



June 5-6, 2025 Fort Valley
June 13, Byron
GaPeachFestival.com

The Leader Tribune Peach County's Newspaper

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City of Fort Valley considers implementing Flock Safety system within city limits



Photo Contributed Example of a Flock Safety Camera.

By Zoe Hammond News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The City of Fort Valley is considering implementing a security camera system throughout the city limits to help combat crime.

Flock Safety who explained the benefits of the system and how it is used regularly by law enforcement agencies.

Flock Safety is a network of AI-powered Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) and security cameras used by law enforcement to deter and solve crime.

numbers, make, model, color, and unique features like bumper stickers.

Fort Valley Chief of Police David Wilson asked the council to consider the expenditure of \$68,000 for a 24-month term with 14 license plate readers, 4 mobile flex license plate readers, and 3 dual-lens solar Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras.

and license plate readers would cover all major entry and exit points into the city and add visibility to high-activity areas such as Fort Valley State University, Five Points, and Indian Oaks.

While the council did not approve the purchase during the

FLOCK SAFETY CONTINUED PG 5A

Firearm found in student vehicle on Peach County High School campus



Photo Contributed

Peach County High School

By Zoe Hammond News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — A firearm was recovered from a Peach County High School student's vehicle in the campus parking lot Monday morning, according to Superintendent Jesse Davis.

According to a release from the Peach County Schools district, the firearm was discovered by a Peach County Student Resource Officer during the course of an investigation into a disciplinary

matter. According to the release, the district says that there was no danger or threat to any students, faculty, or staff at any point.

"Thanks to the diligence of our staff, School Resource Officers and local law enforcement, at no point was there any threat to students, faculty, or staff. We appreciate the continued commitment of all involved to maintaining a safe and supportive environment," the district said.

Two injured from explosion at Byron explosives manufacturing plant



Photo Contributed

Top view of pyrotechnic specialties facility in Byron, GA

By Zoe Hammond News Editor

BYRON, Ga. — Two people were hurt after an explosion at an explosives manufacturing plant in Byron on Thursday, May 21.

The explosion happened at the Pyrotechnic Specialties Inc. plant on Juniper Creek Road around 6 a.m. Thursday morn-

ing, according to Peach County Sheriff Buck Shannon.

The Leader Tribune reached out to the Byron Police Department for information and were redirected to contact the Peach County Sheriff's Office.

This is a developing story. The Leader Tribune will continue to update this story as new information becomes available.



Peach County's Primary Election Results

to be certified by Election board

By Zoe Hammond News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The Peach County Board of Elections will certify the primary election results during their meeting on Friday, May 22 at 4 p.m. at the Peach County Courthouse.

The current, unofficial results have been released to The Leader Tribune.

For the County Commissioner Post 2, Incumbent Shanita Wilkerson Howell ran unopposed. For County Commissioner Post 4, the Republican candidate is Martin Moseley

and the Democratic candidate is Columbus Alderman, III.

For the Peach County Board of Education Post 2, the Republican candidate is Ken Banter who received 189 votes. The Democratic candidates are Ashley T. Ballard, who received 316 votes, and Incumbent Drenon Everett, who received 158 votes. Ballard will move forward as the Democratic candidate for Post 2.

For the Peach County Board of Education Post 4, the Republican candidate is Incumbent Scott Hodges, who received 776 votes, and the Democratic candidate is Kelvin T. Melzar, who

received 616 votes.

For the Peach County Board of Education Post 5, the Republican candidates are Incumbent BJ Walker, who received 1,607 votes, and Shane Scott, Jr, who received 632 votes. The Democratic candidates are Lionel Brown, who received 1,262 votes, and Shakia McCrary, who received 1,293 votes. Walker and McCrary will move forward as the candidates for Post 5.

Peach County citizens voted

RESULTS CONTINUED PG 3A

Highway 96/341 Railroad Intersection Is Now Open



Photo Contributed

Ribbon Cutting for the opening of the Hwy 96/341 Railroad Intersection.

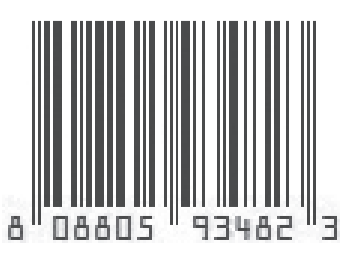
By Peach County Government with Wade Yoder Peach County Commissioner At-Large

After years of planning and

months of construction, it was wonderful to come together as a community to recognize this major milestone and the collaborative efforts that made it possible.

Peach County extends sincere appreciation to the City of Fort Valley, Peach Regional Chamber

96/341 INTERSECTION CONTINUED PG 9A



Gov. Kemp Suspends Gas Tax for Two Additional Weeks

By the office of Governor
Brian P. Kemp

ATLANTA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency and suspending the state's gas tax for two weeks. This suspension will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on May 20 and run through June 3. Though separate from the current motor fuel tax suspension enabled by HB 1199, which sunsets at 11:59 p.m. on May 19, this action is designed in such a way to give Georgians another two weeks of relief at the gas pump.

"As Georgia families prepare for the Memorial Day travel weekend, they should not feel blindsided by prices at the gas pump," said Governor Brian P. Kemp. "Along with our part-

ners in the legislature, we've remained committed to giving hardworking Georgians relief wherever able, and this action is another fulfillment of that promise."

According to AAA, 39.1 million Americans plan to travel by car this Memorial Day weekend, more than last year's record. The average cost of a gallon of regular gas in Georgia is currently \$4.02 under the current gas tax suspension. That is a full 50 cents less than the national average, with Georgia being one of only two states to have suspended their motor fuel tax.

Georgia's current motor fuel excise tax is 33.3 cents per gallon for gasoline and 37.3 cents per gallon for diesel.

Sen. Ossoff Working to Crack Down on Surveillance Pricing to Lower Grocery Prices

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

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

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

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

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

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

In December, Sen. Ossoff urged U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins to reinstate Federal grant funding through the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's

Childcare Access and Nutrition Systems (CANS) Program to help reduce food insecurity.

Last April, Sen. Ossoff joined a group of Senators calling out Congressional Republicans' budget proposal, which proposed cutting billions of dollars from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and have devastating consequences for Georgia veterans, seniors, children, and farmers.

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

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

Recognizing stars at the 6th Annual CTAE Awards Ceremony



Photo Contributed
Kristi Riley, the 2025-2026 CTAE All-Star Instructor, and Trusha Pate, the 2025-2026 "Minnie R. Booker" CTAE All-Star, and Ms. Minnie R. Booker.



Photo Contributed
Healthcare Pathway Stars Aniya Oxford and Jessica Peterson

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The school year is drawing to a close, it's the time to recognize the hard work and achievements of students. The Peach County High School Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Program did just that during the Annual CTAE Awards Ceremony.

Peach County High School and the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce held their 65th annual Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Award ceremony at the Peach County High School Gymnasium on Monday, May 18.

In addition to the recognition of students who have completed career pathways, the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce—who are sponsors of the Peach County Schools' CTAE Program—recognizes and celebrates the successes of the top CTAE students at PCHS known as the Pathway Stars.

The 2025-2026 CTAE Pathway Star Candidates were Victoria Byrd and Angel Granados-Ceron in Agriculture; McKenzie Gatlin in Audio/Video, Film Technology; Priscila Ruiz-Hernandez and Susan Rozier in Automotive Technologies; Trusha Patel and Zaylah Billings in Business and Technology; Robert Burnette in Computer Sciences; and Aniya Oxford and Jessica



Photo Contributed
Computer Science Pathway Star Robert Burnette



Photo Contributed
Audio & Video Film Technology Pathway Star McKenzie Gatlin

Peterson in Healthcare. The 2025-2026 Pathway Stars are Byrd in Agriculture; Gatlin in Audio/Video, Film Technology; Ruiz-Hernandez in Automotive Technologies; Patel in Business and Technology; Burnette in Computer Sciences; and both Oxford and Peterson in Healthcare.

From these Pathway Stars, usually one student was selected to be the CTAE All-Star Student. The 2025-2026 "Minnie R. Booker" CTAE All-Star is Trusha Patel. She then named Kristi Riley, the PCHS Business & Management teacher as the CTAE All-Star Instructor.

Due to the growing support of the Peach County Schools CTAE programs, this year featured multiple sponsors and scholarships.



Photo Contributed
Automotive Technologies Pathway Star Priscilla Ruiz-Hernandez



Photo Contributed
Agriculture Pathway Star Victoria Byrd

According to the Peach Regional Chamber's website; "The Peach County High School Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education (CTAE) Program prepares students for their next step after high school. Whether it's college, starting an exciting career, or maybe even joining the military, our students are a step ahead! The CTAE Pathway course offerings at the high school are diverse, covering a variety of high-demand career options and they are excellent environments for students to immerse themselves in engaging, hands-on learning experiences to better prepare them for gainful, fulfilling employment."



The City of Fort Valley is accepting letters of interest for membership on the Ethics Commission Board.

- Each member of the board of ethics must be a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of taking office and shall remain a resident of the city while serving as a member of the board of ethics.
- Each member shall be appointed by mayor and council for a term of two (2) years.
- Each member of the board of ethics shall serve without compensation

Submit your letter of interest via mail or email to:

ETHICS COMMISSION BOARD
FORT VALLEY CITY HALL
204 West Church St.
Fort Valley, Ga. 31030

Have questions call
Office | 478-825-8261

City Clerk, Diane Brown

Dbrown@fortvalleyga.org

Interim City Administrator, LeMario Brown

Lemario.Brown@fortvalleyga.org

Police Beat

★★★★★★★★★★★★

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

Byron Arrests/Citations

- Barlow, Brannon Ray, 51, Chester, GA: Probation Violation
- Calhoun, Anesa Monae, 42, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor
- Ferrell, Sierra Alexandra Morgan, 30, Macon, GA: Failure To Maintain Insurance, Driving While License Suspended
- Gaines, Jamerius D'Quan, 33, Warner Robins, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits
- Hall, Randy Terrell, 50, Warner Robins, GA: Criminal Trespass, Possession Of Drug Related Object
- Hickman, Lavan, 39, Decatur, GA: Burglary 1st Degree
- Holt, Markembe S, 26, Augusta, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Failure To Maintain A Single Lane
- Land, Jodi Bryant, 48, Macon, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor
- Lian, Bawi Cung Nung, 31, Kathleen, GA: Defective Headlights, Driving With Suspended License
- Lowe, Teresa, 59, Perry, GA: Theft By Taking
- Mosley, Luis Jerard, 52, Macon, GA: Driving With Suspended License, Defective Headlights
- Smith, Danyell Lewis, 51, Byron, GA: Simple Battery, Cruelty To Children 3rd Degree
- Tillman, Tykeria Dashae, 31, Macon, GA: Knowingly Driving With Suspended/Canceled Registration, Driving With Suspended License
- Williams, Jadarius Breshad, 26, Macon, GA: No Insurance, Driving With Suspended License

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

No Reports

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

- Baker, Devin Ray, 31, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony
- Billings, David Lee, 66, Warner Robins, GA: Here For Court

- Brown, Davinci Lawrence, 25, Americus, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Driving Under The Influence - Alcohol, Endangering A Child By Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs, Endangering A Child By Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs
- Buckner, Marcello Charles, 48, Fort Valley, GA: Home Invasion, Possession Of Firearm Or Knife During Commission Of Or Attempt To Commit Certain Felonies, Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree

- Carrasco, Santiago, 17, Fort Valley, GA: Manufacture/Deliver/Distribute/Administer/Sell/Possess W/Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance, Possession Of Pistol Or Revolver By Person Under 18 YOA - 1st Offense, Carrying Weapons Within School Safety Zones, At School Functions, Or On School Property, Possess/Manufacture/Distribute Etc. A Controlled Substance Or Marijuana Within 1,000 Feet Of Schools

- Fowler, Sylvia Denise, 38, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

- Hayes, Damien Orion, 17, Warner Robins, GA: Reckless Conduct, Possession Of Pistol Or Revolver By Person Under 18 YOA - 1st Offense, Discharge Of Firearms On Or Near Public Highway Or Street

- Hubbard, Amanda Danielle, 42, Valdosta, GA: Driving While License Suspended

- Hunnicut, Brianna Marie, 27, Byron, GA: Reckless Conduct, Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor

- Jackson, Shanta Laanle, 21, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

- Ledbetter, Aeren Gage, 32., Byron, GA: Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree

- Smith, Robert Kevin, 51, Fort Valley, GA: Driving While License Suspended, Operation Of Unregistered Vehicle Or Vehicle Without Current License Plate, Revalidation Decal, Or County Decal

- Wynn, Latasha Patrice, 43, Fort Valley, GA: Criminal Damage To Property - 2nd Degree, Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd, Cruelty To Children In The 3rd Degree 3rd Or Subsequent Offense

Byron Municipal Court Arrests

- Phelps, Shakir Al-Tariq, 43, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Peach County Community CALENDAR



email: news@theleadertribune.com

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

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). 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.

RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

no to the T-SPLOST, Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, by 54 percent. The votes cast were 1,548 against the T-SPLOST and 1,297 votes for the T-SPLOST.

Editor's note: The Leader Tribune will be closed Memorial Day and as such have completed the May 27 issue early. The certification meeting will take place after publication of this week's edition.

WE ACCEPT TIPS!

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

Email: news@theleadertribune.com

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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

WadeYoder.com

110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA

Summer Meals

are available at no cost to children 18 & under



For questions contact Phoebe Layson at Peach County Schools 478-825-5933 or phoebe.layson@peachschools.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

By PCSS

Summer Meals are available at no cost to children 18 and under. The Summer Meals will be available at no cost June 1st-July 2nd at the following locations:

- Peach County High School, 3665 Peach Pkwy.**
June 1- July 2, 2026
Monday-Thursday
Breakfast: 7:45-8:45
Lunch: 11:25-12:45

- Kay Road Elementary School, 880 Kay Road, Byron**
June 1 - July 2, 2026
Monday-Thursday
Breakfast: 7:30-8:00
Lunch: 11:30-12:00

*Meals must be eaten at the location. Questions? Contact Phoebe Layson at Peach County Schools 478-825-5933 or phoebe.layson@peachschools.org



PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2026

JUNE - PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 14 YEARS OLD
JULY - PROGRAMMING FOR TEENS AGES 15 TO 18 YEARS OLD

The Dangers of Road Rage



By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

We've all had that moment of frustration while driving. Whether it's from traffic or the poor decisions made by other drivers, it's easy to get flustered and frustrated, which can easily ruin our day. But for some people, that anger lasts much longer than a moment and the decisions made in that moment can lead to disastrous consequences.

Road rage is a common occurrence on our roads and more often than not it can lead to various injuries and death. Road rage impacts your logical thinking and judgment thus also impacting your driving skills as you operate your vehicle with less attention to the people and things around you. This anger can lead drivers to make impulsive and hazardous decisions which can lead to traffic violations and an increased risk of accidents.

The American Psychological Association, in their article "Road rage: What makes some people more prone to anger behind the wheel," discusses five ways in which high-anger drivers and low-anger drivers differ.

They write; "Understanding what fuels this dangerous behavior may help psychologists curb it. In studies of anger and aggressive driving, counseling psychologist Jerry Deffenbacher, PhD, of Colorado State University, found that people who identified themselves as high-anger drivers differ from low-anger drivers in five key ways.

- They engage in hostile, aggressive thinking. They're more likely to insult other drivers or express disbelief about the way others drive. Their thoughts also turn more often to revenge, which sometimes means physi-

cal harm.

- They take more risks on the road. High-anger drivers are more likely to go 10 to 20 mph over the speed limit, rapidly switch lanes, tailgate, and enter an intersection when the light turns red.

- High-anger drivers get angry faster and behave more aggressively. They're more likely to swear or name-call, to yell at other drivers, to honk in anger. And they're more likely to be angry not just behind the wheel, but throughout the day.

- High-anger drivers had twice as many car accidents in driving simulations. They also report more near accidents and get more tickets for speeding.

- Short-fused drivers experience more traits of anger, anxiety, and impulsiveness. Perhaps from work or home stress, high-anger drivers are more likely to get in the car angry; they also tend to express their anger outward and act impulsively.

While most are able to keep said anger in their car and not act out in that moment of anger, that isn't always the case.

According to Safe Motorist, roughly 66% of traffic fatalities are caused by aggressive driving, with 37% of aggressive driving incidents involving a firearm. Over a seven-year period, 218 murders and 12,610 injuries were attributed to road rage.

Many people, when asked, think that road rage is something that only happens to other people, but truthfully many of us are guilty of aggressive behavior when driving.

Safe Motorist provides four questions on whether or not you experience road rage. Ask yourself these questions and answer honestly:

- Do you regularly drive over the speed limit, or try to "beat" red lights because you are in a hurry?
- Do you tailgate or flash your headlights at a driver in front of you that you believe is driving too slowly?
- Do you honk the horn often?
- Do you ever use obscene gestures or otherwise communicate angrily with another driver?

**HAMMOND
CONTINUED PG 5A**

The Big Fat Deception!



By Wade Yoder
LT Columnist

If I were to pick two words in our vocabulary that have confused and added more to the obesity epidemic then any phrase in our country, it would be the words "Fat Free." When we are trying to lose body fat and we see a food item that looks delicious with the marketing label staring back at us with those words FAT FREE it makes us feel like we're staying on track with our weight loss commitments and goals. These foods are oft times convenient but work directly against what we're trying to do.

Example food mistake: if we were to eat an energy bar with 200 calories it would cause an insulin spike leading to additional fat storage (unless we're active after eating it and doing something to burn it off). If we would take in that same amount of calories in organic butter, it would have an insulin blunting effect, sustained energy (from the fat) over a longer period of time and longer lasting satiety. Remember: insulin spikes will in turn cause false hunger signals later even though you have plenty of food in your system.

The problem with these processed ingredients that make these food and drink items taste good, (such as sugar, high fructose corn syrup, and artificial sweeteners) is that they cause our body to have anything from sugar spikes to neurotoxic inflammatory responses that in turn cause us to store fat. Keep in mind the above listed items are put into foods NOT for your health but rather to keep you returning to a deceptive food or drink product that is working

against your health and your fitness goals!

Most processed snack foods (diet snacks included) are loaded with these things, this is how they keep their diet items from tasting like cardboard. The key in avoiding these items is to select foods for your diet and snacks that have very few ingredients in them.

Here is what happens with foods and drinks that have added sugar and high fructose corn syrup: when the levels of sugar spike beyond our current energy needs, our body will simply store it for later use, either in our liver or fat cells.

However with artificial sweeteners such as (Sweet n Low, Equal, Splenda), the effect is a little different and may be an indirect cause of weight gain but is a negative effect all the same on our weight loss efforts; they have a bad effect on our thyroid, and this is the gland that helps regulate our metabolism. These artificial sweeteners are also neurotoxic causing an inflammatory response from

our body, which will cause us to release cortisol, and cortisol is THE stress hormone that causes us to retain belly fat!

Keeping it simple works best; only eat or drink sweets before or right after long or intense periods of activity, avoid food or drink products with artificial sweeteners or high fructose corn syrup.

Most times fat is not the problem, an overabundance of starches and/or sugars in our diet is the real culprit. However when high fat foods are consumed in combination with sugary foods or drink the fat can be a problem because of the spike in insulin due to the sugar intake.

When we learn what real food and drink is, we can spot the foods that are wasting our time in our health and fitness efforts and when we truly visualize how much these foods and beverages are working against our efforts, they will not taste or look so good!

Primary Results Demonstrate A State That Is Changing

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

The votes are now counted for Georgia's May 18th partisan primaries as well as for the non-partisan judicial elections – even in Fulton County. Democrats are settled in at the top of the ticket for November, with former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms getting a majority of votes for Governor in a crowded field, while U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff was unopposed for the nomination.

Republicans will have four more weeks of trying to get on the same page, with statewide runoff not only for those two positions, but also for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and State School Superintendent. Superintendent Richard Woods is the only statewide incumbent who faced a primary challenge and failed to score the support of a majority of Republican voters in a five person contest. Woods will face Bubba Longgear in June to determine who runs Georgia's Department of Education.

Democrats, meanwhile, will spend the next month choosing candidates at the state level to add to their wins in recent Public Service Commission special elections. They will have runoff elections to choose their nominees for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Insurance, and Commis-

sioner of Labor.

Every election is unique, but those who work in the campaign and/or government affairs realms tend to rely on some truisms when trying to figure out what will work for a candidate, and how they assemble a coalition of a majority of votes. These results show that in some ways, time and this state itself are changing.

We'll start by looking at the Democratic Primary for Governor, and the candidacy of Michael Thurmond. Thurmond, as Labor Commissioner, was one of the last Democrats to hold statewide office before Republicans took firm control of the state for a couple of decades. He spent the interim time as the Chief Executive of dark blue DeKalb County and was the party's 2010 Nominee to take on a very popular Senator Johnny Isakson. He held the endorsements from Georgia's last Democratic Governor, Roy Barnes, as well as Ambassador Andrew Young.

Despite his extensive experience and endorsements, Thurmond finished third in his contest for Governor with 13% of the vote. The takeaway: This is no longer the Georgia Democratic Party that ceded power to Republicans beginning in 2002. Their primary voters are both looking for something different, and looking to other voices and

funding sources to drive voting decisions.

There's a similar story if a bit more subtle on the Republican side. Attorney General Chris Carr is the highest profile politician from the political family tree of the late Senator Johnny Isakson. The modern Georgia Republican party was synonyous with names like Isakson, Gingrich, Coverdell, Calloway, and Irvin. While the Isakson network remains strong and powerful with alumni in many key positions in government and commerce, every election seems to remove the GOP farther and farther from both the architects and in many cases, their beliefs and policies.

The suburbanization of rural Georgia is a bit harder to quantify out of these results, but perhaps a look at the Republican contests for Governor and Lieutenant Governor demonstrates a subtle yet substantial change in how rural voters make their ballot decisions. Senator Blake Tillery garnered the endorsement of roughly half of Georgia's Sheriffs. Chris Carr claimed about 1/3. Neither advanced to a runoff.

There was a time when a statewide candidate could go to almost any corner of the state, and if he could get the Sheriff along with a Commissioner, School Superintendent, and maybe a Rotary or Kiwanis Club Presi-

dent to support him or her, he could count on winning that county.

Today, about a third of Georgia's population is represented by five sheriffs in metro Atlanta's core, and well more than half of voters are represented by just a dozen metro sheriffs. But even in north and southeast Georgia, counties are seeing massive growth. Many new voters "aren't from around here" and have never met the Sheriff nor any of those other folks with titles just mentioned. It's still far better to have a Sheriff's endorsement than not, but these endorsements alone aren't enough anymore.

With those changes, one other truism remains the same. It is futile, almost stupidly so, to challenge an Appropriations Chairman in a Primary election. House Appropriations Chair Matt Hatchett of Dublin and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Matt Dubnik of Gainesville each received primary challenges. Each sent their opponents packing with 91% and 87% of the vote, respectively.

Voters priorities can change on a whim, but most are still aware of who delivers for their districts. No Legislator is able to deliver more than the ones who write the checks, yet also keeps the budget balanced.

James Garfield and how the Battle of Chickamauga helped inspire Memorial Day

By Chris Denson, Georgia
Public Policy Foundation

The recent Netflix miniseries Death by Lightning gave viewers a glimpse of the relatively untold story of James A. Garfield, the nation's 20th president. His presidency, which spanned just six months in 1881, ended when he was assassinated by a deluded individual who had unsuccessfully sought appointment to his administration.

But on May 30, 1868, over a decade prior to his election as president, then-Congressman Garfield was chosen to deliver remarks at Arlington National Cemetery for the first national observance of Memorial Day (or Decoration Day, as it was known then), where his background—and heroics in Georgia—made him uniquely equipped to deliver such an address.

Garfield, who was born in 1831, spent most of his life in poverty after his father died when he was two years old. However, he would go on to become a man of many talents and professional accomplishments.

He delivered his first sermon in his early 20s and is the only U.S. president who served as a

minister.

After graduating from Williams College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and named salutatorian of his class, he returned home to Ohio as a professor at Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College); Garfield was made its president within a year.

Feeling unfulfilled as an educator, he entered politics and was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1859 as a Republican. While serving in the state legislature, he also studied to become a lawyer. He passed the bar and was admitted to practice law in January 1861—three months before Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter.

After the Civil War began, he received a commission as a colonel in the 42nd Ohio Infantry Regiment for the Union Army. He led Union forces at the Battle of Middle Creek and served with distinction at Shiloh and Corinth.

But it was the Battle of Chickamauga that would define his military career, when he voluntarily rode six miles on horseback—and through enemy lines—to inform Gen. George H. Thomas the Union Army was

retreating. Upon seeing how resolutely Thomas' men were holding their position, Garfield told the commanding officer that Thomas was "standing like a rock." Thomas' stand helped save the Union Army from destruction and allowed it to withdraw to Chattanooga, where Union forces would win a decisive battle two months later.

Garfield's actions at Chickamauga led to his promotion to major general.

It was with this background that Garfield addressed 5,000 people gathered at Arlington National Cemetery. They were there to place flowers, wreaths and flags on the graves of 15,000 soldiers who died in the Civil War.

While Union soldiers filled the majority of these graves, Arlington's Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns holds the remains of over 2,000 soldiers gathered from the fields of Bull Run and surrounding battlefields, including Confederate soldiers.

While Garfield's entire speech is too long for this column, his opening and closing are as follows:

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering

words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

"Hither our children's children shall come to pay their tribute of grateful homage. For this are we met to-day. By the happy suggestion of a great society, assemblies like this are gathering at this hour in every State in the Union. Thousands of soldiers are to-day turning aside in the

**DENSON
CONTINUED PG 5A**

The Leader Tribune

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OUR GOALS

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

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

OUR POLICIES

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

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Chinch Bugs



By Jeff Cook
Extension Agent

It is getting hotter and staying dryer so I thought I would talk about a few insect pests that love this kind of weather. Chinch bugs are an annual pest on grasses and specifically like St. Augustine and most warm season annual grasses, especially corn, sorghum and millet. Every year is different so it is always good to keep an eye on any lawns to avoid serious damage from these bugs.

The adults are about 1/5 inch long and light in color with small black triangular patches on the wings that are carried folded over the back. The nymphs are

from 1/20 to 1/5 inch long and vary in color from reddish with a white band across the back to black as they near adult size. Chinch bugs occur throughout the state. And there can be 3-4 generations per year.

Typical injury appears as spreading patches of brown, dead grass. St. Augustine grass is the most seriously injured, but other lawn grasses, are subject to attack. Chinch bug infestations and damage are most often first noticed during hot dry periods in sunny areas of the lawn.

A common method of determining population levels of chinch bugs is the "flotation technique". Take a coffee can, or similarly sized can, with both ends cut away, push it down into the turf and fill it with water. Add water for a few minutes to keep it full. All stages of chinch bugs, if present, will float to the top. A threshold level of 20 to 25 chinch bugs per square foot can cause damage. If pest numbers are below threshold you do not need to spray. Also with normal rainfall infestations usu-

ally decrease naturally.

Another warm and dry loving pest are mites, particularly spider mites. These pests feed with sucking mouthparts on the underside of the leaves. Because of this and their small size they are hard to see and makes them hard difficult to control. If leaves of almost any landscape, ornamental or vegetable begin to look weak, discolored or covered in small webbing check for mites. Almost any infestation in drought years needs to be controlled before webbing is noticeable. Insecticidal soaps and oils can work, just avoid going overboard especially on dry hot days to avoid phytotoxicity.

Contact me if you have questions or comments 478-862-5496, 478-825-6466 or mackiv@uga.edu. Also, have a fun and safe Memorial Day and remember why we celebrate this day. It is for those that have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our lawn, landscape, gardens and all the other freedoms we enjoy.

FLOCK SAFETY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

meeting, Councilwoman Laronida Eason and Councilwoman Juanita Bryant agreed that the cameras would be an asset to the FVPD. Eason referenced the increased number of shootings that have occurred within the past month.

Councilwoman Bryant asked City Administrator Lema-rio Brown to look and see if

SPLOST, Public Safety, funds could be used to help cover the cost. Councilwoman Sandra Marshall asked that the FVPD get multiple quotes to look for the most affordable option.

The council approved a resolution to remove Councilman Alton Howard's name from being able to sign vouchers and checks—per his request—and

instead have Mayor Shakenna Reeves, Mayor Pro-Tem Donald Williams, Councilwoman Eason, and City Administrator Brown as those who are able to sign checks and vouchers for the City of Fort Valley. The resolution was approved with Councilwoman Marshall voting in opposition.

DENSON CONTINUED FROM 4A

march of life to visit the silent encampments of dead comrades who once fought by their side. From many thousand homes, whose light was put out when a soldier fell, there go forth to-day to join these solemn processions loving kindred and friends, from whose heart the shadow of grief will never be lifted till the light of the eternal world dawns upon them. And here are children, little children, to whom

the war left no father but the Father above. By the most sacred right, theirs is the chief place today. They come with garlands to crown their victor fathers. I will delay the coronation no longer."

The power of Garfield's oratory would propel him to become the Republican nominee for president in 1880 after his convention speech—famously delivered on behalf of another candidate seeking the nomina-

tion. He remains the only president ever elected directly from the U.S. House of Representatives.

His speech at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868, would also help crystallize a scattering of local memorials throughout the North and South into the national observance it is today for those who died fighting on behalf of our nation.

HAMMOND

CONTINUED FROM 1A

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are likely susceptible to road rage. Generally speaking, when road rage incidents occur it's because the person is under stress in other aspects of their lives whether it be family-related or job stress. Adding onto that already building stress with traffic congestion and other factors of driving can lead to bad decisions.

It's also important to keep in mind that sometimes your behavior can cause other people to lash out. That does not mean they are justified for that behavior, but it is important to remember that the road is a communal space and people owe it to one another to drive responsibly.

Safe Motorist provides four

questions on whether or not you are causing others to lash out with road rage. So, ask yourself these questions as well:

- Do you frequently use your phone while driving, or otherwise drive while distracted?
- Do you keep your high beams on, regardless of oncoming traffic?
- Do you switch lanes or make turns without using your turn signal?
- Do you fail to check your blind spot before switching lanes to make sure you aren't cutting someone off?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are not driving responsibly. It's important to always be aware of other drivers and to drive cautiously. However, there are ways to

combat road rage, according to the American Psychological Association. In their article, they write that "A combination of cognitive and relaxation techniques has shown promise for reducing road rage among high-anger drivers. Deffenbacher has taught applied relaxation coping skills and used cognitive restructuring, or reframing of negative events, to help high-anger drivers stay cool."

Drivers were taught deep breathing and other basic relaxation techniques as well as cognitive change strategies to help reduce their anger. While these techniques couldn't completely erase a driver's anger, it was able to reduce the frequency and intensity of it.



CHURCH & LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

MAY 30-31

WOMEN'S DAY WEEKEND

Trinity Baptist Church Presents: Women's Day Weekend at 507 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 AM and Sunday May 31st.

Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 we are honored to welcome two dynamic and anointed vessels: Reverend Laura Clark Cherry and Minister Lakina Bemby.

Sunday, May 31st at 11:00 AM We are blessed to receive the morning message from Minister Denise Williams.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEEKEND SEMINAR KEYS TO LONGLASTING RELATIONSHIPS

Presented by James & Shelly Berglund, International Author & Speakers

May 29, 7 pm; May 30, 11 am; May 30, 7 pm; May 31, 1 pm

Oglethorpe Seventh-day Adventist Church, 56 Buck Creek Bypass, Oglethorpe, GA. 31068

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 7S6h8 Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

301 W. Church Street (478)825-2762

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

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

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

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

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

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

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS

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

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

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

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

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

BAHA'I FAITH

"The world of humanity has two wings - one is woman and the other is man. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly."

Baha'u'llah

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

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

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

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

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

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

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

SAINT PETER A.M.E. CHURCH 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley GA 31030

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

Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

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

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

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

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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

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

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

Empowered Women Empowering the Church

Contributed

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

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

We are honored to welcome two dynamic and anointed ves-

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

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

assignment in our church and communities. Refreshments will be served after service.

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

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

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

Find the Perfect Job



You can locate and post all of your job listings in our Classifieds section of the newspaper, zooming in on the local target audience you have been looking for!

The Leader Tribune Classifieds

109 Anderson Ave., Fort Valley, GA 31030 • 478-825-2432

email: sales@theleadertribune.com



FVSU Choir made the Ballot for the Stellar Awards

By FVSU Choir

The Fort Valley State University Choir under the direction of Alicia Carner-McDonald has officially made the ballot for the inaugural Stellar Awards HBCU Choir of the Year category.

Now we need YOUR votes to help bring the Stellar home to The Valley.

Vote here: <https://www.thestellarawards.com>

Scroll down to "Calling All HBCU" and vote FVSU.

Flint Energies Foundation awards Peach County Emergency Management \$5,000



By Flint Energies

The Flint Energies Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to Peach County Emergency Management to support emergency shelter operations throughout Peach County and surrounding areas.

Represented by Ryan Roberts, Peach County Emergency Management submitted a request for funding to purchase seven portable air conditioning units for use in emergency shelters. The portable units will help improve shelter conditions during emergencies and provide additional comfort and support for residents seeking refuge during severe weather events and other emergency situations.

"This equipment will help ensure shelters are better prepared to serve residents during emergencies and periods of extreme weather," Roberts noted. "Having portable cooling

units available will strengthen emergency response efforts for Peach County and neighboring communities."

The Flint Energies Foundation provides grants to local non-profits such as this one using money donated by Flint Energies Consumer-members through Operation Round Up*. The electric cooperative's Members contribute \$175,000 annually to the Flint Energies Foundation, which supports worthy causes in the 17 counties it serves. Operation Round Up is a way for participating Members to support multiple charitable organizations by simply allowing Flint Energies to round up their bills to the nearest dollar. Donations to Operation Round Up, which average only about \$6 per year per member, are tax deductible. About 40% of Flint's Membership participates in Operation Round Up, but that percent-

age continues to decline. If you are a Flint Energies Consumer-member and wish to contribute, you can sign up at www.flintenergies.com/ORU or by calling 1.800.342.3616.

The Flint Energies Foundation, a state-chartered, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, disburses all contributions to approved projects; Member contributions are not used for administration costs. Foundation Board members include Chair Joanne Hamlin, Lizella; Vice Chair Eloise Doty, Butler; Secretary Connie McCutchen, Midland; Treasurer John Luppino, Warner Robins; Gina Fink, Fort Valley; Charles Harrison, Grovania; Pat Bartness, Warner Robins; Traci Kemp, Warner Robins; Betty Chase, Oglethorpe; Roger Sinyard, Mauk; and Ian Russell, Fort Valley.

LSGT Business of the Month



By PCHS

The Peach County High School Local School Governance Team presented Flint Energies with the Business of the Month. Flint Energies has supported PCHS students through their Empower Youth Leadership

Program, scholarships for students, teacher grants, Give us an "A" program, coaching our FBLA students, they are part of the CTAE Advisory Council, helped with Mock Interviews, the PCHS Career Fair, they are a Work-Based Learning Sponsor and

the Peach Works Senior Job Fair.

Pictured are Tracie Lord, with Flint Energies Human Resources, Blair Brown, Youth & Education Specialist and Dustin Chancellor, LSGT Chairman. Thank you, Flint Energies, for your support for PCHS!

"Imagine That!" Art Contest First Place Winner



By FVMS

Join us in celebrating Mahetzy Milanez Martinez, who just won FIRST PLACE and the overall BEST IN SHOW grand prize in the 2026 Flint Energies "Imagine That!" Art Contest!

This year's theme was "Powered Up! What powers you?," and Mahetzy blew the judges away with her incredible drawing!

For her amazing talent, she's taking home a \$100 gift card, a prize pack of art supplies, and will be featured in Georgia Magazine! Our art teacher, Judi Kiltzian also received art supplies!

We are so incredibly proud of your creativity and hard work, Mahetzy!



Flint Energies Foundation awards Peach County High School Graphic Design Pathway \$5,000



By Flint Energies

The Flint Energies Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Peach County High School Graphic Design Pathway to support student learning and creative development within the program.

Represented by Stephanie Johnson, the program shared that it is now in its second year and continues to grow in popularity among students interested in developing graphic design and digital media skills. Currently serving approximately 84 students, the pathway provides opportunities for students to showcase critical design abilities while gaining hands-on experience in creative and technical applications.

Due to increasing student interest and demand, the program is seeking to expand its equipment and resources to further support instruction, creativity, and skill development. The grant will assist with funding needed to enhance the learning environment and provide additional opportuni-

ties for students enrolled in the program.

"The Graphic Design Pathway gives students the opportunity to develop real-world creative and technical skills that can benefit them in both college and future careers," said Stephanie Johnson. "We are grateful for this support as we continue expanding opportunities for our students to learn, create, and grow."

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average only about \$6 per year per member, are tax deductible. About 40% of Flint's Membership participates in Operation Round Up, but that percentage continues to decline. If you are a Flint Energies Consumer-member and wish to contribute, you can sign up at www.flintenergies.com/ORU or by calling 1.800.342.3616.

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Subscribe Today!

478-825-2432

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

All creditors of the Estate of Charles William May, Jr., deceased late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

Charles Thomas May, Jr., Executor c/o Becky Wilcox Attorney At Law P.O. Box 303 Byron, GA 31008

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-080 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWARD EUGENE GOFF, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7268 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: LEE MICHELLE BECHAM, ALISHA GOFF, ADMINISTRATOR OF ESTATE OF EDGAR LADON GOFF and to whom it may concern:

JANET C. GOFF has petitioned for JANET C. GOFF to be appointed administrator of the estate of EDWARD EUGENE GOFF deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 27, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections must be filed with the Court on or before May 27, 2026 before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

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

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-066 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALRE W. PALMS DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7263 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND to whom it may concern: VEDA PALMS has petitioned for VEDA PALMS to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of ALRE W. PALMS deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 27, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections must be filed with the Court on or before May 27, 2026 before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Kim Wilcox Judge of the Probate Court By: Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court 205 WEST CHURCH STREET FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030

478-825-2313 May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-077 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of EDNA C. NIXON having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to ROBERT J. AROMATORIO this is to cite all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us This 7TH day of MAY, 2026.

ROBERT J. AROMATORIO, as Executor C/O KAREN A. AROMATORIO Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No. 023742 P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-076 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

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

GAYLE KERSEY BORAH, as Executor C/O ROBERT J. AROMATORIO Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No. 023708 P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-065 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

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

JAMES DAVID CORLEE, as Executor C/O Robert J. Aromatorio Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No. 023708 P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008 478-956-3071

May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

LT26-070 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF: FILE #7492-J

J.Y. SEXF, AGE 6, DOB 09/18/2019, CASE #111-2026J 023.

J.Y. SEXF, AGE 8, DOB 01/29/2018, CASE #111-2026J 024 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN BORN TO OLIVIA YOUNG.

You are notified that a Dependency Petition with Guardianship Placed with Maternal Grandmother was filed against you in said court on 4/29/26, and an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 4/28/26.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Peach County Juvenile Court, held at Peach County Courthouse, Ft. Valley, Georgia on 5/12/26 at 9:00 o'clock a.m., and on 7/14/26 for a hearing following publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James 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 29th day of April, 2026. Whitney Neale n CLERK, PEACH COUNTY PEACH COURT

May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

END LEGALS

Crowded Georgia primaries send voters back for June runoffs up and down the ballot

By Ty Tagami Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Several Georgia lawmakers saw their careers end Tuesday night while others got a chance to climb the ladder to higher office after all the unofficial votes were tallied in the primary election.

Some secured a majority of the vote in their respective races and can look ahead to the general election in November.

Others, including political newcomers, met with some success but not enough to avoid the runoff election on June 16.

Some voters may feel fatigued by the repeat trips to the polls, but Valaria Kee saw it as an opportunity to do more homework and pick the right candidates.

She preferred former football coach Derek Dooley as the Republican nominee to take on Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff for his U.S. Senate seat. But Dooley captured only about 30% of the Republican vote and must face off against U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, who got nearly 41%.

It takes winning a majority of ballots cast to avoid a runoff, which did not happen often in Tuesday's crowded fields.

Kee wanted Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger for governor, but he was eliminated as Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and billionaire Rick Jackson advanced to the runoff in their GOP primary with about 38% and 33% of the

vote respectively.

Kee moved to Paulding County from California, a state that does not hold runoff elections. So Georgia's peculiar routine has been a learning experience for her.

"I'm not upset at all," she said of the extra legwork required. "That gives me a second chance to do my research on the people I did choose, and on the people I didn't."

Dooley must fight to keep her vote in June while Jones and Jackson scramble to secure it.

Keisha Lance Bottoms, who won the Democratic primary outright with 56% in a field of seven, likely has no chance with Kee.

But nearly 150,000 more Democrats than Republicans cast a ballot for governor on Tuesday.

Some races felt like the movie Groundhog Day, as familiar names reappeared on ballots.

U.S. Rep. Clay Fuller, a Republican former district attorney, had just won a special election last month to succeed Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene in Congress. He had to beat back many of the same contestants again in this primary for a full two-year term, leading a field of eight with 81% of the vote.

But in November, Fuller will again have to fight Democrat Shawn Harris, after sparring with him in the special election. Harris ran uncontested Tuesday. Likewise, the Public Service Commission, a statewide office,

will feature two familiar names in November, after Republican Fitz Johnson squeaked an outright victory for the District 3 nomination with 50.2% of the vote. In November, he will go up against recently seated Democrat Peter Hubbard, who had no challengers.

The tables were turned last November, when Johnson was the incumbent and Hubbard unseated him in a special election.

In PSC District 5, Shelia Edwards won the Democratic nomination. But engineer Josh Tolbert and Bobby Mehan, a partner at a private equity firm, must face each other in the GOP runoff on June 16 before one of them can battle her in November.

There were more than half a dozen other statewide races down the ballot, with so many candidates that several voters interviewed Tuesday could not remember whom they had selected.

"Most of them I didn't know," said Josh Harris after voting at J.A. Dobbins Middle School in Powder Springs. He said he scanned his ballot for familiar names. "I don't follow politics that much," he said. "I just try to put my little two cents in there for a Democrat."

In the race to succeed Jones in the lieutenant governor's office, former state Sen. John F. Kennedy, R-Macon, who resigned in December to focus on his campaign, will contest the run-

off against Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming. Each got about a quarter of the Republican vote.

Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, will continue sparring with former state Sen. Nabilah Parkes, D-Duluth, in round two of their contest after each taking about 40% of the vote and knocking a third contender out of their race for lieutenant governor.

In the election to succeed Raffensperger for secretary of state, Rep. Tim Fleming, R-Covington, will go to the runoff against Vernon Jones, who was a Democrat when he was CEO of DeKalb County but switched to the Republican Party. Fleming captured 39% of the GOP vote while Jones won 27%.

Voters will get a break in the attorney general's race. There were only two candidates for each major party, and the outcomes were decisive.

Sen. Brian Strickland, R-McDonough, bested Sen. Bill Cowser, R-Athens, for the GOP nomination, with nearly 72% of the vote. And Rep. Tanya Miller, D-Atlanta, walked away with 85% of the vote in her contest against former state lawmaker Bob Trammell.

Strickland and Miller can now focus on their general election in November.

The same goes for the candidates for state agriculture commissioner, after Democrat Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold defeated a contender and will meet the

unchallenged GOP incumbent Tyler Harper in November.

But voters still have more work to do in three other statewide races.

In the insurance commissioner's race, it will be Democrats who must choose their contender, as former Atlanta City Councilwoman Keisha Sean Waites faces off against DeAndre Mathis in the runoff. Incumbent John King, a Republican, had no challengers.

But in the state school superintendent's race, it is Republicans who must study up after three-term incumbent Richard Woods missed an outright win by a whisker, taking 49.89% of the vote. He will face off against second-place finisher Bubba Longgrear. The former superintendent for the Candler County School District won 29% of the vote in their five-way race. On the Democratic side, Lydia Powell squeaked a win in a three-person contest with 50.5% of the vote.

Finally, Democrats will have to decide between Nikki Porcher and Michelle Michi Sanchez for labor commissioner, while GOP incumbent Barbara Rivera Holmes, who had no challengers, watches to see who she will go up against in November.

That long statewide ballot for voters will be longer still when adding local races and unresolved primary contests for Congress.

There were a few open U.S.

House seats, due to several events: the decisions by Collins and U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter to run for the GOP nomination for Senate, the retirement of Republican U.S. Rep. Barry Loudermilk, and the death last month of Democratic U.S. Rep. David Scott.

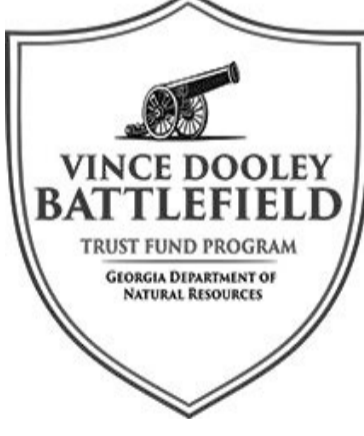
Democrats must choose their candidate to succeed Carter in U.S. House District 1, after Joyce Marie Griggs and Amanda Hollowell emerged from a field of eight without taking a majority of the votes. But the Republican race for Carter's seat was decided when Jim Kingston, son of longtime former Congressman Jack Kingston, secured more than 52% of the vote against five other Republicans.

In Loudermilk's District 11, Republicans John Cowan and Rob Adkerson will face off June 16 before campaigning against Democrat Chris Harden, who beat one other candidate with 75% of the vote.

But the primary to succeed Collins in District 10 is over, after state Rep. Houston Gaines, R-Athens, and Democrat Pam Delancy won their primaries outright.

And the contest to succeed Scott in District 13 is settled until November, after Rep. Jasmine Clark, D-Lilburn, bested five other Democrats with 56% of the vote. She will face the lone GOP candidate, Jonathan Chavez, in the metro Atlanta district next November.

Georgia DNR Launches New Grant Aimed to Protect Historic Battlefield Lands



By the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

ATLANTA, GA (05/15/2026) The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to announce the launch of the Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Program, a new state-funded grant initiative dedicated to preserving and permanently protecting Georgia's historic battlefield lands.

Established under Georgia law and administered by DNR, the program provides matching grants to eligible nonprofit organizations and state agencies for the acquisition or permanent protection of qualifying battlefield properties across Georgia. Eligible sites include battlefields identified in national historic preservation reports by the National Park Service and the Civil War Sites Advisory Com-

mission.

The Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Program will offer annual funding cycles on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available funding. Grant awards may cover up to 50 percent of the appraised value of eligible land acquisitions or permanent conservation easements. Applicants must provide a one-to-one funding match through cash contributions,

bargain sales, donated land value, or other eligible sources.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit charitable organizations with a primary focus of acquisition and management of land for historic preservation purposes, as well as state agencies with a mission of preservation, protection, or conservation of natural, historical, or cultural resources. Projects funded through the program

must ensure the long-term preservation of battlefield resources through perpetual conservation easements and ongoing stewardship.

Applications must be submitted through DNR's online grant portal. Program guidance, eligibility requirements, application materials, and the full Program Manual are available at the Georgia DNR Grants Portal: gadnr.org/grants.

Red Cross: Support patients now by giving blood

Appointments crucial in weeks ahead to keep blood supply strong into summer. Exclusive beach towel for coming to give by end of May; NEW donor offers in June

By American Red Cross

MACON, Ga. (May 20, 2026) — As we move toward Memorial Day, the American Red Cross calls on people to schedule their blood donation appointments now to help medical centers stay ready and respond quickly to emergencies. Having blood products immediately available is a key part of summer safety.

With millions of Americans expected to hit the road around Memorial Day and spend time boating, swimming, camping and enjoying the outdoors, the risk of traumatic accidents rises. Blood on hospital shelves help meet the demand when people experience critical injuries and massive bleeding. During Trauma Awareness Month, the Red Cross highlights this need by asking donors of all blood types to give

now to support all patients who count on transfusions for care.

Book your time to give lifesaving blood now — To schedule, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Those who come to give by May 31, 2026, will receive an oversized Red Cross beach towel, while supplies last.

All who come to give June 1-28, 2026, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,500 gift cards. See RedCrossBlood.org/June for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities May 20-June 7:

Peach Byron 6/2/2026: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Byron Heri-

tage Church, 103 West Heritage St.

Baldwin Milledgeville 5/20/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Allied Arts, 101 Floyd L Griffin Jr St 5/28/2026: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Allied Arts, 101 Floyd L Griffin Jr St

Bibb Macon 5/20/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B 5/21/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., The Shoppes at River Crossing, 5080 Riverside Drive

5/21/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Piedmont Northside Hospital, 400 Charter Blvd 5/22/2026: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Macon Volunteer Clinic, 770 Walnut St 5/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Sardis-

Heard Funerals & Cremation Center, 6125 Houston Rd.

5/27/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B 5/27/2026: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 859 1st St

5/29/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B 5/30/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Paul A.M.E., 2501 Shurling Drive 6/3/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Red Cross of Central Georgia, 6080 Lakeside Commons Drive, Suite B 6/5/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 682 Mulberry Street

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

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

Perry 6/2/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Perry, 112 Hampton Ct Warner Robins

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

5/21/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., VFW Post 6605, 1011 Corder Rd 5/25/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross, 346 Corder Rd

5/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Warner Robins First United Methodist Church Carter Hall, 205 N Davis Dr 6/5/2026: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wellston Center, 155 Maple Street

GIVING BLOOD CONTINUED PG 9A

Peach County High School Class of 2026 Graduation Commencement Ceremony



Contributed

The Peach County High School class of 2026 graduated Friday, May 22, 2026 at 9:00AM on the Trojans field. The commencement was viewable at https://youtube.com/live/RPyO_RgYlqc?feature=share.

96/341 INTERSECTION

CONTINUED FROM 1A

of Commerce, C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Norfolk Southern, and the Georgia Department of Transportation for their partnership, dedication, and commitment to seeing this important infrastructure project through to completion.

This project is a true example of what can be accomplished through strong collaboration and a shared vision for improving our community. We are grateful to everyone who attended, supported, and contributed to this effort along the way.

Thank you again for helping us celebrate this exciting community achievement!

Photo by name
Newly installed turn lane.



Photos by name
Pictured below is Mayor Reeves and Wade Yoder Commissioners At Large speaking during the opening ceremony.



Dual Enrollment Nurse Aide Students



Contributed

The dual enrollment Nurse Aide students at Peach County High School passed their CNA exam with a 100% pass rate! These students are all now Certified Nurse Aides and can work in long-term skilled facilities, etc. Students will also earn the Nurse Aide Essentials certificate from CGTC in this high demand field. Ms. Kristine Spivey serves as the instructor and she is pictured in the center.

GIVING BLOOD CONTINUED FROM 8A

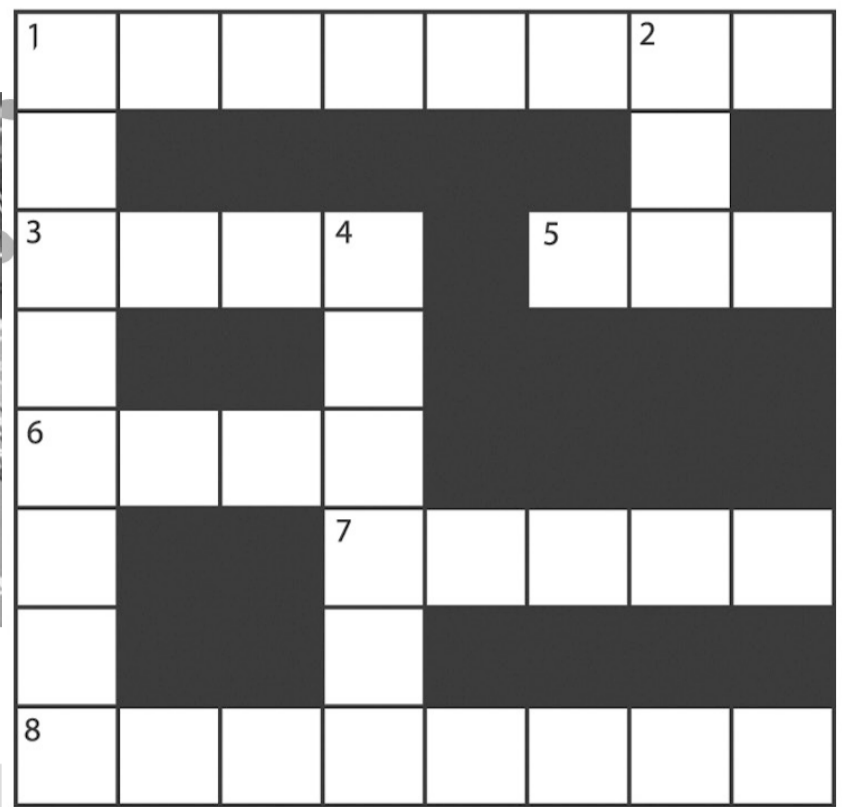
Macon
Marshallville
5/22/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. James CME Church, 217 Railroad St
Montezuma
6/1/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Preston Williams Center, 700 Vienna Rd

How to donate blood
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-

2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and oth-

er donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Cuts of beef
3. Curved bones
5. Not high
6. At any time
7. Type of oil
8. Contains a letter

DOWN

1. Slow-cooked food
2. In addition
4. A way to hit something

Answers:
Across
1. Briskets 3. Ribs 5. Low 6. Ever 7. Olive
8. Envelope
Down
1. Barbecue 2. Too 4. Stroke

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to law enforcement. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = O)

A. 23 25 3 9
Clue: System of rules

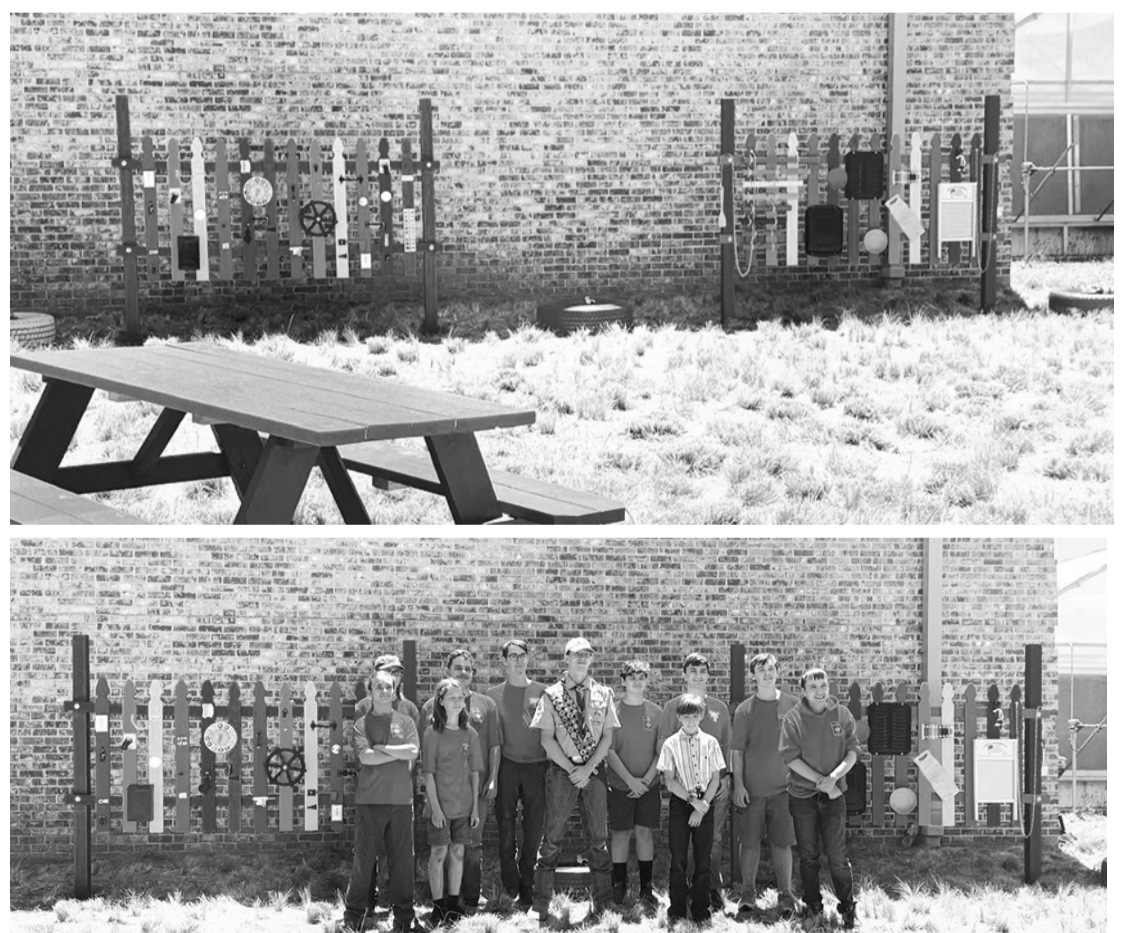
B. 1 17 23 10 22 13
Clue: Enforces laws

C. 18 12 17 17 1 13 12
Clue: State police officer

D. 17 12 2 13 12
Clue: State of something

Answers: A. laws B. police C. trooper D. order

New Sensory Garden for Students



By Peach County FFA

Scout Collaborates with Peach County FFA, Installs New Sensory Garden for Students at PCHS
FORT VALLEY, GA — A new sensory garden at Peach County High School is providing students with expanded opportunities for hands-on learning, thanks to a collaboration between Peach County FFA and Scout Landon Heuring of Troop 550.

The project, which began in October 2025, was led by Landon, who organized fund-

raising efforts and oversaw the design, construction, and installation of the initial garden features. Peach County FFA members are now working to expand the space and improve accessibility to better serve all students.

Planned improvements include ADA-accessible pathways and additional garden areas designed to support STEM-based instruction, particularly for special education students. The organization hopes to complete the project by Fall 2026.

Peach County FFA is currently seeking donations or

discounted materials from local businesses and community members to assist in making the garden fully ADA accessible and to enhance its educational use.

"This initiative represents an important step in ensuring all students have access to engaging, hands-on learning environments," said FFA Advisor and Agricultural Educator Ms. Luz Morales.

Those interested in supporting the project may contact Ms. Morales at Luz.morales@peach-schools.org.



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The Citizen Georgian
- Friday by 5pm
The Vienna News Observer
- Friday by 5pm

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- 1st Place - \$500 Prize Plus 25% of Entry Fees
- Panfish Division- \$20 Entry Fee per Boat
- 1st Place- \$200 Prize Plus 25% of Entry Fees
- Maximum: 2 Anglers per Boat
- Registration Ends June 4th

For More Info:
<https://shorturl.at/ZYXg>

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PARADE PARTICIPANTS WILL ASSEMBLE IN FRONT OF FORT VALLEY YOUTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, INC. ON RILEY AVENUE

9:00AM ASSEMBLY BEGINS
10:00AM PARADE BEGINS

ALL VEHICLES AND FLOATS MUST BE DECORATED IN GOOD TASTE.

THE GEORGIA PEACH FESTIVAL DOES NOT PROVIDE VEHICLES.

THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE.

THE FESTIVAL WELCOMES MARCHING UNITS, FLOATS, TRUCKS, CARS AND BANDS.

ALL ENTRANTS MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO MAY 31, 2026

*** PLEASE MAIL TO: ***
GEORGIA PEACH FESTIVAL
P.O. BOX 2001, FORT VALLEY, GA 3103

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 5/24/26

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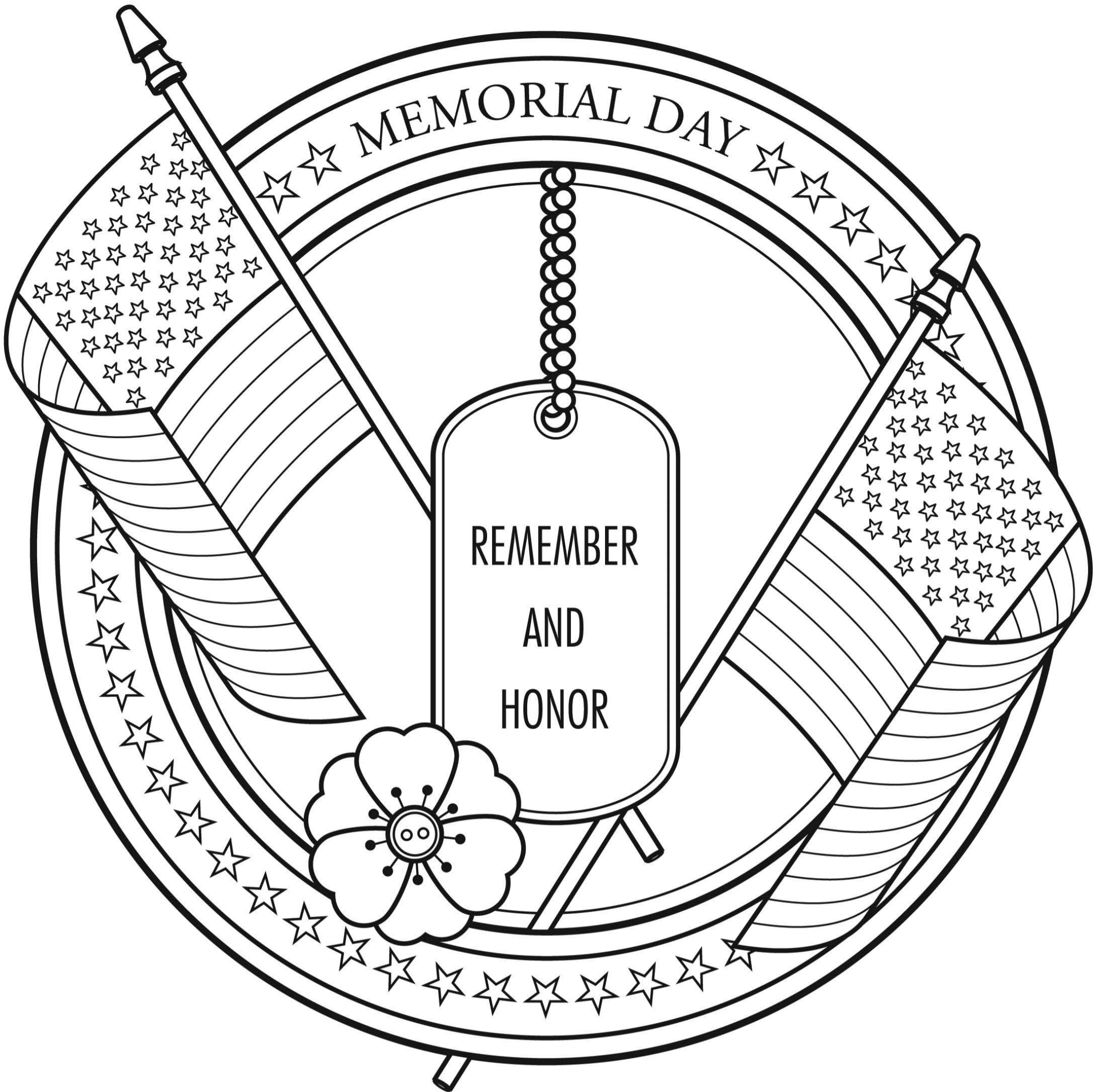
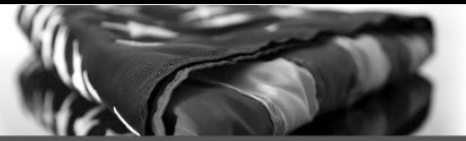
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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the police.

TTEICK

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Ticket

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in England on May 26, 1966. I paid for a spot in the actors' directory *Spotlight* using money won from a national writing contest. I am a versatile actress, easily playing dramatic, quirky or musical roles. I've been tied to many Tim Burton films and have worked alongside Johnny Depp and Colin Firth.

Answer: Helena Bonham Carter

How they say "that in..."

English: Crop
Spanish: Cultivo
Italian: Coltivazione
French: Culture
German: Ernte

Did You Know?

The earliest gardens were strictly practical and used to grow food and medicinal herbs. Decorative gardens appeared in Egypt in 1500 B.C.

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Garden shovel

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AFFIDAVIT
- BAILIFF
- BOOKING
- CHAIN
- COMPLIANCE
- CUSTODY
- DETECTIVE
- DETENTION
- DISPATCHER
- EVIDENCE
- FELONY
- FORENSICS
- INTERROGATION
- JURISDICTION
- MIRANDA
- MISDEMEANOR
- PATROL
- PRECINCT
- PROBABLE
- PROCEDURE
- SERGEANT
- SUBPOENA
- SURVEILLANCE
- WARRANT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1864:** Montana is organized as a United States territory.
- 1896:** Charles Dow publishes the first edition of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
- 1969:** Apollo 10 returns to Earth after a successful test of all moon-landing components.

NEW WORD

SPADE

sharp-edged tool for digging or cutting earth

Pirates and Braves Capture Peach County Recreation Championships

Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Recreation Department wrapped up another exciting youth baseball season as teams battled throughout the spring for championship honors in their respective divisions. Families, friends, and supporters filled the ballparks to cheer on the young athletes as the season concluded with competitive championship games and memorable performances.

In the 8U Boys Coach Pitch division, the Pirates claimed the championship title after a strong

season filled with teamwork, hustle, and determination. The Mariners earned runner-up honors after an impressive post-season run and a hard-fought effort throughout the year.

The 10U Boys Baseball division also delivered plenty of excitement as the Braves captured the championship crown. The Braves showcased consistency on both offense and defense during their championship run. Finishing as runner-up were the White Sox, who battled their way through the season and proved to be one of the league's top teams.

The season highlighted the dedication of the players, coaches, parents, and volunteers who helped make the year successful for the Peach County Recreation Department. From opening day through the championship games, the young athletes displayed sportsmanship, growth, and passion for the game.

As another recreation season comes to a close, the Peach County community continues to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of its future stars on the diamond.

Trojans Basketball Ready to Host Summer Youth Camp

Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The Peach County Trojans basketball program is preparing to welcome the next generation of young athletes this summer with the upcoming Trojans Kids Summer Camp scheduled for June 15-17 at the Peach County High School gym.

The three-day camp will run each morning from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and is open to boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. The

camp is designed to help young players improve their basketball fundamentals while also learning teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills in a fun and energetic environment.

Camp participants will receive instruction from coaches and players connected to the Trojans basketball program. Drills and activities will focus on shooting, ball handling, passing, defense, and overall game development. Organizers hope the camp will give young athletes an opportu-

nity to sharpen their skills while building confidence on and off the court.

With limited spaces available, families are encouraged to register early to secure a spot. The cost of the camp is \$65 per participant.

The Trojans basketball staff is looking forward to spending the week investing in local youth and continuing to build excitement around basketball in Peach County.

Peach County Schools is proud to announce that Air Force JROTC will be available for the upcoming school year!

Contributed

JROTC provides students with incredible opportunities to grow as leaders, build confidence, strengthen teamwork skills, and develop self-discipline and responsibility. Students also gain valuable experience in citizenship, community service, character development, and career readiness; all while being part

of a supportive and motivating program.

We are excited to bring this opportunity back to our students and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will continue to have across our schools and community!

Parents who would like more information, please email your child's school counselor.

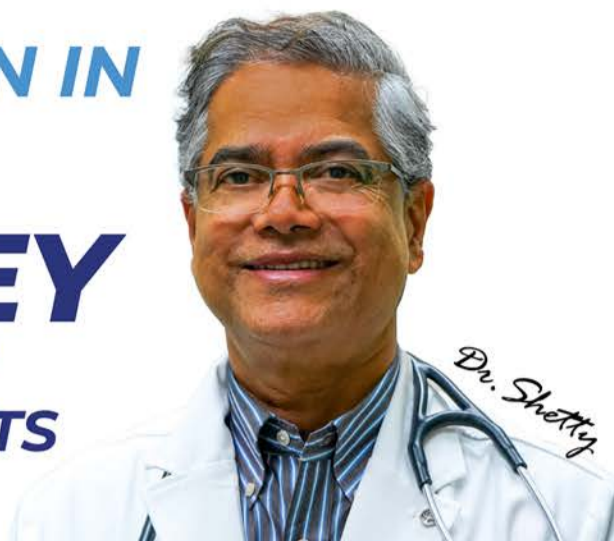


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