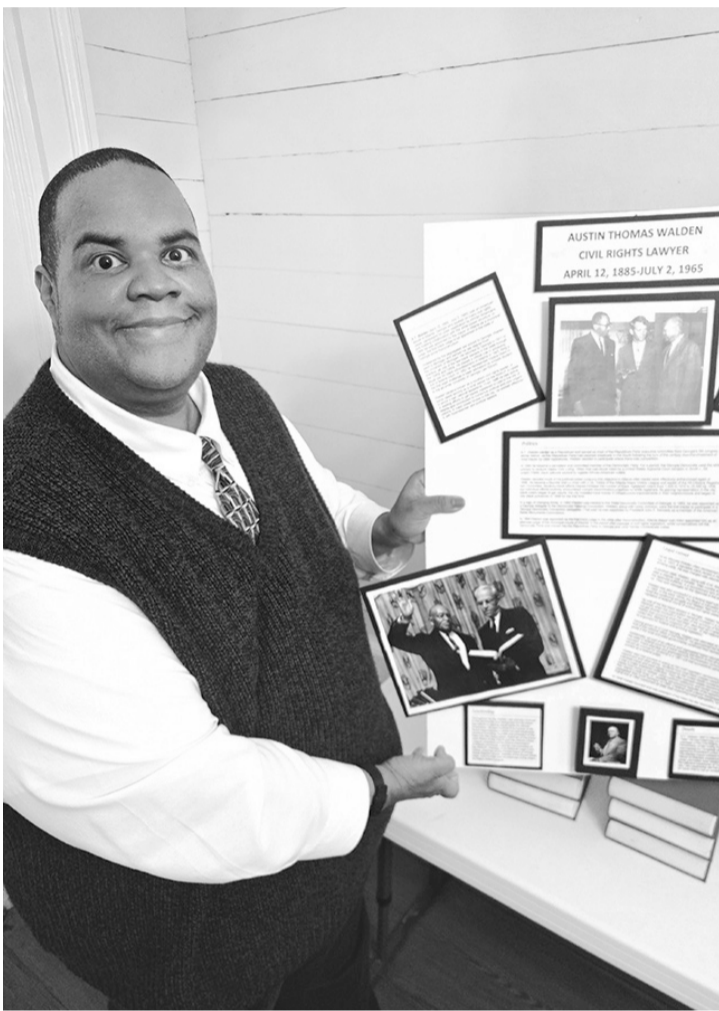
Dr. Preston F. Martin, of FVSU spoke at the Peach County Historical Society meeting

Contributed by Mary Ann van Hartesveldt

Dr. Preston F. Martin, of FVSU, gave a fascinating discussion of Fort Valley native: Austin Thomas (A.T.) Walden at the April meeting of the Peach County Historical Society.

Walden was educated at the Fort Valley High and Industrial School and, ultimately, the University of Michigan Law School. Martin's remarks,

based on his award-winning essay concerning Walden, portrayed his life as a civil rights champion in the mid-20th century, at times the only practicing black attorney in Atlanta, and the first black judge appointed in Georgia since Reconstruction. Martin, who was at times erudite, funny, and wise was warmly applauded by the audience of about two dozen when he concluded



FVMS Chorus visited The Otis Redding Foundation's Museum and the Otis Redding Center for the Arts

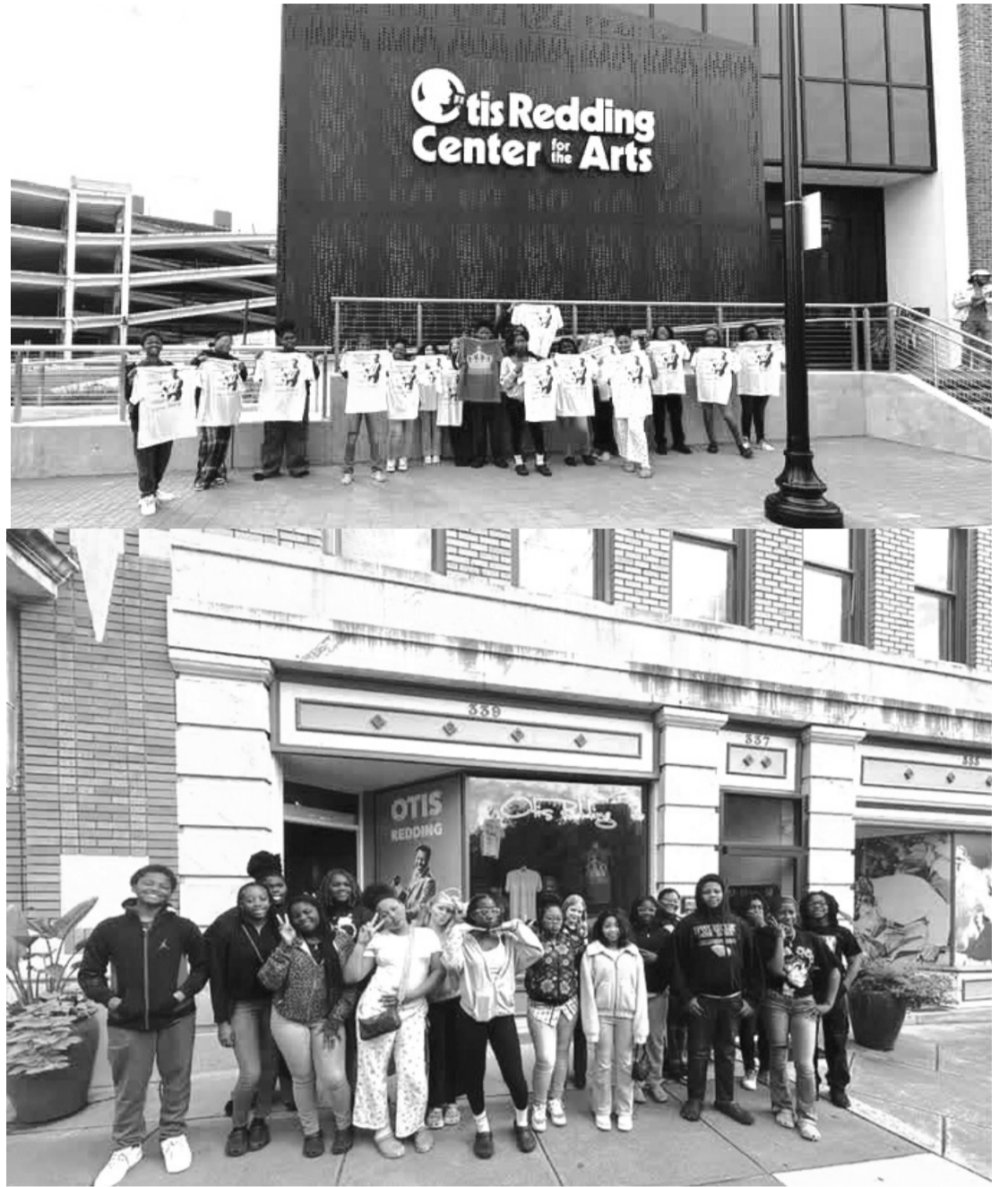
By PCSS

Thanks to a generous donation from Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Brown and The Lotus Center, Fort Valley Middle School's Chorus students were able to visit The Otis Redding Foundation's Museum and the Otis Redding Center for the Arts.

Their visit was nothing short of amazing. This experience gave these students the opportunity to not only learn about the incredible legacy of Otis Redding and the rich history of music and culture, but to also step into the world of creativity and production through hands-on experiences that many of them will never forget.

They were exposed to music production, artistic expression, and real-world applications of the fine arts in a way that went far beyond the classroom. Watching our students engage, create, and gain confidence through music and the arts was truly priceless.

Fine arts education is essential because it helps students develop creativity, discipline, collaboration, self-expression, and confidence. The arts reach students in ways traditional instruction sometimes cannot, and experiences like this remind us why supporting arts education matters so much.



Georgia taxpayers to get rebates from the state within weeks

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia taxpayers should begin seeing income tax refunds from the state soon.

Most eligible taxpayers who filed timely state returns for 2024 and 2025 can expect one-time rebates of \$250 for individuals, \$375 for heads of households

and \$500 for married couples filing jointly.

The payback is the result of state lawmakers voting unanimously in the House and Senate to pass House Bill 1000 this year. The measure was funded in the amended budget for the current fiscal year, with an estimated price tag of about \$1.2 billion.

“Our team is ready to deliver these refunds efficiently and

securely to Georgia taxpayers,” Georgia Department of Revenue Commissioner David Burge said in a statement Monday.

The rebate was a priority for Gov. Brian Kemp, who touted it as the fourth under his leadership.

Kemp's office said Monday that most should see the money “within the coming weeks,” with the governor adding that Geor-

gians “know best how to spend their money, not the government.”

If you know your federally adjusted gross income, you can check your eligibility for the state rebate at <https://gtc.dor.ga.gov/>

More information at <https://dor.georgia.gov/georgia-surplus-tax-refund>

FARMERS FOR BURT JONES

Fellow Farmers,

We write today as state legislators. More importantly, we write to you as Georgia farmers who have had the unique experience of witnessing the intersection of governmental policy and the effects those policies can have on our family farms.

We each fight in Atlanta every day during the legislative session on behalf of the Agriculture community. In the environment under the Gold Dome, we learn pretty quickly who has the backs of our state's farm families and rural Georgia. **We can tell you unequivocally that Lt. Governor Burt Jones has been a steadfast friend to agriculture and rural Georgia. Even during times when it would've been easier, and perhaps even more politically prudent to go in a different direction, he has stood by and fought for the interests of the agriculture industry and farming families in both his former role as a State Senator and now as Lt. Governor.**

Combined, those who signed this letter represent families who have farmed for generations. Burt and his family have farmed on the same land in Butts County for six generations. We may be Senators and Representatives while the legislature is in session, but we are always full-time farmers.

We each know, without a doubt in our hearts, that Burt Jones is the person we trust most to fight for our family farms and yours too. That is why we are supporting him in his campaign to be our next Governor and humbly ask you to join us in doing the same.

May God bless your families, your farms, and our shared future. Your friends,

Senator Russ Goodman
Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee

Senator Lee Anderson
Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee

Representative Angie O'Steen
House Agriculture Committee

Representative Robert Dickey
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

Senator Drew Echols
Chairman, Senate Economic Development Committee

Representative Jutt Howard
House Agriculture Committee

Senator Sam Watson
Senate Agriculture Committee

Representative John Corbett
House Agriculture Committee

Paid for by Friends of Russ Goodman, Sam Watson for State Senate, & Committee to Elect Robert Dickey.

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

Anguiano, Antonio, 25, Byron, GA: Loitering Or Prowling, No Tag Or Expired Registration

Balog, Andrei, 31, Elmhurst, IL: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Window Tint Violation, Possession Of Marijuana - Less Than One Ounce

Butler, Phillip Markel, 24, Valdosta, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Dean, Zhajah Chiara Shiquan, 29, Centerville, GA: Failure To Appear

Duarte, Daniel, 18, Lizella, GA: Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, Driving With Suspended License, Window Tint Violation

Fitzpatrick, Zion Tesean, 25, Macon, GA: Loitering And Prowling, Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Hakeem, Jamiya Tyteyonna, 20, Perry, GA: Criminal Trespass

Hill, Santavious Jaquez, 32, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Mccooy, Alton Latracy, 29, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Meridy, Marcus Darnacro, 47, Macon, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits, No Insurance, Driving With Suspended License

Perez, Alejandro Mezquite, 21, Live Oak, FL: Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, Loitering Or Prowling, Following Too Closely, Driving Without A Valid License

Williams, Charles Edward, 35, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Zanders, Deajah Lakeya, 26, Byron, GA: Failure To Obey Traffic Control Device, Defective Or Missing Mirrors, No Insurance, Driving With Suspended License, Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, Possession Of Drug Related Object

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Clark, Wayne Jerome, 59, Fort Valley, GA: Simple Battery

James, Audrey, 45, Warner Robins, GA: Simple Battery

Johnson, Carolyn Yvonne, 24, Columbus, GA: Cruelty To Animals, Cruelty To Animals, Cruelty To Animals

Jones, Amari Josiah, 19, Fort Valley, GA: Reckless Conduct, Loitering, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Maxwell, Samiyah Dnasha, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Public Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct, Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Robinson, Christian Isiah, 25, Byron, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane

Robinson, Victor, 21, Macon, GA: Forgery - 4th Degree, Forgery - 4th Degree, Forgery - 4th Degree, Forgery - 4th Degree

Woodard, Anthonie, 45, Fort Valley, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane, Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers By Use Of Threats Or Violence - Felony

Peach County Sheriff's Office Arrests/Citations

Baxter, Michael Lewis, 17, Warner Robins, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd

Benson, John Edward, 51, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Bryant, Le'shae Mischantea, 41, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Felony, Failure To Appear - Felony, Failure To Appear - Felony

Canion, Sequoyeah Rahmine, 33, Kathleen, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Carroll, Jonah, 21, Byron, GA: Terroristic Threats And Acts

Castleberry, Toni Janese, 37, Decatur, GA: Driving While License Suspended

Crump, Davon, 26, Atlanta, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Davis, Jarrett Bernard, 20, Decatur, GA: Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer, Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Flakes, Ariyen Alan, 20, Dacula, GA: Criminal Use Of An Article With Altered Id Mark (Other Than Motor Vehicle), Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Window Tint Violation, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer, Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Fletcher, Johnnie, 38, Atlanta, GA: Possession Of Marijuana, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Possession Of A Schedule I Controlled Substance, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Fletcher, Vanesa Renee, 41, Atlanta, GA: Possession Of Marijuana, Possession Of A Schedule I Controlled Substance, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies

Harris, Reginald Bernard, 35, Americus, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Window Tint Violation, Possession With Intent To Distribute, Giving False Name, Address, Or Birthdate To Law Enforcement Officer

Harris, Steve, 56, Fort Valley, GA: Hold For Accountability Court

Holden, Hal, 60, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Register As A Sex Offender

Horn, Mckenzie Leann Paige, 25, Macon, GA: Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies, Possession Of A Schedule II Controlled Substance

Johnson, Cedrick Arnett, 20, Macon, GA: Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree, Loitering And Prowling, Entering Automobile Or Other Motor Vehicle With Intent To Commit Theft Or Felony

Johnson, Jerian Brysonbernard, 21, Soperton, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane

Jordan, Destini Bernae, 21, Albany, GA: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Failure To Maintain Lane

Joseph, Jasel, 55, Homeless: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Lowe, Chandler Jamir, 21, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Mann, Reginald, 57, Fort Valley, GA: Aggravated Assault

Mason, Darius Devante, 30, Warner Robins, GA: Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Seat Belt Violation, Illegal Stop/Stand/Park Where Prohibited, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz.

Messenger, Alexandria, 27, Deerfield Beach, FL: Possession Of A Schedule II Controlled Substance, Prescription Drugs Must Be In Their Original Container(S)

Morgan, Darryl, 66, Hampton, GA:

Morgan, Frank Daryl Scott, 37, Byron, GA: Disorderly Conduct, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz.

Murphy, Jarvis De'marcus, 19, Conyers, GA: Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer, Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Rahmaan, Nasiere Malik, 20, Atlanta, GA: Criminal Use Of An Article With Altered Id Mark (Other Than Motor Vehicle), Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer, Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Ramirez, De Leon, 36, Houston, TX: Failure To Signal Lane Change Or Turn, Driving W/O Valid License, Reckless Driving

Sconyers, Olivia Ellen, 34, Forsyth, GA: Theft By Taking - Felony, Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor

Scott, Davontez Myrees, 18, Temple, GA: Criminal Use Of An Article With Altered Id Mark (Other Than Motor Vehicle), Possession Of Sawed-Off Shotgun, Sawed-Off Rifle, Machine Gun, Dangerous Weapon, Or Silencer, Theft By Receiving Stolen Property- Felony

Smith, Torry Ladel, 28, Byron, GA: Simple Battery - Family Violence, Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense

Crawford County Sheriff's Office Arrests

Sherman, Felicia Shannon, 36, Fort Valley, GA: Cruelty To Children-Criminal Negligence/Causes Excessive Phys/Mental Pain-2nd Degree

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



GA Peach Festival
June 5-6, 2026 in Fort Valley and June 13, 2026 in Byron.
GA Peach Festival Parade takes place Saturday, June 6 at 10am.
Join us as we celebrate four decades of sweetness!

Public Meetings Notice
City Of Fort Valley Mayor And Council
Location: City Hall
204 Web Churb Street
Fort Valley, Ga 31030

Work Session Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Time: 06:00 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 864 4941 5426
Passcode: 185685

City Council Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Time: 06:30 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 819 2860 3039
Passcode: 926765

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Byron Invitation for Bid

The City of Byron Georgia invites the submission of sealed bids for:
Manchester Place Subdivision Stormwater Improvements
Bids Due – Thursday, May 28th at 10:00 A.M. EST at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Byron Georgia 31008

Copies of plans and bidding documents may be obtained from GWES, LLC by emailing william.jones@gwesllc.com. Further inquiries can be made by visiting the City of Byron Public Works Department at 401 Main Street, Byron Georgia 31008 or by phone at 478-956-3600. The City of Byron reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive technicalities in the bids received.

WCHS CLASS OF 1976
50TH Class REUNION

Friday - May 29
MEET & GREET
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Angie's Steak & Seafood
1961 Wren Highway
Thomson, GA

Saturday - May 30
CLASS PICNIC
10:00 - 2:00 PM
MLK Pavillion
BANQUET
6:00 - 11:00 PM
Formal Attire

Sunday - May 31
CHURCH SERVICE - 10:30 AM
Cody Grove Baptist Church
3177 E. Warrenton Road
Warrenton, GA

For more information: 404-660-5676

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. (TNS)

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.

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

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

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

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

WE ACCEPT TIPS!

(478) 825-2432
FAX (478) 825-4130
Email: news@theleadertribune.com

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! It's an annual observance founded by Mental Health America (MHA) in 1949 to highlight the importance of mental well-being, educate the public, reduce stigma, and promote support for those affected by mental health conditions.

Each year, a theme is chosen, and the MHA releases a toolkit of materials to help guide preparation for outreach programs and activities. During May, MHA, along with its affiliates and other organizations associated with mental health, will conduct and host activities based on the year's theme. MHA's theme for the 2026 Mental Health Awareness Month is "More Good Days, Together."

MHA writes: "This year's theme—More Good Days, Together—encourages us all to reflect on what a 'good' day looks like, both for ourselves and for our communities. Together, we can use that insight to connect people to the right support at the right time, and shape advocacy, education, and community engagement to make more good days possible for all."

Additionally, Mental Health America is challenging people to rally their friends and family to help raise mental health awareness by wearing green. Green is the international symbol for mental health awareness. The color green

represents fresh starts, optimism, and positive energy.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) creates a theme as well, with this year's theme being "Stigma grows in silence. Healing begins in community."

"Mental health impacts everyone in our communities. Your experience, your journey, and your voice can help break stigma, build understanding, and create hope and healing for others," NAMI writes.

There are many misconceptions about what mental health is and how it affects people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines mental health as the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of a person. Mental health affects how people think, feel, and act while also determining how a person handles stress, relates to others, and makes healthy choices.

Mental illnesses are one of the most common health conditions in the United States, with there being more than 200 types of mental illnesses. Mental illnesses can range from depression, anxiety, phobias, learning disabilities, chronic illnesses, and disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and self-harm.

Mental illnesses present themselves differently to each person. It varies in how it presents itself, how it affects someone, and the overall time frame. Some mental illnesses are episodic, others are experienced for a brief period, and some are chronic. It's also not uncommon for people to suffer from multiple mental illnesses at one time, such as anxiety

HAMMOND
CONTINUED PG 6A

How a Muscle Cell Grows (Hypertrophy)



By Wade Yoder
LT Columnist

Most of us would like a little more muscle for either, extra strength, shape or simply for better economy of movement or in other words, to have more strength and energy so that whatever we have to do in our daily grind does not wear us out, and that we can have a little steam left to do the fun things in life with the ones we care about.

When our muscle cells expand (hypertrophy) through increased stretch and tension, they simply become stronger, firmer, and have added space

inside them to hold more muscle energy (glycogen).

The above is the way our muscle counters and adapts to a new stress placed on the muscle(s) and is also why something that used to be hard to lift, push, pull, press, walk, climb etc. becomes much easier when done consistently and over a period of time, especially when we gradually increase resistance.

Recovery: this is something that is very important to the muscle and strength building process. When muscle cells get put under a stress they're not used to, it causes little micro tears in the muscle, and this is what we need nutrition, rest, and recovery time to allow our body the time it takes to patch up these muscle cells with amino acids from the proteins in our diet. When our body repairs these muscle cells with this amino acid patch paint creating new protein in the muscle what we have is a microscopically stronger expanded muscle cell.

It's important to increase this muscle or endurance building stresses over a period of time due to the breakdown process that happens to the muscle proteins in our body. This broken-down protein has to be removed (a lot like the waste around a construction site) and if there is too much waste in a short period of time, it can cause things to get clogged up, and in this case it would be an overload on your kidneys! I read recently about a lady's trainer that pushed her way too hard on her first workout and the next morning her urine was the color of Dr Pepper. She was an insurance agent, and with the type of job she had, her body was probably not close to being prepared for the type of workout her trainer put her through.

Once your muscle is recovered, (usually within 1-2 days) it is ready to be worked again either for the purpose of keeping it at its current strength and size or you can slightly increase

the stress to increase strength and muscle size, this depends on your fitness goals. The size of the muscle group worked, and intensity of the workout can have a bearing on the amount of recovery time needed.

One of the largest contributing factors to the loss of stamina, strength and performance and the overall aging process is atrophy aka the shrinking of our muscles whether skeletal muscle or the muscles that make up our vital organs and the main 2 factors to this is our diet and inactivity.

Our body adapts to inactivity by shrinking muscle and vital organs (muscle atrophy), but our body also adapts to gradual increases of stress by strengthening our muscle(s) through the hypertrophy of our muscle cells.

Let's live a hypertrophy lifestyle so that our quality of life will not atrophy!

Many People Don't Know What a Charter School Is.

By Athan Clark, GA Public Policy Foundation

Every year, thousands of Georgia parents fill out lottery applications for schools their children may never get to attend. Not because they can't afford it, but because thousands of other Georgia families want the same thing and there simply aren't enough seats.

That school is a public charter school.

And if you're not entirely sure what that means, you're in good company. Charter schools have been at the center of America's education debate for decades, yet most Americans still struggle to explain what one actually is. Charter School Week is a good time to change that.

A public school, by another name

Let's start with the most important and most frequently misunderstood fact: A charter school is a public school. It is funded by taxpayers, free to attend and open to any student within its attendance zone who applies. No entrance exam. No tuition. No religious instruction. No selectivity based on income or ability. If more students apply than there are seats (and in Georgia, there almost always are) admission is determined by lottery.

What makes a charter school different from a traditional public school is not who it serves, but how it operates. Under an agreement — a charter — with either a local school district or the State Charter Schools Commission, the school is granted meaningful freedom: over its curriculum, its schedule, its culture and how it deploys its

resources. In exchange for that freedom, it accepts a higher level of accountability than most traditional public schools ever face.

An idea born from frustration, not ideology

Charter schools were not invented by conservatives looking to privatize education. The concept was first proposed in the 1970s by Ray Budde, a teacher and education professor at the University of Massachusetts, whose 1974 paper went largely unnoticed until it was republished in 1988. It was then championed most visibly by Albert Shanker — the longtime president of the American Federation of Teachers, one of the most powerful teachers unions in the country. Shanker's vision was of teacher-led schools, freed from district bureaucracy, that could experiment and innovate in ways the traditional system couldn't. The first charter school law was passed in Minnesota in 1991 under Republican Governor Arne Carlson.

For the first two decades after the first charter schools were created in the early 1990s, charter school expansion was a bipartisan project. Democrats and Republicans alike saw in it the promise of better options for families who had none and accountability for results that the traditional system rarely demanded. That consensus has frayed in recent years under the pressure of political polarization. But the underlying idea that public education is better served by freedom and accountability than by uniformity and protection has not changed.

What the data show

Public support for charter schools is strong, despite a significant knowledge gap about what they actually are. According to the 2025 EdChoice Schooling in America Survey, 58% of the general public support charter schools when asked cold — before they're given any explanation of what a charter school actually is. But when respondents are provided with a clear description, that number jumps to 66%. Among school parents, support rises to 74% once they understand what they're being asked about. The numbers tell a consistent story: Familiarity drives support. The problem is that most Americans are still forming opinions — or staying silent — without a clear picture of what they're actually evaluating.

What is beyond dispute is the demand. While traditional public school enrollment has declined since the pandemic, charter school enrollment has continued to grow, reaching an all-time high of 3.8 million students (6.6% of all students), according to recent data.

Where Georgia stands and where it falls short

Georgia has nearly 100 public charter schools, and roughly 65,000 students depend on them for their education each day. But over 21,000 more are on waiting lists and the pipeline of new schools has slowed to nearly a stop because not enough schools are being authorized. In Georgia, a charter school can be approved one of two ways: by the local school district, or by the State Charter Schools Commission, a separate state-level body.

Local school districts have been deeply resistant to approving anything new. In the past five years, three locally authorized charter campuses did open, but all three were expansions of networks that already existed. None was a new, independent charter organization.

The State Charter Schools Commission, meanwhile, has approved dozens of new schools in the same period. But it is one body covering the entire state, and it was never designed to shoulder the load alone.

Meanwhile, Georgia has watched neighboring states build robust charter sectors while its own has stagnated. Florida now has over 408,000 students enrolled in public charter schools — a state with about 70% more K-12 students than Georgia, yet around six times the charter school enrollment. That gap does not reflect a difference in what Georgia families want. It reflects a difference in what Georgia's system has been willing to give them.

Charter School Week is an invitation to look honestly at a question that Georgia has been slow to answer: If thousands of families are asking for something, filling out applications and entering lotteries and sitting on waiting lists year after year, what is the justification for telling them no?

A charter school is a public school. It belongs to the public. The families on those waiting lists are the public. Georgia's education system should take better steps to accommodate them.

Virginia Redistricting A Lesson In Civics, Federalism

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

Virginia's Supreme Court made some important national news last week. They did it by affirming a lower court's ruling on clearly written law. The process by which Virginia Democrats attempted to redraw their Congressional maps violated their state laws and Constitution.

The only real surprise here is that the Justices of Virginia's Supreme Court didn't bow to extreme political pressure and invent a loophole to reinterpret words. A lower court spelled it out clearly.

Circuit Court Judge Jack Hurley found numerous problems with the legality of the referendum itself. The authorization for the vote was illegal based on a late inclusion to a special session of the Virginia legislature, which is not allowed. The timing of the vote itself is against Virgin-

ia's Constitution because there hasn't been an ensuing general election of the House of Delegates, so that the earliest this vote could legally happen after a legal passage would be 2027.

The language of the question imposed to voters was ruled "flagrantly misleading". Legislators also violated the law by issuing the vote less than 90 days after passage. The legislature then again overstepped by mandating election procedures and locations that are beyond the powers given them under Virginia's constitution.

That's a lot of legalese. When dealing with the foundations of our Republic, legalese is important.

So why was the vote even allowed to happen? Because those pushing to ram the changes through cited law and precedent saying the court couldn't intervene until the election was over.

This, too, was a raw political

calculation. It, too, failed.

The Supreme Court directly answered this criticism, knowing it would be a talking point to foment anger for the losing side. The opinion noted that they had already sided with those wanting the maps redrawn that they could not rule prior to the vote. With those same people now arguing that the court can't or shouldn't rule after a vote, they were effectively saying the Supreme Court can't rule on the legality of a constitutional amendment at all.

Lost to those claiming this ruling subverts the will of the majority and thus undermines democracy is that there was another vote for a constitutional amendment just six years ago regarding redistricting. That ballot question, posed through a legal process with a fair ballot question, indicated that roughly two thirds of Virginians favored and enshrined into law an inde-

pendent redistricting commission.

Now, the people who demand the will of the people be followed will only point to the razor thin margin of an illegally held snap vote. They want everyone to completely ignore an opposite opinion of voters who changed Virginia's constitution via an open and legal process.

It's getting harder and harder to take seriously the loyal opposition party who looks at a duly elected President who also won the popular vote and has a quarterly "No Kings" rally. The mantra is that they wish us to "return to norms" by ignoring both Constitution and law.

When Republicans object, they're told their words are violence. Meanwhile, Virginia's new Attorney General has a series of text messages saying he

HARPER
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The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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Better To Drink It Than Crave It



By Billy Powell
Parables to Ponder
LT Columnist

One of the best friends I ever had was a man who has long since departed this earth. He was a prince of a guy. He never saw a stranger and would literally give you the shirt off his back. He was dependable and you could always count on him. His word was his bond. I would have trusted him with my life. He had only one fault—he liked to take a drink, but he limited it to once a month. Just like clockwork, on the 3rd day of the month, when the postman delivered his social security check, he would high tail it to the liquor store and come away with two big quarts of Ancient Age

bourbon. He would sit down at his kitchen table and proceed to imbibe the spirits. He would quaff down several ounces of bourbon each time, followed by a swig of coke. As the fiery elixir spewed down his esophagus, he would close his eyes and grit his teeth as if he were dying, his face turning red as a beet. After he recovered seconds later, he would pat his stomach and say with a big smile, “That was so good!”

My friend made a few tactical errors under the influence, most notably was driving away from a service station in his old Nash Rambler with the gas hose still connected to his fuel tank. The police didn't lock him up, but his brother had to come to the police station to bring him home. Once I asked my friend why he drank. His reply was, “The good book says it's better to drink it than to crave it.” I haven't found this reference in the scriptures, but many people will justify their drinking by referring to various passages in the Bible. One most prominently used was Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding in Canaan. Another was Paul's

suggestion to Timothy that he take a 'little' wine for his infirmities.

Human flesh and alcohol just don't mix. You could actually petrify human organs if left in a solution of alcohol. That's exactly what liquor does—it petrifies the body. Drink enough of it, long enough and you will begin to shrink up. Alcohol poisons you; it destroys internal organs like the liver, pancreas, kidneys, etc. and kills brain cells by the millions. Actuarial studies by insurance companies conclude that “the more you drink the quicker you die.”

Proverbs warns: “Do no gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things.” Isaiah adds “Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine.” Ephesians 5:18 concludes: “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the spirit.”

Spring Garden Chores



By Jeff Cook
Extension Agent

By now you should have your garden planted. Hopefully you applied fertilizer prior to planting and you have irrigation that helped you through our dry spring. Like most years we got off to a cool start but the weather finally looks like it is warming up. Temperatures are forecast to be near 90 by the weekend and the chances for rain are slim.

So what should you be doing in the garden now?

Once you have everything planted and it is out of the ground you may want to consider using a herbicide to keep weeds at bay. My two biggest weeds are crabgrass and pigweed. I think I brought the pigweed home with me from Taylor County because it is tough

to kill. There are not a lot of selective herbicides that can be used safely in the home garden to control weeds once they are growing. However there are a few that can be used prior to weed emergence that do a good job keeping the garden clean.

First, on corn you can use atrazine as well as 2,4-D to control weeds both pre-emergent and post-emergent. If using this combination near other vegetables you have to be careful. 2,4-D tends to be volatile and will move around especially in warm weather. It does not take much of this product to severely injure things like tomatoes, or snap beans.

For everything else in the garden there are a couple of other products that are useful. Products containing pendimethalin or trifluralin are good pre-emergent herbicides. These products control both grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds like pigweed. To be activated they need some soil moisture so if you were applying these products today it would be best if you irrigated directly following application. These products basically kill the growing point of plants after they germinate. If seeds have already germinated

and the growing point is above the soil surface they will not be controlled. Even though corn is a grass these products can safely be used on it after it has emerged as long as you plant it 1.5” deep.

Finally if the crabgrass gets ahead of you products containing sethoxydim or clethodim can help save you from crawling around and weeding. This is a postemergent grass killer so it should not be sprayed anywhere near your corn.

Finally, you can always use glyphosate products, but with it, you must be extremely careful. Using low pressure and even shielding the sprayer are good ideas when spraying near the garden. The lower pressure creates larger droplets that are less likely to drift. Just because you can't see the spray particles doesn't mean that the spray is not going away from the desired target.

When using herbicides in the garden be sure to check the label for application directions, crops and pre harvest intervals. If you have questions or about this or other agricultural topics don't hesitate to contact me at 478-825-6466, 478-8672-5496 or mackiv@uga.edu.

CHURCH & LOCAL ANNOUNCE-

email: news@theleadertribune.com

MAY 30-31
WOMEN'S DAY WEEKEND
Trinity Baptist Church
Presents: Women's Day Weekend at 507 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030
Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 AM and Sunday May 31st.
Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 We are honored to welcome two dynamic and anointed vessels: Reverend Laura Clark Cherry and Minister Lakina Bemby.
Sunday, May 31st at 11:00 AM
We are blessed to receive the morning message from Minister Denise Williams.

USHER'S TEMPLE CME AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION PRESENT THE EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (EFNEP)
Each Wednesday at 11:30am in April. Virtually on Wednesdays in May at 11:30am thru May 20, 2026.
The program helps Georgia families eat better for less! EFNEP offers practical nutrition and physical activity information, food safety education, food resource management strategies, and recipe demonstrations within community settings. Come to enjoy a free lunch and learn new recipes. Location: Usher's Temple CME, 411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030, 478-825-5106

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)

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.

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)

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.

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION AT ST. PETER A.M.E. CHURCH ANNEX
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Fourth Thursday of each month (January-October) and Third Thursday of November and December. Call (478) 825-8452 for details.

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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY
1556 Peach Pkw, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (Hwy 49N at the 49 Bypass, next to Georgia Pecan) Pastor Charles Clance invites you to join us in Christian worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at our 10:30 service. We are a small, Bible-based church with a big heart for GOD. All are welcome!

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM
Sundays 10am - 12noon.
Wednesday nights 7pm-8:30pm.
Meeting# 2059432744

Code 7Sb6h8
Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
“Connecting People to Christ”
Rev. Bobby J. Roberson, Pastor
478-822-9897. 1735 Hwy 341 North, Fort Valley, GA 31030

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH
301 W. Church Street
(478)825-2762
Join us each Sunday at 10:55AM for Christian fellowship and a spirit-lead service with our pastor, Rev. Herb Flanders. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45AM. Nursery is available for infants and younger children.

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

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

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

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES
1000 Tulip Drive, Fort Valley.
Sunday School at 8:30am
Morning Worship at 10:00am
Wednesday: Free Fellowship Meal at 6pm
60 Minutes Bible Study from 7:00pm -8:00pm Come and fellowship with us!

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS
Led by Father Matt Harlow
Learn the basics of the Christian Faith while enjoying a meal and fellowship.
We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more!
To register contact Fr Matt at harlowmatthew@gmail.com
https://www.middlegaanglican.org

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY
1556 Peach Pkw, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (Hwy 49N at the 49 Bypass, next to Georgia Pecan) Pastor Charles Clance invites you to join us in Christian worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at our 10:30 service. We are a small, Bible-based church with a big heart for GOD. All are welcome!

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SAINT ANDREW'S

BAHA'I FAITH

“Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship”

Baha'u'llah

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

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

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

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU.

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

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

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

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY
1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

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

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

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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

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

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.



PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2026

JUNE - PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 14 YEARS OLD

JULY - PROGRAMMING FOR TEENS AGES 15 TO 18 YEARS OLD

MAY 30th-31st, 2026

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT Weekend

RESET
PREPARE
ACTIVATE

Min. Denise Williams
WOMENS DAY SPEAKER

Women's Conference: Saturday, May 30th @ 11am
Lunch to follow in the fellowship hall
Women's Day: Sunday, May 31st @ 11am

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH | 507 STATE UNIVERSITY DRIVE, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

“Empowered Women, Empowering the Church”



Min. Lakina Bemby



Rev. Laura Clark Cherry

Empowered Women Empowering the Church

Contributed

Get ready for a powerful, life-changing weekend as we celebrate Women's Day 2026—a divine gathering designed to uplift, equip and ignite the women of God for such a time as this.

We invite you to join us for a two-day experience of worship, teaching, transformation and empowerment. Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 AM. Join us in the sanctuary for our Women's Conference, where we will come together in worship and Word to be renewed, restored and empowered.

We are honored to welcome two dynamic and anointed vessels: Rev-

erend Laura Clark Cherry and Minister Lakina Bemby. These women of God will pour into us through powerful teaching that will awaken purpose and strengthen our walk in the Lord. Lunch will be served immediately following the conference in the fellowship hall—come ready to be filled spiritually and naturally!

Sunday, May 31st at 11:00 AM. Return as we culminate this powerful weekend in our Women's Day Worship Service. We are blessed to receive the morning message from Minister Denise Williams. She will ignite with God's word to empower us into alignment and action to our assignment in our church and

communities. Refreshments will be served after service.

Whether you are in need of a reset, a season of preparation, or a call to activation in your aligned assignment—this weekend has been prayerfully designed just for you.

Come expecting to be: Empowered in your role, Activated in your spiritual gifts and Strengthened to empower the Church and your community.

Sisters, daughters, mothers and friends—this is your moment. You are called. You are chosen. You are empowered. We look forward to seeing you!

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Declares Drought Response Level 1

Contributed

On April 27, 2026, after consideration of the drought severity and the water resource impacts, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) declared a state-wide Drought Response Level 1 for public water systems using surface water and/or groundwater. EPD has been closely monitoring drought conditions in Georgia for months, and on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, EPD held conference calls with public water systems to discuss current water supply and EPD's consideration of issuing a Level 1 drought response. Following the conference calls, the public water systems had three days to submit any additional feedback be-

fore EPD could proceed with a drought response declaration.

As a result of the Level 1 Drought Response, public water systems must implement a public information campaign including, at a minimum, notice regarding drought conditions and drought-specific announcements in one or more of the following ways: newspaper or online ads, bill inserts, social media, and notices in public libraries. This public information campaign is designed to help citizens better understand drought, its impact on water supplies, and the need for water conservation.

Outdoor water use between the hours of 4 PM

and 10 A.M. is still allowable and unaffected by a Drought Response Level 1. Public water systems may not impose restrictions on outdoor watering that are different from state requirements unless they obtain a variance from EPD.

As required by state law and rules, EPD determines whether specific environmental conditions warrant a drought response declaration based upon the severity of drought conditions and the impacts to water supply. One tool used to monitor and inform drought conditions is the U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Factors that may potentially impact

water supply include precipitation, stream flows, groundwater levels, reservoir levels, short-term climate predictions, and soil moisture. EPD monitors and produces reports on these conditions on a regular basis. These reports are published on the EPD website, along with information regarding drought indicators, current variances, and EPD actions regarding drought: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drought-management>. More information on water conservation is available at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.

Governor Kemp Signs Bills Supporting Georgia Producers

By Georgia Cotton Commission

On May 6th, Governor Brian P. Kemp signed a number of bills related to agriculture, forestry, and natural resources into law at an event in Monroe County. These included HB 1310, introduced by Representatives Jaclyn Ford (170th - Alapaha), Robert Dickey (144th - Musella), Steven Meeks (178th - Screven), Angie O'Steen (169th - Ambrose), Al Williams (168th - Midway), and Chas Cannon (172nd - Moultrie), which designates cotton as the official fabric of the State of Georgia. Governor Kemp also

signed HB 1159, which exempts Farmer Bridge Assistance payments from state income tax. He was surrounded by cotton and other agricultural industry leadership for the signing of these measures.

GCC Chairman Bart Davis, a Colquitt County cotton producer, stated, "The production of food and fiber is vital to Georgia residents and communities, and we are thankful for the support of our industry and promotion of cotton by our state legislators."

Representative Steven Meeks is a member of the Commission's Board of Directors, and Repre-

sentative Jaclyn Ford is a member of cotton industry organizational leadership.

The Georgia Cotton Commission is a producer-funded organization located in Perry, Georgia. The Commission began in 1965. Georgia cotton producers pay an assessment enabling the Commission to invest in programs of research, promotion, and education on behalf of all cotton producers of Georgia. For more information about this and other topics please call 478-988-4235 or visit us on the web at www.georgiacottoncommission.org.



HONORS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Grayson Cole.

Reese has maintained a 4.0 GPA and taken multiple advanced placement classes, including AP U.S. History, AP English, AP Literature and Composition, AP Calculus, AP Biology, and AP Spanish. She is involved in various activities outside of the classroom as well, taking part in Future Business Leaders of America and Health Occupations Students of America.

Grayson Cole has maintained an all-A Honor Roll since the ninth grade, earning the highest grades in gifted and advanced Content Geometry, Physical Science, Spanish I and II, as well as AP Government. He plans to pursue a degree in Political Science, with a goal of a deep understanding of government, law, and public policy.

Hambrick continued by recognizing three exceptional seniors: Bryson Hughley, E'darrius Davis, and Jaden Russell. Hughley received recognition for his academic accomplishments, with a 3.6 GPA, and his athletic achievements, most notably in football.

Davis was recognized for his compassion for others, which included taking money he had

earned by picking pecans to buy a bicycle for a boy and a girl through the Board of Education, as well as participating in food and toy drives and volunteering at Grace House. He has excelled athletically and academically, maintaining a 3.9 GPA.

Russell was described as showing love and kindness to others while carrying himself with respect both inside and outside the classroom. He is a member of the PCHS wrestling team. Russell is a youth leader at his church, showing his commitment to guiding and helping others in the community.

Ashley Hunnicutt, Peach County School's Chief Human Resources Officer, recognized three substitutes for their dedication, reliability, and commitment to the students of Peach County: Alexis Blasingane, Megan Hayes, and Jana Spooner.

Peach County Superintendent, Dr. Jesse Davis, took a moment to recognize the PCHS seniors, stating that he was there as the principal when they first attended Peach County High School.

"Sey, seniors in the room, I couldn't be more proud of you. You brought a real smile to my face. Like Dr. Hambrick, I had the privilege of serving as your

principal for a few years early in your high school career. Parents and friends who are here in support of those students, congratulations to you as well. Without your support, without your guidance, without your encouragement, these accomplishments aren't possible, so we celebrate you here today as well," Dr. Davis said. "We're super proud of you, 98 percenters." During the public participation part of the meeting, Peach County citizen Brandy Little stepped forward to speak on her daughter Ava Little's behalf about bullying issues within the schools, as well as the upcoming forum for those running for the three Board of Education seats.

"With the mental health classes—what I'm referring to—is having a licensed mental health specialist come in. It would be a one to two week class, starting in sixth grade all the way to twelfth grade. It would help teach about coping mechanisms, self-taught positive reinforcement, anger management, and conflict resolution. I feel like it's important to have this in school," Little said.

The forum will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Byron Municipal Complex.

HAMMOND

CONTINUED FROM 4A

and depression.

The CDC states that "More than 1 in 5 adults live with a mental illness and around 1 in 25 adults live with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression. Over 1 in 5 youth (13 to 18 years old) either currently or at some point in their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental illness."

It should be stated that there is no singular cause for mental illness. Several factors are in play when regarding mental illness, which can include adverse childhood experiences such as trauma or a history of abuse; experiences related to other on-

going (chronic) medical conditions such as cancer or diabetes; biological factors or chemical imbalances in the brain; use of alcohol or drugs; or having feelings of loneliness or isolation.

The stigma surrounding mental health has been proven to cause adverse effects to those with mental illnesses. It has become far too commonplace for those suffering from a mental illness to suffer in silence rather than seek help for fear of judgment.

Open conversations about mental health help break stigma and encourage people to seek support. Society is beginning to become comfortable

with discussing mental health, but it can still be difficult to understand or figure out where to start with getting help.

For those who wish to learn more and better understand mental illnesses, you can find more information at <https://www.mhanational.org/> or <https://www.nami.org/>. For those who need help, Mental Health America has a 24-hour crisis center at 1-800-273-8255 and a Crisis Text Line, text MHA to 741741.

Please remember, you are not alone, and there are people who want to help you.

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

wanted to kill the children of his former Speaker of the opposing party because "only when people feel pain personally do they move on policy."

Virginia's new Governor Spambarger stood by him despite his violent texts. She also told voters she didn't favor a mid-cycle redistricting. One that she ultimately flip flopped on as soon as she had power. Because of "fairness."

Georgia isn't Virginia. This piece, however, ties two of my last columns together.

Georgia is in the early voting period of an election that ends May 19th. This voting was already underway when a separate court ruling set off a wave of Southern states redrawing maps

that will likely add more Republican seats.

Each state has their own Constitution and laws. Each has separate elections. It's not clear that Georgia has the legal standing or process, nor that voters have the political appetite, to force new maps for the 2026 election. Each state must stand on its own laws when deciphering guidance from the Supreme Court.

We are also electing Justices for our Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. There is significant overlap from national Democrats and their donors seeking to oust Justices and Judges who have bipartisan support and have pledged fair interpretations of Georgia's laws.

The challengers are walk-

ing the line of judicial code by promising pre-determined outcomes. They are hiding behind ads paid for by third parties, but the clear intention is to politicize our courts.

Virginia's courts stuck by the law. The result is that no less than the New York Times is helping float the trial balloon that Virginians in a power grab may force every State Supreme Court Justice to retire and be replaced by political plants.

These are not the norms we're looking for. We have two political branches of government. It is imperative that Georgians reject our incumbent judges and elect attempts to have a third partisan branch of government.

Utility Commission

Positions Announcement

Fast Paced and Progressive Public Power Utility
Providing services in the areas of Electric, Water, Wastewater, Telecom, and Gas
Seeks an Experienced, Highly Motivated, and Creative Team Members

Meter Reader

Minimum Qualifications:

High School diploma or equivalent. Possess demonstrable skills, be self-motivated and a team player. Possess good reading, verbal, and written communication skills. Ability to read, record and accurately enter numbers (meter readings). Possess two (2) years or customer service experience, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

Knowledge of the utility industry is preferred

A valid Georgia driver's license

Duties and Responsibilities

Reads and records consumption of residential and commercial electric, gas and water meters with handheld reading devices and manual readings; verifies that readings are within parameters and troubleshoots problems related to meters and reading equipment. Installs, repairs and inspects electric and water meters and meter reading equipment, valves pressure regulators and flow testing meters. Responds to customer service requests, not limited to connections, disconnects, re-reading meters, checking for leaks, etc. and may be required to respond to emergency callouts or assist the operations with system repairs. Post notices at physical locations regarding billing, customer information, and perform work required to keep meter pits accessible. Represents the Commission with dignity, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation in all relationships with staff and the public.

Send resume to: hrmanager@fvutil.com

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Legal Advertisements

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Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

Legal Advertising Information

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

LT26-055 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the Name Change of: Gwendolyn Denise McLeod, Petitioner Civil Action Case Number: 26-V-0175 NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT Gwendolyn Denise McLeod filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on April 17, 2026, to change the name from Gwendolyn Denise McLeod to Gwendolyn Denise Coley. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

LT26-065 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of A MES NEWT CORLEE has now been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to JAMES DAVID CORLEE this is to cite all creditors of a decedent to make their demands known to us and all debtors of a decedent to make immediate payment to us. This 27TH day of APRIL, 2026.

LT26-076 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of BERNARD FRANK BORAH having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to GAYLE KERSEY BORAH this is to cite all creditors of a decedent to make their demands known to us and all debtors of a decedent to make immediate payment to us. This 7TH day of MAY, 2026.

LT26-053 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the estate of SHIRLEY ZANDERS, deceased, late of PEACH County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to a decedent are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Johnnie Zanders, Administrator of the Estate of SHIRLEY ZANDERS

LT26-062 STATE OF GEORGIA HOUSTON COUNTY DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All persons having claims against Phyllis H. Rohrbek and her estate are required to present the same to the undersigned, properly itemized and proven, within the time required by law. And all persons indebted to a decedent, or her estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

LT26-068 APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER A TRADE NAME STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The undersigned hereby certifies that it is conducting a business in the City of Byron, County of Peach, State of Georgia under the name of: Clay on Homes #1210, 123 Chapman Road Byron, GA 31008 and that the nature of the business is the sell of manufactured homes.

LT26-048 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the Estate of Sylvia A Maud Longo, deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

LT26-072 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: LUCILLE M. PARHAM All creditors of the Estate of Lucille M. Parham, deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@gtn.org, please use word document or pdf extension. Many legal notices are billed at the rate of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some publications of ads, such as directories, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notices have fees set

May 4, 2026 Jeffrey McLean, Executor of the Will of Lucille M. Parham, 1158 Peab tree Rd Moultrie, GA 31788 Robert R. Laws n Daniel, Laws n, Tuggle & Riles LLP Post Office Box 89 Perry, Georgia 31069 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-049 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DIANE E. COLES, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-ADM-7027 NOTICE

The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed, TO: AUDREY EDWARDS: 904 AIKEN DR. APT B PORT WENTWORTH GA 31407 This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before MAY 6, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Judge of the Probate Court. By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313 April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

LT26-078 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the Estate of Patricia Carley Massey, deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to a decedent are required to make immediate payment to us. Charles Thomas Massey, Executor of the Estate of Patricia Carley Massey, Attorney At Law P.O. Box 303 Byron, GA 31008 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-079 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the Estate of Charles William Massey, Jr., deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to a decedent are required to make immediate payment to us. Charles Thomas Massey, Executor of the Estate of Charles William Massey, Jr., Attorney At Law P.O. Box 303 Byron, GA 31008 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-071 ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that the below referenced vehicle is subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court order shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. 2020 YAMAHA RAPTOR 700 5Y4AM-7432LA104355 The vehicle is currently located at 210 New Dunbar Rd., Byron, GA 31008. Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the following business immediately: UNDERWOOD'S TOWING, INC. 210 NEW DUNBAR RD., BYRON, GA 31008 TELEPHONE # 478-935-3778 May 6 13, 2026

LT26-080 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWARD EUGENE GOFF, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7268 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: LEE MICHELLE BECHAM, ALISHA GOFF, ADMINISTRATOR OF ESTATE OF EDGAR LADON GOFF and to whom it may concern: A NET C. GOFF has petitioned for a NET C. GOFF to be appointed administrator of the estate of EDWARD EUGENE GOFF deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers retained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before NE 3, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Judge of the Probate Court. By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GA 31030 478-825-2313 May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030 478-825-2313 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-070 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE #7492-J

J.Y., SEX F, AGE 6, DOB 09/18/2019, CASE #111-2026J 023 J.Y., SEX M, AGE 8, DOB 01/29/2018, CASE #111-2026J 024 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN BORN TO OLIVIA YOUNG. You are notified that a Dependency Petition with Guardianship Placed with Maternal Grandmother was filed against you in said court on 4/29/26, and an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 4/28/26.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 5/12/26 at 9:00 o'clock a.m., and on 7/14/26 for a hearing following publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Fort Valley, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting the Peach County Clerk.

WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 29th day of April, 2026. Whitney Nelson CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-067 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA FLOR ISABEL HERNANDEZ SANCHEZ, Plaintiff VS. SUJANKHAN PATHAN, Defendant CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-V-0169 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: Sujankhan Pathan Dastan Nihal Salunbar, Nadiad, Dist-Kheda You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking divorce, was filed against you in said Court on April 15, 2026, and that by reason of an Order of Service of Summons by Publication entered by the Court on April 24, 2026, you are hereby commanded and required to file with Clerk of said Court and to appear upon Laurens C. Lee, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 1553, Fort Valley, GA, 31030, an answer to the Complaint within 60 days of June 15, 2026.

WITNESS the Honorable KEN SMITH, Judge of said Court. This 27th day of April, 2026. Whitney Nelson Clerk of Peach Superior Court Deputy May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-059 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MONROE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF:

A.S., SEX M, AGE 9, DOB 06/27/2016, CASE #2026-JV-JR-0043 M.S., SEX F, AGE 11, DOB 10/10/2014, CASE #2026-JV-JR-0044 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, MEGAN SHELLEY (mother); RICKY LEE SHELLEY (legal father); AND ANY ONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN. You are notified that a Petition for Dependency was to the Parents concerning the above children was filed against you in said court on 4/22/26, and by reason of an Order for Service entered by the court on 4/22/26.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before the Monroe County Juvenile Court, for a hearing at the Monroe County Juvenile Center, Fort Valley, Georgia on 5/14/26, and 6/18/26, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James Patterson, P.O. Box 1006, Fort Valley, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting the Monroe County Juvenile Court Clerk. WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 22ND day of April, 2026. Lindsey Taylor CLERK, MONROE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

LT26-077 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of EDNA C. NIXON having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to ROBERT J. AROMATORIO this is to cite all creditors of a decedent to make their demands known to us and all debtors of a decedent to make immediate payment to us. This 7TH day of MAY, 2026. ROBERT J. AROMATORIO, as Executor C/O KAREN A. AROMATORIO Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No. 023742 P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-066 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF ALRE W. PALMS DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7263 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: VEDA PALMS has petitioned for VEDA PALMS to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of ALRE W. PALMS deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 20, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Judge of the Probate Court. By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030 478-825-2313 May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-028 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, Diane E. Coles as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp., Lender which was dated 6/25/2008, and recorded on 6/29/2009, in Book 425, Page 882, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$58,811.00 in Peach County, Georgia Register of Deeds NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in a Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 6/2/2026 at 11:00 a.m. in public outcry to the highest bidder for cash during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia of Peach, the following described property situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 141, 9TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 10, GREEN VALLEY ESTATES SUBDIVISION, CONTAINING 1.012 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FURVEL, III., DATED MARCH 9, 1999, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 21, PAGE 248, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT, SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR ALL PURPOSES.

TOGETHER WITH THE 1998 SOUTHERN HOMES AK SERIES MOBILE HOME, SERIAL NO. DSD4AL21873A AND DSD4AL21873B WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO THE PROPERTY. Tax Pare ID: 030 019 Being real property commonly known as 151 BUCKEYE ROAD FORT VALLEY, GA 31030 The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to foreclose attorney's fees have been given).

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

Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagees to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is," where is. The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the seller. This property is being sold with the understanding that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Diane E. Coles Attorney Contact: Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peab tree Corners GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax 404-738-1558 TS # 26-39538 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27 2026

LT26-073 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBBIE LEE MEHARG

All creditors of the estate of Robbie Lee Meharg, late of Peach County GA, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to a decedent are required to make immediate payment to us. This 5th day of May, 2026. Signed, Lynn Meharg, Executor of Robbie Lee Meharg, deceased. 3635 Hollyhook Way NW, Kennesaw Georgia, 30152. May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-081 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIE REID, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7277 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: LOREA REID has petitioned for LOREA REID to be appointed administrator of the estate of WILLIE REID deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before NE 3, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Judge of the Probate Court. By Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030 478-825-2313 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-075 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH IN RE: ESTATE OF DORIS W. FRY

All creditors of the Estate of Doris W. Fry, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to a decedent are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 6th day of May 2026 Ribard M. Fry, Executor of the Will of Doris W. Fry 20036 Loeff Road Athens GA 35614 Robert T. Tuggle, III Daniel, Laws n, Tuggle & Riles LLP Post Office Box 89 Perry, Georgia 31069 May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-056 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: JUVENILE FILE #7499-J T. N., SEX F, AGE <1, DOB 11/08/2025, CASE #111-2026J-031 CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, TESSA NEAL, MICHAEL MARQUEZ, UNKNOWN FATHER, AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILD You are notified that a Dependency Petition with Custody Placed with Maternal Grandparents was filed against you in said court on 4/21/26, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 4/17/26.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 4/28/26 at 9:00 o'clock a.m., and on 6/23/26 for a final hearing following publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Fort Valley, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Peach County Juvenile Court Clerk. WITNESS the Honorable Judges of this court, this 21st day of April, 2026.

LT26-061 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from CLIFTON TUCKER III to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns and recorded in Deed Book 00718, Page 0053-0078, Peach County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$232,703.00 with interest on the unpaid balance until paid, the following described property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for a bid at the courthouse door of PEACH COUNTY, Georgia, or at a place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in June, 2026, to wit: June 02, 2026, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 10 OF THE FIFTH (5TH) LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 155, PHASE NO. 3 OF A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS HAWK'S RIDGE, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY, PREPARED BY WELLSTON ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYORS, LLC, CERTIFIED BY CARL B. LEVI, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2744, DATED W/ LY 26, 2022, A COPY OF WHICH IS ON RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 29, PAGE 253, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

SAID PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS, UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING FOR PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA AS 166 RED TAIL CIRCLE, BYRON, GEORGIA 31008. Being real property commonly known as 166 RED TAIL CIR, BYRON, GA 31008. The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of a debt per the terms of the note and other applicable defaults by the borrower and the seller thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to a decedent's real property: all liens and claims appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an appraisal or by an independent appraisal of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property and any outstanding taxes assessments and other liens superior to the priority deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Rocket Mortgage, LLC as Attorney in Fact for CLIFTON TUCKER III Attorney Contact: Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peab tree Corners GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax 404-738-1558 26-000198-GA THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

SAID PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS, UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING FOR PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA AS 166 RED TAIL CIRCLE, BYRON, GEORGIA 31008. Being real property commonly known as 166 RED TAIL CIR, BYRON, GA 31008. The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of a debt per the terms of the note and other applicable defaults by the borrower and the seller thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

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LT26-057 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE #7477-J K.J., SEX M, AGE 16, DOB 8/4/2009, CASE #111-2026J-007 M.T. JR., SEX M, AGE 13, DOB 08/21/2012, CASE #111-2026J-008 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, MONTERIO TRIPPLETT, SR., AND ANY OTHER PARTY CLAIMING TO HAVE A PARENTAL INTEREST IN SAID MINOR CHILDREN BORN TO CORNELIA ROHAVEN JAMES.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in a said court on 4/21/26, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 4/17/26; YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in a said court on 4/21/26, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 4/17/26;

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in a said court on 4/21/26, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 4/17/26;

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against you in a said court on 4/21/26, by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on 4/17/26;

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT the above styled action seeking the termination of the parental rights of the parents of the named children was filed against

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED to appear before the Juvenile Court of Peach County, Georgia, in Fort Valley, Georgia, on the 12th day of May, 2026 at 9 o'clock a.m. for a status hearing (attorney appointment only) and on the 23rd day of June, 2026 at 9 o'clock a.m. The second hearing is for the purpose of determining whether your parental rights should be terminated. The effect of an order terminating parental rights under **O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-284** is without limit as to duration and terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the child and all rights and obligations of the child to the parent arising from the parental relationship, including rights of inheritance. The parent whose rights are terminated is not thereafter entitled to notice of proceedings for the adoption of the child by another, nor has the parent any right to object to the adoption or otherwise to participate in the proceedings.

A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Peach County Courthouse, Fort Valley, Georgia, during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 o'clock a.m. until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holiday. A fee of \$100 is payable to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester - parents or alleged parents only. The child is in the present physical custody of the Petitioner, the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services.

The general nature of the allegations is contained in the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights.

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

WITNESS THE HONORABLE Judge of said Juvenile Court.

This 21st day of April, 2026.
Whitney Nelson
(Deputy) CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA
April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

LT26-046
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIE LANIER, JR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2019-ADM-6131
NOTICE
IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO: Alesha R. Lanier and Deandra McKay

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this Court on or before May 13, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313
April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

LT26-069
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ARTHUR FELCH WILLIAMS, JR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7231
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
Re: Estate of Arthur Felch Williams, Jr., deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 28th day of April, 2026.
Tara Tourville, Esq.

Attorney for Estate of Arthur Felch Williams, Jr.
446 S. Hous on Lake Road
Warner Robins GA 31088
(478) 333-6502
May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-045
IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF PEACH STATE OF GEORGIA
ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7266
IN RE: ESTATE OF HAZEL DIANNE ABNEY
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: BRIANNE DUSOLD has petitioned for BRIANNE DUSOLD to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of HAZEL DIANNE ABNEY, deceased, of said County. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 6, 2026.

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

This April 10, 2026
Kim Wilson, PROBATE CLERK
By /s/ Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 825-2313
ATTORNEY: Tim J. Thompsett
(478) 471-9900
April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

LT26-074
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Byron, Georgia, will convene a public hearing on June 3, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Office of the Mayor located on the second floor of the Byron Municipal Complex.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider amendments to Appendix A - Land Development, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations of the Municipal Code of Byron, Georgia, including but not limited to, amending, repealing, and replacing Part IV - Zoning Regulations Article II Zoning, of the Municipal Code of Byron, Georgia, to include section 2A-1 district: Agricultural area, section 3 R-1 district: Low density residential area (single-family), section 4 R-2 district: Medium density residential area, section 5 R-3 district: High density residential area (multi-family), subparts thereof.

Notice is also given that should the Planning and Zoning Committee recommend approval of the above-mentioned amendments to Appendix A - Land Development, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations of the Municipal Code of Byron, Georgia, the Byron City Council will convene a public hearing on June 8, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of the Byron Municipal Complex. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the recommendations and amendments to Appendix A - Land Development, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations including but not limited to, amending, repealing, and replacing. All citizens of the City of Byron and interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at a public hearing and participate in the process. Call the Planning & Zoning Office, at 478-956-5555, for further information.
May 13, 20, 2026

Lt. Governor Burt Jones Prioritizes Ending Veteran Homelessness

By the office of the Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones

ATLANTA - The Lt. Governor Burt Jones wrote a letter to President Donald Trump, Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins, and HUD Secretary Scott Turner in support of Mighty Hero Homes' mission to end Veteran homelessness. The organization is seeking a special provision of 84 project-based HUD-VASH vouchers to unlock approximately \$20 million in private and institutional funding required to construct the inaugural 84-home Base in Milledgeville, Georgia.

"Ensuring that Georgia's veteran community has our utmost support and appreciation is a priority I am honored and humbled to advance," said Lt. Governor Burt Jones. "The work of organizations like Mighty Hero Homes is essential to not only building more homes for Veterans, but to ensuring our

Veterans can regain stability, dignity, and purpose while accessing workforce development, healthcare coordination, peer mentorship, and other supportive services. In addition to this initiative, this past session I was proud to secure an appropriation of \$7.5 million to eliminate Veteran homelessness in Georgia. Our heroes deserve more than temporary shelter solutions. They deserve the opportunity to rebuild their lives with honor. We are forever grateful for their bravery, service, and sacrifice."

Mighty Hero Homes, based in Georgia, is pioneering a first-of-its-kind, proof-of-concept model that provides affordable, permanent housing for homeless and at-risk Veterans at purpose-built Mighty Hero Home "Bases." These communities give Veterans the opportunity to find their way in the world with the support of other Veterans and a loving community that values their service and sacrifice.

Sen. Ossoff Delivering Resources to Help Veterans Find Jobs After Leaving Armed Forces

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

Warner Robins, Ga. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is delivering new resources to help veterans find jobs after they leave the Armed Forces.

Sen. Ossoff brought Republicans and Democrats together to support organizations across Georgia that help veterans find jobs once they leave the Armed Forces.

"I have secured the bipartisan support in the Senate to help veterans across the State of Georgia find employment in the civilian workforce," Sen. Ossoff said.

Sen. Ossoff is delivering funding for the projects through bipartisan government funding legislation that became law on February 3.

Please find a summary of projects for which Sen. Ossoff is delivering funding below:

- **WARNER ROBINS:** Central Georgia Technical College and the Georgia VECTR Center (\$300,000); Central Georgia Technical College, in partnership with the Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource (VECTR)

Center, will use the Federal funding to enhance access to workforce training and postsecondary education for veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. The project will fund workforce development training, including direct training, career coaching, resume and interview preparation, and student supplies such as books, certifications, and more.

- **SANDY SPRINGS:** ATLVets, Inc (\$223,000): ATLVets will use the Federal funding to provide training and support for veterans transitioning from service to running businesses. These resources will help expand training sessions and workshops for this program, covering topics such as business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies. The program also provides mentorship opportunities, pairing veterans with experienced professionals who offer guidance and support to help veterans navigate their transition to entrepreneurship.
- **JONESBORO:** Library Foundation of Clayton County, Inc. (\$300,000): The Library

Foundation of Clayton County will use the Federal funding to provide training sessions to help veterans start and grow small businesses by offering instruction, training, and support with a strong focus on veterans transitioning into civilian life. These resources will allow the Library Foundation to expand their reach to even more veterans and offer more resources and workshops.

"On behalf of the Central Georgia Technical College Foundation Board of Trustees and Central Georgia Technical College, we are honored to receive this Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant through Senator Ossoff's office to support Georgia's veterans through workforce training and job readiness programs at CGTC's VECTR Center," said Tonya L. McClure, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement. "This investment will provide life-changing opportunities through career training and employment services, helping veterans regain stability and build a secure future. We are grateful for the Senator's leadership, as well

as that of our entire legislative delegation, as we partner to strengthen our veteran community."

"Veterans don't retire — they redeploy. This funding gives ATLVets the resources to meet them where they are and help them channel that same mission-driven discipline into building businesses that strengthen our community. We're grateful for Senator Ossoff's leadership in making this happen for Georgia's veterans," said Zack Knight, Founder, ATLVets, Inc.

"We extend our profound gratitude to Senator Jon Ossoff for securing \$300,000 to support veteran small businesses and entrepreneurs through the Clayton County Library Foundation. These critical resources will empower the brave men and women who have served our nation to pursue entrepreneurship in Clayton County... Where the World Lands and Opportunities take off," said Dr. Alika Anderson-Henry, Chairwoman Clayton County Board of Commissioners.

Head of Georgia investment fund accused of wire fraud

By Ty Tagami, Bureau Chief, Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Federal prosecutors charged the founder of a Georgia investment vehicle with wire fraud Thursday in connection with an alleged Ponzi scheme.

Edwin Brant Frost IV, owner and president of the defunct First Liberty Building and Loan, allegedly scammed those in his orbit in what the FBI and prosecutors described as a "classic" Ponzi scheme, using new investor funds to pay earlier investors while concealing significant financial losses.

"Frost abused the trust of his clients, family, and friends by allegedly soliciting investors with promises of sizable returns, while knowing the money raised would instead be used for his personal expenses and to pay early investors to maintain the illusion of profits," U.S. Attorney Theodore S. Hertzberg said in a statement Thursday after Frost IV was arraigned in federal court in Atlanta.

Frost IV, 68, of Newnan, was released on bail after entering a plea of not guilty.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Se-

curities and Exchange Commission and the Office of Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger investigated.

Frost IV is accused of steering over \$570,000 to political contributions. Last year, Raffensperger's office called on recipients to return the money.

Frost's son, Brant Frost V, was chairman of the Coweta County Republican Party.

Hertzberg said Frost IV "represented" to investors that they would be compensated by borrowers who paid fees on "bridge" loans.

Instead, prosecutors said, First Liberty used investor money to pay off early investors and to fund more than \$5 million of "personal and sometimes extravagant expenditures."

Frost IV spent over \$230,000 to rent a vacation home in Maine, over \$140,000 to buy jewelry, \$20,800 for a Patek Philippe watch and over \$2 million on credit card bills, prosecutors claimed.

They said Frost IV did not disclose that borrowers had defaulted and that he continued to finance at least one of the defaulted companies.

Hertzberg's office said Frost IV raised at least \$140 million from at least 300 investors.

Statement from Peach County Government concerning Data Centers

By Peach County Government
(May 6, 2026) There's been a lot of discussion surrounding the Highway 96 corridor, and we want to make sure our citizens have clear, accurate information.

From development updates to annexation questions and future economic opportunities, it's important to stay informed on what's really happening in our community. We encourage you to take a moment to read through the latest information and learn

more about the plans, partnerships, and vision for the future of Peach County and the Middle Georgia region. An informed community is a stronger community. Stay engaged. Stay involved.



No data centers are currently planned or proposed for the Highway 96 corridor. Additionally, the City of Warner Robins is not pursuing annexation of this area, as it is not contiguous to their city limits and they do not have utilities available to serve it. The Peach County Board of Commissioners remains opposed to any potential annexation of this area by Warner Robins.

The Fort Valley Utility Commission currently provides water, sewer, and gas infrastructure in the corridor, eliminating the need for utilities or annexation by Warner Robins.

A portion of the sod farm property has recently been sold to a developer with plans to construct a distribution center (Project Bacon). In addition, the State of Georgia has acquired more than 1,500 acres for a designated Mega Site aimed at promoting industry in Central Georgia. This site is located off Highway 96, behind Lane Southern Orchards.

The State views these as regional projects and encourages collaboration through Joint Development Authorities (JDAs). In response, Peach, Houston, and Macon-Bibb Counties have partnered to form the Mid-GA Gateway JDA. Together with the State, this partnership will focus on recruiting manufacturing industries to the site.

The overarching goal of these efforts is to create several thousand well-paying jobs with benefits for the Middle Georgia region. As the City of Fort Valley continues to seek revitalization, attracting quality employment opportunities that support homeownership and long-term wealth building represents a meaningful step forward.

Subscribe Today!
478-825-2432

Governor Kemp Announces Relief for Taxpayers Impacted by Wildfires

By the office of Governor Brian P. Kemp

ATLANTA – Governor Brian P. Kemp, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) today announced that certain return and payment deadlines for taxpayers have been extended for Georgians impacted by the Georgia Highway 82 Wildfire and the Pineland Road Wildfire in Clinch, Echols, and Brantley Counties.

“We are leaving no stone unturned when it comes to helping those impacted by the unprecedented drought conditions that led to the South Georgia wildfires,” said Governor Kemp. “I’m grateful to the Trump administration for this declaration that will further those efforts as families work on rebuilding their homes and livelihoods.”

“Our priority is making sure impacted Georgians have one less thing to worry about as they recover from these wildfires,” said State Revenue Commissioner David Burge. “These extensions provide additional time and flexibility for affected individuals and businesses to meet their tax obligations.”

On April 22, 2026, Governor Kemp declared a State of Emergency for 91 counties, including Clinch, Echols, and Brantley, where exceptional drought conditions and ample dry fuel posed a significant threat to the general safety and welfare of our citizens. The return and payment extensions for taxpayers referenced in this release only apply to taxpayers in Clinch, Echols and Brantley.

For full information on IRS administrative relief for federal taxes, please see this release from the IRS.

For more information on state tax relief, see the section below.

State Tax Relief

For sales and use taxes, April sales and use tax returns and payments normally due May 20 have now been extended to June 22. This extension also applies to monthly excise tax returns.

For income taxes, certain return and payment deadlines for taxpayers have been extended by up to 120 days. Specifically, affected taxpayers who had a valid extension on their individual or business income tax return until October 15, 2026, to

file their 2025 return will now have until February 12, 2027, to file their return. Because tax payments related to these 2025 returns were due on April 15, 2026, however, those overdue payments are not eligible for this relief.

Additionally, the 120 day extension also applies to (i) quarterly estimated income tax payments due on June 15, 2026 (now due October 13, 2026); (ii) quarterly payroll returns due on June 30, 2026 (now due October 28, 2026); (iii) calendar-year partnerships and S corporations whose 2025 extensions expire on October 15, 2026 (now due February 12, 2027); (iv) calendar-year corporations whose 2025 extensions expire on November 16, 2026 (now due March 16, 2027); and (v) calendar-year tax-exempt organizations whose extensions expire on November 16, 2026 (now due March 16, 2027).

The extended deadlines for filing and payments do not apply to information returns in the W-2 and 1099 series; or to Forms 1042-S; or to employment and excise tax deposits. It also does not apply to International Fuel Tax Agreement Inter-

est or scheduled payments, which are the result of a taxpayer entering into an Installment Payment Agreement since those liabilities were due prior to the disaster relief.

Affected taxpayers filing paper returns should write: “Georgia Wildfires – Clinch, Echols, Brantley” across the top of any forms submitted to the Department. The relief also applies to taxpayers not in the disaster area, but whose records are located in the disaster area. In addition, all relief workers affiliated with a recognized government or philanthropic organization assisting in relief activities in the covered disaster area are eligible for the relief, as well as any individual visiting the covered disaster area who was injured or killed as a result of the disaster.

Any taxpayer, whether filing paper or electronic returns, who is assessed a penalty and believes they did not receive due consideration regarding the relief, needs assistance, or has questions should contact DOR Headquarters at 1-877-423-6711.

Five GOP Senate candidates debate path to defeating Ossoff in November

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — If a blue wave washes across the country in November, Republicans vying for one of Georgia’s U.S. Senate seats say they can stand as a bulwark for the GOP.

Two incumbent congressmen squared off against three challengers in a debate last week, as they attempted to differentiate themselves ahead of the May 19 primary election.

Whoever emerges will face incumbent Sen. Jon Ossoff in November, a prodigious fundraiser. At stake is continued GOP control of the chamber, which works with the U.S. House to pass laws and has unique authority to confirm presidential appointments, including Cabinet secretaries, Supreme Court justices, and federal judges.

The ability to prevail over Ossoff was a key issue in the April 26 debate hosted by the Atlanta Press Club and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter, R-St. Simons,

repeatedly attacked U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, R-Jackson, over a House probe into allegations that Collins had used government funds to benefit a top aide. “Mike, if you’re our candidate, we lose,” Carter said.

Collins called it “a total nothingburger,” saying the probe had been triggered by an anonymous complaint.

Collins countered that Carter’s political career had been “littered with complaints, crooked land deals,” urging viewers to “Google Buddy Carter ethics FBI.”

As those two dueled, Derek Dooley, the former college football coach backed by Gov. Brian Kemp, sought to appeal to both conservative and mainstream voters.

Dooley, a political newcomer, pledged to leave office after serving two six-year terms and said Congress needs new blood.

“Donald Trump is doing a great job trying to make change. He closed the border, for example. We’re getting rid of a lot of the bad guys, but what has Congress done to codify this?” Dool-

ey said. “And this is my point why we need new leadership.”

The two other Republicans on the soundstage — John Coyne, a former Democrat, and Jonathan McColum, a retired brigadier general — sought to boost their name recognition.

Coyne, who garnered 4% of the vote in the 2016 Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate described himself as a centrist. He said population control is a top concern.

“We’ve got to control the number of people in this country,” he said. “I know that the president has the border locked down now. But what happens if a Democrat gets in in 2028? They’ll be right back where we started before.”

McColum said he would seek to make health care more available by spurring interstate competition among insurers. He criticized incumbent Republicans as undisciplined.

“The Republican Party often acts individually and we’re not connected,” he said. “I would love to see the party come together more to discuss things behind closed doors before coming out

and making clear determinations so that you can speak with one voice.”

Both Carter and Collins tried to appeal to Trump’s supporters by praising the president.

“He’s made the world safer,” said Carter, pointing to Trump’s military strikes against Iran. He said Trump had also made the country more prosperous. “We’ve got to make sure that we continue with these policies, America First policies, that President Trump has started,” he said.

Carter also pointed to his support for Trump’s desire to annex Greenland, citing its strategic location and mineral wealth.

Collins pointed to the passage of his Laken Riley Act, signed into law by Trump last year.

The legislation was a reaction to the murder of a University of Georgia student, and it aligned with the president’s immigration enforcement policies.

Jose Ibarra, a 26-year-old undocumented immigrant from Venezuela, was sentenced to life in prison for the crime. The law mandates federal deten-

tion for certain undocumented immigrants accused of specified crimes.

Immigration is a major issue for Republican voters that may be outweighed by abortion.

McColum pointed to his “biblical” views on that issue, and Carter said he felt strongly about being “pro-life.” But when Dooley was asked whether he supported Georgia’s ban on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, he gave an indirect answer until his questioner pinned him down.

“The heartbeat bill has been the law of the land,” Dooley said, adding that the federal government shouldn’t intervene.

When asked again whether he supported Georgia’s ban, Dooley said, “it’s not the way I would have written it.” He reiterated that the U.S. Senate and federal government should leave the issue to states.

Watch the debate at www.gpb.org/events/news/2026/04/26/georgia-us-senate-republicans-atlanta-press-club-debate

Kemp signs autism traffic stop bill, police benefits increases into law

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — When people with autism get pulled over in Georgia, the police officer who stops their vehicle may soon have special training to reduce the risk of a misunderstanding that can escalate into a confrontation.

Gov. Brian Kemp on Wednesday signed “Rio’s Law,” named after a boy with autism whose mother, Layla Luna, advocated for a similar law that passed in South Carolina after a difficult traffic stop.

Senate Bill 433, by Sen. Bri-

an Strickland, R-McDonough, creates a specialty license plate for people with autism or a developmental disability. It also requires that basic training courses for police include techniques for recognizing people with those conditions and for communicating effectively with them and employing alternatives to physical restraints.

Kemp signed that bill with nearly a dozen other public safety measures, including one for an increase in state contributions to police 401(k) plans (Senate Bill 452), another to reopen the application window for benefits for officers with a brain injury (House Bill 1128)

and one that addresses a shortfall in the Peace Officers Annuity Board and allows for higher monthly benefits (Senate Bill 285).

“The Kemp family will always back the blue,” Kemp said in a statement, “and I’m proud to sign legislation today that ensures they are supported throughout their careers of service and into retirement.”

Kemp also signed Senate Bill 547, another by Strickland, which elevates pimping and pandering to a felony on the first offense rather than a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Sen. Ossoff Working to Crack Down on Corporate Price Gouging to Lower Grocery Prices

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

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is working to crack down on corporate price gouging to lower grocery prices.

Sen. Ossoff is cosponsoring the *Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026* to stop big corporations from taking advantage of consumers by unfairly overcharging for groceries.

The bill, first introduced by Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), would prohibit the use of surveillance-based price setting practices, where corporations use a person’s precise location, browser history, or surveillance to charge people different prices for the same goods and services. “Georgia families are paying

too much for groceries. This bill will crack down on corporate price gouging to lower costs for Georgia families,” Sen. Ossoff said.

Sen. Ossoff continues working to lower prices for Georgia families.

In December, Sen. Ossoff urged U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins to reinstate Federal grant funding through the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission’s Childcare Access and Nutrition Systems (CANS) Program to help reduce food insecurity.

Last April, Sen. Ossoff joined a group of Senators calling out Congressional Republicans’ budget proposal, which proposed cutting billions of dollars from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(SNAP) and have devastating consequences for Georgia veterans, seniors, children, and farmers.

Last February, Sen. Ossoff and Congresswoman Lucy McBath (D-GA-06), alongside other members of Georgia’s Congressional Delegation, urged Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to reverse course and apply for the summer EBT program after Governor Kemp refused tens of millions of dollars in Federal funding to help Georgia children afford lunch during the summer months.

In 2024, Sen. Ossoff introduced the *Fresh Food Act of 2024* to address food insecurity across Georgia by helping attract more grocery stores to Georgia communities with limited access to fresh foods, and to help support Georgia farmers

Georgia schools caught in nationwide Canvas hack as extortion threat emerges

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A shadowy group that claims to have hacked a popular educational platform is reportedly trying to extort money from colleges and schools across the country, including in Georgia.

The group, which calls itself “ShinyHunters,” claims to have hacked the Canvas platform, a popular digital hub for submitting assignments, taking quizzes, checking grades and communicating with instructors.

The product was developed by Instructure, a global education technology company with a U.S. headquarters in Salt Lake City.

Instructure told users Thursday that it was investigating problems they were experi-

encing when they tried to log into their online portfolios. The company also said it had placed its platform in “maintenance mode,” although a recent update said the platform was available for “most” users.

The outage affected students at all levels, including at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where students were alerted by email Thursday of a “major cybersecurity breach” affecting Instructure.

The student newspapers at universities across the country reported on the hack.

The Daily Pennsylvanian at the University of Pennsylvania reported Thursday that ShinyHunters had claimed to have stolen emails and private messages, student names and ID numbers, and course enrollments. At Duke University, The

Chronicle reported Thursday that the group was threatening to release the data if it wasn’t paid a ransom.

By Friday, Georgia Tech was telling students that Canvas access had been partially restored and that students should communicate directly with instructors about affected assignments and exams.

Thursday was the last day of classes at Tech, but some or many K-12 school systems use Canvas and are weeks away from summer break.

“We understand that there is a worldwide Canvas/Instructure outage impacting over 9,000 institutions,” a spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Education said by email Friday. She said Instructure had not provided information yet about the full scope of

the incident.

The state agency oversees, but does not directly operate, Georgia’s 180 school districts. However, it does directly operate a handful of specialty schools, including Georgia Virtual School.

“Out of an abundance of caution, GaDOE has implemented security protocols and directed Georgia Virtual School students and staff not to use the platform until further notice,” the spokeswoman wrote. “We continue to coordinate with the Georgia Technology Authority and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency on this matter.”

The education agency encouraged school districts that contract with Instructure to monitor the company’s user

information page. The spokeswoman said the education department would offer support as the situation evolves.

It is unclear how many school systems rely on Canvas as their main learning management system. The Fulton County School System in metro Atlanta does and announced Thursday that Canvas “is completely down and inoperable for students, parents, and teachers.”

Fulton said on a web page about the outage that Instructure said student passwords, Social Security Numbers, and financial information were not involved but that names, email addresses, school assignments, and internal Canvas messages might have been.

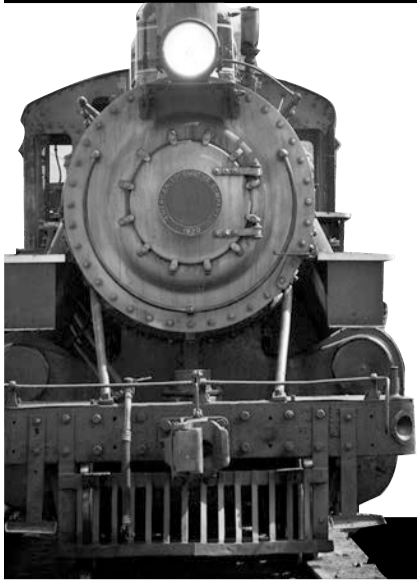
The district said it was collaborating with law enforcement and was trying to identify

workarounds for the remainder of the school year.

The disruption could make it difficult to report grade point averages for college scholarships, even for schools that do not use Canvas.

That is because many districts have students who turn to the Georgia Virtual School for Advanced Placement classes that are unavailable locally. Without Canvas, the systems cannot access their official grades.

“They’re going to have trouble calculating salutorians and valedictorians unless they find another way around that,” said John Zauner, executive director of the Georgia School Superintendents Association. “They’ve got two weeks to get it resolved.”



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One hour can make a lifetime impact: Give blood with Red Cross
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By Red Cross

MACON, Ga. (May 6, 2026) — In May, the American Red Cross asks people to secure their blood donation appointment now to help the blood supply stay ahead of building seasonal pressures. Just one hour of time could help patients celebrate more life with loved ones in the weeks ahead.

This time of year gets busy fast. Many are gearing up for the end of the school year or making plans for early summer fun, which can disrupt people's schedules and cause a drop in donation appointments. The Red Cross calls on donors of all blood types to book a time to give now.

By giving in May, donors have the chance to return to give over the summer to maximize their impact. Lock in your appointment to give blood now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Those who come to give May 1-17, 2026, will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email, thanks to our partners at Amazon. See RedCrossBlood.org/Amazon for details.

Those who come to give later in the month, May 18-31, 2026, will receive an oversized Red Cross beach towel, while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities May 6-31:

Peach
Fort Valley
5/15/2026: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Grace Pointe Church, 570 Woolfolk Rd.

Bibb
Macon
5/15/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B

5/20/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B

5/21/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., The Shoppes at River Crossing, 5080 Riverside Drive

5/21/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Piedmont Northside Hospital, 400 Charter Blvd

5/22/2026: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Macon Volunteer Clinic, 770 Walnut St

5/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Sardis-Heard Funerals & Cremation Center, 6125 Houston Rd.

5/27/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B

5/27/2026: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 859 1st St

5/30/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Paul AME, 2501 Shurling Drive

Houston
Centerville
5/15/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., The Well Centerville, 600 North Houston Lake Drive

5/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Centerville, 108 Church Street

5/27/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Houston County Public Library Centerville Branch, 206 Gunn Rd.

5/27/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Houston County Public Library Centerville Branch, 206 Gunn Rd.

Kathleen
5/19/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Tommy Stalnaker Aquatic Center, 210 Cohen Walker Dr

Lake Road
5/14/2026: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Shirley Hills Baptist Church, 615 Corder Road

5/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Roy H. "Sonny" Watson Health Science Building, 71 Cohen Walker Dr

5/21/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., VFW Post 6605, 1011 Corder Rd

5/25/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross, 346 Corder Rd

5/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Warner Robins First United Methodist Church Carter Hall, 205 N Davis Dr

5/29/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross, 346 Corder Rd

Macon
Marshallville
5/22/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. James CME Church, 217 Railroad St

How to donate blood
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

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Black and Gold Ready to Shine: Trojans Set for Spring Scrimmage Against Northside

Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The wait for football season is almost over in Peach County, and the excitement is already building around Trojan Field as the Peach County Trojans prepare to host the Northside Eagles in a highly anticipated spring scrimmage on May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

For players, coaches, and fans alike, the spring showdown represents much

more than just a preseason exhibition. It is the first opportunity to see months of hard work come to life under the lights. After weeks of spring practice, conditioning, film study, and competition, both teams will finally get the chance to test themselves against live opposition.

Trojan fans can expect to see a mix of familiar stars and rising young athletes take the field wearing the Black and Gold. Veteran players will look to

establish leadership and set the tone for the upcoming season, while younger student-athletes will have an opportunity to prove they are ready for bigger roles in the fall.

The scrimmage will also provide valuable insight for the coaching staff as they continue evaluating positions, depth charts, and overall team chemistry. Coaches will closely examine execution, communication, and effort as they prepare for what they hope will

be another exciting season of Peach County football.

Every snap on May 14 will matter. From the offensive line battles in the trenches to explosive playmakers on the outside, the night will offer an early glimpse into what the Trojans could become once the regular season officially arrives.

The atmosphere at Trojan Field is expected to bring the community together once again as fans rally behind

one of Peach County's proudest traditions. With the regular season quickly approaching, anticipation continues to grow for another exciting chapter of Trojan football.

As the countdown to fall continues, the message is simple throughout Peach County: football season is right around the corner, and the Trojans are ready to get to work.

Lady Trojans Sweep Region 1-AAA Honors After Dominant Season

Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The awards continue to roll in for the Peach County Lady Trojans soccer program after a remarkable season that established the team as one of the premier programs in Region 1-AAA. Following an outstanding campaign filled with victories, championships, and unforgettable performances, the Lady Trojans were heavily recognized in the Region 1-AAA postseason awards.

Peach County's success on the field was reflected across every major category, showcasing the depth, talent, and determination that fueled the Lady Trojans throughout the season.

Leading the way for Peach County were several players earning First Team All-Region honors. Kate Cervantes, Isabella Aguilar, Ella Massey, and Alivia Stanton were each selected to the Region

1-AAA First Team after playing pivotal roles in the Lady Trojans' dominant season. Their consistent play, leadership, and impact on both ends of the field helped Peach County remain among the top teams in the state throughout the year.

The Lady Trojans also placed Teraji Wheeler and Jada Vance on the Region 1-AAA Second Team. Both players provided key contributions during the season and played important roles in helping Peach County continue its winning tradition.

Individual honors highlighted just how dominant the Lady Trojans were this season.

Madelyn Cliett was named the Region 1-AAA Defensive Player of the Year after anchoring a defense that frustrated opposing offenses all season long. Her ability to control the back line, make critical stops, and lead with composure made her one of the toughest defenders in the region.

Ansley Maddox earned Region 1-AAA Midfielder Player of the Year honors for her outstanding playmaking ability and relentless energy in the middle of the field. Maddox consistently controlled possession, created scoring opportunities, and delivered in key moments throughout the season.

On the offensive side, Yoselin Ortiz was named Region 1-AAA Offensive Player of the Year after an explosive season that saw her become one of the most dangerous scoring threats in the region. Ortiz's speed, creativity, and finishing ability helped power the Lady Trojans' high-scoring attack.

Capping off the historic list of honors was Aubrey Hastings being named the Region 1-AAA Player of the Year. Hastings' all-around excellence, leadership, and game-changing performances made her one of the top players in Georgia high

school soccer this season. Her contributions were instrumental in Peach County's success from start to finish.

The recognition did not stop with the players. Head Coach Ben Maddox was named the Region 1-AAA Coach of the Year after guiding the Lady Trojans through another exceptional season. Under Maddox's leadership, Peach County continued to set the standard for excellence, playing with discipline, toughness, and championship-level intensity every time they stepped onto the field.

The Region 1-AAA honors serve as another reminder of the incredible season the Lady Trojans put together. With talent spread throughout the roster and a culture built on hard work and teamwork, Peach County soccer continues to shine as one of the area's elite programs.

Track and Field Trojans Ready to Chase State Glory in Athens

Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The spotlight is set to shine on the Peach County High School Track and Field program as a talented group of Trojan athletes prepares to compete in the GHSA State Qualifiers at the University of Georgia on May 13 and May 14.

After months of hard work, determination, and standout performances throughout the season, Peach County will send a strong and versatile group of athletes into one of the biggest meets of the year with hopes of bringing home medals and state recognition for the Black and Gold.

Leading the way for the Lady Trojans will be Makayla Royce, who qualified in the Girls Adapted Shot Put. Royce has continued to show strength and consistency throughout the season and will look to make a strong statement on the state stage.

Jeremiah Rhodes will be one of the busiest Trojan competitors in Athens, qualifying in both the Boys Adapted Shot Put and the 200-meter dash. Rhodes has displayed incredible versatility this season, combining power and speed to earn his place among the state's top competitors.

Distance standout Jackson Warlick earned qualification in both the Boys 800-meter run and the 1600-meter

run. Warlick has been a key leader for the Trojans this season and will look to continue his strong performances against elite competition from across Georgia.

Sprint and hurdle specialist Nijel Jacobs will represent Peach County in the Boys 300-meter hurdles after an impressive season filled with explosive finishes and strong times. Field event competitor Jhamari Smith also punched his ticket to Athens in the Boys Shot Put competition.

For the Lady Trojans, Ariana Thomas qualified in the Girls Discus after consistently delivering powerful throws throughout the season.

The Peach County girls relay teams

will also bring excitement and speed to the state meet. Telana Brown, McKenzie Washington, Jaleah Raines, Taleyah Marable, Amia Sanchez, and Davia Colbert will compete in both the Girls 4x100-meter relay and the Girls 4x200-meter relay. The relay squads have built strong chemistry all season long and will look to showcase their speed against some of the best teams in the state.

Brown will also compete individually in the Girls Pole Vault, where she will be joined by teammates Peyton McDowell and Zelma Williams, giving Peach County a strong presence in the event.

Another Lady Trojan to watch will be

Janae Banks, who qualified in the Girls 1600-meter run after a strong season of distance racing performances.

As the Trojans prepare to travel to Athens, the Peach County community has plenty to be proud of. From sprinters and relay teams to throwers, vaulters, hurdlers, and distance runners, the Trojans will be represented across multiple events at the state level.

Now, the mission is simple — compete with heart, represent Peach County with pride, and chase championship moments on one of Georgia's biggest stages.

"Teach in the Peach" signing day

By PCSS

Today at the Peach County Board of Education May meeting, two Peach County High School students participated in the "Teach in the Peach" signing day for future educators sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education. Fisher Fuller and Malena Borders both have plans to pursue education as a career so they can impact the next generation of Georgia students!



MAY 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
North Peach Park: 461 West White Rd, Byron, GA

Mr. Robert Hill and the Audio Visual Department at Peach County High School received their Industry Certification!



By PCSS

When a program becomes industry certified, it receives a "stamp of excellence," which represents the apex of program quality. Only those programs that have successfully undergone rigorous reviews by lead-

ers from business and industry are recognized with this distinction. The Georgia Department of Education is committed to the industry certification process as a part of its effort to strengthen technical and academic standards for all CTAE programs.

Industry-certified programs not only offer outstanding opportunities to students who receive instruction through such programs, but they also offer positive benefits for schools as well as employers.

Congratulations, Mr. Hill!!!

Inclusive Family Support Fair

By Peach County Recreation Department

Join us for an Inclusive Family Support Fair where every person is celebrated, supported, and valued!

Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at North Peach Park, 461 West White Rd, Byron, GA

This FREE community event is designed for families of all abilities and backgrounds.

Whether you're looking for resources, fun activities, or just a great day at the park, this event is for you.

- What to Expect:
- Community & Disability Resources
 - Inclusive Play Opportunities
 - Activities & Games for All Ages
 - Information & Family Support
 - Music, Food Trucks & More

At Peach County Parks & Recreation along with The Arc Macon, we believe strong communities are built through inclusion, connection, and support; and this day is all about bringing that to life.

All families are welcome. Come out, connect, and thrive together.

For more information, visit: Rec.Peachcounty.gov

Trojans Battle Back to Reach Final Four After Thrilling Quarterfinal Series Win Over Jefferson



Chris McKenzie, Sports Reporter

The road to the GHSA AAA Final Four ran straight through the Trojan Athletic Complex this past week, and the Peach County High School baseball team answered the challenge in dramatic fashion. In front of packed stands, roaring fans, and an electric playoff atmosphere, the Peach County Trojans defeated the Jefferson High School Dragons two games to one in the GHSA AAA State Quarterfinals to punch their ticket to the Final Four.

The series had everything playoff baseball should have — pressure moments, clutch hitting, dominant pitching, and a crowd that never stopped believing.

Jefferson struck first in the series opener, taking a hard-fought 6-4 victory over the Trojans. Peach County collected six hits in the contest, led by Wyatt Blanton's two-hit performance. Avery Horne and Rigsby Booth each drove in a run, while Ben Wilford and Miller Greene also added hits. Despite the loss, the Trojans stayed composed and focused knowing the season was still alive.

With their backs against the wall in Game 2, Peach County responded like champions.

The Trojans edged Jefferson 2-1 in a tense defensive battle to force a decisive Game 3. Peach County managed seven hits and played flawless defense with zero errors in one of their grimmest performances of the season.

Avery Horne delivered on both sides of the ball. At the plate, Horne finished with two hits and a run scored, while on the mound he earned the vic-

tory after holding Jefferson to just one run. Miller Greene added an RBI, and the Trojans executed small-ball baseball throughout the night with three sacrifice bunts and aggressive baserunning.

The defense was outstanding behind Horne. Peach County turned three double plays and finished with a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. Xavion Childs, Dawson Whaley, Ben Wilford, and Miller Greene all played major roles defensively as the Trojans shut down Jefferson late in the game.

With the series tied, the atmosphere inside Trojan Athletic Complex reached another level for Game 3.

Fans from both Peach County and Jefferson packed the stadium, creating one of the loudest and most exciting environments of the season. Every pitch carried playoff intensity as the Trojans delivered when it mattered most.

Peach County exploded for a 7-3 victory in the winner-take-all showdown.

After Jefferson answered Peach County's early three-run second inning by tying the game at 3-3, the Trojans erupted again in the fourth inning with four more runs and never looked back. Peach County finished with nine hits while using speed and pressure on the bases to overwhelm the Dragons.

Dawson Whaley came through with a huge performance, driving in two runs while adding a double and a stolen base. Avery Horne continued his monster series with two more hits, while Miller Greene added a double of his own. Xavion Childs, Zach Veillon, Ben Wilford, Matthew Cannon, and Rigsby Booth all contributed hits in the balanced offensive attack.

The Trojans were relentless on the bases, stealing seven bags in the game. Childs swiped two bases, Matthew Cannon added two more, and Peach County constantly pressured Jefferson's defense throughout the evening.

On the mound, Miller Greene earned the win while Dawson Whaley provided key innings as the Trojans limited Jefferson to only three hits in the contest.

When the final out settled into the glove, the celebration began as Peach County officially advanced to the GHSA AAA Final Four.

The atmosphere throughout the series was unforgettable. Trojan fans brought energy from the first pitch to the final out, while Jefferson supporters also traveled in large numbers to create a true playoff baseball environment. The crowd noise, intensity, and emotion made the quarterfinal match-up feel like a state championship series.

Now, the Trojans turn their attention to the next

challenge.

Peach County will travel to Troup County High School for the GHSA AAA Final Four. The best-of-three series begins with a doubleheader on Thursday, May 14, at 5:00 p.m. An if-necessary

Game 3 will be played Friday, May 15, at 5:00 p.m.

With momentum, confidence, and an entire community behind them, the Trojans are now just one series away from playing for a state championship.



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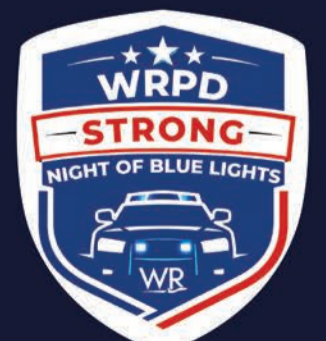


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