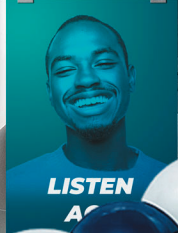


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APRIL 19-25



NCVIRW
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DA DISPATCH

APRIL 2026



Jean Willis
PANI T. WILLIS
Fulton County District Attorney

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MAY

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On Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office proudly joined the City of South Fulton, Connecting LINKS for Change, and other law enforcement agencies, for the 14th Annual "Stop the Violence Rally." This powerful initiative aimed to promote a safer, more united community. Attendees had access to a wide range of resources, including crime prevention tools, mental health support, de-escalation strategies, job opportunities, and youth-focused activities—highlighting a comprehensive, community-centered approach to addressing the root causes of violence. The event also featured food, music, and fun for all ages, making it both impactful and enjoyable for the entire family.

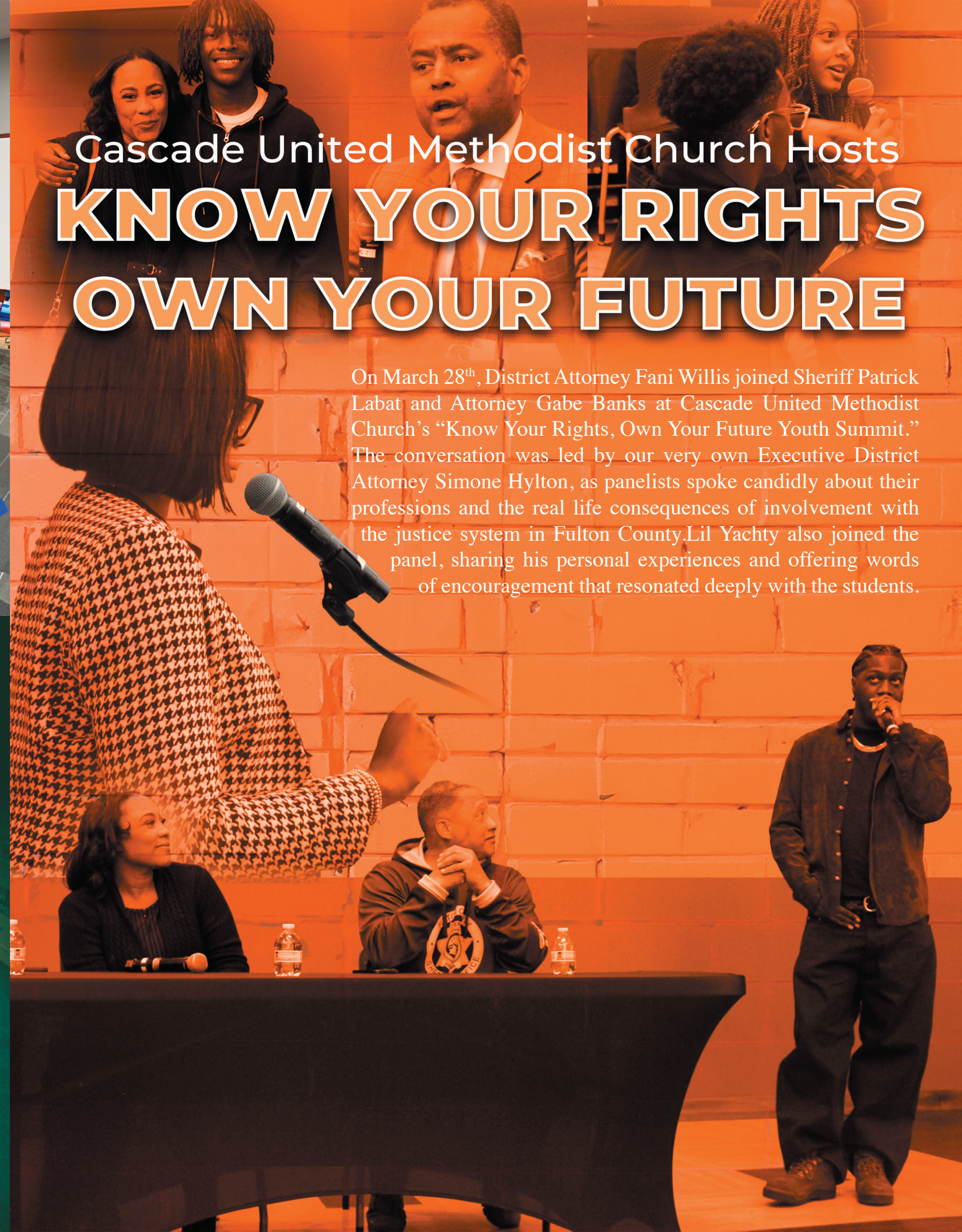
Event organizer Shirley Stembridge, who founded Links for Change in memory of her grandson, Devonte Stembridge Ford, emphasizes the personal stakes in this fight against violence. "This demonstration is a lifeline for our community to end the cycle of violence that took Devonte away from us. By uniting as a community, we're transforming pain into power and building a safer future for all our children."



CAREER DAY AT SEABORN LEE

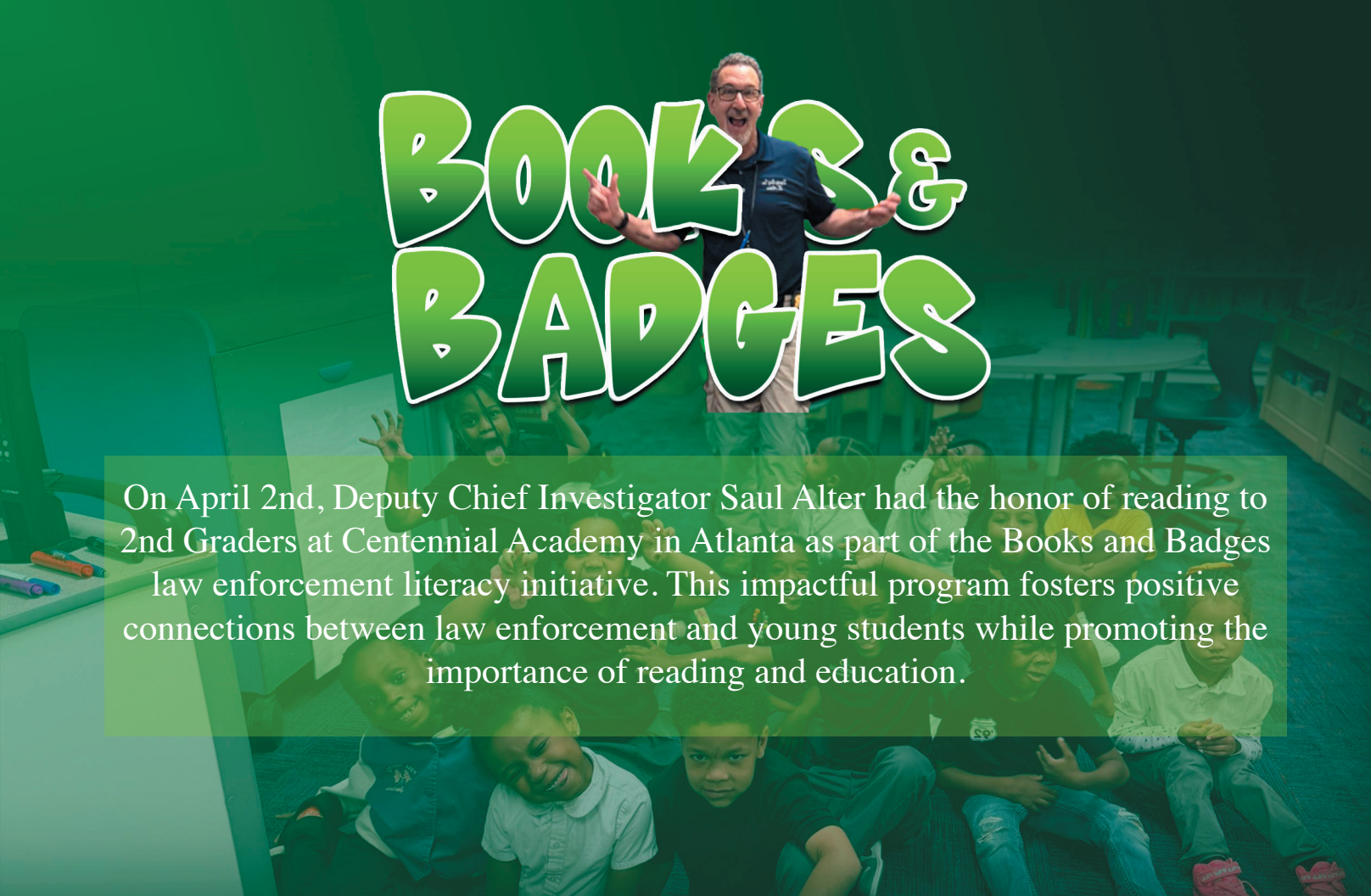
Chief Richard Randolph recently volunteered to speak with Mrs. White's 5th grade class at Seaborn Lee Elementary School. It was a rewarding experience connecting with the students and sharing insights about a career in law enforcement. He truly valued the opportunity to give back and invest in the next generation.

The students were attentive, engaged, and asked thoughtful questions throughout the visit. Moments like this highlight the importance of community outreach and mentorship. Chief Randolph looks forward to continuing to support opportunities that make a meaningful impact in our community.



Cascade United Methodist Church Hosts KNOW YOUR RIGHTS OWN YOUR FUTURE

On March 28th, District Attorney Fani Willis joined Sheriff Patrick Labat and Attorney Gabe Banks at Cascade United Methodist Church's "Know Your Rights, Own Your Future Youth Summit." The conversation was led by our very own Executive District Attorney Simone Hylton, as panelists spoke candidly about their professions and the real life consequences of involvement with the justice system in Fulton County. Lil Yachty also joined the panel, sharing his personal experiences and offering words of encouragement that resonated deeply with the students.



BOOKS & BADGES

On April 2nd, Deputy Chief Investigator Saul Alter had the honor of reading to 2nd Graders at Centennial Academy in Atlanta as part of the Books and Badges law enforcement literacy initiative. This impactful program fosters positive connections between law enforcement and young students while promoting the importance of reading and education.



WAVE + THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

We All Value Excellence (WAVE) hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4. Thanks to the generosity of our team, we raised nearly \$300 and received additional donations of candy and eggs. In total, we contributed 35 bags of candy, more than 250 eggs, and two giveaway baskets.

A live DJ kept the energy high, and the kids had a great time enjoying the festivities throughout the day.

A special thank you to Consuela and 1244 Ministries for their continued support and for donating 15 Easter baskets.

It was both fun and rewarding to give back to the community once again.

EASTER
eggstravaganza

Fulton County Employees' Association Women's History Month Meeting

On March 31st, the Fulton County Employees' Association celebrated Women's History Month at their monthly meeting, featuring District Attorney Fani Willis as the special guest speaker. She spoke about the vital role of the association's work in sustaining Fulton County, highlighting how their dedication serves the citizens and underpins the county's success. In return, Association members expressed their pride in her leadership and found her truly inspirational. The moment culminated in a heartfelt surprise when Willis's daughter introduced her, and she was presented with an award. The gathering ended on a high note, with renewed gratitude and a shared commitment to support one another and continue building a stronger, more equitable Fulton County.



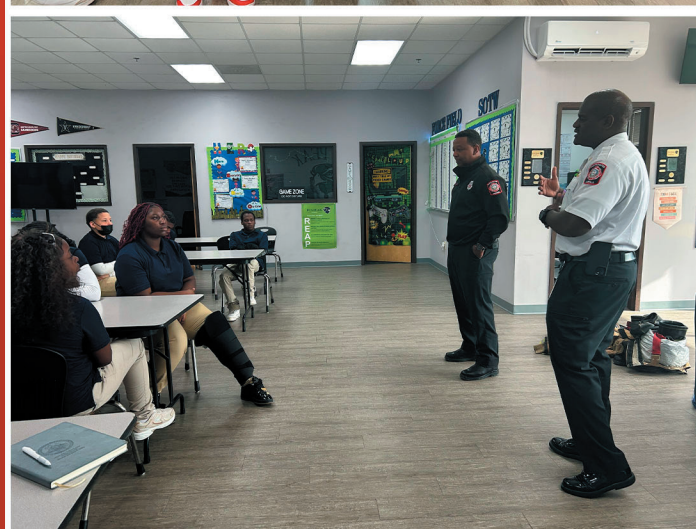
LAW CORNER

Recidivist Punishment for Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon by Christopher Sperry

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(a), if a Defendant has a prior felony and is convicted of a subsequent felony, then the trial court shall sentence the Defendant to the longest period of time prescribed by law, though the trial court may choose to probate or suspend such sentence. However, prosecutors need to be aware of an exception to this specific recidivist sub-section that occurs when the Defendant is convicted under O.C.G.A. §16-11-131, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. In such a situation, if the only prior felony that the Defendant has committed is the same felony used to establish the essential element of being a felon for the new offense, that conviction is "used up" and cannot be used as the basis for imposing punishment under O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(a). See *King v. State* 169 Ga. App. 444 (1984). To allow otherwise would essentially remove the sentencing range of 1-10 years and impose a mandatory ten year sentence in all Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon cases. However, prosecutors should be aware of the limited holding of *King* in relation to other recidivist sub-sections when the trial court or opposing counsel claim that the prior conviction has been "used up" for recidivist purposes. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(c), a Defendant with three or more prior felony convictions that has been noticed of the State's intent to seek recidivist punishment shall serve whatever confinement portion of the sentence is imposed by the trial court. The Georgia Supreme Court has held that the "used up" analysis under O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(a) does not apply to O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(c) because the trial court still has the discretion to sentence within the sentencing range. *State v. Slaughter* 289 Ga. 344 (2011). Additionally, O.C.G.A. §17-10-7(c) does not apply to convictions under O.C.G.A. §16-11-133(b), Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon During Certain Enumerated Crimes. *Washington v. State* 311 Ga. App. 518 (2011).

FIRE at PEAK ACADEMY

On March 31st, South Fulton Fire visited Peak Academy in Union City to speak with our REACH youth about careers in firefighting, as well as to provide valuable instruction on first aid and CPR. Female students were also introduced to summer program opportunities designed to encourage their interest in the field.



Reach Welcomes Students

from *New England*

On March 27, 2026, our REACH Team and students welcomed a group from Walker Riverside Academy in Newcastle, located in the North East region of England.

Each year, the school brings students to Atlanta, Georgia to experience American culture. During their visit, they spend a week attending classes at Dunwoody High School. For the past two years, they have also dedicated a day to connect with our REACH students, learning about the judicial system, the REACH program, and building meaningful peer relationships.

Last year, students collaborated on entrepreneurship activities, developing and presenting their own business pitches. This year, they were able to spend the entire day together.

The day began at the Juvenile Court building, followed by a visit to the Superior Court where they had the opportunity to meet with Madam DA. Students introduced themselves, shared their career aspirations, and engaged in a thoughtful Q&A session.

The group then visited the newly renovated Center for Civil and Human Rights, enjoyed a picnic on the lawn, and concluded the day at the Georgia Aquarium, where they experienced a behind-the-scenes dolphin presentation.

Several students exchanged contact information and expressed excitement about staying in touch. It was truly a memorable and impactful day.



LAW DAY

JUVENILE COURT



REACH “A Day in the Life” is a youth led panel hosted by District Attorney Fani T. Willis and the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, featuring Juvenile Court judges, attorneys, court staff, and community partners. Following the youth led discussions, Juvenile Justice professionals sat down with small groups of four to five students to share their career paths and explain how their roles connect to the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Facilitators then guided participants through a hands on service project, where youth worked together to give back to the community. Activities included writing letters to the elderly, creating short children’s books, designing art for justice involved youth, crafting encouragement cards for kindergarteners, and writing letters of advice to fifth graders. Lunch was provided for all participants, creating space for meaningful conversation during the chat and chew portion of the day. The program concluded with each youth moderator offering words of encouragement to the middle school participants and guests, leaving them inspired and empowered.



Congratulations **YOLANDA SHORTHOUSE**

Recognized for her contributions through the Reach Program to the students at Benjamin E. Mays High School.



Congratulations **MICHAEL WEBB**

Successfully completed HLS4X: Bioethics: The Law, Medicine, and Ethics of Reproductive Technologies and Genetics at HarvardX.



GRANTS CORNER

Former inmate receives a second chance as a Spalding County firefighter, thanks to the FCDA's Conviction Integrity Unit
by Michelle Henry

With funding from the grant titled "Improving Adult Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program," the Conviction Integrity Unit at FCDA, led by Deputy District Attorney Aimee Maxwell, is helping provide individuals with opportunities for early release. The CIU is working in partnership with the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and this innovative program provides individualized reentry plans for participants selected and approved by DA Willis for a second chance.

Damien Hill spent nearly 20 years behind bars and, during his final three years, trained for his new role. He is the first inmate firefighter from Spalding County Correctional Institution to be hired. Warden Eric Sellers noted that the selection process sets a very high standard for physical fitness, academic aptitude, attitude, and work ethic.

This CIU program will serve as a model not only for providing in depth, individualized services, but also for other prosecution offices seeking to reduce recidivism in their communities. DA Willis is one of the few prosecutors with a dedicated reentry team. For more information, please contact Katrina Parks in the CIU unit.

THE YOU AWARDS INTERNATIONAL

On March 27th, District Attorney Fani Willis delivered special remarks at the 11th Annual You Awards International. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to uplifting and recognizing young people who make meaningful contributions to their communities but are often overlooked.

In a time when negative headlines often dominate, the organization works to bring positive stories and achievements to the forefront by highlighting extraordinary youth. DA Willis congratulated the eight award recipients and offered each of them personalized words of encouragement as they continue to make a lasting impact.



WILEY UNIVERSITY *honors convocation*



On April 7, 2026, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney L'shaunteé Robertson served as the keynote speaker for Wiley University's Honors Convocation in Marshall, Texas. Centered on the theme "To Be Called," she encouraged honor students to embrace their purpose, even when the path feels challenging, reminding them that there are communities, systems, and spaces that need their presence and leadership.

The day prior, she also met with the University's Pre Law Society, where she engaged with students during a meet and greet, offering insight into law school, the legal profession, and the realities of practicing criminal law while thoughtfully answering their questions.



SOCIOLOGY CLASSES AT GEORGIA STATE

On Thursday, April 2, 2026, Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah of the Domestic Violence Unit and Family Justice Center Site Coordinator Melissa Arthur led two sociology classes at Georgia State University, hosted by Professor Cory Albertson.

During their sessions, they engaged students in meaningful discussions on domestic violence, including topics such as power and control, the cycle of abuse, and the serious impact of strangulation. The presentations also included a case study, providing students with a real-world perspective on the complexities of these cases.



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

On Saturday, April 11, 2026, Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah and Assistant District Attorney Jazmin Dilligard co-presented a Teen Dating Violence workshop for the Little Ladies of MECCA, a program of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women – MECCA Chapter. The workshop was held at Bethel United Methodist Church.

During the session, they educated participants on healthy relationships, the cycle of abuse, and the dynamics of power and control. The workshop also included an interactive activity that encouraged engagement and reinforced these important concepts.



HISTORY MAKERS



The Fulton County District Attorney's Office is proud of the role it played in the successful passage of House Bill 1283, comprehensive legislation that establishes a statutory framework for coordinated, survivor-centered services in Family Justice Centers. Guided by the vision of District Attorney Fani Willis to establish a Center in Fulton County, our office worked collaboratively to advance this legislation. We are especially grateful to Representative Esther Panitch of District 51 for her leadership in carrying this bill, and to Senator Randy Robertson for sponsoring it in the Senate. The legislation passed unanimously through all committees and was approved unanimously in both the House and Senate, reflecting strong bipartisan support.

With the enactment of HB1283, Georgia joins a growing number of states to legislatively authorize Family Justice Centers and sets a model for comprehensive, victim-centered legislation nationwide. Georgia is the first state to include statutory protections for FJC related victims' privacy in criminal discovery, provisions allowing law enforcement to respond to emergencies outside their home jurisdictions, and civil protections for nonprofit employees and volunteers operating within a governmentally authorized center. The bill was further strengthened in the Senate through the addition of Representative Karen Lupton's rape kit preservation measure, extending the retention period for unreported sexual assault evidence from 12 months to 10 years.

These advancements will streamline access to critical services, reduce repeat calls for service, and improve outcomes for survivors. This progress reflects the leadership of District Attorney Fani Willis and the valued partnership of the Cobb, Macon, and Waycross Family Justice Centers. Special recognition is owed to Aimee Maxwell, Angela Johnson, Asia Baysah, Consuela Boyer, Daysha Young, Jill Hollander, Julianna Peterson, Kendall Watkins, Mahkayla Grogan, Melissa Arthur, Michele Henry, and Simone Hylton for their work in making this achievement possible.

WE DID IT!



Administrative PROFESSIONALS CELEBRATION 2026



On April 22, 2026, we celebrated Administrative Professionals Day with a fun and a assortment of food! Our incredible administrative team enjoyed Maggianos, played games for prizes, and were even surprised with gift cards as a token of appreciation. To all of our amazing admin professionals — thank you for the dedication, organization, and heart you bring to the office every single day. We couldn't do it without you!

LEGAL ASSISTANT LEADERSHIP



Quinnasha
PRITCHETT

EXECUTIVE LEGAL ASSISTANT



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

On Saturday, April 25, our team hosted a Community Baby Shower in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and it was an overwhelming success.

What began just days before the event with less than \$200 quickly turned into an outpouring of generosity, with more than \$4,000 raised to support families in need. Because of these collective efforts, we were able to serve more than 250 families, providing essential baby items and a warm meal for each attendee.

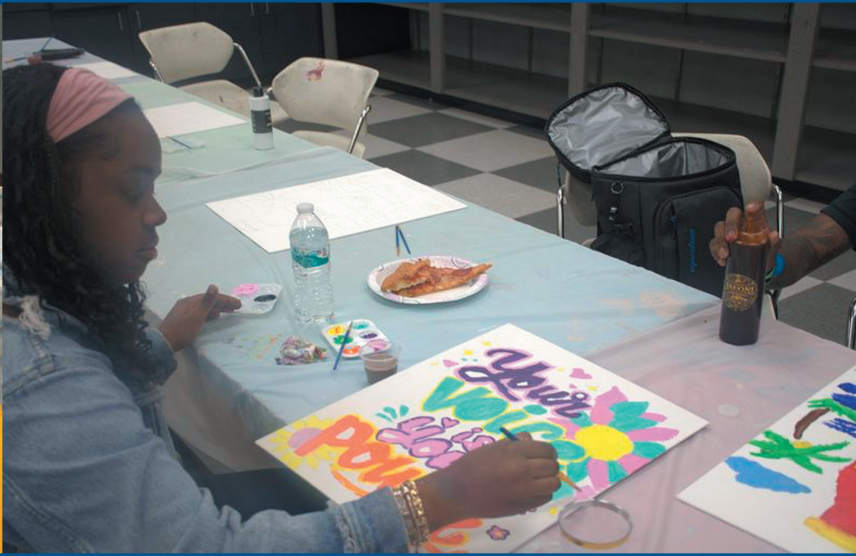
A special thank you to Chef Jason Aaron, who once again donated food and helped ensure families were well fed throughout the event.



We are also incredibly grateful to the Ludacris Foundation for donating three new bassinets and 80 bags filled with newborn essentials, as well as to 1244 Ministries for their generous contribution of over \$650 in diapers and wipes.

This event was made possible by the dedication, compassion, and generosity of our team and community partners. Together, we were able to make a meaningful impact and support families when they need it most.



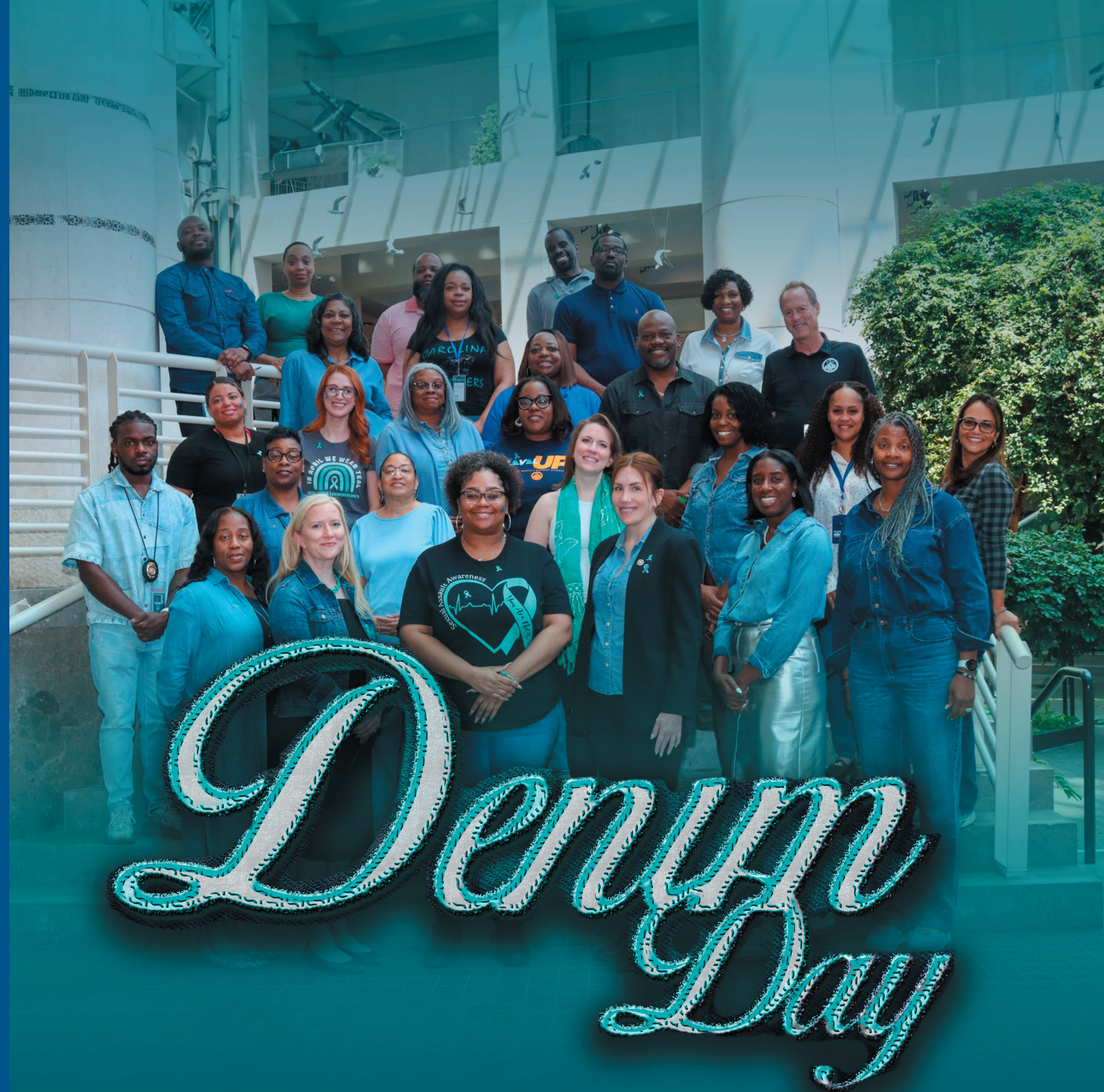


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Denim Day is a day in April encouraging people to wear jeans to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault. In the 1990s, an Italian court overturned a ruling that dismissed an incident as not sexual assault because the victim wore tight jeans. This implied that the victim would have had to help the perpetrator remove the jeans and was therefore consensual. Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in protest on the steps of the Supreme Court. This gained international attention and inspired the California Senate and Assembly to do the same. In 1999, Patti Occhiuzzo Giggans, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, created the first Denim Day event in LA to shatter myths about why women and girls are raped. On Monday, April 27, 2026, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office wore denim to stand in solidarity with all survivors.

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER



The Joy of Life: Simple Steps for a Happier You by Ilona Rolack, M. Sc.

Life can sometimes feel like a whirlwind of stress and responsibilities, especially in the line of work that we do. Fighting crime makes it easy to overlook the little things that bring us joy. But joy isn't just a fleeting feeling; it's something we can nurture and cultivate in our everyday lives. One of the simplest ways to boost your mood is by practicing gratitude. Taking a moment each day to think about what you're thankful for can really shift your perspective. You might want to keep a gratitude journal where you jot down a few things that made you smile—maybe it's your morning gourmet coffee, a call on the way to work with a friend, a hike up Stone Mountain, listening to your favorite beats, or simply having dinner with your family. Focusing on the positives can help you appreciate what you have rather than what you lack.

Connect with your loved ones. Strong relationships are key to our happiness. Make it a point to connect with family and friends regularly. Whether it's a quick phone call, a text, or planning Sunday brunch, spending time with those you care about can create joyful moments. Share a laugh, reminisce about old times, or simply enjoy each other's company. Those connections can really light up your day.

Helping others as we all know also brings a wonderful sense of joy to your life. When you give, your body releases endorphins, which are often referred to as "feel-good" hormones. Endorphins are neurotransmitters that help reduce pain and induce feelings of pleasure or euphoria. They are your body's natural way of coping with stress and pain, and their release can lead to a sense of happiness and well-being. Madam DA encourages us to give back to the community, emphasizing that acts of kindness and service create a meaningful impact not only on those we help but also on ourselves. Volunteering, mentoring, or participating in community events can foster a sense of belonging and purpose. Engaging in these activities not only uplifts others but also enhances your own happiness, reinforcing that rewarding feeling of making a difference. The more you give, the more endorphins are released, creating a cycle of joy that enriches your life and the lives of those around you.

Bringing joy into your life doesn't have to be complicated. It's often found in the little things we do each day. By practicing gratitude, getting outside and connecting with loved ones, you can create a life that's rich in joy. So take a moment to explore what resonates with you, and let happiness flourish in your everyday experiences!

CONVICTION ALERTS



State vs. Keenan Williams

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Team! In the case of State vs. Keenan Williams, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge September Guy in DeKalb County will set a sentencing date.

Executive District Attorney Simone Hylton
Assistant District Attorney Michelle Andrews
Deputy Chief Investigator Greg Thomas
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Lucia Williams
Deputy Legal Assistant Patrice Stewart



State vs. Mamadi Tambajang

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Team! In the case of State vs. Mamadi Tambajang, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Emily Richardson Sentenced the Defendant to Life with the Possibility of Parole + 20 Years to Serve Consecutive.

Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah
Assistant District Attorney Jazmine Dilligard
Investigator Shealane Smith
Senior Victim Witness Advocate Dorsey Jones
Deputy Legal Assistant Tiffany Horton



State vs. Julian Terry

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Julian Terry, the Defendant was found guilty of Trafficking Methamphetamine. Judge Robert McBurney Sentenced the Defendant to 20 Years to Serve 15.

Assistant District Attorney Aleeya Smith
Assistant District Attorney Tangelita Bush
Senior Investigator Aminah Dickerson
Legal Assistant Gabrielle Waterman



State vs. Shawn Bowens

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Shawn Bowens, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Aggravated Assault, Terroristic Threats, and Possession of a Firearm During a Commission of a Felony. Judge David Emerson Sentenced the Defendant to 6 Years to Serve.

Assistant District Attorney Tangelita Bush
Assistant District Attorney Averiel Jackson
Assistant District Attorney Trinity Brown
Deputy Chief Investigator Trina Swanson Lucas
Senior Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill
Senior Legal Assistant Kudonna Porter



State vs. Elkeeno Williams

Congratulations to the Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Elkeeno Williams, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault. The Judge will Sentence the Defendant at a later Date.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Adriane Love
Deputy District Attorney Grant Rood
Senior Assistant District Attorney Maria Washington
Assistant Chief Investigator Ranetta Cruse
Lieutenant Investigator Kevin Lewis
Lieutenant Investigator Darnell Kennedy
Director Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rolack
Deputy Legal Assistant Lora Andrews



State vs. Michael Aikens

Congratulations to the CAC Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Michael Aikens, the Defendant was found guilty of Aggravated Sodomy and Child Molestation. Judge Thomas Cox Sentenced the Defendant to 25 Years to Serve with Life on Probation.

Chief Senior District Attorney Dion Peoples
Assistant District Attorney Trinity Brown
Senior Investigator Bryony Harris
Victim Witness Advocate Christen Clarke
Legal Assistant Cassie Lundy



State vs. Jose Figueroa

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Team! In the case of State vs. Jose Figueroa, the Defendant pled guilty on all counts including Rape, Aggravated Sodomy, and Exploitation of a Disabled Person. Judge Alexandra Manning Sentenced the Defendant to 25 Years in Prison.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Travis Thomas
Assistant District Attorney JaCelynn Porter
Senior Investigator Harry Stephens
Senior Victim Witness Advocate Dorsey Jones
Chief Legal Assistant Priscilla Allmond