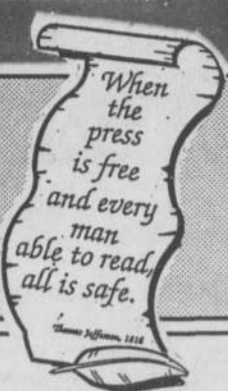


A flat tax sounds like a good idea from Where I Sit

Page 4A



Trojans try to bounce back with region game against tough Crisp County

Page 1B



Week's outlook: Sun should be around rest of week and warmer temps are on the way, too. Highs near 60 by week-end. Lows in 40s.

PEACH COUNTY

The Leader-Tribune

Vol. No. 106, Issue 4 14 pages

WHAT THE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WILL HURT THEM...

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1995

50 cents

P.M. PEACH



Camellia Festival blooms Feb. 10

Massee Lane Gardens will host the Fifth Annual Camellia Festival Feb. 10-19. The festival opens with the Candlelight and Camellia Ball on Friday, Feb. 10 and tickets must be purchased before Feb. 3 for the event. Also included in the festival is a golf tournament, workshops, tours of homes, art show and sale a play and the luncheon and spring fashion show. And of course there will be the camellias.



PACT auditions being extended

Auditions will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon and Sunday, Jan. 22, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Auditions will be held at the old Fort Valley High School. Please use the Riley Street entrance. Children K-7 are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Director Mary Hodnett at 825-3860.

Student workshop Jan. 31

The Peach County High School P.T.O. will hold a college financial aid workshop Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the school's cafeteria. There will be a presentation on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and college representatives will be present. Parents of college-bound students are urged to attend. For more information, call 825-0232. (More information on Page 3B)

Tag annex office opens

An annex tag office will be open at the Byron City Hall Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Wednesday, Feb. 1. The office will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday until the tag season is over. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Legion Auxiliary meets

There will be an organizational meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Jan. 26 beginning at 7 p.m. at the American Legion post on Hwy. 49. For more information, call Frances Joiner at 825-2901 or C.D. Hill at 825-2719.

FWMS P.T.O. meets

The Fort Valley Middle School P.T.O. will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the school. The public is invited.

Camellia golf Feb. 11

The Camellia Festival Golf Tournament is slated for Saturday, Feb. 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Pine Needles Country Club. The tourney will be a two-man scramble. Entry fee is \$25 per golfer with all proceeds going to benefit Massee Lane Gardens. For registration or further information, call (912) 825-3816.

Byron Library has classes

The Byron Library will be holding adult literacy classes and need adult readers willing to help learners. Tutor training sessions will be conducted and all necessary materials will be furnished by the literacy program. Learners with literacy needs as well as tutors-to-be are urged to contact Beverly Rogers, literacy specialist, at the Byron Library at 956-2200 (Tuesdays and Wednesday) or visit the library on West Church Street.

Driving course offered

The AARP's 55 Alive Driving Course is slated for Reynolds United Methodist Church Feb. 20-21 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Taking the course means a 10 percent discount on auto insurance. Cost of the course is \$8. For more information, call Jane Cook at 847-3595 or the church at 847-4535.

And the winners are: Lumpkin and Carson

Mullis, Taylor forced into runoff in county elections

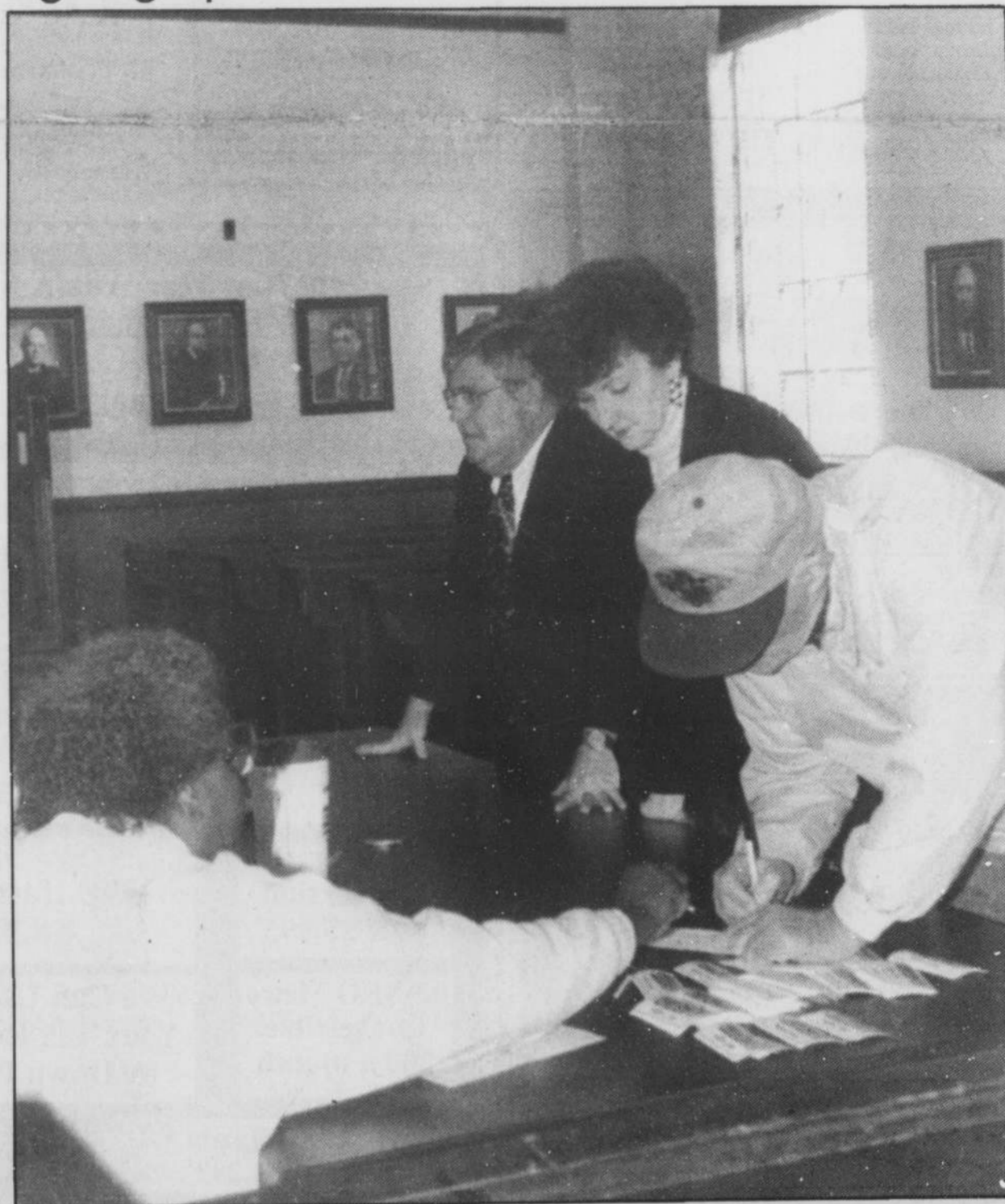
By CINDY MORLEY The Leader-Tribune

It finally happened in Peach County -- there was an election held. But it's not over yet. There's another election in two weeks -- a runoff for the Post 4 seat on the County Commission. However, winners were unofficially declared Tuesday night in the Post 2 County Commission and the Post 2 School Board races. Challenger Matt Mullis collected 447 total votes and forced a runoff with incumbent Jack Taylor in the Post 4 commission race. Taylor pulled in 317 votes. Another newcomer, Glenn Hardison tallied 267 votes. The closest race of the election, which had been called

off last November because of a redistricting suit, was for the School Board Post II seat. Incumbent Evangeline "Van" Carson regained her seat by garnering 396 votes to beat challengers Ruth Thompson (230 votes) and Evelyn McCray (160 votes). Carson missed a runoff with Thompson by a single vote. In the Post 2 County Commission race, incumbent Anna Lumpkin kept her seat with a 554 to 217 vote margin over challenger Bill Nichols. In uncontested races, Mike Gilstrap received 1,746 votes for the at-large School Board post he presently holds. School Board incumbent Bill Dick received 762 votes in Post 4. According to County Attorney Charlie Adams, every registered voter is allowed to vote in the Feb. 7 runoff

election whether they voted in the special election Tuesday. Winners will take office Thursday morning after vote results are declared official, according to Debbie Hunnicutt, election supervisor. "I'm so glad I made it," said Carson over her cheering crowd which had gathered at the rear of the courtroom. "I just want to thank all my supporters for the fine job they've done for the past eight months. That one vote is just as good as a thousand" Mullis said "I'll be glad when this is over. I just want to thank everyone for believing in me and showing their support." "I feel good about this, even with the runoff," said Taylor. "I want to thank everyone who had confidence in me and showed it with a vote."

Signing up...



Voters got an early start in Tuesday's special election. Officials said there was just a mediocre turnout for voting on positions on the County Commission and County School Board. (Photo by Cindy Morley)

Deputies grab nine in assault on drugs

By CINDY MORLEY The Leader-Tribune

A concentrated effort aimed at placing emphasis on local drug sales has netted nine arrests for Peach County deputies. According to Major Terry Deese, three people were arrested Jan. 10 and charged with trafficking cocaine after Capt. Craig Peavy of the Mid State Task Force found a bag containing more than eight ounces of crack cocaine on the floorboard of a Ford Taurus he stopped on Interstate 75. Deese said Mario Garcia, 23, Enrique Serrano, 23, and Vicki Serrano, 29, all of Naples, Fla. were charged with trafficking cocaine. Garcia was also charged with giving false information, expired tag and driving with a suspended license. Deese said Garcia consented to a search of his car, and officers found 964 pieces of \$20 blocks of cocaine and eight \$100 blocks in a McDonalds bag. Officers also seized \$2,200 in cash. "The three said they were at a rest area in Virginia when two men began fighting and one threw the bag down," said Deese. "They said they picked it up and left. They said they knew it had cocaine in it and could make a lot of money." Bond was set at \$25,000 each. All remain in Peach County Jail. Deputies Charlie Cannon and Cornelius executed a search warrant Jan. 12 at Lakeview Apartments and arrested Mark Handspike, 26, of Hollywood, Fla., and Spencer Statham, 25, of Fort Valley. Both were charged with possession of cocaine and released on \$1,500 bond. Dep. Cannon arrested Gary Simmons, 39, of College Street in Fort Valley, for possession of cocaine, possession of drug related objects and theft by taking on Jan. 17. In another incident, Lt. Mike Fennell arrested a (Continued on Page 2A)

City OKs rezoning for sports lounge

By CINDY MORLEY The Leader-Tribune

Fort Valley City Council members paved the way for a sports lounge and restaurant Tuesday night, but tabled a request to rezone property on Martin Luther King from commercial to residential. During its regular monthly meeting, council members voted unanimously to grant a special land use permit to Kenneth Walton to refurbish the old Kell Building on South Camellia Blvd. According to Walton, he plans to open a country-style, buffet restaurant on the first floor, a sports lounge on the second floor and a private club for business and civic meetings on the third floor. Walton said he is presently working to have the building added to the National Historic

Register. "The building must be 80 percent restored before consideration for the National Historic Register. It's 75 percent restored now," he said. After much conversation, the council tabled a request by Steve Prince and William Huckaby to rezone property on Martin Luther King from commercial to residential. Huckaby said the land was zoned residential several years ago, but was changed to commercial. "However, there seems to be more need for residential development here," he said. But Huckaby said he had no immediate plans for the land. At the request of Councilman Norman Fitzgerald, the request was tabled for 30 days. "I just don't feel comfortable with this," said Fitzgerald.

Library keeps fight alive at Council

Apparently, there's still hope for a new Peach County Library. Tuesday night, Library Director Gilda Stanbery-Cotney told members of the Fort Valley City Council that she had begun attempts to amend that state budget or become a line item in the state's 1996 budget. "I will try every way I know to get in the 1996 budget," she said. She told council members that Peach County's initial request for funding was "kicked out of the cycle this year after county commissioners refused to sign the application." "Without their signature on the application, we did not have a complete package," she said. "But, we have now added a footnote to the application stating that the county would not be responsible for funding of the construction or additions and we now have a signature." Stanbery-Cotney said the complete package has been forwarded to state officials. "We are hoping the state budget will be amended to include Peach County," she said. "That's something we'll have to wait and see." She said plans for a new library had been approved by the Library Board of Directors, as well as state officials.