

# OBITUARIES

## Franklin Deloss 'Buddy' Spradley

Franklin Deloss "Buddy" Spradley, 86, of Homerville passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026, at his residence after an extended illness.

He was born in Norman Park, GA to the late Mason Franklin and Ada Ruth Williams

Spradley. Mr. Spradley served in the Georgia National Guard. He started his working career with the Georgia Department of Transportation, followed by many years at Chambers Hardware, Willoughby Propane, Hughes Oil,



and retired from Akins Petroleum Company. Mr. Spradley was a member of Hillside Church of God in Valdosta. He always enjoyed working, traveling, and attending church activities.

Along with his parents he was preceded

in death by one grandson, Justin Spradley; one great-granddaughter, Blakely Addalynn Spradley; one brother, Oree Spradley; one sister, Eloise Yeomans.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-one and a half years, Nell Pittman Spradley; two sons, Tony Spradley (Cathy), and Keith Spradley all

of Homerville; three grandchildren, Blake Spradley of Waycross, Brett Spradley (Brooke) of Homerville, Emily Spradley of Homerville; two great-grandchildren, Bailey and Bexley Spradley; one sister, Betty Ruth White of Lake Park; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon, February 3, 2026, at 2 pm at New Vision Church of God. Burial will follow in Shiloh Cemetery.

Sympathy may be expressed online at [www.roundtreefuneralhome.net](http://www.roundtreefuneralhome.net).

Roundtree Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

## News from under the Gold Dome

This week, we advanced legislation that supports our teachers, protects homeowners, and helps children in

foster care.

To support our educators, Senate gave final passage to legislation carried over from last

session—the first bill of the 2026 legislative session to receive final passage from the General Assembly. If signed into law, SB 148 would bring several updates to Georgia's public schools. The bill would:

- Allow local school boards to offer hunting safety lessons for students in grades six through 12, and DNR would help the school boards develop this curriculum using its existing hunting education courses. This provision of the bill seeks to promote safety and responsibility among students who participate in this popular outdoor activity.
- Establish an outdoor learning center pilot program for elementary and secondary

schools to enhance educational environments by encouraging students and teachers to utilize learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom

- Increase the number of personal days public school personnel may use from accumulated sick leave from three to five days
- Remove the requirement for a physician to oversee automated external defibrillator (AED) programs in schools, which would make it easier for schools to obtain and use these life-saving devices in emergency situations.

- To protect Georgia's children, Senate Bill 402 moves forward a pilot program to provide autism screenings for children in foster care.

## Valdosta lawmaker Dexter Sharper accused of pandemic fraud

By Ty Tagami  
Capitol Beat News Service

Federal prosecutors have charged another Georgia lawmaker with making false statements to fraudulently obtain thousands of dollars of pandemic unemployment assistance.

Rep. Dexter Sharper, D-Valdosta, was arraigned on Friday on charges of making false statements to obtain \$13,825 in unemployment assistance benefits to which he was not entitled, according to U.S. Attorney Theodore Hertzberg of the Northern District of Georgia.

Sharper had filed federal forms during the pandemic asserting that he had one employer, Dexter Sharper Party Rental, and had not worked since March 13, 2020, filing certifications during the next 38 weeks that he had no income, Hertzberg's office said.

But prosecutors said he was receiving at least

\$325 a week from the Georgia General Assembly, generating up to \$2,231 in income a week from his party rental business, and collecting up to \$275 a week for work as a musician.

Sharper is the third Georgia state representative accused of defrauding the COVID-19 unemployment program.

Former Rep. Karen Bennet, D-Stone Mountain, pleaded guilty in federal court to making false statements to fraudulently obtain \$13,940 in federal emergency relief, Hertzberg's office said earlier this month.

And Rep. Sharon Henderson, D-Covington, was charged in December with making false statements to obtain \$17,811 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled. Henderson pleaded not guilty. Gov. Brian Kemp suspended her from office last week pending the outcome of her case or the end of her term.

## Russ Goodman STATE SENATOR



The Senate will reconvene on Monday, February 2, and will be in session through the end of the week on Friday. The pace of the session is expected to accelerate as committees continue to advance legislation and more measures come before the full Senate for floor votes. This is the time of year when much of the foundational work of the session takes shape, and long days of meetings and floor votes become the norm. I encourage you to

stay updated on future session proceedings and committee meetings—all live streamed on the General Assembly website, <https://www.legis.ga.gov/>.

*Sen. Russ Goodman represents Senate District 8 which includes Atkinson, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Pierce Counties and a large portion of Ware County. He may be reached at 404.656.7454 or at [russ.goodman@senate.ga.gov](mailto:russ.goodman@senate.ga.gov)*

To the Citizens of Clinch County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Diane Rogers

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR  
Leonard Burse, Jr.

As of Monday, February 2, 2026, the new operating hours for the action pact office in Clinch County will be 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Please call the office phone number at 912-422-5683 for assistance or you may leave a message, and your call will be returned by an Emergency Services Specialist at their earliest convenience.

Action pact office will be open to complete scheduled EAP appointments on the following dates:

February 5th and 6th  
March 16th

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## NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Homerville, at the request of Matthew Knopf, will, on Feb. 12, 2026 at 6p.m., at City Hall Council Chambers, hold and evidentiary hearing on the application of Matthew Knopf for a license to sell alcoholic beverages and distilled spirits for consumption on the premises at 577 West Dame Avenue at the business known as "FL Boys Cook Shack, LLC". Any persons supporting or contesting the application may attend and present evidence or testimony. A copy of the city ordinance on sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages may be obtained from the city clerk at City Hall.

**APPLICANT NAME:** Matthew Knopf  
**BUSINESS NAME/TYPE:** FL Boys Cook Shack LLC  
**BUSINESS LOCATION:** 577 West Dame Avenue  
Homerville, GA 31634

Samantha Rittenhouse,  
City Manager  
20 South College Street Suite A  
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(912) 487-2375