



The Leader Tribune

Peach County's Newspaper

Vol. 138, Issue No. 22 • 2 Section • 20 Pages WEDNESDAY, JUNE 03, 2026

Price \$1.00
tax included

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

Price \$1.00
tax included

INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Georgia Peach Festival... B1-B6

City of Fort Valley looks to complete 2023 audit by end of month 2

Trojans Dominate Region Honors, Return Core of Championship-Caliber Talent 11

Jackson Peavy, on winning the SEC Championship 12

COMMUNITY
Community Calendar 3
Church News... 5
Legals 7
Classifieds ... 10



Peach Festival to celebrate four decades this weekend

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. – The 40th annual Peach Festival is almost here! The festival will take place in Fort Valley on Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6. The festival will take place the following weekend, on Saturday, June 13 in Byron.

The Peach Festival will include numerous events and activities scheduled to honor local peach growers and showcase the cities of Fort Valley and Byron as well as Peach County itself. This festival will feature arts and crafts vendors, kids zones, food vendors, live music and fireworks shows.

The Fort Valley Peach Festival will start around 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5, and continue into Saturday, June 6, in Downtown Fort Valley. The festival will begin with the grand opening of the vendors and festival activities. The main stage will feature various talents in the Friday



Kickoff Party, including AJ the DJ and LadiT. The event will end at 10 p.m.

Saturday will start with the “Fill the Boots for Burns” Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Fort Valley Fire Department on 204 West Church Street, which costs \$10. The Peachy parade will start at 10 a.m. sharp

followed by the introduction of the Georgia Peach Queens at the Bandstand. Throughout the day, live music will play, with artists including Tu Voz Latina and Midnight Cruiser.

The McArthur-Saxon House will hold the Historical Society Chicken Salad Lunch around 11 a.m. with the cost being \$18.

The Car and Bike show will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At 11:30, the Magic of Evan Dupree will perform at the Austin Theater, with children under 5-years old getting in for free. Tickets for children over the age of 5 are \$3, and tickets for adults are \$6. The evening will end with a laser show around 8:30 p.m.

Of course, it wouldn't be the Peach Festival without the world's largest peach cobbler! For the few that don't know, the Peach Festival has a custom-built oven that will house the 11 by 5 feet and about eight inches deep cobbler, with the dessert being ready around 2 p.m. on Saturday. The recipe calls for 75 gallons of sliced fresh Georgia peaches, 150 pounds of self-rising flour, 150 pounds of sugar, 32 gallons of milk and 90 pounds of butter. The ingredients are mixed in six clean trash cans with clean boat paddles and the dessert takes a minimum of four hours to bake. Local peach growers Lane South-

ern Orchard, Pearson Farm, and Dickey Farms, will be providing the fresh, locally grown peaches.

The Byron Peach Festival will take place June 13, starting at noon in North Peach Park. Music will be provided by the Class Act Band of Middle Georgia and Mother's Finest. The evening will end with a fireworks show.

According to the Georgia Peach Festival's website; “The Georgia Peach Festival was revived in 1986 to honor peach growers for their contribution to our state's economy and to the food industry nationwide. It also is a great opportunity to showcase all the good things Byron and Fort Valley have to offer. The Peach Festival holds the distinction of being the only state-sanctioned food festival.”

The Peach Festival's website states that; “Between 1922-26, Fort Valley greeted the first

**PEACH FESTIVAL
CONTINUED PG 5A**

Fort Valley's railroad intersection project completed, aims to ease traffic congestion

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The Highway 96 and 341 railroad intersection is complete, after nearly a decade of planning and two years of construction, and is projected to ease traffic congestion in Fort Valley.

On Friday, May 22, local and state leaders gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Highway 96 and 341 railroad intersection. The intersection had previously been a major concern for drivers due to consistent, heavy traffic congestion.

The design for the new intersection is expected to improve traffic flow both into and out of downtown Fort Valley and reduce gridlock and traffic bottlenecks when trains pass through

Fort Valley.

Peach County Commissioner Wade Yoder worked as the liaison for the project between the Peach County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Department of Transportation. He explained that he felt a personal responsibility for the project, as

**RAILROAD
CONTINUED PG 5A**

Victim in Westside Villa Apartments shooting dies 2 weeks later at hospital

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — A man who was shot at Westside Villas in Fort Valley two weeks ago has died.

According to Peach County Coroner Kerry Rooks, Kalan Nathaniel Tharpe died at Atrium Health Navicent in Macon just before 11 a.m. on Friday, May 22. He said Tharpe's body will be taken to the GBI Crime Lab for an autopsy.

On May 7, around 1:40 p.m.

at an apartment complex on Brooks Boulevard, Fort Valley police found Tharpe suffering from a gunshot wound. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition, according to Fort Valley Police Chief David Wilson.

This case remains under active investigation, with the GBI assisting in the case. Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Fort Valley Police Department at (478) 825-3383.

Blue Bird School Bus Foundation Invests in Georgia's Children with Grants for 11 Local Nonprofits

By Peach County Government

Representatives from Peach County's administrative team attended the Blue Bird School Bus Foundation Spring 2026 Awards Ceremony, where grants were awarded to organizations and programs dedicated to advancing education, health, safety, and youth development throughout Central Georgia.

Attending on behalf of Peach County Government were Jillian Bowen, County Administrator; Audrey Jernigan, County Clerk; and Wade Yoder, County Commissioner At-Large.

Several organizations serving Peach County and the surrounding region were recognized as grant recipients, including:

- Boys & Girls Club of Central Georgia
- Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center
- Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence
- Macon RBI
- Peach Association for Intellectually Disabled – Kay Center
- Peach County Extension 4-H
- Peach County High School Technology Program

- Safe Kids Central Georgia
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace GA – Macon Chapter
- United in Pink
- United Way of Central Georgia – Read United Peach County
- Peach County appreciates the continued investment the Blue Bird

Photo Contributed

The Kay Center

**11 LOCAL NONPROFITS
CONTINUED PG 2A**



Representatives from the 11 nonprofit organizations recognized as recipients of the Blue Bird School Bus Foundation Spring 2026 grant awards.



Photo Contributed



11 LOCAL NONPRIFITS

CONTINUED FROM 1A



Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence

Photo Contributed

School Bus Foundation makes in programs and initiatives that strengthen our communities and positively impact the lives of local families and youth.

Statement from Blue Bird, “Georgia has been Blue Bird’s home for nearly a century, and we are proud to serve as a good

corporate citizen in the communities where we live and work,” said Blue Bird president and CEO John Wyskiel. “By investing in the education, health and safety of children in our home state, we hope to help meet critical community needs and set young people up for long-term

success.” We’ve reinforced our commitment to improving the education, health and safety of Georgia’s children by awarding \$81,000 to 11 local nonprofit organizations during the first community empowerment event of the year!



Peach County Extension 4-H

Photo Contributed



Peach County High School Technology Program

Photo Contributed

City of Fort Valley looks to complete 2023 audit by end of month

By Zoe Hammond
News Editor

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — The City of Fort Valley is looking to complete the 2023 audit by the end of June 2026, with the audit being presented to the council during their June board meeting on June 18.

During a called meeting on Wednesday, May 27, Keith Hundley of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC went over his firm’s findings in the 2023 audit as well as discussed the need of a corrective action plan to finish the audit. He listed multiple findings and compliance issues, stating that numerous adjustments to the audit had to be made.

Previously in 2023, after the 2019 audit was completed, Hundley and his team projected to have the 2023 audit done by the end of the 2024 financial year. However, due to misplaced and missing receipts and documentation of financial transactions, he and his team have been reconstructing the information. When it comes to audits, if there is any information missing it has to be found forensically or offi-

cially reconstructed. As Hundley reviewed the audit, he listed multiple compliance issues, many of which have been recurring issues throughout the previous audits.

One of the main issues was the segregation of duties. Hundley stated that steps should be taken to separate employee duties so that no one individual has the authority to authorize, record, or reconcile transactions. However, Hundley stated that often with smaller towns that isn’t always possible.

The next finding was the city failed systemically to reconcile account balances and ledgers, which led to material adjustments for the financial record. Hundley stated that revenues and expenditures were not properly recorded.

Hundley discussed the issue of document retention, stating that his staff and the city’s interim financial director had significant difficulty in finding documentation of the city’s financial records.

The next finding was a lack of qualifications and training, which Hundley tied back into

the expenditures, revenue accruals, and various account balances not being properly recorded.

One of the findings was a non-compliance issue, which has been in the previous audits as well. The city did not comply with the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A.), Section 48-8-121(a)(1).

O.C.G.A. 48-8-121(a)(1) mandates that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) proceeds must be used exclusively for the purposes specified in the resolution or ordinance passed to impose the tax. It also requires that funds be kept in a separate account and never combined with other county or municipal funds.

Previously, \$22,965 was taken from the 2015 SPLOST fund by the previous administration and put into another bank account. Hundley stated that the city would simply need to write a check for \$22,965 from the general funds account and transfer it to the 2015 SPLOST account to be compliant with O.C.G.A. 48-8-121(a)(1).

Georgia voters to get final look at runoff candidates in Sunday and Monday debates

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Voters recovering from the long list of candidates that greeted them on their primary election ballots last

week will have to return to the polls soon for runoff elections.

The Atlanta Press Club will help voters make informed choices with a final round of livestreamed debates Sunday and Monday.

It is the latest installment in a two-decade tradition that “provides the most comprehensive, timely and widely viewed series of political debates during every

DEBATES
CONTINUED PG 5A

During two upcoming Peach County Board of Education meetings, there will be opportunities for public input on the Peach County Board of Education FY27 Budget. The opportunities for public input will be at the Peach County Board of Education Called Session on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. and at its Called Session on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held in the Peach County Board of Education Office located at 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA.

Logics and Accuracy testing

Logics and Accuracy testing will be held June 4th, 2026, for the June 16, 2026, General Primary/Nonpartisan Runoff election. Location will be at the Peach County Government Center located at 902 Campus Dr. Fort Valley, Ga 31030. Testing will begin at 10:00am-until.

Early tabulation for the June 16th, 2026, General Primary/Nonpartisan Runoff election will begin on June 16th, 2026, at 4:00pm. Location will be at the Peach County Government center Located at 902 Campus Dr. Fort Valley, Ga 31030.

Citizenship Award presented to Mr. Grayson Smith at American Legion Post 76



Photo Contributed

Grayson Smith proudly displays his American Legion Post 76 Citizenship Award after being recognized for raising the American flag every school day for three years. When asked why he volunteered for the responsibility, his answer was simple: “I love America.p.

By Ricardo Marshall
Public Relations Officer
American Legion Post 76
Fort Valley, Georgia

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, American Legion Post 76 of Fort Valley proudly presented its Citizenship Award to Grayson Smith.

Grayson, the son of Chad Smith of Byron, Georgia, recently completed his studies at Byron Middle School and

will attend Peach County High School as a freshman this fall.

For the past three years, Greyson faithfully volunteered to raise the American flag at his school each day, performing this responsibility rain or shine. His dedication, consistency, and respect for the nation made him a deserving recipient of this year’s Citizenship Award.

Following the presentation, Greyson was asked why he chose to volunteer for this duty

every day for three consecutive years.

His response was simple, yet powerful:

“I love America.”

American Legion Post 76 commends Greyson for his outstanding example of citizenship, patriotism, and service. Young people such as Greyson represent the values that help strengthen our communities and inspire future generations.

City of Warner Robins, GA NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY 2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND FY 2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

The City of Warner Robins will make available for public review at the City Clerk’s Office, located at City Hall, 700 Watson Blvd., the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 General Fund Budget. This document can be viewed beginning Friday, May 15, 2026, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. The Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget can also be viewed on the City’s website, which can be found at www.wrga.gov.

Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget will be held on the following dates and times: **Monday, June 01, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 09, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.** All hearings will be located in the Council Chambers, City Hall. All citizens wishing to comment on the Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget are invited to attend these public hearings.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins are scheduled to adopt the FY 2027 Budget at their regular monthly meeting on **June 15, 2026**. The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

City Clerk
City of Warner Robins

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

Afful, True Corinne, 18, Macon, GA: No Brake Lights Or Working Turn Signals, DUI - Alcohol 0.02 Grams Or More Under 21 YOA

Calhoun, Anesa Monae, 32, Macon, GA: Probation Violation

Ferrell, Sierra Alexandria Morgan, 30, Salem, AL: No Insurance, Driving With Suspended License

Harrelson, Brian Charles, 50: Forgery - 3rd Degree 1500 Or More, Identification Document - Falsify, Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer

Harris, Cody Lee, 36, Byron, GA: Disorderly Conduct (High)

Harrison, Wesley Aaron, 49, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Herring, Robert Edward, 53, Macon, GA:

Herring, Zachary Chantz, 31, Fort Valley, GA:

Henderson, Dasha Evon, 22, Montgomery, AL: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits, Driving Without A Valid License

Hickman, Lavan, 39, Clarkston, GA: Burglary 1st Degree, Burglary 1st Degree

Hopkins, Charles Javorion, 30, Macon, GA: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits, Driving Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol, Following Too Closely

Hurtas, Edgar Valdez, 41, Warner Robins, GA: Driving Without A Valid License, Brake Light/Turn Signal Violation

Land, Jodi Bryant, 48, Macon, GA: Probation Violation

Paul, Charles Shane, 50, Phoenix City, AL: Driving While License Suspended, Failure To Maintain Insurance, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration, Window Tint Violation

Payne, Carmen Cynise, 21, Jacksonville, FL: Tag Light Required, Driving With Suspended License

Phelps, Shakir Al-Tariq, 43, Warner Robins, GA: Probation Violation

Sanders, Augustus, 59, Warner Robins, GA: Taillights/Tailight Lenses Required, DUI - Alcohol 0.08 Grams Or More 21 YOA Or Over

Shepard, Raymond Joseph, 45, Mussela, GA: Criminal Trespass

Sutton, Austin Laffayette, 27, Decatur, GA: Driving With Suspended License

Swint, Kione Dewayne, 27, Macon, GA: Failure To Maintain A Single Lane, DUI - Combo Any Combination Of A1/A2/A3, Possession Of Marijuana, Less Than 1 Oz, Possession Of Drug Related Object

Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Dupot, Joseph Robert, 63, Fort Valley, GA: Burglary

Reed, Jaquavion, 22, Fort Valley, GA: Sexual Battery - Misdemeanor, Simple Assault, Electronically Furnishing Obscene Material To Minors, Child Molestation, Enticing A Child For Indecent Purposes, Cruelty To Children-Deprivation Of Necessary Sustenance 1st Degree, Cruelty To Children-Deprivation Of Necessary Sustenance 1st Degree, Enticing A Child For Indecent Purposes, Child Molestation

Rouse, Tyler, 18, Macon, GA: Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Woods, Ciera Victoria, 17, Atlanta, GA: Simple Battery, Possession Of Alcohol By Minor

Peach County Sheriff's Office Arrests/Citations

Cooper, Randy, 62, Macon, GA:

Donald, Darius Deangelo, 33, Grand Prairie, TX: Driving While License Suspended

Jackson, Jadin Jahiem, 17, Byron, GA: Criminal Trespass (FV)

Lee, Matthew Frederick, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Powers, David Wayne, 72, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Prince, Kenneth Ray, 55, Fort Valley, GA: Battery, Obstructing Or Hindering Persons Making Emergency Telephone Call

Rabun III, James Robert, 59, Warner Robins, GA: Aggressive Driving

Walton, Damien Pierre, 44, Stockbridge, GA: Reckless Driving, Fail To Rpt Striking Fixed Object, Too Fast For Conditions/Prima Facie Speed, Defective Tires, Failure To Maintain Lane

Ga State Patrol Perry Arrests

Curry, Kaylen Glynese, 27, Macon, GA: Failure To Exercise Due Care, Expired Or No Drivers License, Improper/Erratic Lane Change, Failure To Maintain Lane, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits)

Georgia Dept. Pub. Safety Arrests

Rogers, Timothy James, 19, Tampa, FL: Commercial Vehicle Driver Failing To Use Seatbelt, Driving While License Suspended

Public Safety Comm. Arrests

Esteves, Alex Efrem, 28, Pembroke Pines, FL: Driving While License Suspended, Hands Free, Commercial Vehicle Driver Using/ Possessing Drugs Or Alcohol

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



NOTICE PUBLIC MEETINGS City of Fort Valley Mayor and Council

Location: City Hall Council Chambers 204 W. Church St., Fort Valley, Ga 31030
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 11, 2026
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
MEETING ID: 878 9856 1356
Passcode: 997957
WORK SESSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Time: 06:00 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
MEETING ID: 897 4042 3080
Passcode: 908687
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2026
Time: 06:30 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
MEETING ID: 886 6159 9051
Passcode: 679597

GA Peach Festival

June 5-6, 2026 in Fort Valley and June 13, 2026 in Byron.
GA Peach Festival Prade 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. (FVS)

THURS., JUNE 11, 2026 AT 5:15PM

**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.

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Barrett, Charles, 43, Fort Valley, GA:

Call or Text 478-955-1999



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

WadeYoder.com

110 Commercial Heights, Fort Valley, GA

Summer Meals

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

PEACH FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

peach blossoms in annual festivals of dance, song, elaborate pageants and delicious barbecue. These elaborate festivals were said to rival Mardi Gras and California’s Rose Festival and the events attracted the attention of National Geographic, the New York Times and Hollywood movie studios.Soon thousands from all over the world would make their way to Fort Valley each March. It has been reported that as many as 40,000

people descended on the town during the festival, which ended in 1926 because it was too successful... Sixty years later, in 1986, Fort Valley revived the historic festival, moved it from blooming season to harvest season and renamed it the Georgia Peach Festival. It was officially incorporated in 1988 as the Georgia Peach Festival, Inc., and was once directed by the Chamber of Commerce. Today a volunteer board plans, organizes

and executes the complex job of putting on the festival.” For more information on the Georgia Peach Festival, they can be found at <https://www.ga-peachfestival.com/> or on Facebook under the same name. The Peach Festival committee can be contacted at (478) 825-4002, at georgiapeachfestival@gmail.com or through their website’s contact form.

RAILRAOD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

héd seen the traffic congestion firsthand.

“Being right in the middle of this congestion where Highway 96 and 341 and these switching tracks come together, I felt a sense of personal responsibility to help the city bring attention to this,” Yoder explained. “After our first meeting, with GDOT and Norfolk Southern, in 2017, I mostly served as a go-between, for the local governments, GDOT, Norfolk Southern and then later worked with the city attorney and the property owners around the intersection for easements and right-of-way acquisition.”

According to Yoder, the project’s primary goal, in addition to easing traffic congestion, was to provide Highway 341 North and South with access to the overpass while allowing traffic to flow smoothly.

“The primary part of this project, on the south side, was to give 341 North and South access to the overpass. The north side will allow for continued flowing of traffic into and out of downtown Fort Valley. And if it works as it should, it will help distribute traffic that is coming into the area from 341 and 96,” Yoder said.

Yoder noted that there have been some concerns from citizens, as drivers cannot make a left turn at the intersection, but he explained that the intersection had been designed to move vehicles rapidly through the intersection to avoid bottlenecks and any potential accidents from happening on the train tracks.

“There are no left turns allowed, which can be a little aggravating, until you think about how bad it could be to be stuck behind a vehicle trying to make a left turn, while you are waiting on the tracks with an approaching train,” Yoder said. “This is not a perfect fix, but will allow traffic to continue flowing around the trains when they are blocking the tracks and should help

ease the congestion pressure in the stretch coming through on 341 and the 96 overpass as well as take some pressure off the downtown area of Fort Valley.”

Melissa delaBruyere, President of the Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce, spoke on the collaboration that went into the project and how it is projected to help local commuters and residents.

“Completing a project of this magnitude stands as a testament to the sustained, collaborative effort across multiple levels of leadership, bringing together the City of Fort Valley, Peach County, the State of Georgia, FVUC, Norfolk Southern, and C.W. Matthews. Opening this new bypass will unlock a reliable route through Fort Valley along Highways 341 and 96, vastly improving logistics and transit times for commercial trucks,” delaBruyere said. “Drivers will no longer be held up by rail traffic, and local commuters will enjoy much easier access to the bypass. We all know those times of day when a single train can completely gridlock the area—leaving residents stuck and out-of-town travelers stranded. This project breaks that bottleneck, keeping Fort Valley moving.” delaBruyere thanked the many groups who helped to make the project possible, as well as thanking the citizens and local business owners for their patience with the project.

“Thank you! Since 2017, the City of Fort Valley, Peach County, GA DOT, FVUC, our state representatives, Norfolk Southern, and C.W. Matthews have partnered to cross this finish line. A project of this scale takes a village, and our local business owners and citizens have been remarkably patient and supportive every step of the way. Thank you all for your hard work and endurance. We are thrilled to officially open this route and make traveling along highway 341 and highway 96 safer and seamless

for the Fort Valley community and all those traveling through the City of Fort Valley!” delaBruyere said.

Commissioner Yoder also took a moment to thank those who helped make the project possible, specifically noting Peach County’s State Representatives and Senator John Kennedy.

“I would like to thank the City of Fort Valley, and the Peach County BOC for partnering together and with GDOT to get this done! Our State Representatives, Patty Stinson, Robert Dickey and then Senator Kennedy really went to bat for us at the state level and they stuck with us until we crossed the finish line. The GDOT team, and Norfolk Southern were also great to work with. I also want to thank the surrounding property owners that helped with construction easements and right-of-way needs. This area looked like a construction war-zone so thank you to all the business owners for your patience,” Yoder said.

Yoder thanked the community and local businesses for their patience with the project’s construction.

“There have been some pretty rough bottlenecks in traffic patterns because of the intersection being closed and it went for much longer than originally planned for. So, thank you to the surrounding businesses, and people trying to navigate traffic issues (around this intersection), for your patience during this time,” Yoder said.

So far, Yoder is happy with the changes and has seen traffic flowing smoothly.

“It feels really good to finally see traffic flowing smoothly through this area, especially when trains are blocking this intersection. It also feels good knowing that buses, semi-trucks, ambulances and other public safety can now navigate around this intersection better when this high-traffic intersection is blocked,” Yoder said.



CHURCH & LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

USHER’S TEMPLE CME CHURCH

411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 478-825-5106. Join us each Sunday morning with Pastor Tawanna B. Harris and members at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may join us virtually via Facebook Live and Youtube. Bible study is each Wednesday in person at 12:00 and virtually at 7:00pm via Zoom.

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

Food Pantry Distribution at St. Peter A.M.E. Church Annex, 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA. Fourth Thursday of each month (January-October) and Third Thursday of November and December. Call (478) 825-8452 for details.

BAHA’I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY

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

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM

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

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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

FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)

Come & worship in a casual atmosphere at 5:00pm each Sunday. Our weekly pastor will be the Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield, a Presbyterian minister who also teaches at Mercer University. For any interested, we will have weekly Sunday School Bible

Study starting at 4:00pm in the room off the sanctuary. Come and join us for an exciting summer. Brenda Rackley 478-283-1356.

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030. GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK Open Tuesdays and Thursdays. 9:00am - 12:00pm. Located behind Fort Valley Court House, 203 Central Ave., Fort Valley. Phone: 478-825-2562 (TFN)

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES

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

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS’ CLASS

Led by Father Matt Harlow Learn the basics of the Christian Faith while enjoying a meal and fellowship. We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more! To register contact Fr Matt at harlowmattthew@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 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

BAHA’I FAITH

“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.”

Baha’u’llah

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

ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU. We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am. Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

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

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

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030 Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is: Sunday School at 10:00 A.M. Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M. Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. – Tuesdays To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to [secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org](mailto: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.

DEBATES

CONTINUED FROM 2A

election year in Georgia,” according to the press club, which has been hosting the forums with Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Their forums in late April featured crowded fields, with each candidate receiving minimal airtime. Now, with some primary races decided and others whittled to two candidates from each party, each office seeker who accepts an invitation to debate will get more time.

Sunday’s schedule features the remaining two Republicans vying for U.S. Senate and hoping to contest incumbent Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff in the November general election, along with the two Republican candidates for Public Service Commission District 5 to succeed Tricia Pridemore, a Republican who did not seek reelection.

Also on Sunday, the press club will host forums for the two surviving candidates from each

party running for lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

Monday’s schedule features the governor’s race. Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and billionaire Rick Jackson were the top vote-getters in last week’s GOP gubernatorial primary.

The winner of their June 16 runoff will run against former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, a Democrat. She won her primary outright last week.

Also on Monday are two Republicans for state school superintendent, one of them incumbent Richard Woods, and the final two GOP candidates for the 11th Congressional District in north metro Atlanta, where incumbent Rep. Barry Loudermilk, a Republican, is retiring.

On the Democratic side Monday are debates for candidates seeking their party’s nominations for labor commissioner and insurance commissioner; the winners will face the Repub-

lican incumbents in November. Also on the schedule is a debate for the remaining two Democratic candidates for the 1st Congressional District, a coastal post held by Rep. Buddy Carter, a Republican who lost his bid for U.S. Senate last week.

The forum lineup also includes the Fulton County Commission chair race, in which Democratic incumbent Robb Pitts was invited to debate his remaining Democratic challenger, Mo Ivory.

No runoff was required for attorney general, agriculture commissioner, Public Service Commission District 3 or for the congressional races in the 10th, 13th and 14th districts.

Debate times and streaming information are available on the Atlanta Press Club website: <https://atlantapressclub.org/debates/>.

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

there. Winning a high profile race is both a chit on their resume which sets them up for the next campaign cycle here and in other states, but also gives them the closest proximity to power here – and access to the benefits that come with it.

Winning matters for those running the campaigns. A lot. Losers just go home.

They’re well aware this is unseemly. They know they’re creating negatives that will have to be dealt with as their own words can and will be used against their party’s nominee in the

event the other side wins.

That’s a July problem. The June problem is best summed up by the late Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis: Just win, baby.

The consults also know this: Five months is ten eternities in politics. Voters have short attention spans and even shorter memories. Time heals all wounds.

There is a real battle ahead. Georgia is a battleground state. Money will flow from outside sources to determine if the 2027 leadership flags fly red or blue.

Republican candidates and

the consultants know many of their voters are miserable now. There’s two more weeks of that, like it or (for most of us) not.

The embedded bet here, however, is that voters come home despite the current unpleasantness. Because one flag represents all that is good, and the other the forces of evil.

One side is already rallying around their flag. The other is reasonable sure voters in October & November won’t remember nor care much about what was said in June.

Subscribe Today! 478-825-2432

Georgia moves beyond HOPE, with need-based aid for college students



Gov. Brian Kemp speaks at the Georgia Capitol in Atlanta on Monday, May 11, 2026, before signing Senate Bill 556 to create the DREAMS Scholarship, a need-based college aid program funded by \$325 million in the amended Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Photo by Ty Tagami/Capitol Beat

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Next fall, Georgia students attending one of the state’s public colleges and universities will have a chance at financial aid if they come from a low-income family.

Gov. Brian Kemp on Monday signed legislation that establishes a need-based financial aid program.

The amended budget for fiscal year 2026 already included \$325 million for the DREAMS Scholarship. Senate Bill 556 establishes the rules for spending it, placing the program under the Georgia Student Finance Commission, which oversees the HOPE scholarships.

Kemp had pledged to create the scholarship during his State of the State address in January.

He said his signature on SB 556 will “endow the largest investment in a need-based scholarship the state has ever seen.”

Georgia was, until now, one of only two states in the nation without such a program to help students in need. Critics have contended that the lack of support drove some of Georgia’s best students to other states for college, producing a long-term drag on the economy.

DREAMS builds on a much smaller program launched by the University System of Georgia last year under the watch of Chancellor Sonny Perdue, who attended the bill signing ceremony.

He announced in March, after the \$325 million was included in the budget, that \$25 million

would be available for scholarships this fall. The rest of the money will serve as the foundation of an endowment for future students.

House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said the bill, along with other measures Kemp signed Monday and an early grades literacy measure from last week, would help Georgia’s economy grow.

“This work will make our state a national leader in workforce development for years to come and, more importantly, ensure hard-working Georgians have opportunities to succeed statewide,” he said.

DREAMS recipients can receive up to \$3,000 a year for up to eight semesters or 12 quarters. Students must work or volunteer at least part-time to be eligible. Unlike HOPE however, grades are

not a factor.

SB 556 also creates a scholarship for University System of Georgia medical students. They can get up to eight semesters of funding toward their attendance costs in exchange for working in the state for four years after graduation.

The new law also increases the cap on contributions to Georgia’s 529 college savings plan, a tax-advantaged savings account. Previously, families could only contribute until the account reached \$235,000. The new limit is \$550,000. And it allows advanced fine arts courses in high school to count toward HOPE scholarship grade point average calculations for students who graduate after June.

Kemp signs legislation to cut income taxes and reduce homeowner property tax increases

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers started the year with talk of eliminating both the state income tax and the property tax for homeowners.

The goal proved elusive, but they did compromise on a scaled-back income tax cut and on legislation to decelerate the rapid increases in local property tax costs for homeowners.

And on Monday, Gov. Brian Kemp signed those two measures into law.

“We believe it is your money, not the government’s,” Kemp said.

The Senate had at first voted to eliminate the income tax on the first \$50,000 in annual earnings for individuals and the first \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly. The goal was to increase the cuts for higher earners over time until the tax was abolished altogether. But the bill Kemp signed into law is more modest.

House Bill 463 will immediately reduce the income tax rate to 4.99% from the current 5.19%, then gradually reduce it by another percentage point over eight years if state revenues remain strong. Income tax deductions would also rise by 50% over that period, from the current \$12,000 for single filers, to \$18,000 — and double that for married couples. Dependent

deductions also would rise by \$2,000 over eight years from the current \$4,000.

The new law also waives income tax on the first \$1,750 of overtime pay and cash tips retroactive to the beginning of the year and increases the amount of excluded retirement income for those 65 and older by \$5,000.

The increase in income tax cuts depends on a continual rise in state revenue estimates and collections. The governor’s annual revenue estimate must increase 3% and the prior year collections must have exceeded those in each of the three prior years. Also, the state must have enough in reserves to absorb the cost resulting from the increasing cuts.

Last week, Kemp’s office announced that revenues were continuing to rise, with April net tax collections up 5.9% over April of last year. However, nearly half of the nearly \$4 billion came from the income tax. Those collections were up 10.1%.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones said before Kemp signed the measures that it took months of negotiation between the Senate and House to reach a consensus. But Jones, a Republican candidate for governor, said they accomplished their goal on both income taxes and property taxes.

Senate Bill 33 was also a compromise. The House had hoped to eventually abolish property taxes. Instead, the measure will

keep homeowner property taxes in check by restraining the increase in the official value of their homes.

The idea of eliminating the property tax altogether faced resistance from local governments and schools, which are funded in large part through that tax.

The new law will cap valuation increases at the rate of inflation.

“Property tax valuations have skyrocketed in every corner of this state,” said House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington. “Mileage rates have remained the same or even increased in some cases, placing a significant financial strain on families, homeowners and retirees living on fixed incomes.”

The amount paid for property taxes depends on two variables: the tax rate — called a millage rate — and property valuation. Cities, counties and schools could simply bump the tax rate part of that formula to bring in more revenue.

That might not be politically popular, but it would keep the lights on.

There is a catch for schools, though: nearly all of Georgia’s 180 school districts are limited to a maximum rate of 20 mills under the state constitution.

Most school systems are already near the maximum tax rate, with the state average at 15 mills.

Kemp signs farm, forestry and fishing bills and answers an enduring question about Georgia’s official fabric

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — People who raise chickens in their backyards won’t have to “candle” their eggs. Restaurants that serve shrimp will have to let diners know if it is from abroad. And forest products manufacturers will get a tax break.

Those are among the effects of 10 bills that Gov. Brian Kemp signed into law this week.

The state’s agricultural industry has been hammered by wildfires, hurricanes and trade wars. Lawmakers reacted by passing numerous bills to help farmers, timber owners and others in the industry.

“Georgia’s farming and forestry families are some of the toughest people in our state who, despite the challenges of the past several years, have persevered and continue to put food on our tables, clothes on our backs, and provide the material for structures like our very homes,” Kemp said in a statement after signing the bills at the Georgia Forestry Association’s headquarters in Forsyth Wednesday.

The association was most pleased with House Bill 134, which makes the state’s existing Jobs and Investment Tax Credits transferable for forestry manufacturers over a five-year period.

That will allow companies more flexibility when they invest their capital, which the association said would in turn lead to more jobs and economic returns for rural areas.

The association also highlighted House Bill 983, which clarifies when prescribed burning is exempt from notice and permit requirements for forest management. Landowners use these burns to clear vegetation that can cause big wildfires like those that have raged in South Georgia.

Senate Bill 306 amends a tax incentive program that allows owners of agricultural land, timberland, or environmentally sensitive property to reduce their property taxes if they pledge to keep their land undeveloped for a decade. The bill confirms that landowners with a Conservation Use Valuation Assessment can enroll in carbon credit programs and earn revenue on the open private market without breaching their covenant.

House Resolution 1008 revises membership rules and interagency agreements for the Regional Water Planning Councils. It ratifies amendments to Georgia’s statewide water management plan in a way that ensures representation from the state’s major water-use sectors, including forestry and agriculture, according to the

state forestry association.

“From new investment in forestry manufacturing to critical protections for the landowners and land managers who do the work on the ground, this is a package built around what our industry needs to grow,” Tim Lowrimore, president and CEO of the association, said in a statement.

HR 1008 was a priority for Kemp, as was House Bill 1159, which exempts from state income tax any payments received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farmer Bridge Assistance Program and Specialty Crop Farmers Program.

Kemp also signed a handful of bills for targeted industries, including those in backyards.

Senate Bill 551 deletes the egg “candling” section of Georgia law, which requires those with backyard flocks to inspect egg yolks in a dark room with a bright light.

Coastal shrimpers will appreciate House Bill 117, which requires restaurants that serve shrimp from foreign countries to notify diners with notices on menus or signs.

House Bill 1310 settles a question that has apparently lingered for hundreds of years: it designates that cotton is, indeed, the official state fabric.

Legals

Legal Advertising Information

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

For information concerning billing, please contact The Leader Tribune at (478)-825-2432. Notices cancelled after

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@gtnl.org

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

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

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

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

The deadline for foreclosure notices and tax sales for disposal is Thursday the week before the first publication.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Publication Affidavit fee is \$10.

LT26-095
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF MAURICE W. BENNETT, SR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-PRO-7260
NOTICE

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.
TO: ALYSSA CLARK

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before June 10, 2026.

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

Under the direction of the Probate Court By: Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

LT26-091
GEORGIA, PEACH COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: Estate of James Earl Dorey Jr. All creditors of the Estate of James Earl Dorey, deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 18th day of May, 2026.
Gail E. Dorey
137 Majestic Oak Circle
Byron, GA 31008

VANICE H. SIKES, R.
BLOODWORTH, CROWLEY & LEVERETT
5612 D.T. Walton, Sr. Way
Macon, GA 31201
(478) 745-7461

May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2026

LT26-082
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PEACH
IN RE: ESTATE OF Barbara C. Holliman Palmer

All creditors of the estate of Barbara C. Holliman Palmer late of Peach County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
THIS 5th day of May, 2026.
Tonia P. Harmon, Executor of
Barbara C. Holliman Palmer
116 Interlochen Dr
Peachtree City, GA 30269
Attorney: Charles E. Jones
102 Peachtree Street
Fort Valley, GA 31030
OCGA 53-7-41 states
"...for 4 consecutive weeks
"...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."

May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 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(s) 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 June 10, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Under the direction 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

LT26-084
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JEROME RUMPH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7112
NOTICE

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

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before June 10, 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 sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Kim Wilson Under the direction of the Probate Court By: Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH ST
FORT VALLEY GA 31030
478-825-2313

May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 2026

LT26-083
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CREASY RUMPH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7111
NOTICE

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

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before June 10, 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 sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Kim Wilson Under the direction of the Probate Court By: Katrina Corbin Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH ST
FORT VALLEY GA 31030
478-825-2313

May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 2026

LT26-078
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

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

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-090
DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
PEACH COUNTY

All persons having claims against Paul Douglas Scott and his estate are required to present them to the undersigned, properly itemized and proven, within the time required by law. And all persons indebted to said deceased, or his estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 6th day of May, 2026.
KYLE RYAN SCOTT
Executor
Attorney: Patrick C. Smith, Jr.
3549 Wheeler Rd.
Augusta, GA 30909
Estate of: Paul Douglas Scott

May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2026

LT26-100
During two upcoming Peach County Board of Education meetings, there will be opportunities for public input on the Peach County Board of Education FY27 Budget. The opportunities for public input will be at the Peach County Board of Education Called Session on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. and at its Called Session on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held in the Peach County Board of Education Office located at 900 Campus Drive, Fort Valley, GA.

June 3, 10, 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

LT26-088
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ETHAN CARTER, MINOR
ESTATE NO. 2026-MGDN-7280
NOTICE

TO: KINGSTON OMAR CARTER OR ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES
You are hereby notified that KEYTRICK TYRELL JONES has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia probate court clerk and filing fees must be tendered with your objections unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the County, Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

KIM WILSON Under the direction of the Probate Court By: KATRINA CORBIN Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 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

LT26-089
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PEACH
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated September 1, 1994, from Eltrym S. Day to United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration United States Department of Agriculture, recorded on September 2, 1994 in Deed Book 151 at Page 885 Peach County, Georgia records, and said Security Deed has been given to secure a Note dated in the amount of \$175,000.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of a day before the door of the courthouse of Peach County, Georgia, on July 7, 2026 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT, LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 16 OF THE 5TH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IN THE CITY OF BYRON THEREIN, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TO OBTAIN THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING, START AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SUMMIT DRIVE AND THE EXTENDED EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SARAH DRIVE, AND RUN THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 48' 47" WEST A DISTANCE OF 503.05 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING; AND FROM SAID POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING, RUN THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 53' 21" EAST A DISTANCE OF 195.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 48' 47" WEST A DISTANCE OF 130.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 53' 21" WEST A DISTANCE OF 195.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SARAH DRIVE; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 48' 47" EAST ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SARAH DRIVE A DISTANCE OF 130.00 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALL AS IS MORE FULLY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED AS LOT 4, BLOCK C, SUMMIT CHASE SUBDIVISION, ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY THOMAS W. FUTRAL, III, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1202, DATED JUNE 3, 1992, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGE 269, CLERK'S OFFICE, PEACH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT; REFERENCE TO SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Eltrym S. Day. The property, being commonly known as **121 Sarah Dr., Byron, GA, 31008 in Peach County**, will be sold as the property of Eltrym S. Day, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Dawne's Realty & Mortgages, Inc., 1293 Whisperwood Lane, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, 678-558-7822. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicious Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.
<https://www.fincen.gov/irre-faqs>

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

Albertelli Law
Attorney for Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development as Attorney in Fact for Eltrym S. Day
100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 373-4242
THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
- 26-004800
May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 2026

LT26-099
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PEACH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
LARRY A. CKSON, Petitioner, v.
GOLDEN STAR MANAGEMENT, LTD, Defendant.
CASE NO. 26-V-0230

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION OF ACTION TO QUIET TITLE
PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 9-11-4(f)(1)(B) TO: Golden Star Management, Ltd., a Florida Limited Partnership, its general and limited partners, and its successors and assigns claiming any interest in the following described real property:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lots 251 and 252 of the Sixth (6th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being more particularly known and designated as Lot 10 containing 28.44 acres as shown upon a plat of Fall Line Farms Subdivision made by Brent Cunningham on May 2, 1990, which appears of record in Plat Book 16, Pages 235, 236 and 237, Clerk's Office, Peach Superior Court. Said plat is referred to for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description and is incorporated herein by reference thereto. Said lot is further described as Peach County Tax Parcel 021B 001. By Order of the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia for review by publication dated May 27, 2026, you are hereby notified that on May 26, 2026, the plaintiff filed a petition to quiet title against a tract known as described above. Said petition also names as defendant Golden Star Management, Ltd. You are required to file with the clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve upon petitioner's attorney, Michael L. Childers, 111 Georgia Highway 49 N, P.O. Box 1704, Byron, Georgia 31008, an answer in writing within thirty (30) days of May 27, 2026. Be further advised that if you fail to respond, you will lose all rights and interests and claims which you hold or could be entitled to make or assert within this action to the subject property, as a matter of law, and you will receive no further notice nor be entitled to such notice. Witness, the Honorable Kenneth R. Smith, Judge, Peach County Superior Court, this 27th day of May, 2026.
/s/ Sherry Gonzales Clerk
June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

LT26-079
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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

LT26-072
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PEACH
IN RE: LUCILLE M. PARHAM
All creditors of the Estate of Lucille M. Parham deceased, late of Peach County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
May 4, 2026

Jeffrey McLean
Executor of the Will of
Lucille M. Parham
1158 Peachtree Rd
Moultrie, GA 31788

Robert R. Lawson
Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Davies LLP
Post Office Box 89
Perry, Georgia 31069
May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-087
NOTICE OF LOCATION APPROVAL OF PEACH COUNTY PROJECT TO PAVE LILLY CREEK ROAD

Notice is hereby given in accordance with O.C.G.A. Sections 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Peach County Board of Commissioners has approved the location of this project. The date of location approval is May 12th, 2026. The proposed project is the paving of Lilly Creek Road. The proposed project is located in Land Lot 49 of the 9th Land District of Peach County, Georgia. The project will consist of obtaining rights of way for transportation purposes and is intended to be used for enjoyment by the public and for public transportation purposes including the passage of vehicles. The necessary rights of way are more specifically shown on the plats entitled certain Topographic Survey for Ingram & Associates, dated February 28, 2024, prepared by Ingram & Associates in Land Lots 236 and 245 of the 6th Land District of Peach County, Georgia and Land Lots 78, 79, 80, 81, & 82 of the 9th Land District of Peach County, Georgia. The project plans and plats of the project are kept on file at the office of the Peach County Board of Commissioners. The plats show the original roadway and required additional right of way. A copy of the plat or map may be obtained for a nominal fee from the office of the Peach County Commissioners 213 Perimeter Street, Fort Valley, Georgia 31010 and paying a nominal cost thereof to cover the expenses of copying and mailing.
May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 2026

LT26-081
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIE REID, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7277
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: LOREA REID has petitioned for LOREA REID to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIE REID deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections and must be filed with the Court on or before June 10, 2026.

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

Kim Wilson Under the direction 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

LT26-073
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
PEACH COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBBIE LEE MEHARG
All creditors of the estate of Robbie Lee Meharg, late of Peach County GA, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
THIS 5th day of May, 2026. Signed, Lynn Meharg, Executor of Robbie Lee Meharg, deceased. 3635 Hollyhock Way NW, Kennesaw Georgia, 30152.

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2026

LT26-093
Legal Notice

The Peach County, Georgia, hereby gives notice of Peach County, Georgia's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally bounded by Watson Boulevard to the north, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway to the west, and Crestview Church Road to the south.

Specifically, the flood hazard information shall be revised along Sandy Run Creek from approximately 4,550 feet downstream of Watson Boulevard to just downstream of Watson Boulevard, Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, from the confluence with Sandy Run Creek to approximately 4,690 feet upstream of the confluence with Sandy Run Creek, and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5, from the confluence with Sandy Run Creek to approximately 2,090 feet upstream of the confluence with Sandy Run Creek.

As a result of the revision, the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations shall increase, decrease, and be established along Sandy Run Creek and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3, and be established along Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5, the 1% annual chance floodplain shall widen, narrow, and be established along Sandy Run Creek and Sandy Run Creek Tributary 3 and be established along Sandy Run Creek Tributary 5. Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Warner Robins City Hall at 6108 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31099. Interested persons may call Victor Savage, Assistant Engineering Director, at (478) 302-5500 for additional information from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.
May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2026

LT26-085
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: MICHELLE PADRAIGN BRENNAN, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025-PRO-7149
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of ANNETTE ELEANOR BRENNAN for a year's support from the estate of MICHELLE PADRAIGN BRENNAN deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse)(and)(minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they

Recognizing the Signs of Pediatric Growth Hormone Deficiency

How Early Recognition and Advocacy Helped One Family Find Answers

FAMILY FEATURES

Our concerns about Alex’s growth began around the age of 7,” said his mother, Diane Benke. Though Alex measured around the 50th percentile for weight, his height consistently hovered around the 20th percentile. Benke’s instincts told her something wasn’t quite right.

“I kept asking our pediatrician if this could mean something more,” she said. “Each time, I was reassured that everything was fine. After all, I’m only 5 feet tall myself.”

At first, Benke tried setting her worries aside. Alex was one of the youngest in his class, and she wondered if he could simply be a “late bloomer.”

However, as Alex progressed through elementary school, particularly in the 4th and 6th grades, his height percentile dropped into the single digits. The height difference between Alex and his peers became impossible to ignore.

Despite Benke’s growing concerns, their pediatrician continued to assure them Alex was fine.

“We were told as long as he was making some progress on the growth chart, there was no need to worry,” she said, “but we were never actually shown the charts.”

It wasn’t until one of Benke’s friends confided that her own daughter had recently been diagnosed with Pediatric Growth Hormone Deficiency (PGHD) that she decided to seek an endocrinologist.

“Although it took several months to get an appointment,” Benke said, “we were determined to get more answers.”

Navigating the Diagnosis Process

Getting a diagnosis for many medical conditions can be a long journey. However, early detection and diagnosis of PGHD is important. It can help minimize the impact on overall health and support optimal growth.

Once Alex was seen by a pediatric endocrinologist, he underwent a series of evaluations, including bloodwork, a bone age X-ray to compare his chronological age with his skeletal age and a growth hormone stimulation test, which measures the body’s ability to produce growth hormone. He also had a brain MRI to rule out the potential of any pituitary abnormalities.

The results of these tests confirmed the diagnosis of PGHD, a rare condition that occurs when the pituitary

gland does not produce enough growth hormone. PGHD affects an estimated 1 in 4,000-10,000 children.

Some common signs parents might notice include: their child being significantly shorter than other kids their age, slower growth rate over time, delayed puberty, reduced muscle strength or lower energy levels, slower bone development and delayed physical milestones.

“Receiving Alex’s diagnosis was a relief,” Benke said. “It provided clarity and a path forward.”

Moving Forward with Treatment

“While the diagnosis process was exhausting, starting treatment made the process worthwhile,” Benke said.

For decades, daily injections of a drug called somatropin, which is similar to the growth hormone your body produces, have been the standard of care for PGHD. It wasn’t until 2015 that the Growth Hormone Research Society recognized the need for a long-acting growth hormone (LAGH), offering once-weekly dosing as an alternative to daily injections.

Benke explained navigating the insurance approval process was another challenge.

“Our insurance required us to try a daily medication before approving a weekly option,” she said.

Alex spent three months on daily medication, often missing doses, before he was approved to switch to a weekly treatment option.

“The weekly option made such a positive impact,” Benke said. “We now have minimal disruptions to our daily routine and Alex hasn’t missed a single dose since.”

Beyond a more convenient dosing option, the change gave Benke peace of mind.

“We could focus more on being a family again, without the daily worries of his next dose,” she said.

If you’re concerned about your child’s growth, talk to their doctor as soon as possible. Early diagnosis is important, as treatment becomes less effective once a child’s bones stop growing.

Benke’s advice to other parents: “Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, seek out a specialist and push for answers and don’t give up, even when faced with hurdles... Stay hopeful and persistent – it’s a journey worth fighting for.”

Visit GHDinKids.com to download a doctor discussion guide to help prepare for your next appointment.



Cost Management for a Healthy, Happy Furry Friend

5 Ways to Save Money While Giving Your Pet Excellent Care

FEATURE IMPACT

You’re not imagining it – like many goods and services, pet care costs have gone up.

In fact, Healthy Paws Pet Insurance reported a 38% increase in pet services over the past five years with pet parents spending more than \$4,200 a year on routine expenses for a cat or dog.

Lots of factors are driving increased costs, from higher ingredient prices for pet food – like meat and grains – to veterinary drug shortages. Add in rising labor and transportation costs and those everyday expenses can start to take a bigger bite out of your budget.

There are simple ways to keep costs in check, however, while still giving your furry friends the care they deserve:

1. Prioritize Preventive Care

Routine checkups, vaccinations and screenings can catch health issues early when they are easier and less expensive to treat. Most pets should see a veterinarian at least once a year, while puppies, kittens and senior pets may need more frequent visits.

Preventive medications play an important role as well. Treating heartworm disease, for example, can cost thousands while monthly prevention costs \$15-\$30.

2. Focus on Daily Wellness

Consistent exercise helps reduce the risk of chronic conditions and supports overall health. Most dogs benefit from at least 30 minutes of daily activity while cats need regular play to stay active.

Feeding appropriate portions can also help with weight maintenance. Portion sizes vary, but a good starting point is the feeding guidelines on your pet food label, adjusting as needed with your veterinarian’s input.

3. Find Support in Your Community

Many local humane societies and rescue groups offer resources that make pet care more accessible, including low-cost vaccinations, spay and neuter services and discounted supplies.

For seniors, local Meals on Wheels providers can be important resources. With support from PetSmart Charities, many local providers offer free pet food and, in some cases, services like veterinary care and grooming. To date, 20 million pet meals have been delivered through this collaboration, helping keep pets healthy and in loving homes with older adults.

4. Plan Ahead for Unexpected Costs

Even with routine care, unexpected illnesses or injuries can happen – and costs can add up. The PetSmart Charities-Gallup State of Pet Care research revealed 52% of pet parents skipped or declined veterinary care services in 2025, with the majority citing cost as the key barrier.

Pet insurance can help manage risk. Most policies reimburse a percentage of covered veterinary costs after you meet a deductible, helping offset unexpected bills. Plans vary, but average monthly premiums are around \$60 for dogs and \$30 for cats.

It’s also important to be open with your veterinarian about financial concerns. In many cases, clinics may be able to offer payment plans, or look for low-cost-veterinary care resources in your area.

To find a local provider and learn whether pet support is available in your area, visit mealsonwheelsamerica.org/lovepets.



A Companion Through It All

A devastating cancer diagnosis left Lois hospitalized for eight months. Afterward, she began receiving home-delivered meals through her local Meals on Wheels provider. That connection proved to be a lifeline.

“When I was sick,” Lois said, “the Meals on Wheels volunteers ... were the only company I had.”

That changed when a small white kitten with calico markings showed up at her front door. Today, that kitten – now named Grace – is rarely far from Lois’s side.

Though Grace softens Lois’s loneliness, caring for a pet on a fixed income isn’t always easy. For many seniors, it can mean

making difficult choices, like stretching groceries or delaying medical care, just to afford pet food and supplies. Through support from her local provider, food is delivered for Grace as part of Lois’s regular meal service, helping keep them both healthy, happy and, most importantly, together.



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	6	5	31
2			22
5		10	26
27	25	27	

01	11	5
12	8	2
5	9	20

Solution

THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY



1837: Houston is incorporated by the Republic of Texas.

1851: Harriet Beecher Stowe's serial, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," starts a 10-month run in an abolitionist newspaper.

2002: The space shuttle Endeavour launches, carrying the Expedition 5 crew to the International Space Station.

Animal
FACT!

This animal sleeps through roughly 70 percent of its life.

Answer: Cat

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

YM INNE VLSIE

Answer: My nine lives

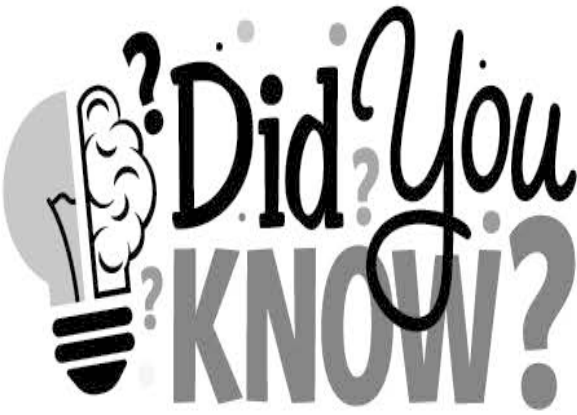
NEW
WORD

MEOW

the crying sound of a cat

“How they say that in...”

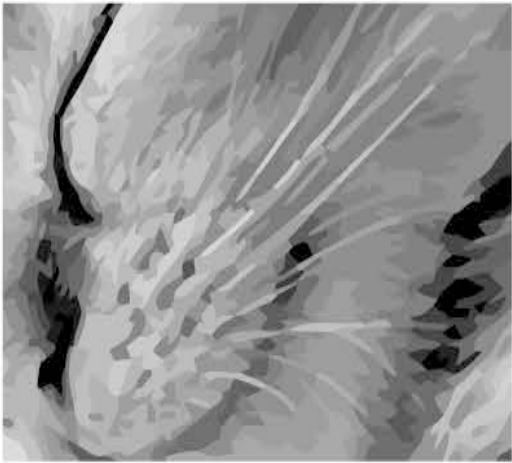
English: Fur
Spanish: Pelo
Italian: Pelliccia
French: Pelage
German: Fell



Most cats are lactose intolerant and should not be given milk to drink. This goes against images that often show cats drinking milk.

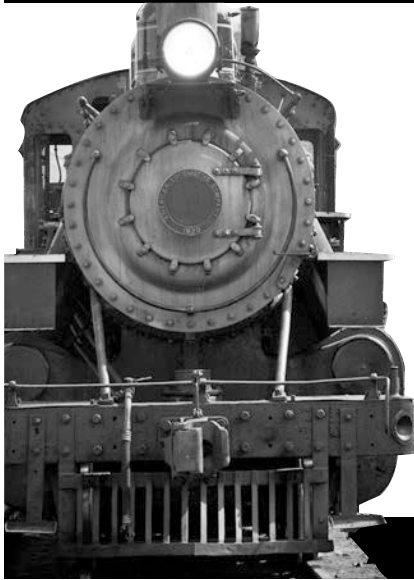


Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: A sleeping cat



Hometown CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

Yard/Estate Sales

**Partial Estate Yardsale June 6
7:30-til. 2420 US Hwy 341 N. Perry.**
5 families men, ladies kids home decor,
e me furniture, fabric of all kind, hardware
for drapery, upholsering things toys baby
clothes craft a pplies liquidating mob e wing
machines (e rgers hemmer, embroidery)

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

City of Fort Valley Police Department – City Marshal Position

The City of Fort Valley Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of **City Marshal**. This role is responsible for enforcing city codes and ordinances to ensure public safety, compliance, and community standards.

Key Responsibilities:

- Patrol the city to identify and address code violations such as nuisances, abandoned vehicles, and unsafe properties
- Issue citations and support prosecution by preparing reports and testifying in court
- Administer business licensing, including alcohol licenses, and ensure compliance
- Oversee animal control operations and enforce code regulations
- Maintain records, handle citizen complaints, and communicate with the public and city officials

Minimum Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Valid Georgia driver's license
- Georgia POST Peace Officer Certification (or ability to obtain)
- Strong communication, organizational, and multitasking skills

Additional Requirements:

- Ability to work with the public, businesses, and city leadership
- Knowledge of local ordinances and law enforcement procedures
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and accurate records

Apply at: Fort Valley Police Department, 200 West Church St
Fort Valley Ga 31030
Online at <https://dev.mgrchosting.org/fortvalley/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/FV-Police-Dept-ApplicationFillable.pdf>

Deadline: 06-05-2026

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

**Georgia needs Capitol Beat.
Capitol Beat needs you.**

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



**News
Match**

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

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

CALL-A-PRO Businesses

SERVICE GUIDE - Find Business/Service You Need



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

SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION REPAIR
WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS!
478-825-0505
WWW.CUMMINGSHEATINGAIR.COM

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



FACTORY
AUTHORIZED
DEALER
Carrier

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

**Chiropractic & Massage
Accident & Injury Center**

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



Consumer Cellular®

**BIG WIRELESS
COVERAGE, WITHOUT
BIG WIRELESS COST.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.
Switch & Save Today.

833-446-1847

© 2014 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for Autolay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.



**Bradshaw's
Heating & Air**

WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR 30 YEARS AND
STILL GOING STRONG. *Jonathan Quick*

Office (478)825-0068 Cell (478)951-4763
401 Green Street Fort Valley, GA

GOT ITEMS?
Place your ad in
The Leader Tribune
478-825-2432

**LOCAL
MATTERS**

Georgia

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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

Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776



GNS
AFFILIATE OF THE
GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

**STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
FOR THE WEEK 5/31/26**

AUCTION

West Virginia Real Estate Auction – June 30 at 11 AM. 6,247± acres of wilderness spanning Fayette and Raleigh Counties will be sold in 19 tracts, offering opportunities for investors, outdoor enthusiasts, wilderness retreat and recreation. Auction and Previews Held at Tamarack Conference Center, Beckley, WV. Previews: June 13 and 14 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Visit Woltz.com for details or call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. Jim Woltz, Broker (WVAL #1000), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyer's Premium.

CELLULAR

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

HEALTH CARE

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY

USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer – 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

HOME IMPROVEMENT

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-652-0640

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-625-0433. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-917-6746

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-914-0502

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-236-3738. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-877-606-2120

MISCELLANEOUS

Searching for the 70 yo man I met at Raices Cubanais in Penfield NY. Celebrated his birthday in Switzerland. Lives in Georgia. Info? Call 585-270-1739

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations.

Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704

Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not May Qualify for Tax Deduction – Call (888) 515-3813.

TV/INTERNET

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468

COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842

WANTED

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329

Trojans Dominate Region Honors, Return Core of Championship-Caliber Talent

By: Chris McKenzie
Sports Reporter

The future remains bright for the Peach County Trojans baseball program after an outstanding 2026 season that saw numerous players earn top honors in Region 1-AAA.

The Trojans were heavily represented on the All-Region teams, showcasing the depth, talent, and hard work that helped make Peach County one of the premier programs in the region.

Earning All-Region 1-AAA Second Team honors were Matthew Cannon,

Dawson Whaley, and Zachary Veillon. Each player played a significant role throughout the season, providing leadership and consistency for the Trojans on both sides of the ball.

Named to the prestigious All-Region 1-AAA First Team were Ben Wilford, Miller Greene, Wyatt Blanton, and Owen Meredith. Their standout performances throughout the season helped lead Peach County to another successful campaign and established them among the region's elite players.

On the mound, Evan Rush was recognized as the Region 1-AAA Pitcher

of the Year, a testament to his dominance and ability to consistently deliver in big-game situations. Rush's command, competitiveness, and reliability made him one of the most feared pitchers in the region.

The Trojans also claimed some of the region's highest individual honors. Rigsby Booth and Avery Horne were named Region 1-AAA Co-Players of the Year, recognizing their tremendous impact and leadership throughout the season. Both players were instrumental in Peach County's success and consistently delivered when their team need-

ed them most.

Adding to the Trojans' collection of awards, Xavion Childs earned Region 1-AAA Co-Offensive Player of the Year honors after an exceptional season at the plate. Childs proved to be one of the region's most dangerous hitters and a key contributor to Peach County's offensive production.

Perhaps the most exciting news for Trojan fans is that nearly all of these award winners are expected to return next season. Childs, who is graduating, is the lone honoree who will not be back, meaning Peach County will bring

back a wealth of experience, talent, and leadership heading into 2027.

With a roster loaded with proven performers, award-winning players, and one of the strongest returning cores in Region 1-AAA, expectations will undoubtedly be high for the Trojans next spring. If this season's honors are any indication, Peach County baseball appears poised to remain a force in Georgia high school baseball for years to come.

Spring Game Peach vs. Northside 2026 Part 2



Photo by Tourris Leary, Sports Reporter
Quarterback #3 Samuel Sands hands the ball to running back #21 Zion Ellison, resulting in a first down for the Trojans.



Photo by Tourris Leary, Sports Reporter
Up coming Freshman #17 Branden Strickland made his first varsity appearance against Nortside in the spring game.



Photo by Tourris Leary, Sports Reporter
#23 Justin Harrell made a great play on third down to force Northside to punt on fourth down.

Atrium Health Navicent expands lifesaving EMS services and technology

Upgraded 911 systems, new ambulance headquarters and pre-hospital blood transfusions enhance emergency care

By AtriumHealth Navicent

MACON, Ga., May 21, 2026 – Atrium Health Navicent is expanding lifesaving EMS services and technology through improvements to 911 emergency communications infrastructure, a new ambulance headquarters and offering pre-hospital blood transfusions.

The health system invested nearly \$400,000 to upgrade its EMS Communications Center, improving Atrium Health Navicent EMS's ability to receive, manage and process emergency calls with greater speed and reliability. With modernized call routing and enhanced system stability, teams can pro-

vide aid even during periods of high call volume or in the unlikely event of a system disruption.

The health system also recently opened a new ambulance headquarters on Riverside Drive near the Interstate 75 Pierce Avenue exit, helping expedite response times. Additionally, Atrium Health Navicent ambulances are now carrying blood for pre-hospital transfusions to help patients who experience traumatic injuries or significant blood loss.

As Atrium Health Navicent recognizes National EMS Week, May 17–23, these enhancements underscore the

critical role EMS professionals play in delivering timely, lifesaving care and connecting communities to essential health services.

"These improvements reflect Atrium Health's commitment to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve," said Atrium Health Georgia Area President Delvecchio Finley. "By investing in our EMS program, we're ensuring care is provided faster and at a higher quality when seconds matter. Every improvement we make is focused on saving lives and delivering the highest level of care across central and south Georgia."

As one of Georgia's largest and most comprehensive EMS providers, Atrium Health Navicent EMS responds to thousands of 911 calls each year, serving as a vital link between Atrium Health Navicent hospitals and the surrounding community. In addition to Macon-Bibb County, Atrium Health Navicent EMS serves Baldwin, Jones, Treutlen, Twiggs and Wilkinson counties.

"For 125 years, our EMS teams have been a trusted lifeline for families across central and south Georgia," said Bud Owens, Georgia area vice president of mobile medicine and EMS for

Advocate Health, of which Atrium Health Navicent is a part. "These enhancements position our EMS teams to deliver faster, more advanced care while ensuring we are prepared to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve."

In addition to responding to 911 calls, Atrium Health Navicent EMS provides non-emergency transportation, specialty medical transportation for neonatal and pediatric intensive care patients, support for community events, and training and education programs.

NCMEC: Sen. Ossoff's Bipartisan Law Forcing Big Tech to Report Child Predators

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

Washington, D.C. — New data from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) found U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff's bipartisan law is forcing big tech companies to report child predators.

Two years ago this month, Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan REPORT Act became law, which — for the first time — requires big tech companies to report crimes involving enticement of children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

According to NCMEC's latest 2025 report, Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan law is forcing big tech companies to report

online predators.

According to NCMEC, "In 2023, one year before the REPORT Act was enacted, online platforms submitted 8,480 CyberTipline reports relating to child sex trafficking. In 2025, the first full year after implementation, online platforms submitted 105,877 reports — a more than 1,100% increase that underscores the impact of expanded reporting requirements."

"I know that for every parent in Georgia, the worst nightmare is your child being trafficked and approached by a predator online, and it happens every single day across the country," Sen. Ossoff said. "That's why I worked to bring Republicans and Democrats to-

gether to pass the REPORT Act into law so that social media and tech companies are required to report evidence of sexual enticement or trafficking of children online to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children"

Sen. Ossoff's bipartisan law, which he introduced alongside Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), also requires evidence to be preserved for a longer period, giving law enforcement more time to investigate and prosecute crimes, and increases fines for companies that knowingly and willfully fail to report child sex abuse material on their site.

Sen. Ossoff continues working to protect children online.

Last month, Sen. Ossoff launched

inquiries with Apple, Google, Meta, Amazon, and X over tech companies' advertisement and distribution of "nudifying" apps that allow users to swiftly create explicit images of children and teenagers.

In December, the U.S. Senate passed Sens. Ossoff and Chuck Grassley (R-IA)'s bipartisan Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2025 to strengthen coordination between the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to prevent child trafficking and protect kids.

In July 2025, Sen. Ossoff cosponsored the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act, which would impose new require-

ments on digital platforms to protect children from being targeted online with harmful content.

In March 2025, Sen. Ossoff cosponsored the bipartisan Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0) to limit use of children's information for individually targeted advertising.

In 2023, Sens. Ossoff and Grassley's bipartisan Preventing Child Sex Abuse Act of 2023 was signed into law, which strengthened Federal protections against the sexual abuse of children, including online exploitation.

House Bill 251(HB 251) What you need to know

By PCSS



House Bill 251 (HB 251) allows parents to request a transfer for their child to a school outside of their attendance zone based on available space. School districts determine available classroom space after all zoned students have been enrolled.

***Please note that, by law, parents who transfer a student under HB 251 are

responsible for all transportation to and from school. Transportation will not be provided by the Peach County School System.

Elementary and middle school classroom space is grade-specific, and the availability of slots will not be finalized until the tenth day of school. All students will begin the school year at their zoned school. This timeline allows for more accu-

rate enrollment numbers based on new students zoned for the school.

All students will begin at their zoned school and, if approved under HB 251, will be eligible to transfer upon notification of approval.

When completing the application, please ensure you enter a valid email address. Approval and denial notifications will be sent by email. Applications will

be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and families will be notified of their status by mid-August.

For the 2026-2027 school year, several schools are operating near capacity. While all applications will be considered, space limitations may prevent some requests from being approved. Families interested in a transfer are encouraged to apply as early as possible but should

plan for their child to attend their zoned school unless and until a transfer is approved.

Applications will be accepted from June 1, 2026 through June 18, 2026.

Please submit one application per student.

Apply here(This link will be active at 8:00 am on June 1st): <https://peach.school/hb251>

Jackson Peavy, on winning the SEC Championship



By PCSS

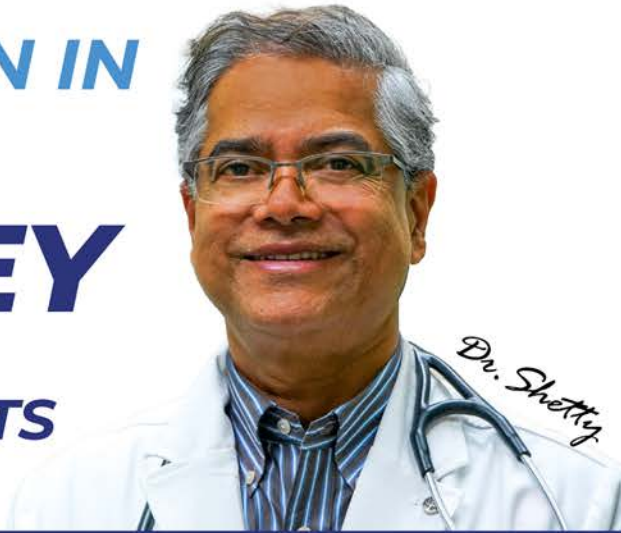
Congratulations to Peach County Trojans Baseball Alumnus, Jackson Peavy, on winning the SEC Championship with Georgia Baseball. Go Jackson and Go Dawgs!



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

**NOW OPEN IN
FORT
VALLEY**

**701 Bluebird Blvd
NEW PATIENTS
WELCOME!**



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

ENJOY *Telehealth*
Online Doctor's Visits

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED!

See us for:

**Sick Visits • Chronic Disease Management
Annual Checkups • Medicare Wellness Visits
*And More!***

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

CALL 478-328-7674

CALL TO BOOK TODAY!

RETIRED?

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

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



Contact me for a quote or details about our
RETIRED DISCOUNT



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

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

Subscribe Today!
478-825-2432

JUNETEENTH

A Celebration of Freedom & Resilience

ANNUAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL

JUNE 20, 2026

3:00–8:00 PM

**NORTH HOUSTON SPORTS COMPLEX
900 N. HOUSTON ROAD**





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

The 40th Georgia Peach Festival, a shared event between Fort Valley and Byron and home of the *World's Largest Peach Cobbler*, returns June 5-6 in Fort Valley and June 13, 2026 in Byron!



On the behalf of the
City of Fort Valley
Mayor
Shakeena Reeves
& City Council Members

Georgia's Peach City
FORT VALLEY
USA
Where Caring is a Way of Life

Welcome All
to the 2026
Georgia Peach
Festival!

Have Fun & Be Safe!
Hope you return
next year.

 Georgia
PEACH FESTIVAL

Join us at the
Georgia Peach Festival!




CITY OF **BYRON** GEORGIA

along with the **Byron Police**
& **Fire** Departments and the


BYRON GEORGIA

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Stop in for coffee with us and we'll show you around.
TOURBYRON.COM

SHIRTS - CAPS - EMBROIDERY - BANNERS - SIGNS - VEHICLE GRAPHICS & MORE



ONtheMARK
CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTING
"We Aim To Please" 478-956-6116

**Proud to Support
The Georgia Peach Festival**
Come Out and Enjoy the Good Times!

110 Gralan Dr. Suite A Byron, GA 31008
www.onthemarkga.com

**We're Fired Up
for the Georgia Peach
Festival!**

We encourage the community to come out and attend
this wonderful festival in Peach County.
Be mindful of your surrounding and stay hydrated.
Let's have a safe and fun-filled Festival.



**Fort Valley Fire
Department**
Call 911 for Emergencies





**Sheriff "Buck"
Shannon**
and the Peach County
Sheriff's Office





**Peach County comes in
first place every time
we come together to
celebrate our
Georgia Peach Festival!**

Peach County Sheriff's Office (478) 825-2507
1007 Spruce Street Extension • Fort Valley, GA 31030





EST 1897
DICKEY FARMS
MUSSELLA
-GA-



**Congratulations on
another successful**
Georgia Peach Festival



Come Visit!

*Georgia's Oldest
Operating Packinghouse
Since 1897*



**Georgia
PEACH
FESTIVAL**



3440 Musella Rd, Musella, GA 31066
478-836-4362 | gapeaches.com

PICTURED HERE

DEVON &
KAYLEIGH AT
GA PEACH
FEST 2010



**HAVE FUN & BE SAFE AT THE
GEORGIA PEACH FESTIVAL!**

**Great Locations For Your Business,
Beautiful Homes For Your Lifestyle**

**Keeping Our
County...
Peachy!**



**REAL ESTATE
SOUTH &
ASSOCIATES**

BYRON
203 West White Rd.
(478) 956-5050 Office
(478) 956-2020 Fax



**Call the pros at Real Estate South
when its time to buy or sell!**
Sandee Khoury - Broker
Devon Davis - Assoc. Broker
(478) 320-5551



FT. VALLEY - 2026 Georgia Peach Festival Schedule of Events

FORT VALLEY FRIDAY June 5 @ 5 PM Grand Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities Downtown Fort Valley 205 W. Church Street Fort Valley, GA 31030	FORT VALLEY FRIDAY June 5 @ 5PM-10PM Georgia Peach Festival Main Stage Friday Kickoff Party AJ The DJ LadiT Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 7AM-9AM FVFD "Fill The Boot For Burns" Pancake Breakfast Fire Department Fire House 204 West Church Street Fort Valley \$10	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 9 AM Open Music Radio Rumba "Tu Voz Latina" Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 10 AM Peachy Parade Downtown Fort Valley Parade Grand Marshals Honoring Peach Farmers and Growers Vendors and Festival Activities
FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 11 AM Introduction of the Georgia Peach Queens at the Bandstand Downtown Fort Valley Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 11 AM Historical Society Chicken Salad Lunch McArthur-Saxon House 201 South Miller Street Fort Valley, GA 478-719-0990 \$18 Advance	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 11 AM Eat A Peach Contest Big Peach Chair Georgia Antique Engine Club Display Main Street 11am-2pm Car N Bike Show on South Miller Street	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 11AM-5PM Main Stage Local Talent and Music Entertainment "The Magic of Evan Dupree" Austin Theater @11:30pm Tickets Child 5yr and under FREE Child 6yr + \$3 Adult \$6	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ NOON Peachy Keen Pup Perfect Pageant at the Bandstand It's Lunchtime Dine with our Food Vendors and shop with our Arts & Crafts Vendors
FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 2PM World's Largest Peach Cobbler It's so yummy to your tummy! Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 5 PM Main Stage Concert Featuring Midnight Cruiser Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 7:00 PM Main Stage Featuring Kuntry Steppin' Trailriders Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 8:30 PM Main Stage Concert Headliner Klymaxx Featuring Joyce Irby Vendors and Festival Activities	FORT VALLEY SATURDAY June 6 @ 9:30PM Main Stage Autograph and Photo Opportunity with Klymaxx Featuring Joyce Irby \$20

For more information
www.gapeachfestival.com
(478)672-9000



For more information
www.gapeachfestival.com
(478)672-9000



2027 Festival Dates

See you Next Year
Fort Valley June 4-5, 2027
Byron June 12, 2027
It's Easy Bein' Peachy!

Fort Valley Events: Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 will be held in Downtown Fort Valley at 205 W. Church Street.

Byron Events: Saturday, June 13 will be held at North Peach Park at 497 W. White Road.



When you visit Peach County, you must visit our Peach Farm!

You wouldn't drive by Grandma's house without stopping, would you?

Peachtree Cafe & Bakery

Breakfast, lunch and goodness gracious goodies

- Fresh Seasonal Produce • Roadside Market
- Peach Ice Cream & Cobbler
- Bus & RV Parking

Lane 
SOUTHERN ORCHARDS

I-75 Exit 142, 3 Miles East of Fort Valley, Georgia
lanesouthernorchards.com

★ GEORGIA PEACH FESTIVAL PARADE ★

 **SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026**

 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

★ JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE FOUR DECADES OF SWEETNESS! ★

GA Peach Festival
a Cool Place to be!

 **Bradshaw's Heating & Air**

Serving the Community for over 20 Years

401 Green Street Fort Valley, GA
Shop (478)825.0068 Cell (478)951.4763
Jonathan Quick



*Come out to
Fort Valley, Georgia for
a sweet peachy treat!
Get a taste from the
**Worlds Targets Peach
Cobbler!***



BYRON - 2026 Georgia Peach Festival Schedule of Events

BYRON SATURDAY June 13 @ NOON Grand Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park 497 W. White Road Byron, GA 31008	BYRON SATURDAY June 13 @ 5PM Main Stage Concert Featuring The Class Act Band of Middle Georgia Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park	BYRON SATURDAY June 13 @ 7PM Main Stage Open Entertainment Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park	BYRON SATURDAY June 13 @ 8PM Main Stage Concert Headliner Mother's Finest Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park	BYRON SATURDAY June 13 @ 9:30PM Spectacular Fireworks Show Brings down the curtain on another 40th year! It's Easy Bein' Peachy!
For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)672-9000  SCAN ME	For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)672-9000 	2027 Festival Dates See you Next Year Fort Valley June 4-5, 2027 Byron June 12, 2027 It's Easy Bein' Peachy!	For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)672-9000 	For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)672-9000  SCAN ME

Fort Valley Events: Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 will be held
in Downtown Fort Valley at 205 W. Church Street.

Byron Events: Saturday, June 13 will be held at North Peach Park at 497 W. White Road.
www.gapeachfestival.com 478-672-9000

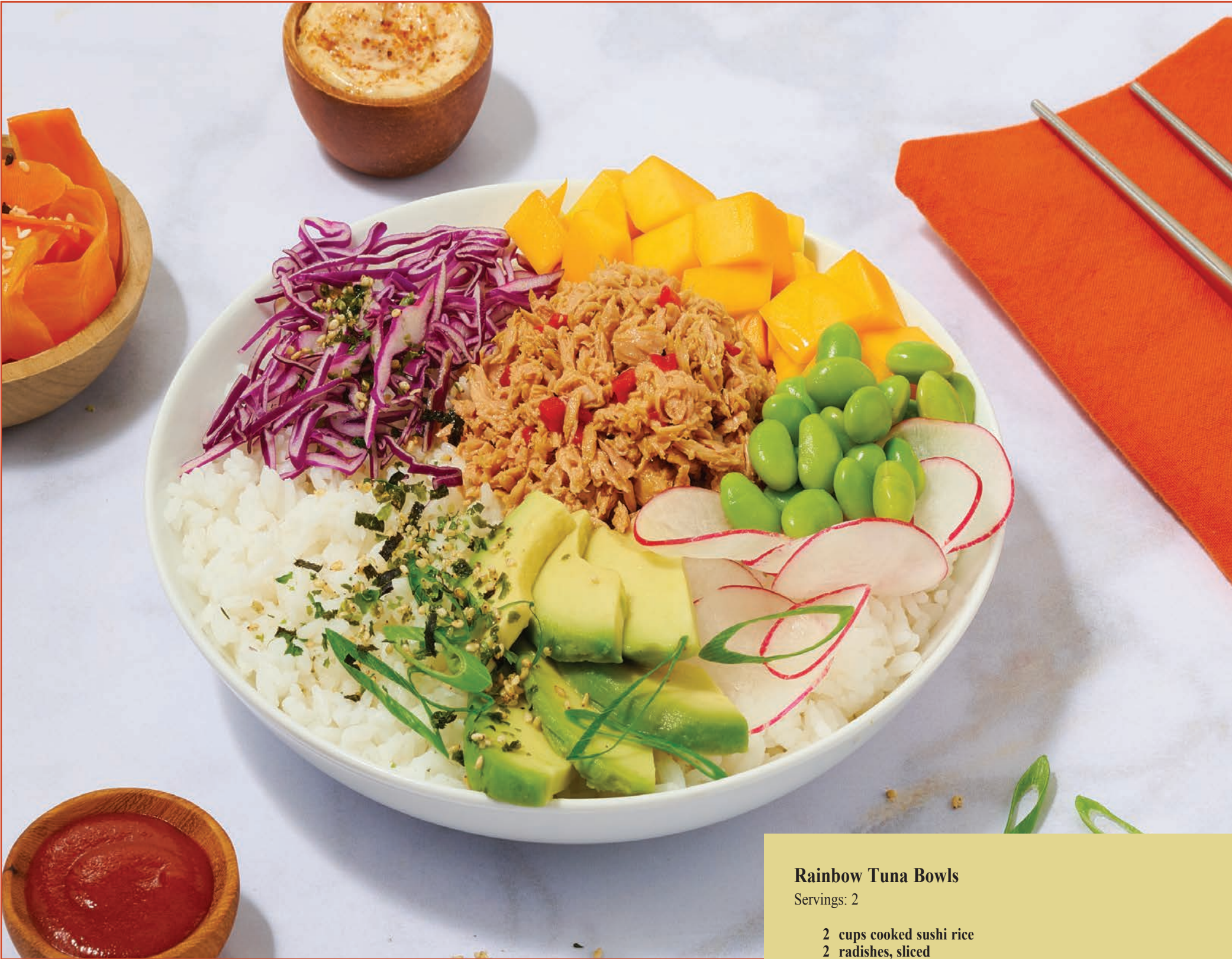


**CELEBRATING THE
GEORGIA
PEACH FESTIVAL**

CA & E Styles
Hair Cuts and Color for Guys and Gals
Massage & Deep Sea Mud Mask
Gift Certificates Available

124 Gralan Drive #3, Byron, GA
Call for an Appointment
478-956-1231

Flavor Meets Function



How Busy Families Can Balance Time, Taste and Nutrition

FEATURE IMPACT

In those precious few minutes between waking up and heading out the door or arriving home from school pickup, the pantry is a common destination. Seeking a grab-and-go lunch, sending your student off with a bite of protein or searching for an afternoon snack can leave you scanning the shelves for a go-to solution.

With snackers increasingly mindful about what they put in their bodies, you're not alone if you're looking for a snacking shakeup – in fact, in a recent survey conducted by Bumble Bee Seafoods and FleishmanHillard's TRUE Global Intelligence, 50% of Americans agreed it's hard to find snacks that meet all their needs. According to the survey, people are looking for foods that offer:

- “Bang for their buck” (78%)
- Affordability (61%)
- Protein packed (51%)
- Meet specific dietary goals (48%)
- Easy to eat on the go (35%)

Among all factors, however, 70% said great taste is most important, proving

flavor remains the single biggest driver of snacking decisions.

In response to demand for powerhouse snacks that do it all while tasting amazing, Bumble Bee Snackers easy-open, single-serve cans are shaking up snack time with a variety of bold flavors that are perfect for any time, place, budget or craving.

The various unique flavors can be eaten right from the can and are perfect for snacking occasions, from zesty Lemon Pepper to bold and savory Hickory Smoke, tastebud-tingling Sweet Heat, spicy Thai Chili and nostalgic Tuna Salad while traditionalists can opt for classic Chunk Light Tuna.

“Snacking has evolved,” said Dana Kowal, senior director brand marketing and corporate affairs at Bumble Bee Seafoods. “People want it all: bold flavor, real protein and grab-and-go simplicity – and they want it at a price that makes sense.”

The 3-ounce cans are premixed and can be enjoyed straight from the can, paired with crackers or veggies, or tossed in salads, sandwiches or wraps.

To turn them into quick, family-friendly dinners or make-ahead lunches, consider these adorably colorful and crave-worthy Rainbow Tuna Bowls balanced with sweet mango, creamy avocado, crisp radish and spicy tuna.

For a perfect addition to your game day spread, these Bang Bang Tuna Sliders are spicy, creamy, crunchy and easier to make than they look with just a few ingredients and fun flavor. Tuna is topped with a layer of coleslaw and spicy mayo to solve those afternoon hunger pangs whether you're in the office or enjoying the comforts of home.

When dinnertime calls for a busy-season meal that's light yet filling, Garden Farro Tuna Salad is a must-save recipe to add to your rotation. It's bright, herbaceous and offers easy experimentation – simply swap similar ingredients based on what's fresh and in-season or make it all your own with your family's favorite produce.

To find more snacking solutions that are packed with flavor while saving time and money, visit BumbleBee.com.

Rainbow Tuna Bowls

Servings: 2

- 2 cups cooked sushi rice
- 2 radishes, sliced
- 1 can Bumble Bee Snackers Sweet Heat Tuna
- 1 mango, cubed
- 3 tablespoons shelled edamame
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1/4 cup shredded red cabbage
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced scallion
- furikake, for serving
- Sriracha, for serving

In two shallow bowls, layer rice on bottom then evenly divide radish, tuna, mango, edamame, avocado, cabbage and scallion. Sprinkle with furikake and Sriracha.



Garden Farro Tuna Salad

Servings: 4

- 2 quarts salted water
- 1 cup pearly farro
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (1 lemon)
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill, basil or mint
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 can Bumble Bee Snackers Tuna Salad
- 6 small radishes or 1 cucumber, sliced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

- 1/2 cup roasted hazelnuts
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- crumbled feta or goat cheese, for serving (optional)

In medium pot over high heat, bring water to boil. Add farro, reduce heat and simmer uncovered until tender, 20-30 minutes. Drain; do not rinse.

In large bowl, whisk oil, lemon juice, herbs, honey and salt. Stir in cooked farro to evenly coat; set aside or refrigerate to cool.

Once farro is chilled or at room temperature, fold in tuna, radish or cucumber and tomato. Sprinkle with nuts and black pepper, to taste. Serve with cheese, if desired.

Bang Bang Tuna Sliders

Servings: 2

- 8 ounces tri-color shredded cabbage (coleslaw mix)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice (1 lime)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 cup mayo
- 2 tablespoons sweet Thai chili sauce

- 1 can Bumble Bee Snackers Thai Chili Tuna, included whole chili minced and reserved
- 4 slider buns

In small bowl, mix cabbage, lime juice, oil and salt.

In another small bowl, mix mayo, chili sauce and minced chili from tuna can.

On bottom of each bun, evenly divide layer of coleslaw followed by tuna. Drizzle sauce over top, to taste. Cap with top bun and serve.



The Power of Sharing a Table

How Americans are Reviving 'IRL' Experiences with Drinks, Dinners and Beyond

FEATURE IMPACT

Real-world connection has become increasingly rare and if you've felt the effects, you're not alone. After years of digital-first habits becoming the new norm, many people are looking to rediscover face-to-face social interaction – "IRL," in real life, not from behind a screen.

With many Americans now spending less time together than ever before as in-person contact continues to decline, according to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Teremana Tequila is inviting people back to something simple: the table. Rooted in the philosophy of Mana – the brand's guiding core philosophy and belief that good energy is contagious and the best moments in life happen when people come together – its "Share the Table, Share the Mana" initiative and partnership with Timeleft, a global app that matches strangers into small groups for real-life meetups, is a call for real-world connection.

A gradual rebalancing is underway, according to Teremana. In a world where people are more digitally connected yet more personally disconnected, sometimes all it takes is one small gesture, like pulling up a chair and sharing a table to unlock something transformative.

Activity-Based Communities

According to the American Psychiatric Association, 1 in 3 American adults went at least a week in 2024 without feeling genuinely connected. In response, many people are shifting toward connection rooted in shared activities rather than conversation alone. Consider Eventbrite's 2026 Social Trends Report, which found 58% of people now prefer events where socializing isn't the primary focus, signaling a growing appetite for in-person gatherings built around common interests and experiences.

Recurring events – such as weekly trivia nights or monthly potlucks – reflect this shift toward activity-based connection. With a built-in rhythm and shared interest, they reduce the pressure of constant planning and allow relationships to develop more naturally over time. Whether it's a standing "taco Tuesday" or "trivia Thursday," these gatherings create structure that makes it easier for people to simply show up and enjoy the moment together.

This shift is also extending beyond traditional community spaces into experiences that transform everyday environments into opportunities for connection.

Third Spaces, Reimagined

Building on its spirit of good energy and shared moments, Teremana Tequila's "Share the Table, Share the Mana" campaign kicked off with a series of out-of-home billboards across the country, but took a surprising turn when what appeared to be a standard billboard concealed a hidden bartender, drinks and an open invitation to share the table – turning a street corner into an unplanned gathering space for strangers. More experiential moments like this are on the way.

While digital tools remain central to how people connect, they're increasingly being used to facilitate in-person moments – helping organize meetups, dinners, and shared experiences in the real world.

For example, by partnering with Timeleft, a global app that matches strangers into small groups for real-life meetups, Teremana's idea is becoming a nationwide movement. Every Thursday from now through August, the Share the Table series will bring curated groups of people together at bars and restaurants across 13 U.S. cities, creating a consistent space for the kind of unscripted human connection no screen can replicate.

The nationwide initiative offers a key to unlocking something much bigger than one-off moments as an investment in infrastructure for connection, providing strangers opportunities to match with groups of people with similar interests and compatibilities.



Neighborhoods as a Nexus for Connection

By meeting and greeting neighbors and attending local events, the reliance on digital tools can be reversed. Proximity lowers barriers like time and distance, increasing the likelihood of repeated

encounters for after-work drinks or dinner parties that allow for relaxed, low-pressure socializing. For an easy way to break the ice with those near you, sharing a drink, or the mana, lets you open up your home in a low-stress setting without the pressure of cooking for a crowd. These simple at-home

cocktail recipes for a Cucumber Serrano Margarita or Mana Paloma make hosting a breeze – and will leave neighbors thinking you're a natural bartender. To discover more ways the philosophy of Mana can revitalize human connection, visit Timeleft.com.



Cucumber Serrano Margarita

Cucumber Serrano Margarita

- 2 ounces Teremana Blanco or Reposado
- 1 ounce fresh cucumber juice
- 3/4 ounce fresh lime juice
- 1/2 ounce agave nectar
- 3 thin slices serrano pepper, divided
- ice
- cucumber slice, for garnish
- salt, for rim
- tajin, for rim

In cocktail shaker, combine tequila, cucumber juice, lime juice, agave nectar and two slices serrano pepper; shake with ice. Strain over fresh ice into rocks glass.

Garnish with cucumber slice and remaining serrano pepper slice. Rim half of glass with salt and tajin.

Mana Paloma

- Ice
- 2 ounces Teremana Blanco
- 1 ounce grapefruit juice
- 3/4 ounce lime juice
- 1/2 ounce simple syrup
- club soda
- 1 pinch salt
- lime wheel or grapefruit peel, for garnish

In highball glass over ice, combine tequila, grapefruit juice, lime juice, simple syrup, club soda and salt. Gently stir, garnish with lime wheel or grapefruit peel and serve.



Mana Paloma

PRESENTING THE 2026 MISS GEORGIA PEACH QUEENS



Photo by Sarah Barfield

(front row) Little Miss Georgia Peach – Ellisyn Alyse Boggs of Albany; Tiny Miss Georgia Peach – Ivy James Blalock of Kathleen; Junior Miss Georgia Peach – Lillian Kaiser of Tifton
(back row) Teen Miss Georgia Peach – Evelyn Susannah McCoy of Baxley; Miss Georgia Peach - Haley Raymond of Kathleen

Peach Recipes
World’s Largest
Peach Cobbler



Peach Recipes from the Georgia Peach Festival
75 gallons sliced fresh Georgia peaches
150 pounds of self-rising flour
150 pounds sugar
32 gallons milk
90 pounds of butter
Divide self-rising flour, sugar and milk into six equal parts and pour into six clean

trash cans. Mix thoroughly with clean boat paddle. Sizzle 90 pounds of butter in a 5 ft. x 11 ft. baking pan six inches deep. Pour in batter then add 75 gallons of sliced peaches. Bake at 350 degrees for about four hours until golden brown. If you can’t get fresh or fresh frozen peaches, you better be prepared to open a lot of giant cans of peaches.



Sweeten The Day With Peaches

Special to
The Leader-Tribune

Although many desserts make for a sweet ending to delicious meals, there’s something so inviting about a moist and tender cobbler to add that yum factor. Cobbler consists of a fruit filling covered in a biscuit batter of sorts. When baked, the ingredients blend together to form a spoonable treat that is tender but with the right amount of bite.

Enjoy this recipe for “Peach Cobbler” courtesy of Taste Better From Scratch and contributor Lauren Allen.

Peach Cobbler
Servings: 9
5 peaches, peeled, cored and sliced (about 4 cups)
3/4 cup granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon salt

For the batter:
6 tablespoons butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup milk
Ground cinnamon

1. Add the sliced peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan and stir to combine. If using canned peaches, skip steps 1 and 2 and follow the directions starting at step 3.

2. Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and helps to bring out juices from the peaches. Remove from heat and set aside.

3. Preheat oven to 350 F. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Place the pan in the oven while it preheats, to allow the butter to melt. Once melted, remove the pan from the oven.

4. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Stir in the milk, just until combined. Pour the mixture into the pan, over the melted butter and smooth it into an even layer.

5. Spoon the peaches and juice (or canned peaches, if using) over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously over the top.

6. Bake at 350 F for about 38 to 40 minutes. Serve warm, with a scoop of ice cream, if desired.

A Few Facts About Peaches

- Peaches are a great source of vitamins A and C.
- You can buy two main varieties of peaches: clingstone and freestone. It is harder to remove the flesh from the pit on a clingstone peach.
- The flesh of a peach should have a slight give, but use your whole hand vs. fingertips to check.
- A large peach has fewer than 70 calories and contains 3 grams of fiber.
- “The World’s Largest Peach Cobbler” is made every year in Georgia. The cobbler measures 11 feet by 5 feet.
- August is National Peach Month
- Peaches are at their peak from June to the end of August.

Quick and Easy Peach Cobbler

Peach Recipes from the Georgia Peach Festival
2 cups sliced fresh Georgia peaches
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup milk
1 stick of butter
Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together 1 cup self- rising flour, 1 cup sugar and 1 cup

milk. Melt butter in microwave oven and pour into empty disposable baking pan. Be sure butter is sizzling and then add batter mixture and top with fresh peaches. Bake 25 to 30 minutes in the pre-heated oven until golden brown. If you can’t get fresh or fresh frozen peaches, use one large can of Georgia peaches.

Grow Your Business

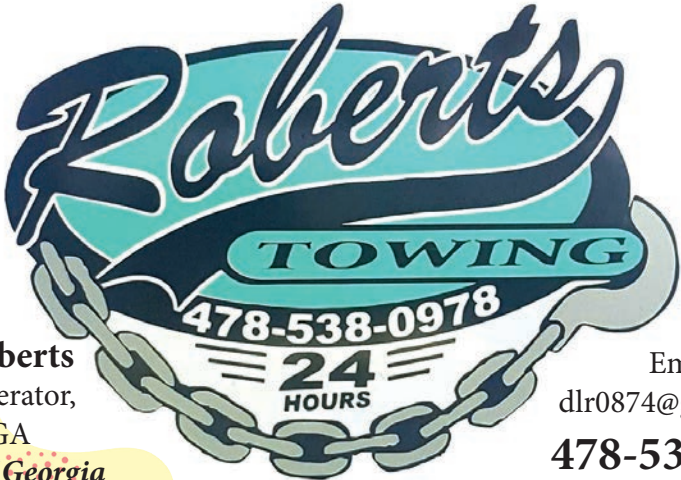
sales@theleadertribune.com

Premium Advertising Opportunity! 478-825-2432

Get your business featured on the Front Page!
Contact us to learn more about advertising in this
Front Page Top Banner spot.
Visible at the top of every newspaper rack.

Come out and enjoy
The Georgia Peach Festival!

One of the
PEACHIEST
Festivals Around!



David Roberts
Owner/Operator,
Byron, GA
Serving All of Georgia

Email:
dlr0874@gmail.com
478-538-0978



Rooks Funeral Home
"Serving All Middle Georgia Cemeteries"
Kerry, Marianne

**Proudly Supporting the
GA Peach Festival**

213 West Church Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030
109 West White Road, Byron, Georgia 31008
478-825-2424 or 478-956-4242
www.rooksfuneralhome.com

BARBOUR FARMS



COUNTRY STORE

Come out and see what we have to offer
during the Georgia Peach Festival!

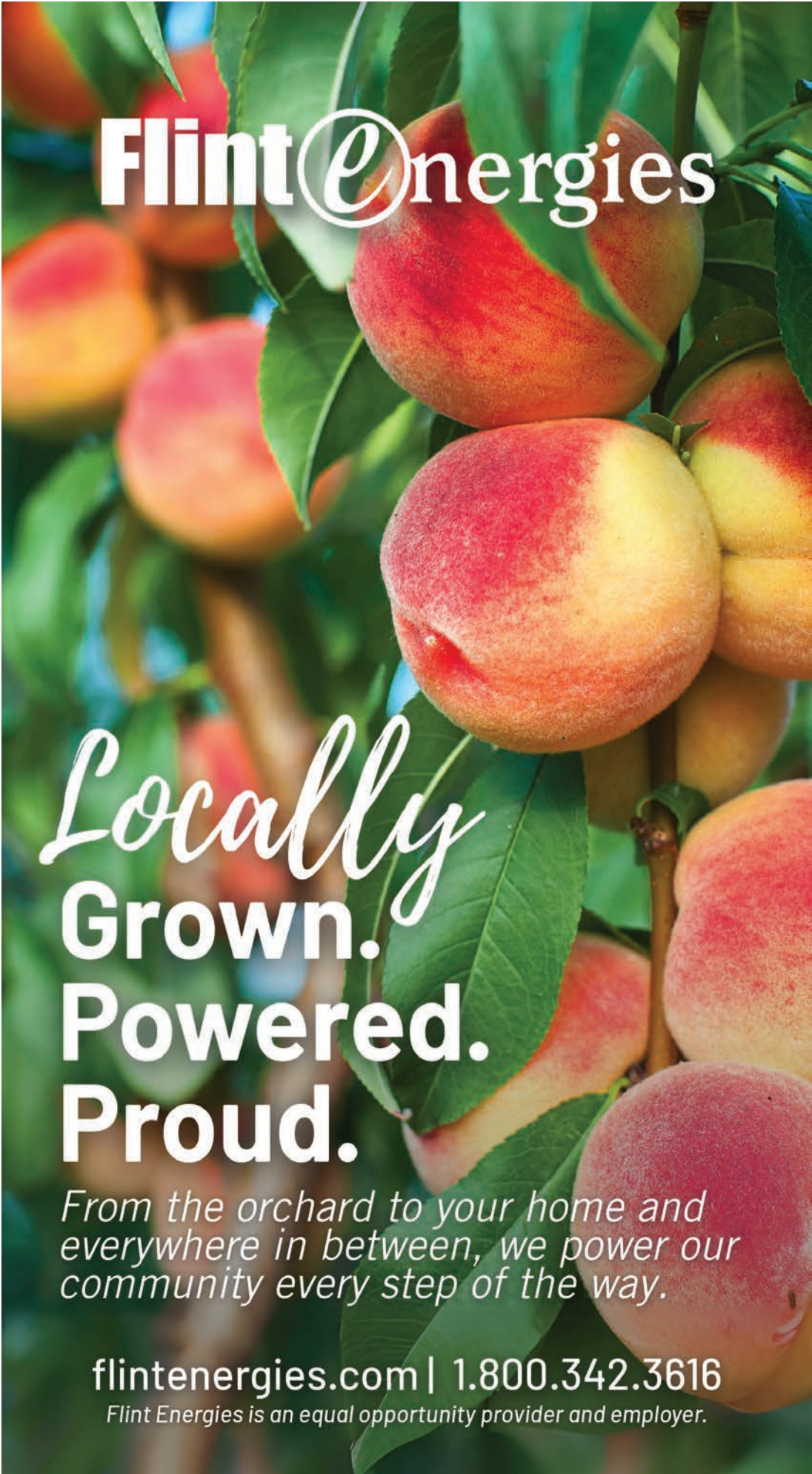
Fresh Peach or Blackberry Cobbler,
Peach or Strawberry Ice Cream, and Handmade Candies

235 GA Hwy 49 North, Byron (478) 956-2112
(Next to the Raceway gas station, one block west of I-75)

Proud to be supporting the
Georgia Peach Festival



500 Anthoine St, Fort Valley, GA 31030
Phone: (478) 825-7701 Fax: (478) 825-7704
www.fvutil.com



Flint  **Energies**

*Locally
Grown.
Powered.
Proud.*

From the orchard to your home and
everywhere in between, we power our
community every step of the way.

flintenergies.com | 1.800.342.3616
Flint Energies is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



TARATÍO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT



**COME BY
AND CHECK
OUT OUR
SPECIALS!**

Banquet Room
Reservations Accepted

**Come dine with us during
the GA Peach Festival!**

600 Vineville St • Fort Valley
(478) 827-0250