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Saturday, May 2, 2026

The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

Vol. 138, Issue No. 15 • 1 Section • 12 Pages

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Fort Valley State University Announces Spring 2026 Commencement Speaker2

Trojans Stay Red-Hot, Sweep Week in Dominant Fashion 11

Lady Trojans Stay Perfect, Improve to 16-0 with Win Over Bainbridge..... 11

Peach County High Baseball vs. Shaw 12

COMMUNITY
Community Calendar3
Church News....5
Legals7
Classifieds 10



South Carolina man pleads guilty to ‘maliciously’ starting fire in Byron Church

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — A South Carolina man admitted to “maliciously” starting a fire at a Byron church in 2024 and is now facing up to 20 years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Georgia.

In a press release, prosecutors say Luke Andrew Westefeld, 34 years old, of North Augusta, South Carolina, pleaded guilty to setting fire to the Byron United Methodist Church before U.S. District Judge Marc Treadwell on Monday, April 6.

According to court documents and statements in court, on Aug. 20, 2024, Westefeld approached



Photo Contributed
Luke Andrew Westefeld

members of the Byron United Methodist Church, who were standing in the church’s parking lot after their choir practice,



Archived photo of the Byron Methodist Church after the fire.

Later that night, Westefeld broke into the church and became upset upon seeing unlit candlesticks on the altar. West-

efeld believed the candlesticks

PLEADS GUILTY
CONTINUED PG 6A

Peach County welcomes new President of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — Peach County has a new President of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce, someone well-known in the community for her work supporting and promoting economic growth in Peach County.

Melissa delaBruyere serves as the President of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce. She officially began the role on Friday, February 27. While she started her duties on that date, the formal transition of leadership was completed on Thursday, March 12, marking the official handover.

“The last few weeks have been a total whirlwind! It’s been a fast-paced transition with a lot of moving parts, but in the best way possible. I’m really starting to feel a bit settled now and am excited about the momentum we’re building,” delaBruyere said.

For many in Peach County, delaBruyere is well known both for her work with the Development Authority of Peach County and the Chamber of Commerce. She worked alongside the previous chamber president, Jillian Bowen, who now works as the county administrator.

“I’ve spent the last eight years learning from the absolute best! Jill taught me that representing the Chamber requires both a high level of detail and the ability to adapt quickly to new challenges. From her, I learned to take true ownership of my work and the essential habit of clarifying and confirming every project and conversation. I feel like I am continuing a legacy of dedication,” delaBruyere said. “Jill provided me with the tools, and I have the history with the Chamber to ensure a seamless transition and to take on new projects for the business community and citizens of Peach County.

During her time in Peach County, delaBruyere has gained plenty of experience for the position. She has worked to promote economic growth through the Development Authority by



Photo Contributed
Melissa delaBruyere

working diligently to attract investment, create jobs, and enhance the region’s prosperity.

de-laBruyere has also worked as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and has helped with ribbon-cutting ceremonies and planning yearly events such as the CTAE awards ceremony and Celebration of Community Banquet, alongside her fellow Chamber of Commerce members.

“Having managed the Chamber’s daily operations for years, I am now stepping into the strategic role of leading us forward. This includes taking ownership of our financial planning and ensuring we remain fiscally disciplined in our growth,” delaBruyere said. “I’m currently focused on our signature events, starting with the annual CTAE Awards night at Peach County High School and then the Celebration of Community Banquet this fall, while also ensuring all of our programs, both established and new, are executed with the precision and vision our community expects.

de-laBruyere not only hopes to expand operations during her time as President of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce, but to strengthen the bonds between the chamber and the Peach County community.

“I’m looking forward to leading a period of steady, manageable growth for our membership. It’s not just about getting bigger; it’s

DELABRUYERE
CONTINUED PG 6A

Parents come forward with bullying concerns during Board of Education meeting

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

PEACH COUNTY, Ga. — Parents of Peach County came forward to speak of the bullying their children have been enduring within the Peach County School system during the April board meeting on Tuesday, April 7.

During the public participation portion of the meeting, multiple parents came forward to speak on their children’s behalf about the consistent bullying within the school district. Many spoke of their children being either afraid to come forward for fear of retaliation or coming forward with the issue to the administration, and no action being taken to deter the bullying.

One parent in attendance was Brandy Little, mother of Ava Little, a 12-year-old Byron Middle School student who died by suicide after alleged bullying earlier this year on Feb. 25, 2026.

Before the public participation part of the meeting, the board members spoke, and the superintendent spoke briefly. Board member B.J. Walker read the Peach County School Board’s policy against bullying for those in the audience.

Board member Drenon Everett stated that part of the trouble the board and its administration have had when dealing with bullying is that parents are allegedly telling their children not to “snitch”.

“We as parents have got to stop telling our children not to snitch. We can’t find a resolution when you’re telling your child ‘we don’t snitch.’ That’s a big thing in our community with our young people. We have got to tell them ‘if you see something, say something.’ We have got to stop this ‘I don’t snitch,’” Everett said. “It makes it hard for our people to get resolutions and answers when these type things come up. We, as the community, we as the board, we expect our administrators to commit a miracle. To find an answer for something that you’re not even helping with the problem. You’re not helping.”

Everett continued stating that

the school board and district are striving to be the best board and administration that they can be. He stated that they care about the students and their families.

“We want to be the best board we can be. We sit here hour after hour and talk about these issues. We care. We absolutely care. If you sit out there and you think we don’t care, something is wrong with you,” Everett said. “We can’t solve everybody’s problem but we can give you the best answers and we’ll look and find and search for the best answers we can to help every individual in this county, in the school district.”

Everett spoke of his support at Byron Middle School, working with troubled children.

“I work with Mr. Cammack. I have a program down there, I’ve worked there for a whole year. I gave my time and my money to 10 kids that were brought to me that were having issues in the school system. Every week I was there. So, you can’t tell me that there’re not good things going on and people don’t care,” Everett said. “It bothers me to know that we stand around and we want to point fingers at somebody because something went wrong. Sometimes you have to look in the mirror and look at ourselves and see if the answer’s in the mirror. Once you look in the mirror and see in the mirror that you may be the problem.”

“Oh, so now you’re pointing the finger?” Little interjected. “That’s what it sounds like. That’s the second board member that’s done that.”

After a brief recess following arguments between the parents and school board members, the parents were brought forward to speak.

Leslie Denardo, who has children in both Byron Elementary



and Byron Middle, stated she has been to the schools more in the last six weeks than in the entire time she’s had her children in the schools to work through concerns.

“I do take some offense to the comments that were made about needing to look in the mirror, because I tell my kids to report it. I tell them every day ‘if something’s happening, you tell someone. If they don’t do something, you tell me and I will do something about it,’” Denardo said.

Denardo stated that while she understands there is a process the school must follow, more often than not, “the process falls on deaf ears.” She continued, speaking about her son being allegedly harassed at school, stating that he has been continuously called ‘gay’ in the classroom and how appropriate action has not been taken.

Denardo alleged that there is a huge gap in inconsistencies with how standards and policies are applied and practiced by the staff and administration. She stated that parents are calling, texting, emailing, and showing up in person to talk with the administrators, but parents only hear the placation, the deflection, the blaming, and see nothing being done to support them or their children.

“When I have raised concerns regarding how members of the staff have either treated my children in completely inappropriate ways or how they have inconsistently followed and enforced school policies, the responses that I have gotten have

BULLYING
CONTINUED PG 2A



Fort Valley State University Announces Spring 2026 Commencement Speaker

By FVSU

(Fort Valley, GA) – Fort Valley State University announces The Honorable Verda M. Colvin, J.D., Supreme Court Justice of Georgia, as the Commencement speaker for the Spring 2026 ceremony on May 9.

Colvin brings a distinguished career in law, public service and judicial leadership. She was appointed to Georgia's highest court on July 20, 2021, by Governor Brian Kemp.

"We are honored to welcome Justice Colvin to Fort Valley State University for this year's Spring Commencement ceremony," said President Paul Jones, Ph.D. "Her career, marked by excellence, service, and historic achievement, will serve as an inspiration to

graduating students preparing to enter their respective fields."

Prior to her current role, Colvin served on the Georgia Court of Appeals, also by appointment of Governor Kemp in 2020. Her judicial experience includes nearly six years as a superior court judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit, where she played an active role in advancing accountability courts and judicial initiatives across the state.

Colvin began her legal career as an assistant solicitor in Athens-Clarke County, where she developed a passion for trial work. She went on to serve in several key legal roles, including assistant district attorney in Clayton County and assistant United States attorney in the Middle District of Georgia, pros-



Photo Contributed
The Honorable Verda M. Colvin, J.D.,
Supreme Court Justice of Georgia

ecuting a broad range of cases from drug trafficking to white-collar crime.

A native of Atlanta, Justice Colvin earned her bachelor's degree from Sweet Briar College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Beyond her work on the bench, Colvin is deeply committed to community service and professional leadership. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and currently serves as Chair of the Access to Justice Committee for the Supreme Court of Georgia. Her contributions to the legal profession and her community have earned her numerous honors and awards.

The 2026 Spring Commencement ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Wildcat Stadium. Guests are asked to be seated by 9 a.m. The clear bag policy will be enforced.

This year's commencement also marks a meaningful milestone, as it represents one more opportunity for President Jones to celebrate the achievements of FVSU graduates before concluding his tenure this summer.

For more information, visit FVSU.edu/Commencement. The ceremony will be streamed live on the FVSU YouTube channel (@FortValleyState1895).

Rep. Robert Dickey Appointed by Speaker Burns to Serve on Agriculture & Rural Development Committee of CSG South

By Georgia House of Representatives, Press Release

ATLANTA – State Representative Robert Dickey (R-Musella), chair of the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee, was recently appointed by House Speaker Jon Burns (R-Newington) to serve on the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee of the Council of State Governments Southern Office (CSG South) for a two-year term, ending December 31, 2027.

"I am honored to be appointed by Speaker Burns to serve on the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee of the Council of State Governments Southern Office," said Rep. Dickey. "This opportunity will allow me to collaborate with leaders from across the South, share Georgia's initiatives and bring back innovative ideas that will strengthen our rural communities and agricultural economy. I look forward to continuing to advance policies that support our farm-

ers, promote economic growth and enhance the quality of life for all Georgians."

Established in 1947, the Southern Office is a member-driven organization and the largest of the four regions operating under the Council of State Governments. The mission of CSG South is to promote and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation among 15 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

CSG South annually hosts the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the largest regional gathering of legislative members and staff. SLC has an array of programs focusing on existing and emerging state government innovations and solutions, providing policymakers with opportunities to interact with policy experts and share their knowledge with colleagues.

In accordance with O.C.G.A 21-2-386, Peach County Elections office will start early tabulation and processing of voting ballots for the May 19th General Primary/Nonpartisan Election at 4:00pm on May 19th, 2026, at the Peach County Government Center located at 902 Campus Dr., Fort Valley Ga., 31030.

Anthony Sallette - Peach County Elections Supervisor

BULLYING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

been; 'Well, they came from working with older kids and they may not understand the policies are different.' or 'They came from post-secondary where they're used to dealing with 19 and 20 and 21 year olds, so we're working a lot on how we do things here,'" Denardo said. "What does that even mean – How we do things here – there should be no how we do things here. This is not a good old boys situation, it should be that we follow the standards that are outlined."

Denardo pointed out that both parents and students are required to sign the student handbook acknowledging that they understand the expectations. She questioned whether the teachers, staff, and administration are not held to the same standards.

Denardo also stated that the recent letter posted about the school system's bullying policy was "severely lacking with complete information from the law" and "appear to be a way to minimize liability and culpability of the school system."

At the end of the day, you're all right. We do need to work together," Denardo said. "There is a consistent pattern of behavior being expected by both students and administrators with no change or action."

Ava's grandmother, Lisa Sanders, spoke of an incident that occurred two weeks before Ava took her own life.

"Ava was harassed at a basketball game. Brandy was standing three feet away from her when the little boys came up, making sexual remarks to my granddaughter. When Brandy

stepped up so that they understood that was Ava's momma, the little boys left. She went to the principal, and granted, understandably, he said, "I will have to watch the video and see what I can see," Sanders said. "The video doesn't have sound, so he saw nothing because the little boys didn't physically touch her. But because there was no sound, he also didn't hear what they were saying to her. The remark made to my daughter and granddaughter was that my daughter was over-reacting to this situation."

Sanders spoke about the number of parents coming forward to talk about bullying issues and how the community feels like nothing is being done for those who come forward.

"When he [Principal Voslowe Cammack] speaks to a little girl that's complaining, to him it may be overreacted. To that child, it's something really serious. What's happened to Ava should show all of y'all that right now. That just because they're a child doesn't mean that what they're going through doesn't matter," Sanders said. "How many children do we have to lose? Somebody besides the parents has to stand up to these kids."

Brandy Little took a moment to recognize her daughter, Ava, stating that she dreamed of going to school in Tennessee for veterinary sciences. Ava taught herself sign language, so no one was excluded. She was involved in multiple extracurricular activities such as softball, cheer leading, basketball, kickball, and track.

Little spoke of her other children in the school system, including Ava's older brother, who was set to graduate this year. However, Little pulled him out of the school system after a recent incident.

"Ava has a sister, which is in middle school, eighth grade. As well as two brothers, one should be graduating high school this year. I already bought him his cap and gown. I've pulled him out of school, because of bullying," Little said. "Because, when he told his friends about what happened to his sister, they laughed. Let that sink in."

Little spoke of recent incidents

involving other Byron Middle School students who either planned or made attempts to take their own lives.

"Bullying has taken away more than just Ava's life. Just yesterday, I had to make two police reports of kids at Byron Middle School that contacted me saying that they wanted to take their life. Two kids. Their parents called and told me thank you," Little said. "Y'all don't know pain. Y'all don't know it and I hope you never do."

Little spoke of the recent stricter policy changes she wrote and submitted to Superintendent Dr. Jesse Davis. The first bullying offense would require a meeting between the principal, students involved, and the parents. The second offense would require two weeks out-of-school suspension with a required 40 hours of community service and a \$100 fine.

"Parents and teachers have to work together. Both have to hold people accountable. These kids, they see people still in here [Byron Middle School], that bullied my daughter and they don't want to see them. That's why they're coming to me. They're coming to me because they know I'm going to voice it. I'm going to look out for them. They see these kids are still in school, so they think nothing is being done," Little said.

During the recognition portion, multiple students, teachers, staff, and community members of the Peach County School System were recognized.

Principal Cammack of Byron Middle School recognized the BMS Teacher of the Year, Emily Robertson, and BMS student Grayson Smith.

Dr. Angela Hambrick, Principal of Peach County High School, recognized the PCHS Teacher of the Year, Julie Folse, and PCHS student Khazion Harris.

Cathy Heller, Coordinator of Fine Arts, recognized the Young Georgia Authors Regional Winners and their teachers; Madisyn Hernandez, 1st place, 1st grade, Kay Road Elementary; Tayler Sims, 1st place, 2nd grade, Byron Elementary; Remilee Plank, 3rd place, 3rd grade, Byron Elementary; Lucas Kimsey, 1st place, 6th grade, Byron Middle; and Keyarah Gant, 3rd place, 8th grade, Byron Middle.

"These students and educators continue to represent their schools and our district with excellence through their hard work, creativity, leadership, and accomplishments. We are so proud of each of them and appreciate the support of their families, teachers, and school staff," Peach County Schools wrote in a press release.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Peach County Board of Commissioners will be accepting Sealed Bids for the Sullivan Road Improvements in Peach County, GA.

Closing date for Sealed Bids responding to Request for Bid (RFB) No. 26-004 shall be May 1, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. Bids will be opened in public without discussion on May 1, 2026 at 11:45 a.m. at the Peach County Board of Commissioner's Office, 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Bid amounts will not be released until the Board of Commissioners has awarded the project to the winning contractor.

Work includes the import, placement, and compaction of ±5,375 C.Y. (in place) structural fill for the road, realigning, and paving ±3,380 L.F. of Sullivan Road. Work will begin at the apron from Electric Avenue and extend for approximately .39 miles north. The existing dirt road portion of Sullivan Road, south of Russell Parkway, will consist of .25 miles of road construction. Additionally, drainage improvements, utility relocations, erosion / sediment control, and final stabilization are part of the work at each site.

A Pre-bid meeting will be held April 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sullivan Road project site. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is required.

The complete RFB package will be available by contacting Morgan Hoffmann at (478) 476-0700, morgan@tpointeng.com

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Base Bid. Performance Bond and Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, will be required of the successful bidder. Bond must be written by an acceptable Surety Company licensed to do business in the State of Georgia and listed with the Department of the Treasury.

See Instructions to Bidders for additional bidding requirements.

Peach County reserves the right to reject all bids, to waive informalities, to re-advertise and/or to award any bid that is in the best interest of Peach County.

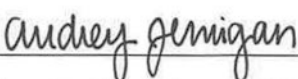
Mail or deliver Sealed Bids to:
Jillian Bowen, Administrator
Peach County Board of Commissioners
ATTN: RFB # 26-004
213 Persons Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030

SESSION NOTICE

Peach County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 20, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Peach County Board of Commissioners will meet with representatives from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for a Lunch & Learn session regarding Land Banks on Monday, April 20, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Board of Commissioners Office located at 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

This event is for informational purposes only. While a quorum of the Board may be present, no official action will be taken, and no votes will be conducted.


Audrey Jernigan, County Clerk

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



NOTICE
PUBLIC MEETINGS
CITY OF FORT VALLEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LOCATION: CITY HALL
204 W. CHURCH ST
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

WORK SESSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Time: 06:00 P.M.
Meeting ID: 815 4052 2653
Passcode: 673635

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Time: 06:30 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 846 3683 8391
Passcode: 979322

April 17
Peach County
Elections Board
Meeting

Peach County Elections Board Meeting will be held April 17, 2026, at 4:00 pm at the Peach County Courthouse located at 205 W. Church St. Fort Valley Ga., 31030.

Anthony Sallette - Peach County Elections Supervisor
Region 6 Facilitator
E-Mail Address: Anthony-Sallette@Peachcounty.gov
Phone: (478) 827-3480

May 2
Battle of Byron

Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 10:00AM to 6:00PM in downtown Byron, Georgia. Come join us at The Battle of Byron Festival for games, food and fun!

Peach County Board of Education
Meeting Schedule

Fort Valley, GA - Peach County Schools

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

The Battle of Byron
Festival Board of
Directors Meeting

The Battle of Byron Festival Board of Directors meet every Third Thursday of the Month at the Old Byron Train Depot at 6:30 P.M.

2026-2027 FORT VALLEY
HEAD START
RECRUITMENT

700 Spruce St, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (478)825-8584.
Ages 3 -5. Required Documentation: Proof of birth, Social Security Card, Immunization 3231, Medicard/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).

com). All Veterans and Spouses are encouraged to participate.

ATTENTION: Veterans

Veterans who would like to get together for brotherhood, please meet for dinner at Mi Ranchito at 311-A Vineville St, Fort Valley, GA on 12 August 2023 at 6:30 p.m./1830. Please RSVP to Ernest Cooling by emailing ecooling79@gmail.com. If further information is needed, please call me at (478) 955-8850.

Fort Valley Downtown
Development Authority
- Board Meeting

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

Peach County Board of Commissioners
Work Sessions

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

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

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

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

Fort Valley Utility
Commission

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

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

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

Kiwanis Club of
Fort Valley

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

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

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

Peach County
Historical Society

Meeting
Meets 4th Tuesday each month at 6:00pm. If anyone has school annuals of the past the Historical Society would like to have them. Donations welcome. Contact: Lrgiles77@gmail.com

Fort Valley Historic
Preservation

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

Peach County Retired
Educators Association

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

Byron AL-ANON
Family Group

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

Compassionate
Friends Middle GA
Chapter

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

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

Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA. Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org.

Byron Lions Club

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

Byron Rotary Club

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

Byron DDA/CVB

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.

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 informational 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

Bell, Dejuantez Larenz, 31, Macon, GA:
Terroristic Threats And Acts

Buchanan, Kimberly Elaine, 46, Forsyth, GA:
Probation Violation, Probation Violation

Dixon, T'kedrian Elijah, 22, Warner Robins, GA:
Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Edwards, Emily Amber, 31, Centerville, GA:
Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Fogg, Brenton Traquez, 35, Macon, GA:
DUI - Alcohol Less Safe, Improper Stopping/ Parking In Prohibited Area

Granville, Mickey Allynnton, 30, Vienna, GA:
Failure To Appear

Harris, Clarence Emmett, 42, Forsyth, GA:
Probation Violation

Hughes, Crystal Gail, 47, Warner Robins, GA:

Proffitt, Megan Grace, 21, Hawkinsville, GA:
Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol

Rhodes, Robert Antonio, 37, Warner Robins, GA:
Driving With Suspended License

Rodriguez, Jonas Mendez, 29, Warner Robins, GA:
Driving Without A Valid License

Ruiz, Jose Antonio, 24, Roberta, Ga: DUI - Alcohol Less Safe, Driving Without A Valid License, Safety Belt Violation For 18 YOA And Older, Open Container In Motor Vehicle (Misd)

Sanders, Andre James, 42, Byron, GA:
Driving With Suspended License,

Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz

Towns, Nicholas Shaquille, 30, Byron, GA:
Probation Violation

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Barnes, Kayla Aniya, 24, Fort Valley, GA:
Simple Battery - Family Violence

Hallett, Robert Edward, 19, Marshallville, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd

Holden, Alex R, 37, Fort Valley, GA:
Battery/Simple Battery - Family Violence, Obstructing Or Hindering Persons Making Emergency Telephone Call

Hollis, Ashanti Arie, 23, Warner Robins, GA:
Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Marler, Jacob Austin, 31, Phenix City, Al: DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, Driving Wrong Side Of Undivided Street, Improper Stopping On Roadway

Nichols, Shedrick Donelle, 29, Fort Valley, GA: No Local Charges

Rumph, Jamarius Antrell, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Battery Against A Female Who Is Pregnant

Tobler, Lakyria Brashawwna, 26, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Peach County Sheriff's Office Arrests/Citations

Aguilar-Guizar, Michael, 26, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Maintain Lane, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol - Concentration Is 0.08g Or More Within 3 Hrs Or More, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Possession Of Open Alcohol Container

Barnes, Alexis Michelle, 18, Fort Valley, GA:
Simple Battery - Family Violence

Beasley, Robert Christian, 35, Fort Valley, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd, Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor, Obstructing Or Hindering Persons Making Emergency Telephone Call

Ellison, Devantae Rekhel, 31, Marshville, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Fredrick, Jamarcus Rashun, 24, Fort Valley, GA: Armed Robbery

Hardeman, Joshua Aaron-Prentiss, 25, Macon, GA: Failure To Maintain Insurance, Driving While License Suspended

Harris, Nichole Audriana, 32, Warner Robins, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Racing, Reckless Driving

Leonnig, Scott Edward, 53, Byron, GA: Failure To Register As Sex Offender/Failure To Comply With Requirements/Provided

False Information

Nichols, Shedrick Donelle, 29, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Taylor, Jakira Kiandra, 27, Warner Robins, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Racing, Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol, Reckless Driving

Georgia State Patrol Arrests

Howell, Rodney Almarcus, 54, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Maintain Lane, Following Too Closely, Improper/Erratic Lane Change, Obscured Or Missing License Plate, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol

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Foolhardy To Let Young Sprouts Go Unweeded



By Billy Powell
Parables to Ponder
LT Columnist

The Minister of Youth in a Baptist church bulletin wrote the following note to parents: “Parents, please make it a priority to have your children with us on Wednesday nights at 6:15. If your children have other friends who are not currently active in another church, do your best to bring them. I am a firm believer that it is easier to reach children for Jesus Christ than older kids. By the time they reach middle school, if Christ is not a priority in their lives, there is a strong possibility he never will be. Then, when it’s too late, we wonder where we went wrong.” There has never been a truer statement. By the time children reach 7-8 years of age, they have formed their moral foundation and will carry that value system

forward throughout their lives. When children reach teenage status, it is too late to change their moral values.

How soon can a child be saved? Charles Hadden Spurgeon wrote, “as soon as children can learn evil, be assured that they can be competent under the teaching of the Holy Spirit to learn good.” Spurgeon urged Sunday School teachers: “Never go into your class with the thought that children cannot comprehend. Children are capable of salvation.” A good example is Josiah. When he became king of Jerusalem at age 8, he immediately began to seek God’s guidance and performed great works by his twelfth birthday.

A person’s chances of being saved diminish rapidly with age. As people grow older and become more set in their attitudes, they increasingly resist the life-changing message of Christ. Studies revealed that 95-percent of the people who receive Christ do so before age 25. After the age of 35, only one person in 50,000 receives Christ; after 45 only one in 300,000; and after 75 only one in 700,000 is converted. Hardening of the arteries and hardening of the heart

go hand in hand. The writer of Ecclesiastes warned of the dangers of resisting salvation when one is young: “Don’t let the excitement of being young cause you to forget your creator...Remember Him now while you are young, before the silver chord of life snaps, and the golden bowl is broken, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God.”

Evangelistic efforts are usually slanted toward adults at the expense of children. This is inconsistent for in planting a garden, we would be foolhardy to let young sprouts go unweeded during the spring and expect an abundant harvest in the summer. God cautioned the Israelites escaping from Egyptian bondage to “forget not the things your eyes have seen and teach them to your children and grandchildren.” Timothy became Paul’s protégé because he was taught the scriptures from childhood by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

We have an awesome responsibility to bring up our children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Jesus said, “prevent not the children from coming to me, for such is the Kingdom of God.”

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

Our courts, however, have to interpret the laws according to the constitutions of both the state and the country. For them to be fair and impartial, they almost must be non-partisan. It’s the only way they can be a proper check and balance within a state that has been governed by one majority party controlling the other two branches at the same time for most of the state’s existence.

There have been partisan attempts to change the courts a few times. Most notably, Republicans tried to unseat a few Justices as the party was taking statewide elective offices from the Democrats around the turn of the millennium.

Most if not all failed, and usually by a large margin. Despite the lack of general public aware-

ness from traditional campaign channels, the legal community seems to have a way of policing these elections to motivate voters to preserve the system and keep partisanship out of these elections.

This year there are three challenges to those serving in our top courts. Two Justices on Georgia’s Supreme Court and one for Georgia’s Court of Appeals. At least one of the challengers has run state wide for a partisan office.

The best sign that partisanship isn’t at play with the incumbents is the steering committee of Justice Charlie Bethel. Among the high profile and politically diverse names supporting his re-election are the Governor who appointed him, Nathan Deal, and Deal’s 2014

Democratic challenger, former State Senator Jason Carter.

As a disclosure, Justice Bethel and I have a friendship that pre-dates his time on our highest court, and I’ve made a small donation to his campaign. I use him as an example of the three incumbents standing for re-election statewide – including fellow Supreme Court Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren and Appeals Court Judge Elizabeth Gobeil – as his committee embodies the entire point here.

There’s a time and place for partisanship, and many of the names on his team are highly partisan. When it comes time to stand before a judge, however, justice must be colorblind. Those colors must include red and blue.

CHURCH & LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

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

USHER’S TEMPLE CME CHURCH

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

Join us each Sunday morning with Pastor Tawanna B. Harris and members at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may join us virtually via Facebook Live and Youtube. Bible study is each Wednesday in person at 12:00 and virtually at 7:00pm via Zoom.

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

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

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

BAHA’I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

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

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

Sundays 10am - 12noon. Wednesday nights 7pm-8:30pm. Meeting# 2059432744 Code 7Sb6h8 Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762 Join us each Sunday at 10:55AM for Christian fellowship and

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

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

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

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS’ CLASS

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

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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

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

SAINT ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. JULIANA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

BAHA’I FAITH

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

Baha’u’llah

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

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.

Georgia lawmakers send measure to governor to make ambulance rides more affordable

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — People in Georgia who get injured badly enough to need an ambulance ride could worry less about the shock to their pocketbook if they have insurance and if Gov. Brian Kemp signs House Bill 506 into law.

The Georgia General Assembly sent Kemp the “Surprise

Billing Consumer Protection Act” on Thursday, the final day of this year’s legislative session.

It would cap insurance costs for any ambulance ride requested by a first responder, with the amount indexed to a multiple of Medicare.

The same copayment, coinsurance or deductible charge would apply to ambulance rides whether or not they are in the insurer’s network. And the ambulance company would direct-

ly bill the insurance company.

“If someone has private insurance, that will be billed rather than self-pay on an ambulance ride,” said Sen. Shawn Still, R-Suwanee, who was responsible for overlaying HB 506 with the ambulance language.

The injured are not in a position to negotiate the cost of an

AMBULANCE RIDES CONTINUED PG 11A



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- Top 20 Cars



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



Come out and support the Rolling Trojans at their 3rd annual Car Show! Check out the awesome cars on display, take a walk around the local market and grab some food from the food trucks while you're at it. This is an event you won't want to miss!!

Admission is FREE!!!

For more information please contact Kristen Harter at kristen.harter@peachschools.org

Georgia Legislature backed bill that would give residents new rights against homeowner associations

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Among the more popular bills to pass out of the Georgia General Assembly last week was a measure that would make it more difficult for homeowners’ associations to foreclose on members’ homes over disputes about money.

Sen. Matt Brass, R-Newnan, told fellow lawmakers during hearings on the bill that he had heard numerous anecdotes about associations that had abused their authority to levy fines, piling up bills that had led to liens on homes and then to foreclosure.

“You might have a rogue board member or a bad management company that wants a neighbor out or they want to try to get possession of that property,” he said at a hearing last month. “And they start fining and feeing people.”

Senate Bill 406 passed the Senate

unanimously and it passed the state House by an overwhelming bipartisan margin. If Gov. Brian Kemp allows it to become law, it will put guardrails around the associations’ authority to fine residents and place liens against their properties.

It would require associations to register annually with the Georgia Secretary of State if they plan to collect fines and fees. It would limit the types of debt that associations could use to place a lien on a property. It would double the current \$2,000 debt threshold for filing a lien provided owners are not in arrears for at least a year. It would require associations to upload certain records to the state and open their financial books to members. And it would establish a hearing process for disputes to be overseen by the Secretary of State.

Caroline Simmons has been in a long-running dispute with her Decatur-area condominium association over the cost of new water meters. She

asserted that the meters were not needed and that the board had failed to follow protocol to contract for them. She then sued.

SB 406 would give her an alternative to the courts.

“It means I have someplace other than the court to go to be able to rectify everything that I believe that the board is doing in violation of not only our declaration but of Georgia law,” Simmons said in an interview this week.

She was among several homeowners who testified about aggressive association behavior at that hearing with Brass last month.

One man described a battle over the pavers he placed in the mud to give his pregnant wife safe passage through the yard. He said the association levied thousands of dollars in fines after ordering them removed.

Another man said he had spent \$25,000 dealing with water runoff from a neighbor’s property. The association

did not like the work he had done, which led to a costly legal fight. He called the associations “judge, jury and executioner.”

A real estate agent described how an owner was at risk of losing his home because he failed to respond to an association order to repaint his front door.

She said the man had been busy tending to his dying wife.

At a prior hearing in February, a representative for the associations argued that there was no need for SB 406. Julie Howard, a lawyer who said she was a volunteer for the Community Associations Institute, said there are over 11,300 associations for condominiums and homes in Georgia, representing over 2.5 million people — about a quarter of the state.

She said residents voluntarily chose to live under those associations and that Brass was hearing from a relatively small number with complaints. She said there were already processes

to hold boards accountable, including board elections.

“We don’t think it’s good law to make law based on a few rogue actors,” Howard said.

But Brass said the existing processes had failed to protect the people who had come to him, and he described the protections in SB 406 as modest, with minimal burden on the associations. All they must do is spend \$100 a year to register with the Secretary of State and upload some of their records, he said. He said the legislation scratches the surface of the problems but establishes a framework for additional regulation in the future.

Homeowners’ associations are effectively small cities, and require oversight, he said in an interview Thursday.

“I was trying to rein in the bad associations without punishing the good ones,” he said. “And I think that was as close as we could get it, for now anyway.”

Gov. Kemp has a lot of bills on his desk after lawmakers finished their work

By Ty Tagami

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers went home in a flurry of ripped paper, as is the custom at the end of the 40-day legislative session.

The shreds floating through the House and Senate included some of the 2,241 bills introduced during the biennial assembly that started last year, plus more than 3,000 resolutions.

Here is a highlight of some bills that passed, and failed, when the legislators finally decided to leave the Gold Dome

after midnight on April 3, about an hour past “Sine Die,” the last scheduled day of the legislative session.

Some bills found bipartisan support while others were pushed through by the Republican majorities in each chamber. Gov. Brian Kemp has already signed a couple of measures, but most of them await his pen.

Consumers

The federal government will stop making pennies because the metal costs more than they are worth. House Bill 1112 would require that cash transactions are rounded to the nearest nickel.

Another bill sought to move the state east on the time zone map, out to the Atlantic. House Bill 154 would have kept clocks on the same standard year-round; no more bouncing back and forth by an hour. It did not pass.

Culture

The killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk inspired the passage of Senate Bill 552, which would make it illegal for public schools that allow student meetings on campus to discriminate based on political or ideological content.

Other ideologically driven measures triggered many hours

of partisan debate and failed to pass.

Senate Bill 74 sought to strip librarians of their criminal immunity from a law that makes it illegal to give “harmful” books and other material to minors.

Senate Bill 499 and House Bill 1324 would have ensured gun silencers remained legal in Georgia. Republicans contended silencers protect hunters’ hearing. Democrats asserted they make it harder to locate school shooters. “This body surely is aware that earplugs exist,” Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, said on the House floor when Democrats voted the bill down, assisted by the absence of 11 Republicans.)

The House also killed Senate Bill 175, which sought to protect Confederate monuments.

Education

House Bill 1193 seeks to improve the teaching of reading in kindergarten through third grades. The heart of the measure would give schools \$70 million a year to put 1,313 literacy coaches into classrooms.

Teenage students got a bill that aims to help them, but in a different way: House Bill 1009 would ban cellphones in public high schools starting in the 2027-28 school year. The devices were roundly criticized as an academic distraction.

College students got Senate Bill 556, an omnibus education measure that snuck across the

finish line the evening of April 2 (technically the final legislative day though lawmakers kept voting past midnight). The House commandeered the bill, which was about something else (a common tactic when time is running out) and stuffed it with other language, including a \$325 million need-based scholarship program that had been in a different bill that did not pass.

House Bill 328 would increase the \$120 million annual cap on tax breaks for donors to one of the state’s K-12 private school tuition subsidy programs. The Senate had sought to nearly double it to \$225 million but settled for \$150 million.

**LOT OF BILLS
CONTINUED PG 8A**

DELABRUYERE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

about getting stronger. By introducing new programs that bring our business community closer together, I want the Chamber to be the unifying force — the ‘glue’ — that holds our county, cities, and businesses together as one community,” delaBruyere said.

deLaBruyere took a moment to thank her fellow members of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce for supporting her as she shifted into this position.

“I’m honored by the trust you’ve placed in me to take the reins. Knowing I have a team that stands beside me and is ready to do the work makes all the difference. I’m looking forward to a successful year together!” delaBruyere said.

To the citizens of Peach County, delaBruyere wanted to emphasize her and her team’s dedication to the citizens and community. Having worked in Peach County for years, delaBruyere sees many familiar faces and wants to ensure a positive future together.

“I want the citizens of Peach County to know how much I truly care about this community. Having served this area for many years, I don’t just see businesses and city lines — I see my neighbors, my friends, and our future together,” delaBruyere said. “As I take on this new role, my commitment is to ensure our Chamber serves as the ‘glue’ that keeps us connected, and I’m honored to work every day

to make Peach County a place where our families and businesses can truly thrive.”

At the end of the interview, delaBruyere thanked one mentor and friend for eight years of encouragement and camaraderie.

“I want to share a huge THANK YOU to Jill Bowen for everything! She has been a mentor, a leader, and — most importantly — a dear friend. Jill is a powerhouse for Peach County, and I feel incredibly blessed to have worked alongside her for the last eight years. While I miss our daily routine, I am so proud of her in her new role as County Administrator and excited for the continued partnership between our offices. Our community is in great hands!” delaBruyere said.

PLEADS GUILTY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

should remain lit through the night. He said he noticed that the Bible on the pulpit was opened to Ezekiel 24:21, which spoke of the desecration of the sanctuary due to sin.

Say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am about to desecrate my sanctuary—the stronghold in which you take pride, the delight of your eyes, the object of your affection. The sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword.

Westefeld took it as a sign for him to burn the Church. Westefeld lit the candlesticks and burned the American and Methodist flags in the sanctuary.

Westefeld then went to the Church office next to the sanctuary and found cash and checks. He said his “anger level reached a 10” because he believed the money should be deposited in a bank. He took the cash for himself.

Westefeld then saw food in the office pantry and became even more enraged, believing it should be given to the poor. Westefeld said that this is why

he decided to set fire to the church’s office.

Westefeld stole a plastic gas can from a nearby home, planning to siphon gasoline out of the Church’s van to use as an accelerant. The van was parked and locked behind the Church. Westefeld was unable to retrieve the gasoline, so he stuffed his white shirt in the gas cap of the van and set it on fire.

“The act of arson against a place of worship is not just an attack on a building, it’s an assault on the community’s spirit,” said ATF Atlanta’s Acting Special Agent in Charge Robert W. Davis. “We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure justice is served.”

Westefeld faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a minimum of five years in prison, and a \$250,000 fine. Westefeld now awaits his sentencing date, which will be determined later by the Court.

“Intentionally setting fire to a house of worship is a malicious act that devastates not only a sacred space, but also reverberates

throughout the entire community,” said U.S. Attorney William R. “Will” Keyes. “Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies worked together to ensure the defendant is brought to justice for his actions.”

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Georgia Fire Marshals, and the Byron Police Department investigated the case, along with assistance from the Centerville Police Department and the GBI.

“This case was solved thanks to the crucial assistance provided to us by our law enforcement partners at ATF, GBI, the State Fire Marshals and the Centerville Police Department,” said Byron Police Chief Wesley Cannon. “We are grateful to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Georgia for their diligence in securing the guilty plea. This case is another great example of law enforcement working together for a successful outcome, and we know the citizens of Byron appreciate everyone’s efforts.”

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

Water Plant Operator

MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must provide a valid Georgia driver’s license.
2. Desirable to have at least a Georgia Class 3 Water Treatment License or have one within one year of employment.
3. Must have high school diploma or General Education Degree (GED).
4. Must have own transportation to and from work.
5. Ability to use an intermediate level of problem solving to deal with non-routine situations.

Essential Job Functions

1. Oversees, participates in, and directs the operation of the Water Treatment Plant, including the pumping of raw and finished water, chemical addition, operation of equipment, and interpretation of charts, gauges, and meters.
2. Directs, organizes and performs various quality tests as needed on water samples taken at strategic points throughout the treatment process.
3. Computes chemical dosages and adjusts chemical feed machines for proper operation.
4. Makes necessary process changes as indicated by tests.
5. Unloads, stores and uses various chemicals such as caustic soda, chlorine and hydrofluorsilicic acid.
6. Maintains plant operating equipment and laboratory equipment in a clean and orderly condition.
7. Performs treatment process mathematical computations to determine proper mixture of chemicals, correct chemical amounts and chemical usage.
8. Reads and interprets SCADA, gauges, meters, recording devices, and process change data.
9. Monitors and repairs equipment for proper operation.
10. Communicate with others, orally and in writing, within and outside of City, in a respectful, appropriate manner.
11. Prepares and present oral and written reports.
12. Complete regular rounds of all Water Plant facilities to ensure proper operating conditions.
13. Ensure all phases of the water treatment process are in accordance with applicable standards.
14. Must answer calls and dispatch on-call personnel from different crews and keep written records of calls and time on duty. (overtime).
15. Demonstrates continuous effort to improve operations, streamline work processes, and work cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

Send resume to:

Utility Commission, 500 Anthoine Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
fax: (478) 825-7704 email: hrmanager@fvutil.com
Deadline: April 20, 2026

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

Wastewater Equipment Operator

MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Must possess and maintain a valid Georgia driver’s license.
- Must be trained in confined space procedures
- Must obtain DOT flagger certification
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends and holidays, and respond to emergencies when needed

Essential Job Functions

1. Operate equipment units, such as a backhoe, front-end loader and dump truck, and tools
2. As a member of a crew, install and repair main water lines
3. Install, overhaul and repair fire hydrants
4. Inspect new water lines at construction sites and take samples for chlorination readings
5. Perform routine equipment maintenance and repairs as directed on reservoirs, pumps and booster pumps
6. Perform routine equipment maintenance and minor field repairs such as lubrication, checking fluid levels and replacing belts and other components as required
7. Perform work in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations and within mandated and appropriate safety standards

Send resume to: hrmanager@fvutil.com

Legals

Legal Advertising Information

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

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

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@gtln.org

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

12:00 Noon on Friday will be billed for insertion in that edition. Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@gtln.org, please use word doc ment or type text. Many legal notices are billed at the rate of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some specific types of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notice have fees set

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

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

The deadline for foreclosing notices and tax sales for dispositive is Thursday the week before the first publication.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Publication Affidavit fee is \$10.

LT26-039 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: ERNEST R. ANDERSON

All creditors of the Estate of Ernest R. Anderson, 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. April 6, 2026
Mibelaine Web Administrator with the Will Annexed of Ernest R. Anderson 1782 Aqua Dr.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Robert T. Tuggle, III
Daniel, Lawton, Tuggle & Daniel LLP
Post Office Box 89
Perry, Georgia 31069
April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2026

LT26-044 PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM 854 FILE Number: A1381538

Branch Towers VI, LLC is proposing to construct a 215' Monopole Tower located 685 Yards North of Old Marion Road and 616 Yards West of the Barnes Road, By on GA, Peach County, 31008. Interested persons may review the pending application by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering the Form 854 File Number listed above. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. The Federal Communications Commission strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper should submit to: FCC Request for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

April 15, 2026

LT26-036 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the Name Change of: Tammy Leigh Brady, Petitioner

Civil Action Case Number 26-V-0149

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Tammy Leigh Brady file a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on April 2, 2026 to change the name from Tammy Leigh Brady to Tammy Leigh Absher. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

Tammy Brady
Petition Pro se
306 Amy Circle
Fort Valley, GA 31030

April 8, 15, 2026

LT26-037 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the Name Change of: Lane Rian Brady, Petitioner

Civil Action Case Number 26-V-0148

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Lance Rian Brady file a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on April 2, 2026 to change the name from Lane Rian Brady to Lane Rian Absher. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

Lane Brady
Petition Pro se
306 Amy Circle
Fort Valley, GA 31030

April 8, 15, 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 Registered of Deeds

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 6/2/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash. During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia of Peach County, Georgia of Peach County, Georgia, the following described property is 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. FUTRAL, 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 Parcel 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 collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property. All relevant vendors, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any, all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property all outstanding and/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 property 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 ownership and acquiescence of the borrower.

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

The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1030, 1300 & 1400 Orange, CA 92868, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567
The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FINCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to or registered on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a deed under power will be issued for recorded transfers. The Buyer may be required to pay charges associated with the gathering and reporting of information to FINCEN. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transfer information and certifications can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and https://www.fincen.gov/re-faqs#D_5

Carrington Mortgage Services LLC as Attorney in Fact for Diane E. Coles

Attorney Contact :
Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC

3000 Langford Road, Building 100
Peachtree 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

LT26-038 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the Name Change of: Anita Dye Miller, Petitioner

Civil Action Case Number 26-V-151

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF ADULT

Anita Joyce Miller filed a petition in the Peach County Superior Court on April 2, 2026 to change the name from Anita Joyce Miller to Khadijah Amina Muhammad. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

Anita Dye Miller

Petition Pro se
3132 Care Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030

April 8, 15, 2026

LT26-025 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the Name Change of the Child(ren) Jackson Joshua Johnson, Minor

Child(ren)

Civil Action File No. 26CV251-3

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

I, Rebekah Johnson, filed this petition to the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia on the 19 day of March 2026, to change the name(s) of the minor child(ren) as follows
Current Name of Child: Khaos Kelly Dhen
Proposed New Name: Adonis Dhen
Any interested or affected party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within thirty days as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3). This 19 day of March, 2026.

Rebekah Dhen
Petitioner pro se
384 Whipping Circle
By on, GA 31008
478-714-0683
March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 2026

LT26-034 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER CONTAINED IN SECURITY DEED STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF PEACH

Pursuant to a power of sale contained in a certain security deed executed by Kayce Cauthen, hereinafter referred to as Grantor, to The United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or servicer, United States Department of Agriculture, its officers and agents dated June 27, 2008, and recorded on July 2, 2008 in Deed Book 407, beginning at page 662, of the deed records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, and by virtue of a default under the terms of said security deed, and the related note, the undersigned attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor (which attorney-in-fact is the present holder of said security deed and note) shall sell at public outcry before the door of the courthouse in Peach County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale, for cash, to the highest bidder on the first Tuesday in May, 2026, all property described in said security deed including but not limited to the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Land Lots 174 and 175 of the Ninth (9th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 39, of a Subdivision known as HERITAGE POINTE, Phase 1, according to a plat of survey on which is of record in Plat Book 26, Pages 22-23, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated herein by reference thereto for all purposes. Said property may more commonly be known as 101 Jaime Court, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding and/or unpaid taxes (including taxes which are a lien but not yet due and payable); any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; any assessments, liens, encumbrances or zoning ordinance restrictions, and all other matters of record superior to the said Security Deed. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

Dawson Management is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend and modify the terms of the Note and Security Deed, and it may be contacted at: Address: 3775 Venture Drive, Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: 770-962-4981 To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the party in possession of the property is believed to be Kayce Cauthen, or tenant(s). United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, its officers and agents United States Department of Agriculture, as Transferee, Assignee, and Secured Creditor

As attorney-in-fact for the aforesaid Grantor Please note that if any borrower or obligor has received a discharge in a bankruptcy case filed under Title 11 of the United States Code, no personal liability will arise from this foreclosure action against the individual. This foreclosure action is being pursued solely against the real property to enforce the lien created by the Security Instrument. Respectfully, Marinowski Law Group, P.C. 16415 Addison Road, Suite 725 Addison, TX 75001 (401) 234-9200 (401) 398-2594 THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE A-4870726

April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

LT26-030 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

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

Annexed to the Affidavit of the Estate of HUGH GLEN DYKES, JR. 107 Oak Meadow Terrace
Warner Robins GA 31088

Kelly Moore
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP
PO Box 1770
Perry, GA 31069
478-987-1415

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-029 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: JUVENILE FILE #7471-J

C.T., SEX MALE, AGE ≤1, DOB 10/24/2025, CASE #111-2026J-001

CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, CATHERINE JOHNSON; JERMEL TANNAHILL; ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILD.

You are notified that a Dependency Petition with Custody Placed with Maternal Grandparents was filed against you in said court on February 10, 2026, and a new Order for Service by Publication was entered on March 24, 2026.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 6/9/26 for a 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 25th day of March, 2026.
Kelly Murray
CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-007 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA PEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, Demon L. Laurie, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, Lender which was dated 10/24/2020, and recorded on 1/19/2021, in Book 639, Page 310, concerning the payment of a Note in the amount of \$148,000.00 in Peach County, Georgia Registered of Deeds

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 5/5/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash. Before the Courthouse door of the Peach County Courthouse, 205 W. Church Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 of Peach, the following described property is situated in Peach County, Georgia, to wit: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 45 OF THE 5TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 30, SECTION NO. 2, PHASE NO. 2, CUMBERLAND SHORES SUBDIVISION AND HAVING SUCH SHAPES, METES, BOUNDS, COURSES AND DISTANCES AS ARE SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY TERRY M. SCARBOROUGH, DATED JUNE 8, 2006 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 25, PAGES 162- 163 AND PLAT BOOK 25, PAGE 189, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION BY REFERENCE THERETO FOR ALL PURPOSES, AS FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY DEMON L. LAURIE AND FELICIA M. CLARK-REID BY JOHN W. STANZILIS, JR., SURVEYOR, AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCED HEREIN.

Tax Parcel ID: 053B 159

Being real property commonly known as 113 CHRISTOPHER DRIVE BYRON, GA 31008

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

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property. All relevant vendors, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any, all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property all outstanding and/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 property 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 ownership and acquiescence of the borrower.

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

The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suite 1300 Orange, CA 92868, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Carrington Mortgage Services LLC as Attorney in Fact for Demon L. Laurie
Attorney Contact :
Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC
3000 Langford Road, Building 100
Peachtree Corners GA 30071
Phone: 404-793-1447
Fax: 404-738-1558
TS # 26-39044

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

March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

LT26-040 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

IN RE: LYNWOOD "A.C.K." DOLES

All creditors of the Estate of Lynwood "A.C.K." Doles 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. April 6, 2026

Bonnie Slaton Doles
Executor of the Will of Lynwood "A.C.K." Doles
1370 Doles Road
Fort Valley, GA 31020
Robert R. Lawton
Daniel, Lawton, Tuggle & Daniel LLP
Post Office Box 89
Perry, Georgia 31069

April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2026

LT26-033 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF KAJONJ ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, MINOR
ESTATE NO. 2026-MGDN-724

NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

You are hereby notified that KEIAH ZARAI WILLIAMS AND KYMBERLY ZYANNA-JERMAE WILLIAMS has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be written to before a notary public or Georgia 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.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a bearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is 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 ST
FORT VALLEY GA 31030
478-825-2313

April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

LT26-042 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

This 7th day of April, 2026

Name: Olivia Smith
Title: Attorney
Address: 8424 Adair Street, Douglasville, GA 30134

April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2026

LT26-043 HOUSTON MINI STORAGE LLC 2514 GUNN ROAD BYRON, GA 31008 478-956-2267

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO SELL THE PERSONAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW TO ENFORCE ALIEN ON SAID PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE GEORGIA SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, GEORGIA CODE SECTIONS 10-4-210 TO 10-4-215.

THE UNDERSIGNED WILL SELL PROPERTY AT STORAGE AUCTIONS. COM BY COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON APRIL 28, 2026 AT 10:00 AM. BY HOUSTON MINI STORAGE LLC, 2514 GUNN ROAD, BYRON GA 31008 (478)-956-2267, PEACH COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA, THE FOLLOWING:

Renter's Name, Address, Unit #

Ronnie Denson
117 Denny Lane
Warner Robins GA 31088
Unit F34
Exercise equipment, laptop, wagon, baby items

Antwain Tinkley
126 Christopher Drive
By on, GA 31008
Unit C06



Prepared Date: April 2026
Water System ID#2250001

2025 Annual Water Quality Report

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is committed to providing customers with a safe, healthy, and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Our water is tested with sophisticated equipment and an advanced procedure multiple times a day. This report details the safety of our water along with the standard parameters. As health scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of substances on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water. The Commission continues to add new technology to meet and exceed new standards. All water sources pass over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials and can pick up substances relating to the presence of animals, or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water:

- **Biological** – may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources.
- **Inorganic** – can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** – may come from agriculture, storm run-off or residential use.
- **Organic chemicals** – may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive materials** – can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activity.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Where does our water come from?

The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets water from the Tuscaloosa aquifer, which is approximately 500 feet below the surface. This aquifer has, so far, provided the city with a safe and dependable supply of water even in the driest years. For information on the Well-Head Protection Plan, contact the Utility Commission's Water Plant at (478)825-5482 or Clay Walker at (478)825-7701 ext. 228.

Treatment Process:

Utility Commission water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding lime slurry. Fluoride is added to help protect dental health. Phosphate is added to enhance corrosion control.

What is in our water?

More than 7,500 tests are conducted annually at the Fort Valley Utility Commission's Drinking Water Lab. These tests monitor tap water for micro-organisms, minerals, and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for contaminants, including coliform bacteria, metals, nitrates, and pesticides. The water distribution system is tested on a regular basis.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

2025 CCR Supplemental Lead and Copper CCR information for GA225001 Fort Valley Water System

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants(both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children, Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing, Fort Valley is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point and time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead material within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly, Use only cold water for drinking and cooking. And making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes.

You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipe for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, please contact the Fort Valley Utility Commission Water Plant at (478) 825-5482. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water. The lead service line inventory can be accessed on the Fort Valley Utility Commission website at <https://www.fvutil.com/news>.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

- **Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Analyte	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Range		Units	Violation
				Low	High		
Lead	6/27/2025	0	15	0	18	ppb	No
Copper	6/27/2025	1.3	1.3	0	0.4	ppm	No

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for GA225001 Fort Valley visit the Drinking Water Watch website at <https://gadinkingwater.net>. Click on the "Review Consumer Confidence Data" tool.

Water Quality Test Results

- **Definitions:** The following table contains scientific terms and measures, some which may require explanation.
- **Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples
- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.
- **Maximum Contaminate Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **n/a:** not applicable.
- **mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- **ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- **Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Chlorine	2025	1	1-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	1	0-0	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	3	0-0	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2025	0.69	0.66-0.69	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	1	0.57-0.86	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	1.16	0-1.16	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2024	5.05	3.68-5.05	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Additional Testing and Research

The EPA has required the Utility Commission and hundreds of U.S. water systems to participate in a major testing program called the Information Collection Rule (ICR). The ICR is intended to provide EPA information about the occurrence of chemical by-products used in disinfecting, plus information about disease-causing pathogens (microorganisms). The data on how public water supply systems control the chemical by-products and pathogens will be used to revise drinking water standards.

Additional Information Sources:

Web sites with information about water quality: www.epa.gov/ow www.awwa.org www.gaepd.org www.amwa.net

Please join us in making our decisions.

We encourage and invite public interest and participation in the decision-making that affects drinking water. The Utility Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at 500 Anthoine St.

The Fort Valley Utility Commission business office is open daily except for weekends and holidays. Lobby hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Customer Service telephone number is (478) 825-7701, option 3.

The Drinking Water Quality Lab, and emergency after hours, telephone number is (478) 825-5482.

LOT OF BILLS CONTINUED FROM 6A

Senate Bill 513 would have suspended the driver's licenses of chronically absent high school students had it passed.

Elections

House Bill 369 would require Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties to hold nonpartisan elections for county commissioner, district attorney, and other county offices. Democrats blasted it as a GOP attempt to cling to power in areas with a waning Republican electorate. Sen. John Albers, R-Roswell, countered that "the reason we're doing this is because of that strong consolidated government, in order to make it safer."

Republicans were able to agree on that bill, but could not converge on a solution to their self-imposed deadline to stop using QR codes to tally election results at polling places. Those will become illegal July 1, raising doubts among election officials about the conduct of the mid-term elections Nov. 3.

Health

Pharmacists would be authorized to dispense contraceptives to women without a doctor's prescription under House Bill 1138. Lawmakers also approved increasing the strength of THC dosages prescribed to patients, passing Senate Bill 220.

Housing

About one in four Georgians live in a condominium or home governed by an association that has the authority to levy fees and fines and then foreclose when owners do not pay. Senate Bill 406 would curb that power. Lawmakers decided not to counteract another housing force: corporate owners of rental homes. Senate Bill 463 died in the House in the last days of the legislative session.

Insurance

House Bill 1344 would increase fines on wayward insurance companies while cracking down on uninsured motorists and on fraud. There were numerous other provisions in the omnibus insurance measure that grew from a study committee last year and was a priority

of House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington.

House Bill 506 would protect those with health insurance from outsized ambulance bills.

Policing

Senate Bill 443 would increase the fine for blocking a road during a protest to \$5,000 and expose protesters to lawsuits. Senate Bill 443 would help de-escalate police encounters with people in vehicles who have autism by providing training and creating identifying license plates.

Senate Bill 542 would make it illegal for clergy to have sexual contact with people taking their counsel, much like existing law that prohibits such contact when there is a power imbalance. That law forbids sexual encounters between school employees and students, parole officers and their charges, hospital employees and patients, psychotherapists and their clients, police and those they arrest, and correctional officers and inmates with a disability.

House Bill 1409 would modernize the Georgia law that requires people who interact with children to report suspected child abuse. It would require the Division of Family and Children Services to establish a secure website for reporting. It would also make claims of sexual harassment or discrimination against a member of the General Assembly a public record if they were made after Jan. 1, 2019. Various Republican senators tried to attach what came to be known as the "Epstein amendment" to a half dozen bills. The update to the mandated reporter law became a vehicle for passage.

House Bill 1187 would end secrets around sexual abuse lawsuits. Trey's Law was named after an Atlanta-area resident who was sexually abused at a Missouri camp along with other victims. Trey Carlock settled a lawsuit against the camp, but a nondisclosure agreement prevented him from talking about what happened to him. He died by suicide. The measure would

prohibit settlements that contain such agreements.

Taxes

House Bill 463 would gradually reduce the income tax rate to 3.99% (from the current 5.19%). Senate Bill 33 would restrain increases in the taxable valuations of owner-occupied homes. It would also allow let counties implement a penny sales tax, with the proceeds used to subsidize homeowner property taxes.

Cities and counties can keep raising their tax rates as much as needed, but schools cannot and could have to start laying off teachers in a few years if Kemp lets the measure become law, their advocates say.

Both bills passed the General Assembly after midnight on April 3, hasty alternatives fashioned by Republicans after they failed to pass their top tax priorities. Senate Republicans had wanted to abolish income taxes. House Republicans had hoped to eliminate homeowner property taxes.

Kemp had asked to reduce the income tax rate to 4.99%, but the Legislature did not pass House Bill 1001, introduced by an ally of the governor.

But workers in Georgia are guaranteed an income tax rebate: Kemp signed House Bill 1000 into law last month when he also signed House Bill 1199 suspending the excise tax on gasoline. HB 1000 will give individual filers \$250, heads of household \$375 and married couples \$500. The 33 cent a gallon gas tax will be in place until Georgians go to the polls on May 19 to vote in the midterm primary election. The amended budget through June, which Kemp has signed, also included \$850 million for homeowner property tax rebates.

Transportation

That amended budget, House Bill 973, also included nearly \$2 billion to improve I-75 south of Atlanta and state Route 316 connecting Metro Atlanta to Athens.

Confederate monument preservation bill voted down by Georgia House

By Mark Niesse
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia House narrowly defeated a bill Tuesday that sought to protect Confederate monuments, a proposal that opponents said glorified the South's defense of slavery in the Civil War.

The legislation would have allowed anyone to sue over the removal or damage of monuments, and groups such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans would have been able to continue publicly displaying monuments after local governments voted to relocate them.

Several Georgia cities have taken down Confederate monuments in recent years, often in response to repeated vandalism. Those monuments are then moved or put in storage.

Rep. Tanya Miller, D-Atlanta, said legislators should be embarrassed for celebrating the history of slavery.

"We should all be saddened and ashamed of ourselves. We're not talking about a war. We're talking about centuries of mass murder," Miller said. "We are still waging wars with the ghosts of the past and a war that was

lost — lost for the purpose of treating men and women and babies as human beings."

Rep. Alan Powell, R-Hartwell, said the bill was a way to remember soldiers who died in wars and are memorialized in stone.

"You can't deny history. You need to know where your history is, so you'd never repeat the mistakes," Powell said. "There's nothing I know of that's a greater sin than the institution of slavery. If you don't want the monuments, here's a pathway to move them."

Critics of Senate Bill 175 objected to giving any individual or group the right to sue over monuments, potentially leading to costly court fights and delays while monuments remain on display. Local governments would have been liable for damages if they lost those lawsuits.

The Georgia Court of Appeals ruled last year that Gwinnett County had sovereign immunity against a lawsuit by the Sons of Confederate Veterans over the removal of a monument in downtown Lawrenceville.

The legislation also would have required local governments to give 90 days' notice before they

remove or relocate a monument. During that time, anyone could petition to take possession of the monument for public display.

Democrats universally opposed the bill, and it fell short because a handful of Republicans voted no or skipped the vote. SB 175 failed 89-73, two votes fewer than a majority needed for it to pass in the 180-seat House.

"These Confederate monuments are not objects of history. They are racist propaganda carved into stone," said Rep. Gabriel Sanchez, D-Smyrna. "Working families of Georgia are not interested in statues of old racists and do not care about sanctifying national flags of the Confederacy. They want a government that works for them now, in today's day and age."

A state law passed in 2019 makes it difficult for local governments to relocate or remove monuments but allows "appropriate measures for the preservation, protection, and interpretation" of monuments.

Monuments can also be moved by judges when they become public nuisances or a threat to public safety.

Georgia lawmakers approve access to contraceptives without a prescription

By Mark Niesse
Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Birth control medications will be provided at pharmacies across Georgia without needing a prescription, according to a bill that won final approval from the General Assembly on Thursday.

Lawmakers said the bill makes contraceptives more available to women, especially in the 82 of

Georgia's 159 counties without an obstetrician.

"We talk a lot about prevention and improving outcomes for women's health, and this is a way to do this without a mandate," said Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, R-Marietta.

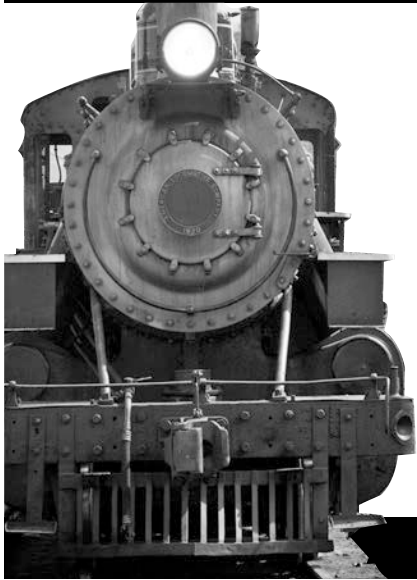
The legislation, House Bill 1138, authorizes licensed pharmacists to dispense a three-month supply of birth control medication the first time a patient obtains the drug, and up to a 12-month

supply afterward. Pharmacists aren't required to dispense birth control if they choose not to.

Georgia bans abortions once a doctor can detect fetal cardiac activity, which typically occurs around six weeks after conception and before many women know they're pregnant.

The Senate voted 49-1 to pass HB 1138, and the House voted 158-11. The measure now advances to Gov. Brian Kemp for his approval or veto.

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Trojans Stay Red-Hot, Sweep Week in Dominant Fashion

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans baseball team delivered a statement week on the diamond, going a perfect 3-0 while overwhelming opponents in all phases of the game. With the regular season winding down, the Trojans appear to be hitting their stride at just the right time.

Peach County opened the week at home with a

commanding 15-0 shutout over Dougherty Trojans. The Trojans' offense came alive early and never let up, while their pitching staff silenced Dougherty's bats in a complete team performance.

The momentum carried into Senior Night, where Peach County honored Xavion Childs in a memorable evening at home. The Trojans rewarded their senior with another dominant showing, rolling past Shaw Raiders 14-2. The offense once

again proved explosive, while the defense remained sharp behind strong pitching.

Peach County capped off the week on the road with an emphatic 19-0 victory over Dougherty, completing the sweep in decisive fashion. Across the three games, the Trojans outscored their opponents 48-2, showcasing both offensive firepower and defensive discipline.

With only three games remaining in the reg-

ular season, Peach County is focused on finishing strong and carrying this momentum into the postseason. The Trojans now turn their attention to the upcoming GHSA Class AAA Playoffs, where they aim to make a deep run.

If this past week is any indication, the Trojans will be a formidable contender.

Lady Trojans Stay Perfect, Improve to 16-0 with Win Over Bainbridge

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

FORT VALLEY — The Peach County Lady Trojans soccer team continues to prove it is a force to be reckoned with this season, remaining undefeated after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Bainbridge.

In a matchup that tested their composure and resilience, the Lady Trojans rose to the occasion, finding a way to secure yet another win and keep their flawless record intact. Bainbridge provided one of the tougher challenges of the season, but

Peach County's disciplined defense and timely scoring once again made the difference.

With the victory, the Lady Trojans improve to an impressive 16-0 on the year, a testament to their consistency, teamwork, and determination. Throughout the season, Peach County has shown the ability to dominate opponents while also grinding out close contests like this one—an important trait as the postseason approaches.

The team's balanced play on both ends of the field has been key to their success. Defensively, the Lady Trojans have continued

to limit scoring opportunities, while the offense has delivered when it matters most.

Now, with just two games remaining in the regular season, Peach County is focused on finishing strong and carrying momentum into the playoffs. As they continue their perfect run, the Lady Trojans are not only protecting their unbeaten record—they're building a strong case as a serious contender for a deep postseason run.

If their performance so far is any indication, the Lady Trojans are far from finished.

Trojans Reel In Experience at GHSA Qualifier on Lake Hartwell

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County High School Trojans bass fishing team hit the water for GHSA Qualifier #4 this past weekend, competing against top anglers from across the state at Lake Hartwell.

Facing strong competition and challenging conditions, the Trojans duo of Blake Austin and Landon Austin turned in a solid performance. The pair recorded a total weight of 4 pounds, 6 ounces, successfully weighing in a full limit of three fish

(3/3). Their effort earned them a 126th-place finish in a crowded field of high school anglers.

Close behind, teammates Landon Latour and Madison Dougharty also showcased determination on the water. The duo brought in four fish (4/4) totaling 4 pounds, 2 ounces, finishing 127th overall. Their ability to fill the livewell highlighted consistency and teamwork throughout the event.

While the standings may not reflect a podium finish, the Trojans gained valuable experience

competing at a high level against some of Georgia's best young anglers. Events like these are crucial stepping stones as the team continues to develop its skills in competitive bass fishing.

With each tournament, Peach County's anglers continue to grow more confident and refined, setting their sights on stronger finishes in upcoming competitions. The Trojans remain committed to improving and making their mark on the Georgia High School Association fishing circuit.

Wildcats Power Past Edward Waters in Four-Set Victory

By Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Fort Valley State University men's volleyball team delivered a strong performance on their home court, defeating Edward Waters University in a competitive four-set match. The Wildcats secured the win with set scores of 25-19, 26-28, 24-18, and 25-23.

Fort Valley State came out with in-

tensity in the opening set, setting the tone early with efficient attacking and solid defense to claim a 25-19 victory. Edward Waters responded in the second set with resilience, edging out the Wildcats in a tightly contested 28-26 battle to even the match at one set apiece.

The Wildcats regrouped in the third set, showcasing their offensive firepower and limiting errors. With a

.500 hitting percentage in the frame, Fort Valley State controlled the pace and cruised to a 24-18 win. Carrying that momentum into the fourth set, the Wildcats held off a late push from Edward Waters to close out the match 25-23.

Overall, Fort Valley State displayed a balanced and efficient attack, finishing with 40 kills on 87 attempts for an impressive .322 hitting percentage. Their

consistency and ability to minimize mistakes proved to be the difference, as they committed just 12 errors compared to Edward Waters' 19.

Edward Waters was led by a solid offensive effort totaling 37 kills, but struggled with consistency at key moments. Despite a strong showing in the second set, the Tigers were unable to maintain momentum against a disciplined Wildcats squad.

With the victory, Fort Valley State continues to build confidence as the season progresses, using strong team chemistry and efficient play to defend their home court. The Wildcats will look to carry this momentum into their upcoming matches as they push toward the latter part of the season.



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If you have any questions, please contact the City of Byron Public Works Department at 478-956-2411.

AMBULANCE RIDES

CONTINUED FROM 5A

ambulance ride, he said, so regulation is needed.

The underlying bill started out last year as a tobacco cessation measure. It passed the House in that form a year ago, then the Senate retrofitted it as a vehicle for the ambulance billing language.

The Senate passed the new measure unanimously Tuesday, and the House agreed to the changes Thursday, after passing a similar measure, House Bill 961, early last month.

"If I have a heart attack, I'm not going to negotiate," said Rep. Alan Powell, R-Hartwell, the chief sponsor of HB 961, before it passed with just one vote in opposition. "Get me to the hospital quick!"

After HB 961 sped through the House, it stalled in the Senate. HB 506 moved more slowly but made it to the finish first. It will go into effect Jan. 1 if Kemp allows it to become law.



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By the Numbers

March 2026 PCEMS Stats

March Incidents

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March Transports

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2026 Total Responses

1417

2026 Total Transports

916

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Peach County High Baseball vs. Shaw



Photos by Tourris Leary,
Sports Photographer

(photo top left)
Senior #2 Xavion Childs
successfully crossed
home plate.

(photo top right)
Junior #5 Wyatt Blanton
stepped up to the plate
to bat.

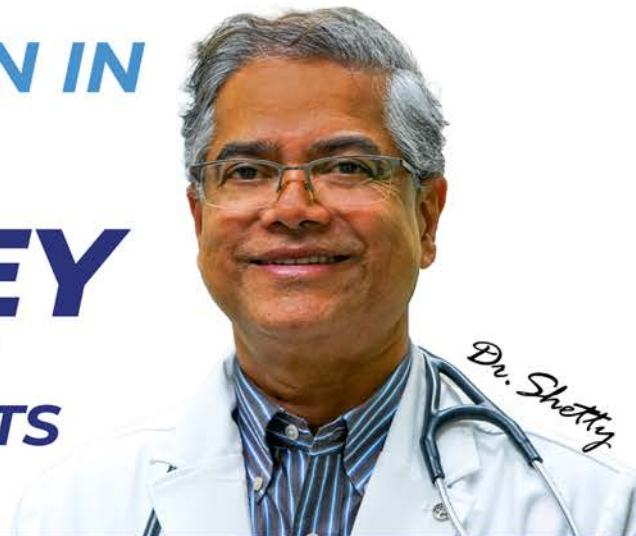
(photo lower left)
Junior #31 Avery Horne
took the mound and
delivered a strikeout
against his opponent



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ROUNDUP



APRIL 16, 2026
6:00– 9:00PM



PERKINS FIELD
105 MULBERRY ST.

