

GOING SOLAR ON THE COAST

Midway's Modivo Kadalei and Coastal Solar have built the largest in-ground solar array for a private home in Liberty County.

Patty Leon



Midway man powering home with sun

BY PATTY LEON

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Midway resident Modivo Kadalei is tuning into the sun to power his Midway residence.

"We must change our relationship with the natural world," said Kadalei, who drives a Prius and preaches sustainability. "I try not to degrade the environment. I think people can learn to live in a society that helps the environment."

Kadalei contacted Coastal Solar Company of Hinesville and teamed up with company representative Candler Boyd. The result is the largest in-ground solar array for a private residence in Liberty County.

"This will be able to power about 95 percent of my home," Kadalei said.

Power from the sun is among the fastest growing clean and renewable resources.

"We are on the cusp of really exploding," Boyd said about the company's recent growth. "I think the East Coast, especially North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, is starting to realize the relevance and significance of solar power in this part of the country."

Kadalei said he plans to purchase a battery backup system so he will have electricity during outages. And Kadalei said there is also the bonus of getting a little return on his investment.

"Any energy generated above the need of the home

gets sold back to Georgia Power," Keith Freeman of Coastal Solar said.

"They pay less money than we what we pay when we have to purchase power from them," Kadalei noted, saying it's another way big energy companies try to maintain control. "They de-incentivize people from trying."

"As opposed to the West Coast, our rates (the rates in the state of Georgia), the per kilowatt hour rates that our grid providers pay is nothing like it is out on the west coast or in New England," Boyd admitted, but said it is a starting point and a plus for those who invest in solar systems.

Freeman said it took two weeks for the installation to be complete.

He said the research that

goes into the installations is a bit longer.

"Typically we talk to the customers and see what the needs are," Freeman said adding they review a year's worth of energy consumption to define the scope and design of the installation.

Freeman joined the company in July 2016 but has been in the industry since 2000.

He said installation prices dropped dramatically about 18 months ago and since then business has been booming across the nation.

Coastal Solar has been at the forefront of that recent growth by creating a business model to allow for flexibility in designs and concepts. By thinking outside the box

SUN continues on 3A

Captures suspect

BY LEWIS LEVINE
Senior correspondent

The Liberty County Sheriff's Office captured a Midway man Tuesday wanted for an aggravated assault last week.

According to Liberty County Detective Maj. Jeff Hein, Joseph Hudson assaulted a woman Friday night on Isle of Wight near Midway.

Hudson then led deputies on a high speed chase during which he bailed out from his vehicle and ran into a marsh.

Hudson was captured after returning to her home Tuesday evening.

Hudson also returned to the woman's home Tuesday morning. She was able to call 911 before Hudson allegedly broke her phone.

He again ran into woods, where various agencies continued to search for him Tuesday.

At one point, the Georgia State Patrol dispatched a helicopter to aid in the search, as well as a drone flying at low levels.

Authorities considered Hudson armed and dangerous, according to Hein.

Victim ID'd

BY LEWIS LEVINE
Senior correspondent

The soldier killed in a motorcycle crash on Gen. Screven Way has been identified as Pierre Ross, 25, according to Liberty County Coroner Reggie Pierce. The soldier's rank and hometown were not released.

Ross was reportedly on his way to work Friday morning when his motorcycle struck a car turning left from Gause Street onto Gen. Screven. Charges against that driver are pending.

Outside audit gives Hinesville clean bill of financial health

BY JEFF WHITTEN

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For the second straight year an outside auditor has given the city of Hinesville a clean bill of financial health.

The city government had what auditors call a "clean opinion with no audit findings," for the 2016 fiscal year ending Oct. 31, according to David Irwin with the firm of Mauldin and Jenkins, CPAs.

That's the second consecutive

year the city came away without a blemish on its audit, he said.

"This is what you want," Irwin said Thursday as he presented the city's 2016 comprehensive annual financial report to city council members. "This speaks volumes about the job done by your staff."

The 36-page report provides a detailed look at the city's finances and is available on the city's website at www.cityofhinesville.org.

The report shows that in its general administration the city

brought in about \$18 million in revenue — the bulk of it taxes in one form or the other, including \$7.9 million in property taxes — and spent slightly more than \$17.6 million on everything from public safety (\$9.8 million) to public works (\$1.6 million).

In a separate fund, the city took in roughly \$12 million in fees to operate its water, sewer, sanitation and storm water utilities.

Hinesville listed expenditures of more than \$13 million to operate those services, but Irwin

said more than \$2.5 million of that was due to depreciation of facilities, so there was no operating loss.

He praised the work of financial director Kim Ryon and her staff.

In other business Thursday:

Council approved a budget amendment to move \$374,000 in SPLOST funds to the general fund. The money will cover \$229,000 in debt service on bonds issued in 2009 for the new city hall, \$95,000 for public safety vehicles and \$50,000 for road

improvements. The city put the items in the budget before voters approved the new special location option sales tax in November.

That SPLOST includes \$1 million for public safety vehicles.

Council also approved an amendment to shift \$154,000 in SPLOST funds to the police budget to cover the purchase and installation of a new generator.

Additionally, council members approved an amendment to spend \$12,000 for tablets and software for their use.

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WEIGH IN

Who do you blame for controversy surrounding school board?

www.coastalcourier.com/poll

a very active member of Elim Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Ray and Gussie McGowan Ray. She was also preceded in death by Billy Leon Sr. and John Raleigh Purvis, also brothers, Hiram Ray, Elmer Ray, Millen Ray and Armand Ray.



She is survived by her children, Billy Leon Jr., Lisa Beck (David) and Dalene Moore (John); four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and two grand-fur babies; as well as her brothers, E.S. Ray, Ruben Ray and Byron Ray; along with her personal assistant and friend, Ms. Lois Mason.

Funeral services were Tuesday morning, May 23, at Elim Baptist Church with the Rev. Darrell Joiner officiating. Visitation was an hour prior to the service. Burial followed in Elim Baptist Church Cemetery.

Carter Funeral Home Oglethorpe Chapel was in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at www.carteroglethorpe.com.

Coastal Courier (Hinesville, Ga.)
Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Sign the online Legacy guest book at coastalcourier.com

SIDNEY VERNELL JACKSON SR.

Mr. Sidney Vernell Jackson Sr., 51, passed away Tuesday, May 16, 2017, in Brooklyn, New York.

He was born on Jan. 19, 1966, to Josh McCants and Evelyn Jackson in Brooklyn. He was a member of Holy Revelation Baptist Church in New York.

He leaves to cherish his memories two sons, Sidney V. Jackson Jr. and Shaquell Jackson, both of Brooklyn; parents, Josh McCants and Evelyn Jackson, both of Brooklyn; one sister, Paula Jackson of Brooklyn; six aunts, Ella Minnieweather of Midway, Albertha Anderson of Hinesville, Gladys Jackson of Brooklyn, Annie Craig of Riceboro, Barbara Jackson of Hinesville and Patricia Narane of Kansas; one granddaughter, Brianna Jackson; and a host of cousins other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, May 29, at First Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1642 Barrington Ferry Road, Riceboro.

Interment will be in First Zion Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Riceboro.

Dorchester Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Coastal Courier (Hinesville, Ga.)
Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Sign the online Legacy guest book at coastalcourier.com

Columnists wanted

The Coastal Courier is looking for people who have a gift for telling stories. Get your name in print by becoming a community columnist.

For more information, email Jeff Whitten at jwhitten@coastalcourier.com.

Commissioner Mark Williams has announced that state's territorial waters will close to commercial and recreational oyster harvest effective 6 a.m. June 1 through midnight on Sept. 30.

A similar closure occurred last year to meet Georgia's Vibrio parahaemolyticus control plan.

Vp is naturally occurring bacteria found in filter-feeding shellfish. It occurs at higher concentrations during the months of the year when coastal water temperatures are warm.

According to the Centers for

Thorough cooking of oysters and other shellfish will generally destroy all bacteria including

"This closure ensures that Georgia meets new requirements of National Shellfish Sanitation program to protect public health by implementing a Vp control plan," explained Dominic Guadagnoli, shellfish fishery manager for the Coastal Resources Division. He expects this closure to have an adverse impact on recreational and commercial oyster harvesting since most individuals refrain from eating freshly-harvested oysters.

LONG COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Photo provided

Delton Ray receives a Bible at the Long County High School's annual Baccalaureate Service recognizing graduates Sunday. The voluntary service was at the high school cafeteria with standing room only for guests. Seniors marched in as "Onward Christian Soldiers" was sung. The speaker was the Rev. Jacob Gardner. Benediction was given by the Rev. Brian Smith. Music was led by Price Chapman. Each senior who participated received a Bible. LCHS's graduation is at 8 p.m. Friday on Veterans Field.

TODAY
MAY 24

THURSDAY
MAY 25

FRIDAY
MAY 26

SATURDAY
MAY 27

These readings are at various locations throughout the county. For more information, call 912-834-1234.

Solar power can reduce home's carbon footprint

Sun continued from 1A

Coastal Solar managed to develop designs to power industrial, residential and agricultural businesses.

"We feel very fortunate to be part of this industry," Boyd, who calls Kadalei a friend said. "We are a service oriented industry and we are here to provide a service...profit is a byproduct. If we make our people happy...the Lord will bless us and everything else will be taken care of."

Solar installation helps to reduce the carbon footprint caused by the fossil fuels used in conventional power plants.

That is reason enough for Kadalei.

"We will soon kill off the environment taking people with it," said the Riceboro native who has traveled across the globe. "I have been around the world and have seen how people live. Some people try, others don't. Some people are just trying to make money while others are trying hard to care (for the environment)."

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