

NEW

The News Observer Has **NEW EMAIL Addresses!**

our email has changed to **editor@ganewsobserver.com**

**Please be advised and update your contact of The News Observer.

The News Observer

"Local news means the world to us."

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

The Legal Organ of Dooly County; serving Byromville, Dooling, Lilly, Pinehurst, Unadilla and Vienna.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 03, 2025

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

School Board Accepts Resignation of School Nutrition Director Donna Coats 2

Dooly Co. Veterans Museum Honors Vietnam Vets 2

FA Middle School Baseball Team Completes Perfect Season with 15-0 Record 6

Dooly's Varsity Soccer Teams Undefeated in last Week's Matches 06 Obituaries ... 3 Community Calendar 3 Legals 5

Council Hears Details of Recent Timber Ridge Drug Bust

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Captain Jack Wood informed the council of the details surrounding a recent drug bust that occurred the weekend of March 23 at the Timber Ridge Apartment parking lot, "I saw two guys sitting in a black Nissan and they were smoking marijuana. It got my attention so I got out and I could smell the marijuana. One thing I could say about the two guys (identified as Malik Burns and Antavius Merrell). I've never seen anybody be so honest. They gave me no trouble, they cooperated and when I asked them about the marijuana, they said, 'Yes sir, we just put it out.' I said, 'Can I see it?' and they showed me. All the drugs that I retrieved were handed to me by them. I didn't have to search the car and

they had marijuana and cocaine. So, they were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and it was crack cocaine. It was in one single bag and they actually had the price written on it. I didn't have to draw my gun and they didn't draw a crowd or anything and everybody cooperated. After that, I called the county to transport and then I found the money totaling a little over \$11,900. The one thing I was proud of is, I didn't have to pull my weapon and there was no resistance."

Interim Police Chief Castonio Lucas also stated that due to a lack of manpower he requested that all, "The parks shut down at 8:00 p.m."

Following discussion, the council agreed to change the

curfew at all city parks that had been set for 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. due to a lack of manpower at the police department. Officer Lucas continued, "People that own their property, they've got the right to have a gathering, but whenever that gathering is out of control, that's where we come in. We're going to shut it down and they will be charged, no questions asked." Also due to a problem with radio calls, it was suggested that the city consider going back to using analog radios for better communication. City Clerk Margaret Shelley recommended and the council agreed to hire Jamie Ward who lives in Vienna, Ga. as a cash collections clerk. Officials also addressed concerns

DRUG BUST
CONTINUED PG 5APhoto Contributed
Marijuana, crack cocaine and drug money confiscated during a recent drug bust in the Timber Ridge Apartment parking lot.

Dooly Campground Tabernacle Restoration Underway



Photo and article by Beth English

Work has begun on the historic Tabernacle at Dooly Campground. The board of trustees is grateful for the more than \$20,000 in donations that have been generously given by people whose lives have been touched. But more is needed to restore this special structure. Gifts can be mailed to Dooly Campground Box Seven Vienna, Ga. 31092.

Council-Mayor Working to Make Unadilla, "Jewel of the County"

Photo by Tim Franzén
Mayor Myron Mixon

By Mayor Myron Mixon

I want to update you on the new progress that is being made in our great city. East Railroad Street going towards the state prison resurfacing project will begin before the summer. I'd like to thank Senator Larry Walker for his help in obtaining these emergency funds to fix this eroded roadway.

Next we also received special LMIG funds to resurface Duncan Street, a street that has needed attention for decades. This project will start in the next couple of months.

Since I became mayor in 2016, the city council and myself have engaged in an aggressive street resurfacing campaign. Our citizens deserve better roadways and they're getting them one street at a time, sometimes two at a time like this year.

Another update is on our new city splash pad for our kids. We put money in our new SPLOST fund to build a state of the art splash pad and we're now looking at contractors to get ideas on what we want.

This is the type of thing that our youth need to make their summers fun.

I also want to let you know the contract was approved to repair the floor at the Unadilla Blue Devil Gym, and should be completed before summer. Again this will be a big plus to our summertime activities for the kids.

One last update on the new truckstop coming. I talked to the demolition manager for the project and he said tear down will begin in April, that includes the old truckstop, old fuel tanks, old asphalt, and the old motel next door. Jones Petroleum has said the new fuel stop will be completed by the end of the year.

In this same line, the owners of the old Days Inn next to the Sunoco station, purchased a demolition permit from the city to tear down that eyesore. I want you to know that myself and the council are working hard to make Unadilla the jewel of the county and more things are coming.

Unadilla Funding Repairs to Gym Floor in the Near Future

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Unadilla Mayor Myron Mixon provided an update on repairing the gym floor, "We got Ted Williams who's been in the business a long time from over in Hawkinsville who came over and looked at the floor and to replace all the rotten boards and sand it all down, put the lines back. Put us a Blue Devil in the center of the floor and refinish the whole thing and reseal it for \$28,000. It will be six weeks out but we need to fix the gym if we're going to fix it. We've got the money in the budget for it."

Following discussion, the council approved the cost estimate of \$28,000. The mayor also provided information on the situation regarding the Truck stop, "They're fixing to start tearing it down, tearing the asphalt out, tearing down the hotel and they said they'd be done by the end of the year, completed and open. The people that owned Days Inn told me at the end of last year that they were going to start tearing it down. They looked at the feasibility of fixing it, to try and put a hotel back to do apartments. They said it wasn't feasible for that."

Also he talked about some good news on this year's SPLOST, "We just paid off the community center on last year's, we put in a Splash Pad for the children here in the city, so we're moving forward with the Splash Pad for the kids."

He also commented about another project, "If everybody goes up Elko Road and Highway 41, you've seen a lot of growth going to the county line. We need to be thinking

UNADILLA FUNDING
CONTINUED PG 4A

VWC Sponsors Meet and Greet with Author Ken Vance

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Vienna Woman's Club sponsored another Meet and Greet at the Dooly County Library by welcoming Author Ken Vance last Monday. He read poems from his book 'Wearing Johnny's Shirt' that has sold over 2,200 copies worldwide.

After 50-years in law enforcement and 28 on the Milledgeville City Council, the longest consecutive member in Milledgeville history. He also was a certified law man for 50 years with 13 years as Peace Officers Standards and Training Executive Director, the longest serving POST director in its history appointed by three governors. He also served as a state representative for one term.

He is married to Carol for 43-years with two children, Emily and John Austin and has two grandchildren-Cameron and Millie Kate.

Mr. Vance shared, "I was raised



in Tift County which is just a bit down the road. Much of what I do and reflect on in my writing is being Baptist, understanding just who I am, understanding 'Amazing Grace' and those kinds of things. I have sold these books around the world and I got this email from this lady in Finland and it dawned on me that this thing is way bigger than I am. I've won a couple

of poetry awards for selling the most poetry books in Georgia for a couple of years and I'm working on a new one.

I've been a law man all my life and I've been very fortunate to be in places and meet good people who have taken an interest in me in what I've done. Writing is my way of staying sane. I

write myself into situations and I write myself out of 'em and it helps me to stay sane. I'm doing a few poems, but mostly esays now on what I think about things, etc.

I'm still working, I write everyday. If my steering wheel would listen, I wouldn't have to write as much because I talk to

my steering wheel. It's all just been overwhelming to me, I just write; I'm just very blessed as we all really are when you think about it. I'm not thinking about all the symbolism and stuff like that when I'm writing. You write what you know, you write what you feel and I used to like to write to instrumental music,

very slow, very relaxing music and I write early in the morning generally between five and six o'clock. Sometimes, I'll wake up at night and write."

If you're interested in obtaining a copy of the book visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Wearing-Johnnys-Shirt-Other-Poems/dp/0999453858>.

School Board Accepts Resignation of School Nutrition Director Donna Coats Effective May 28

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The board of education accepted the following resignations-Julie Brackett-school nutrition manager effective February 26. Donna Coats-school nutrition director and April Daniely-middle school teacher both effective May 28. Sierra Gibson-fifth grade math teacher, Velesa Henton-school system human resources-business services spe-

cialist both effective June 30.

LaMonika Hill-elementary school assistant principal, Cecil Lester- DCHS PE teacher-head football coach all effective June 30. Wesley Murphy-career awareness teacher effective March 26, Jasmine Prier-elementary school computer science teacher effective June 30, Robert Walker-elementary school fourth grade math teacher effective March 18 and Asher White elementary school fourth

grade teacher effective June 30. The school board agreed to the hiring of Jamia Bennett as an elementary certified teacher, Jaliya Carter-middle school teacher, Kamilyah Henderson-elementary school teacher, Jacob Jacobs-fourth-eighth grade middle school teacher all effective July 1.

Joseph Keene-school system maintenance worker effective immediately, Katie Lowery-elementary certified teacher,



Pictured left to right: Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford, Na'Ziya Engram, Caleb Madison, Kaleb Green, Kimora Odom, Javis Bennett and Dooly 4-H Leader Quadarius Hardy.

Photo by Kylie Garrard

Santana Mendoza-elementary school paraprofessional and Malaysia Woodson-DCES English Language Arts Teacher effective July 1. The school board approved the retirement of Ursula Harris as school system student service director, Yvette Murray-third grade teacher and Stephanie Tyson-second grade teacher effective June 30.

Mr. David Barron spoke during public participation in his prepared remarks and said in part, "We need to look for energetic people to come in and work at our schools. You can't tell me, I taught here for 34-years, that we ain't got some smart kids. I put our kids up against any kids from any school system. We're not getting what we should be getting out of our kids."

Following discussion on the current lawn maintenance and landscaping services contract, a motion was made to retain the current provider, however on a vote of three against and two in favor, that motion failed.

Officials agreed to the purchase of Summer Learning Workbooks in the amount of \$15,003 and the funding source is Title I. Dr. Willaford stated, "Our next course of action would be a Request for Proposals because we just want to get it out and go from there."

The superintendent shined a spotlight on the school system's 151st founder's day, "Starting with our school board that has been consecutively recognized as an exemplary school board by the Georgia School Boards Association. We hosted our first ever career fair that will go a long way in helping us staff with several positions with highly qualified and certified staff. We're in the midst of developing our next five-year strategic plan."

Dooly County 4-H officers Na'Ziya Engram-Ga. 4-H SW District Junior Board Member, Mr. Caleb Madison-2024-2025 SW District Junior Board Member, Mr. Kaleb Green, 2024-2025 Ga. 4-H

State Representative, Kimora Odom and Javis Bennett were all recognized.

4-H Leader Quad Hardy received the Dooly Coin of Distinction with Dr. Willaford stating, "We're thankful to you for your dedication." During his presentation, 'Mr. Quad' said, "Our program is dedicated to developing leadership, public speaking skills and community engagement in young people." He shared the accomplishments of the Dooly 4-H program along with Michelle Lawson-administrator and Bill Starr-extension coordinator. At the SW District Project Achievement back in February and at Rock Eagle 4-H Center local 4-H members excelled.

He also thanked, "Mr. Elijah Wade, volunteer leader for his dedication and support. Special thanks to our teen leaders-Kimora Odom, Javis Bennett and

**SCHOOL BOARD
CONTINUED PG 4A**

Dooly Co. Veterans Museum Honors Vietnam Vets



By Beth English

Vienna Woman's Club celebrated Vietnam Veterans Day by hosting tours. What an interesting morning at the Dooly County Veterans Museum last Saturday. Robert Carr was my

first guest and has supported GFWC Georgia Vienna Woman's Club efforts since the idea was conceived. Thanks Bobby.

Bo Dolph contributed lots of items and is a wealth of information. Gary Turner came by

and he and Bo shared experiences while in the service. Both enrolled while this building served as the draft board office! Time just flew by. Thank you for visiting.

Dooly County Commissioners is seeking the following position to be filled at the Dooly County Public Works Department:

1) Motor Grader Operator- Pay Rate -\$ \$19.24

This Operator must have a strong background in operating motor graders and heavy equipment, ensuring the maintenance and construction of county roads and infrastructure. Heavy Equipment experience in this area is required.

2) Service Support/ Mechanic/Equipment Operator - Pay Rate-\$19.76

This Operator must be skilled in performing maintenance and repair on a variety of public works vehicles, heavy equipment, tire repairs, heavy machinery for various public works projects, and supporting the overall operations of the public works department.

3) Equipment Operator/Roadside Mowing - Pay-Rate \$15.08

This operator is responsible for safely operating mowing equipment and other related machinery to maintain county roadsides, rights-of-way, and public areas. It also involves the operation of tractors, mowers, road pipe installation, and other related equipment to ensure the county's landscapes are well-maintained. The ideal candidate should have experience operating mowing equipment, other equipment and the ability to work independently while following safety protocols.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Some Experience Required
- Valid Georgia Class C-(CDL is a plus)
- Drug Screening
- Criminal Background Check
- Motor Vehicle Record History

Benefits:

- Competitive salary based on experience.
- Free Medical and Vision insurance
- Free Life Insurance
- Retirement plan
- Annual & Sick Leave
- 11 Paid Holidays

Applications are available at the Dooly County Commissioners Office HR Department, 113 N. 3rd Street, Vienna GA or online at www.doolycountyga.com. This position is open until vacancy is filled.

Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



HELP WANTED

City of Unadilla
Public Works-Laborer

Job Type: Full-Time
Salary: TBD

This position is responsible for manual work of a routine nature as a member of a maintenance crew and involves physical labor in the areas of Public Works.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Repairing and maintaining City landscape;
- Conducting road construction and cleaning streets;
- Patching potholes and other tasks in repairing streets;
- Cutting grass on city property and rights-of-way;
- Operating weed eaters and other ground maintenance equipment.

Minimum Qualifications:

HS Diploma or equivalent; Class B Driver's License Preferred. Must be able to pass a background check, drug test and physical.

Work Environment:

The work is typically performed outdoors. The employee may be exposed to noise, dirt, irritating chemicals, machinery with moving parts, and occasionally hot, cold, or inclement weather.

Applications are available at Unadilla City Hall, or you may email your resume to: sabrinanasyard@cityofunadillaga.com

The City of Unadilla is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Obituaries

Judith Lassiter Bush

Judith Lassiter Bush, age 84, of 13449 Tippettville Road, Pineview, died Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Fountain Blue Rehab in Macon.

Born in Dixie, Alabama, she was the daughter of the late Woody Howard and Ouida Putnam Howard. She was a LPN and had worked at Crisp Regional Hospital, Taylor Regional Hospital and Pineview Health Care Center. She was a Baptist and in her spare time, she enjoyed reading.

She is survived by her sons, Donald Lassiter of Macon, Mark Adams of Bonnie, IL

and Michael Adams (Lucy) of Macon; her grandchildren, Jonathon Adams and Tyler Adams.

Graveside services were held at 11 AM Monday, March 24 in Tippettville Baptist Church with Rev. Charles Cobb officiating. Interment was in Tippettville Cemetery.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.brannen-smith.com.

A recording of the funeral service is available on the funeral home's Facebook page. Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Vienna had charge of arrangements.

Mable Johnson

Mable Johnson, age 88, of 790 Highway 118, Leslie, died Thursday, March 20, 2025, at her niece's residence in Leesburg.

Born in De Funiak Springs, Florida, she was the daughter of the late Waylon Henderson and Ivory Donna Boles Henderson and was the widow of Edward A. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson lived in Tampa for 20 years and was employed by the City of Tampa. Later, she moved to Crawfordville, Florida and worked as an accountant for the State of Florida. She was a Baptist and a member of the VFW.

She is survived by her sister, Vivian Madison of Jesup; her brothers, George Henderson of Andalusia, AL and Buddy Prier of De Funiak Springs, FL; her grandchildren, Sarita Sapp (Luke) of Crawfordville, FL and Selena Williams of Crawfordville, FL; 3 great grandchildren.

She is also survived by her nieces, who were also her caretakers, Melissa Morris of Leslie and Libby Hall of

Leesburg.

She was preceded in death by her children, Gerald Johnson, Wailon Johnson and Krystal Johnson and her siblings, John Henderson, Albert Henderson, Pete Henderson, Hamp Henderson, Kenneth Henderson, Ronnie Henderson, Steve Henderson and Donna Henderson.

Funeral services were held at 2 PM Monday, March 24 in the chapel of Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home with Rev. Randy Graham officiating.

The interment was held at 1 PM Tuesday, April 1 in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 3040 Riverside Drive, Macon, Georgia 31210.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.brannen-smith.com.

A recording of the funeral service is available on the funeral home's Facebook page.

Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Vienna had charge of arrangements.

George Lamar Smith

George Lamar Smith, age 83, of 1095 Kent Smith Road, Pinehurst, died Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at his residence.

Born in Pinehurst, he was the son of the late John Sid Smith and Bunie Bowden Smith. He was a lifelong farmer and a member of Midway Independent Methodist Church. Even in his later years, he stayed active.

He ran a marathon at the age of 52 and enjoyed bike riding, gardening and cutting grass. Lamar loved his pets, but he cherished his grandchildren and the time he spent with them.

He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of almost 61 years, Marion F. Smith of Pinehurst; his daughter, Amy Boyer (Ken) of Forsyth; his son, Mark Smith (Paula) of Pinehurst; his sister, Jeanne Kent of Pinehurst; his grandchildren, Quint Smith (Jordan Moseley), Daniel Boyer, Mandy Smith (Kyle Angermeyer) and Sarah Boyer.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Jack Smith, Judy Smith, Dilbon Smith and Ida Wease.

Graveside services were held at 2 PM Thursday, March 27 in Forehand Cemetery with Rev. Mike Bowden officiating.

A recording of "In the Garden" was played and Rev. Bowden led everyone in singing, "Amazing Grace."

Charlie Statham, Daniel Boyer, Joe Kent, Clay Statham, Quint Smith and Randy Kent served as pallbearers.

Memorial gifts may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.brannen-smith.com.

A recording of the graveside service is available on the funeral home's Facebook page.

Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Unadilla had charge of arrangements.

Ann W. Tyndal

Ann W. Tyndal, age 84, of 304 McWhorter Street, Unadilla, died Sunday, March 23, 2025, at her residence.

Born in Cordele, she was the daughter of the late J. D. Williford and Ethel Louise Banks Williford. Ann graduated from Unadilla High School where she played softball and basketball and was elected homecoming queen. She had worked at State Bank & Trust Company and at Dooly State Prison and was a member of First Baptist Church of Unadilla. Ann's greatest joy in life was her grandchildren and she took great pride in watching them participate in sports and school activities.

She is survived by her sons, Tracy Tyndal (Jessica) of Unadilla and Michael Tyndal of Unadilla; her sisters, Lannie Hamsley of Unadilla and Virginia Bailey of Unadilla; 5 grandchildren; 3 great

grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Edward Tyndal, Jr. and her son, Scotty Tyndal.

A memorial service was held at 11 am Wednesday, March 26 in First Baptist Church of Unadilla with Rev. Brad Blackmon and Rev. Mark Grinsted officiating.

Jan Sasser provided music for the service and Rev. Grinsted led the congregation in singing, "Amazing Grace" and "Victory in Jesus."

Memorial gifts may be made to First Baptist Church, PO Box 314, Unadilla, Georgia 31091.

Friends may sign the online register book and watch a recording of the memorial service at www.brannen-smith.com.

Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Unadilla had charge of arrangements.

TURNER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Re: Job opening

Turner County Public Works has a full time position available. The job opening is in the **Road Department** for a Heavy Equipment Operator. Experience is necessary. You may pick up an application at 388 County Farm Rd., Ashburn, GA between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday. Turner County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Job will be open until filled.

Turner County is an EOE

Citizens Review Panel to Meet

Contributed

The Citizens Review Panel for the River Valley Region created under the Transportation Investment Act of 2012 will meet April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the River Valley Regional Commission, 710 Front Avenue, Suite A, Columbus, Georgia 31901. If anyone would like access to the meeting via video,

they can request an email invitation from Penny Brooks: pbrooks@dot.ga.gov. The purpose of the meeting is to review the progress of projects included in the approved investment list for the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). The public are invited to attend.

Labor Day Weekend Extravaganza

Contributed

The Big Pig Jig® site will be the place to be for the Labor Day Weekend Extravaganza Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31. Granville Productions and Diva Entertainment presents: 'Step and Rep' Saturday with trophy and prize giveaways and the contest will consist of Best individual and group that step and represent and much more. Gates open Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Calling all line dancers and

two-steppers. Sunday, The Queen, 'West Love' Southern Soul will be live in concert. Gates open at 3:00 p.m.

Advanced tickets are \$35 for both nights on Pig Jig Boulevard in Vienna. Purchase tickets on EventBrite. Vendors are \$50 and RV Hookups are \$100. Saturday tents and coolers and Sunday-lawn chairs only. For more information, contact 229-873-2153 or 334-212-4554.

Dooly K-8 Sixth Grader Receives Honorable Mention



Contributed

A huge congratulations to Alexander Reynoso Bautista on his outstanding achievement. Alexander, a talented sixth-grader at Dooly County Middle School, received a recognition for receiving honorable mention at the school board meeting

last week for his exceptional writing piece, "The Best Day Ever". This recognition is a testament to his creativity and hard work. Kudos to Alexander and to Chatt-Flint RESA for supporting and celebrating student excellence.

CHURCH DIRECTORY Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

Athens Hill Baptist Church

Venita, GA 229-268-4883

AOH Church of God

Venita, GA 229-268-1903

Bakersfield Baptist Church

Venita, GA

Bay Point CME

Byromville, GA

Bethel Baptist Church

Venita, GA 229-268-2848

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Byromville, GA 229-433-2102

Big Poplar Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA

Brown Chapel Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA 478-627-9466

Byromville Baptist Church

Byromville, GA 229-433-2505

Byromville Methodist Church

Byromville, GA 229-321-9292

Camp Creek Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA 478-627-3929

Chad Weesner INSURANCE AGENCY

121 N. 3rd Street

P.O. Box 486

Vienna, GA 31092

229-268-2800

Evergreen Baptist Church

Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3476

Faith Baptist Church

Venita, GA 229-268-2798

Forest Chapel Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA 478-645-3476

Harmony Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA

Healing and Deliverance Church

Unadilla, GA

Liberty Baptist Church

Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3584

Lily Baptist Church

Lily, GA

Lily Methodist Church

Lily, GA

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Midway Independent Methodist Church

Venita, GA

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Byromville, GA

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

Venita, GA

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Venita, GA

New Bethel Baptist Church

Unadilla, GA

478-627-3775

Mt. Zion CME

Venita, GA

Northside Missionary Baptist Church

Venita, GA

Onion Valley Baptist Church

Venita, GA

Reedy Branch Baptist Church

740 Church Avenue

Byromville, GA

Riverview Baptist Church

Venita, GA

Shady Grove CME Church

Venita, GA

Shiloh Methodist Church

Venita, GA

Smyrna Baptist Church

V



TIM LEWIS

In The Garden With PROPER TOMATO PLANTING

Spring has sprung and it's time for many of us to start preparing for the best crop of tomatoes ever! Some of you can boast of having a fine tomato crop last year and some of you can't but, as they say, there's always next year. Well, "next year" has arrived and hope springs eternal.

Meanwhile, I have recently discovered some very interesting things about our favorite garden fruit—the tomato. There are those who have studied the internal workings of all kinds of vegetables, including tomatoes. Their findings suggest that some of the things we have been doing with our tomatoes have perhaps not been in our best interest at all.

Most of us like to plant our tomatoes early, hoping for an early harvest. And some of us plant our transplants as deep as possible after removing one or more leaves, thinking that they will grow more roots along the stem. More roots equal more leaves and stems equal more tomatoes. Not necessarily.

Experiments were conducted in which different numbers of leaves were removed from

tomatoes at transplant time. Later, the root systems of these plants were examined. Those with no leaves removed had the largest root systems. Surprisingly, those that had all but the top cluster of leaves removed grew almost no new roots at all, from neither the original root ball nor the part of the stem that was buried. In fact, since those plants had no energy to grow new roots, it took eight weeks for them to recover, according to the researchers.

Ideally, plants should be set out in the garden just a little deeper than they were planted in the container. Generally, the container should be at least three inches in size for best root growth. Plant the transplants up to the first set of leaves. Don't remove any healthy leaves at all. Tomatoes do have the ability, as advertised, to grow roots anywhere along the stem, but every single leaf is important, if it is green and healthy. Ostensibly, removing a leaf reduces the energy that a transplant will have for making new roots.

The research suggests, however, that if the plant is pot

bound and leggy, it is best to go ahead and bury the stem. Why? Because it probably won't be able to grow many new roots, and most of the new roots will form above the root ball along the stem anyway. But, removing any healthy leaves under any circumstances is not recommended, because they are needed to grow new roots.

It is also a bad idea to set out a tomato plant with any fruit on it. That one fruit, it is thought, will hog practically all the nutrients available to the young transplant. What we growers need to be doing is encouraging the growth of new roots, since a good crop of roots means a good crop of fruits later on. But with a developing fruit attached, the plant directs most of its energy to the fruit at the expense of new root production. Plant development will also be delayed several days. According to the research, once a plant has a full fruit set on it, the roots don't grow any more at all.

If you have a tomato transplant with even one fruit on it, it is best to remove it and let the plant develop more roots instead. You will be much better off in the long run.

Moreover, I suspect that the aforementioned principles will apply to peppers as well.

Tim Lewis is a Georgia Green Industry Association Certified Plant Professional, gardening writer, and former Perry High School horticulture instructor. He can be reached at (478)954-1507 or tlewis@windstream.net.



NEIL JOINER

Joiner's Corner MORE STEPS TO NOWHERE

Columnist

ticeably pudgy when he came to our farm. His sagging belly should have tipped us off that he wasn't a fan of running. Chief was slower than an old opossum on a midnight stroll.

After weeks of trying to coax him to hasten his pace, I braided orange baler twine into a homemade riding whip. I was determined to establish who was in charge and that's sort of what happened. Thankfully I jumped off as he dropped to his knees, just before he rolled on to his side. That followed an attempt to crush my leg against a tree. He was not intimidated by soft twine.

Let's begin with the wasted steps of going in circles. Mable, a brown mare from early childhood, is a good example. The aged horse had retired from the circus but not her circular routines.

Mable treated the pasture like a show ring. Riding her was like being on a merry-go-round.

The only exception was when she had company. When Bryce Bledsoe rode his horse over to our place one day, Mable pleasantly surprised me by running beside Red. As soon as Red left, however, Mable corralled my dreams of becoming a cowboy.

Albert Einstein reportedly said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results."

That seems akin to going in circles. Mable and I could have enjoyed countryside romps, but she refused to change.

Sometimes it's easier to do the same thing rather than the same thing.

Laziness is another set of wasted steps. Once again, a horse from childhood helped teach me a lesson. Chief was a fine-looking Apaloosa, but no-

We'll close with indecision as a third step to nowhere. I heard a story at a bank convention years ago that illustrates the point.

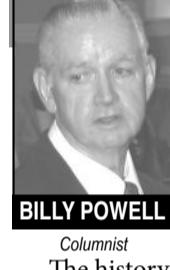
When a car ran out of gas on a busy California freeway the driver coasted to the roadside. He saw a nearby station but there were 16 lanes of traffic to navigate. The fellow nervously tried to cross the busy highway several times, but kept retreating as vehicles approached.

A long, black Cadillac pulled over to the side of the road. Its heavily-tinted driver's window was slowly lowered. Much to the man's surprise a giant squirrel was behind the steering wheel. The squirrel peered over the top of his sunglasses and looked the man in the eyes. "It's not as easy as it looks is it?" The steps of indecision mostly go back and forth, keeping us right where we are.

I'm out of space and unsure how to end this column. Maybe that's evidence of indecision. Or perhaps my inclination to close without more effort suggests a lazy approach to writing. Whatever the case may be, I feel like I'm going in circles.

As a former pastor, Al Cadence, often said as he concluded his sermons, "That brings us back to where we started." Whether the matters are spiritual or more down to earth, one thing is for certain. Steps to nowhere are all around us.

*joinerscorner.com
gneiljoiner@gmail.com*



BILLY POWELL

Parables To Ponder HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

The history of the Bible starts with a phenomenal account of history! It's not one book like I always thought -- It's an ancient collection of writings, comprised of 66 separate books, written over approximately 1,600 years, by at least 40 distinct authors. The Old Testament contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC, and the New Testament contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD. The original Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the original New Testament was written in common Greek. The history of the "Bible" begins with the Jewish Scriptures. The historical record of the Jews was written down on leather scrolls and tablets over centuries, and the authors included kings, shepherds, prophets and other leaders. The first five books are called the Law, which were written and/or edited primarily by Moses in the early 1400's BC. Thereafter, other scriptural texts were written and collected by the Jewish people during the next 1,000 years. About 450 BC, the Law and the other Jewish Scriptures were arranged

by councils of rabbis (Jewish teachers), who then recognized the complete set as the inspired and sacred authority of God (Elohim). At some time during this period, the books of the Hebrew Bible were arranged by topic, including The Law (Torah), the Prophets (Nebiim), and the Writings (Ketubim). The first letters of these Hebrew words - T, N and K -- form the name of the Hebrew Bible - the Tanakh.

Beginning as early as 250 BC, the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. This translation became known as the "Septuagint", meaning 70, and referring to the tradition that 70 (probably 72) men comprised the translation team. It was during this process that the order of the books was changed to the order we have in today's Bible: Historical (Genesis - Esther), poetic (Job - Song of Songs), and prophetic (Isaiah - Malachi). 2 Although the Jewish Scriptures were copied by hand, they were extremely accurate copy to copy. The Jews had a phenomenal system of scribes, who developed intricate and ritualistic meth-

ods for counting letters, words and paragraphs to insure that no copying errors were made. These scribes dedicated their entire lives to preserving the accuracy of the holy books. A single copy error would require the immediate destruction of the entire scroll. In fact, Jewish scribal tradition was maintained until the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400's AD. As far as manuscript accuracy, the recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has confirmed the remarkable reliability of this scribal system over thousands of years 3 (I'll get back to the Dead Sea Scrolls later).

After 400 years of scriptural silence, Jesus arrived in 4 BC. Throughout his teaching, Jesus often quotes the Old Testament, declaring that he did not come to destroy the Jewish Scriptures, but to fulfill them. In the Book of Luke, Jesus proclaims to his disciples, "all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." From 40 to 90 AD, the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, including Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, wrote the Gospels, letters and books that became the Bible's New Testament. 2 Timothy 3: 16-states: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."


Photo by Kylie Garrard
Calling the school board meeting to order was First grade student Miss Maidelyn Morales.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Election results on March 18. Officials also OK'd and adopted Local Governance Team Norms, conflict of interest, Ethics Reaffirmation. It was explained that all board members remain familiar with their ethical obligations, understand procedures for addressing potential conflict of interests and reaffirm their commitment to

establish operational guidelines that govern their work. Elementary School First grader Miss Maidelyn Morales called the meeting to order.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS

Columnist

Writings From The Heart SOME THINGS NOT TO DO GROWING UP

Columnist

1. Do not go to your hay loft in your barn with a few friends, build a hut out of hay bales with a door bale to enclose yourselves then take out your rabbit tobacco, matches, smoking paper to roll tobacco, then light the cigarette and start smoking. By the grace of God, we were blessed enough that the hay never caught fire. IT'S STILL NOT RECOMMENDED!
2. Do not get on the apex of your REAL tall barn and jump

off unto solid ground. I'm still amazed to this day we NEVER received any broken bones, nor were our leg bones driven up into our bodies. Young kids, JUST DON'T DO IT!

3. Do not get into an enclosed barn stall with a young bull and always expect to come out unscathed. To this day, I can still feel a small bump on my forehead where that bullock hauled off and kicked the daylights out of me. You might want to ride him, but DON'T

stand behind him! OUCH!!!

4). Never pick up a firecracker that went unexploded with the fuse burned down even with the main body. Especially, don't try to light the end that the fuse had burned down to. It's a miracle I didn't lose my eyes instead of having swollen lips for a few days. JUST DON'T DO THAT, YOUNG FOLKS

Yes, it would be nice to be as wise as Solomon was at the beginning of his Kingship, BUT NEVER AT THE LATTER YEARS OF HIS LIFE. He possibly was the first person to be the wisest in the world to becoming the least wise. What a pity!

This one thing I know: Jesus loves us to heaven and back. Until next time.

UNADILLA FUNDING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

about expansion and we've also got some expansion that's going west of us, especially around the Industrial Park at the overpass where Angel City is located. We've also got some going south even possibly past Lasseter, so we need to give an update that we're starting back the process of looking where we're going to move our boundaries. We've already got a price to be able to do gas service up Highway 41 and up Elko Road because if you're going to expand, you've got to provide service. We can put in gas on both Elko and Highway 41 to the county line for around \$58,000. We can get a grant for water and sewage, but you can't get a grant for gas because you make money off of gas.

We need to expand our city limits. Our city limits are gerrymandered like you wouldn't believe. Certain people didn't want their land, house or property in the city limits when they were paying the county. When they sold

some of it, they didn't care what you did with it as long as you didn't tax them. That's not the way this works. People that use our services and come under the umbrella of protection for the fire department and water and sewage, they need to be paying if they own it."

Mr. Mixon also reported on the East Railroad Street project including the road leading to Dooly State Prison that has been funded and 'let'. It was announced that it will start sometime between now and May or the early part of summer. The resurfacing will cover the roadway to the city limits. Unadilla in cooperation with the engineers have received some emergency LMIG funds for the resurfacing of Duncan Avenue. The City of Unadilla gave a green-light and accepted a quote from Contender to repair the city's vehicle, a Ford Taurus. The council approved a business license for 'Video Perfection' who sets up AV sound system equipment for

corporate, personal functions such as birthday parties and weddings, etc.

Public Works Director Leon Lester reported on his department's activities, "We're still doing 811 calls, putting in water meters and repairing water leaks and we had a steady leak here between Giant Foods and the Subway at the vacant field. We did install a couple of meters and we got a couple of doors (a roll up) put in at the shop where the gas department is located and chain hoists on the three roll up doors at the regular shop."

The council also approved the lease on the new Kubota Excavator. Fire Chief Justin Bridges reported that during the month of March units had responded to seven calls including one vehicle accident, one vehicle fire, one grass fire, one pole fire, one EMS medical assist, one Air Evac landing zone standby and one trouble unknown with no incident call. Unadilla Fire Rescue has responded to 31 calls so far this year.

SCHOOL BOARD

CONTINUED FROM 2A

Kaleb Green. There are summer camps coming up including Cloverleaf, Junior and Senior Camp for older members focused on advanced leadership skills. Upcoming fundraisers include this Friday's \$4 for 4-H Day."

Mr. Alexander Reynoso Bau-tista who participated in the Young Ga. Author Writer's competition also represented the district and received an honorable mention from RESA and the only honorable mention from our area. The school board gave a green-light to a resolution approving the Education



Photo by Kylie Garrard
Calling the school board meeting to order was First grade student Miss Maidelyn Morales.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Election results on March 18. Officials also OK'd and adopted Local Governance Team Norms, conflict of interest, Ethics Reaffirmation. It was explained that all board members remain familiar with their ethical obligations, understand procedures for addressing potential conflict of interests and reaffirm their commitment to

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The News Observer

115 East Union Street, P.O. Box 186 • Vienna, GA 31092 • 229-268-2096 • Fax 478-825-4130

Send all submissions to:
editor@ganewsobserver.com

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OUR GOAL: The News Observer is published proudly for the citizens of Dooly County and the adjoining counties by The News Observer/A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News. Our goal is to produce a quality, profitable, community-oriented newspaper that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, team work, loyalty, and a strong dedication towards printing the truth.

OUR POLICIES: Signed Letters to the Editor are welcomed. Please include address and phone number. Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.

We cannot be responsible for return of pictures or material unless stamped, return addressed envelope is enclosed.

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LEGALS

Please enter "LEGAL NOTICE" in the email subject headline. Please be sure to have your contact information listed. Most legal notices run \$15 per 100 words per publication. Plus a \$10 affidavit fee.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROY V. NOBLE, JR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 22-0023
NOTICE
(For discharge from office and all liability)
IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before April 14, 2025.

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.

Rooney Bowen III, Judge of the Probate Court
BY Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court
Dooly County Probate Court
104 South Second Street
Vienna, GA 31092
(229)268-4217
4/3/3035
0689-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOOLY
IN RE: JESULA SOLANGE MORENCY

All creditors of the Estate of Jesula Solange Morency, deceased, late of Dooly 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.

Elmita Estime Administrator of the Estate of Jesula Solange Morency
463 Trumpet St. SW
Palm Bay, FL 32908
Robert T. Tuggle, III
Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles, LLP
Post Office Box 89
Perry, Georgia 31069
3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 2025
0688-VNO

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:
J. C., SEX M, AGE 9, DOB 11/2024, CASE #2401896
S. C., SEX F, AGE 11, DOB 02/2013, CASE #2401897
CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, ASHLEY CRAFT (mother); JAMES VARNUM (father of J.C.); FRANTRE CLARK (father of S.C.); ANY UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN

You are notified that a Petition for a Finding of Dependency with Custody Placed with the Maternal and Paternal Grandmother was filed against you in said court on 03/06/25, an Order for Service by Publication was entered on 03/06/25.

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Houston County Juvenile Court, held at Houston County Juvenile Court, Warner Robins, Georgia on 05/21/25 at 8:30 o'clock a.m., for a hearing following service by publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Houston County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS The Honorable Judges of this court, this 7th day of March, 2025. CHRISTINA HARPER CLERK, HOUSTON CO. JUVENILE COURT
3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 2025
0686-VNO

NOTICE
PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
RE: PETITION FOR COMPENSATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FROM ESTATE OF DEDRICK

DRUG BUST

CONTINUED FROM 1A

over changes being made by the county regarding how customers will be billed for trash collections by Waste Management.

Els Rombaut with Fruits of Vienna Bed and Breakfast spoke to the council on representing, "A united group of business owners and community members, to propose a collaborative initiative that will revitalize our city and enhance its appeal for both residents and visitors alike: a comprehensive Spring Cleanup and Beautification Project. A deep cleaning of street gutters, removing debris and preventing potential drainage issues. Careful removal of weeds from sidewalks, parks, and public areas, creating a more inviting environment. Pressure washing to remove grime and revitalize public walls, showcasing our city's pride. Strategic placement of decorations and seasonal plantings to create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere."

Ms. Rombaut also suggested, "Creating and distributing flyers to all businesses, promoting the Spring Cleanup Day and encouraging participation. We suggest organizing the cleanup efforts by city blocks, fostering a sense of neighborhood

pride and friendly competition. To further motivate participation, we propose the city provide gift cards to the block that demonstrates the most significant transformation, rewarding their collaborative efforts and inspiring others."

She also suggested, "Coordinating with the local high school to involve 11th and 12th-grade students in the cleanup efforts as part of their community service requirements. We understand that these efforts require resources, and we are prepared to partner with the city in a meaningful way. A group of local businesses has committed to providing volunteer labor. Additionally, our esteemed Garden Club has graciously offered to spearhead the beautification of our city entry signs, creating a stunning first impression for all who arrive. To further enhance the impact of this project and to clearly communicate the collaborative spirit between the city and private businesses, we propose the installation of a signage pole at a prominent location at the corner of 41 and Union Street at the square on where to find businesses like pharmacy, lunch place, take out food, thrift store, antique mall, Bed and Breakfast, auto repair, hairdressers. This signage would serve as a testament to our community's commitment to working together for the betterment of Vienna. We believe that this Spring Cleanup and Beautification Project will

qualify as indigent under the terms of this state proscribes. If the Court finds you to be indigent (unable to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship), then an attorney will be appointed to represent you at no charge to you.

b. If you would like to apply for court-appointed counsel, you must do so within 72 hours of your receipt of this notice, but in no event later than forty-eight hours prior to your scheduled hearing. You may obtain an application for appointment of indigent counsel by contacting the Office of the Judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Cordele Judicial Circuit at 229-271-4727. Should you desire to seek appointment of counsel, it is imperative that you do so timely. FAILURE TO TIMELY APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE APPOINTED COUNSEL REPRESENT YOU DURING ANY PARTICULAR HEARING.

5. You are not mandated to be represented by counsel in any proceeding, and you may waive your right to counsel and proceed pro se (on your own, without an attorney) during any proceeding. Please be aware, however, that there are a number of dangers of proceeding without counsel in any proceeding. For instance, if you intend on appealing any ruling of this court that has to be done properly, and an attorney could help you with doing that if you had an attorney. There are many other ways that an attorney might assist you in your case if you have an attorney, but you do not have to have an attorney, and it is your right to waive your right to an attorney and participate in your proceedings without the benefit of counsel. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FAILING TO TIMELY HIRE COUNSEL OR APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO COUNSEL.

In that case, you may be required to participate in the proceedings without the benefit of counsel.

4/3, 4/10, 2025
0700-VNO

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:

B. B., SEX M, AGE 8, DOB 12/2016, CASE #2500111
K. F., SEX M, AGE 6, DOB 05/2018, CASE #2500113
A. D. J., SEX F, AGE 2, DOB 11/2022, CASE #2500114

CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER(S), AND ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING A PARENTAL INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CHILDREN

BORN TO JANIQUE FRITZGERALD

You are notified that a Petition for

Guardianship was filed against you in

said court on 03/20/25, an Order for

Service by Publication was entered on 03/21/25

YOU ARE COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO BE AND APPEAR before Houston County Juvenile Court, held at Houston County Juvenile Court, Warner Robins, Georgia on 06/04/25 at 8:30 o'clock a.m., for a hearing following service by publication. Serve an answer on Petitioner's Attorney, James E. Patterson, P. O. Box 1006, Forsyth, Georgia 31029. You may obtain a copy of the petition by contacting Houston County Juvenile Court Clerk.

WITNESS The Honorable Judges of

this court, this 24th day of March,

2025.

CHRISTINA HARPER, DEPUTY CLERK, HOUSTON CO. JUVENILE COURT

4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 2025
0697-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF CHAD TAYLOR ROADIFER, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 25-0013

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: CHRISTOPHER ROADIFER

and to whom it may concern:

BARBARA JACKSON has petitioned for BARBARA JACKSON to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of CHAD TAYLOR ROADIFER, deceased, of said county. (The

significantly enhance our city's appeal, boost local pride and attract visitors. We are eager to partner with you to make this vision a reality."

She also asked for, "Clarity on whether the walls adjacent to the pavement are city or private property. If they are city-owned, we request permission to pressure wash them as part of our revitalization efforts. If the walls are privately owned, we seek the council's support in encouraging property owners to pressure wash their walls, emphasizing the positive impact it would have on the city's overall appearance."

Following discussion, officials replied by saying, "Since we don't have a community development director who would be the key person at city hall to go to, that the spots with potential hazards or missing blocks and cracks, you might want to get with the code enforcement officer and go block by block and could mark those and set out a plan for the ones that could be done the quickest."

Councilwoman Tabatha Carter commended Interim Police Chief Lucas and his department, "I know you're working long hours, but I definitely want to commend you on the job that you're doing. Your presence is known, it's appreciated and I want to send kudos to your police department." The city is currently advertising for a new police chief and police officers through April 11.



Photo Contributed
Els Rombaut with Fruits of Vienna Bed and Breakfast who spoke to the council at their meeting last week.

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.

Rooney Bowen III, Judge of the Probate Court
By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court
104 2nd Street South, Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-4217
3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 2025
0691-VNO

N O T I C E TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOOLY

All creditors of the estate of JOHN RHA McCLESKEY, JR., deceased, late of Dooly County, Georgia, 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.

JOHN RHA McCLESKEY, III,
Successor Executor
P.O. Box 686

Unadilla, Georgia 31091
Sara C. Diamond Wechsler
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP
PO Box 1770
Perry, GA 31069
478-987-1415
4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 20250695-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOOLY

IN RE: ESTATE OF LUCILLE A. WELCH, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of LUCILLE A. WELCH, deceased, late of Dooly 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.

This 19th day of March, 2025.

Phelix Douglas Welch, Executor
502 3rd Street
Unadilla, GA 31091
Attorney: Charles J. Walker
123-B Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088
3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 2025
0692-VNO

NOTICE OF WINDING UP

Notice is given that a Statement of Commencement of Winding Up has been filed with the Secretary of State for **Kinard Farms, LLC**, a Georgia limited liability company with its registered office at 535 Lambtown Road, Vienna, Dooly County, Georgia 31092, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 14-11-606.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 14-11-608, any claims against Kinard Farms, LLC, must be mailed to the undersigned at 1107 N. Patterson St., Post Office Box 1865, Valdosta, Georgia 31601-1865. Except for claims that are contingent at the time of the filing of the statement of commencement of winding up or that arise after the filing of the statement of commencement of winding up, a claim against the limited liability company not otherwise barred will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim commenced within two years after publication of this notice.

Alexander B. Winters
Sam D. Dennis, P.C.
1107 N. Patterson St.
P.O. Box 1865
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
Phone:(229)244-4428
Fax:(229)242-1352
3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 2025
0693-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF VETTE T. CRANE, JR., DECEASED

NOTICE

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

TO: TALANEOUS HENRY & SHAUN HENRY

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, March 17, 2025.

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.

Rooney Bowen III, Judge of the Probate Court
By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court
104 2nd Street South, Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-4217
3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 2025
0690-VNO

NAME CHANGE

NOTICE OF PETITION OF CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, DOOLY COUNTY

25DV-0029

Notice is hereby given that DESTINY WOODSON, the undersigned filed her petition to the Superior Court of Dooly County, Georgia, on the 7th day of March, 2025 praying to change the name of her minor child, from KENNEDY CRANE to KENNEDY WOODSON. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said petition.

This the 7th day of March, 2025.

Destiny Woodson, Petitioner
3/20, 3/27, 2025
0689-VNO

FA Middle School Baseball Team Completes Perfect Season with 15-0 Record

Written by Proud Fullington Academy Middle School Baseball Parents

The Fullington Academy Middle School Baseball team has made history this season, finishing with a flawless 15-0 record and earning the title of undefeated champions. With determination, teamwork, and outstanding talent, the Trojans delivered one thrilling performance after another, leaving fans, families, and the community bursting with pride.

From the first pitch of the season to the final out, the Trojans played with heart, hustle, and a level of maturity well beyond their years. Under the guidance of Coach Mike Ashley, the team displayed discipline at the plate, sharp defensive skills, and strong chemistry that proved unbeatable all season long. This group of young men worked incredibly hard, and it shows.

They played for each other every game, stayed focused, and

kept a winning attitude whether we were ahead or behind. We couldn't be prouder of their effort and commitment.

Several standout players stepped up throughout the season, but it was the team's unity and depth that made the difference. Whether it was clutch hits, solid pitching, or game-saving plays in the field, every player contributed to the team's perfect run. The Fullington community rallied behind the Trojans, filling the stands and cheering them on each step of the way.

Their undefeated season is not only a testament to athletic ability but also to the support and spirit that defines Trojan pride.

Congratulations to the Fullington Academy Middle School Baseball team on an incredible 15-0 season — a perfect record and a championship effort that will be remembered for years to come! Way to go, Trojans!

Dooly's Varsity Soccer Teams Undefeated in last Week's Matches



Photo Contributed



#16 Cristian Velasquez-Perez

Photo Contributed

Contributed

Our girls secured a 6-3 win over Wheeler County last Tuesday with Angela Borrallas who had a hat trick (three goals), Eunise Reyes had a brace (two goals) and Sophia Gracia had one. Our boys secured a 5-1 win over Wheeler County, Jesus Vega and Alex Mendez each had a brace (two goals) and Belber Morales had one. Next up, the Lady Bobcats traveled to Wrightsville, Ga. to take on Johnson County last Thursday with our girls shutting out Johnson County 5-0.

Eunise Reyes had a brace (two goals), Emily Garcia, Sherly Sandoval and Kaziya Burden had 1 goal-a-piece. GoalKeepers Jorish Woodard and Miracle West kept a clean sheet.

Next up, we boarded buses to Soperton, Ga. to take on Treutlen County last Friday. The Lady Bobcats picked a huge 6-3 win over the Lady Vikings. Eunise Reyes and Sophia Gracia had a hat trick three goals each.

Our boys were also victorious shutting out Treutlen 9-0. Jesus Vega had four goals, Dodany



Photo Contributed
Kneeling left to right- Rhett Hayes, Mason Scarborough, Myles Thompson, Paxton Harris, Trent Hughes, Colt Hughes Standing: left to right Coach BJ Ross, Jude Womble, Oliver Smith, Eli Ashley, Cash Greene, Caleb Jackson, Grady Wiggins, Brantley Ross, Fletcher Faircloth, Fisher Neal, and Coach Brent Womble.

Fullington Academy Baseball Report

"We're going to start 0-0 after Spring Break and we'll just try to make the best of whatever's left."

By Head Coach

Benji Brown

Last Tuesday, we played Westwood at home in game two of our three-game region series. It was a really good baseball game, but we ended up losing 10-7 in nine innings. It was just a heartbreaker really. We had our opportunities as we were up 5-2 at one point and we just kind-a let them get back in it and ended up tying up the ball game that sent it to extra innings. They took a two-run lead in the eighth and then to lead up the bottom of the eighth inning, Cutter Tharpe got on base and Garlan Godfrey hit a huge two-run homer to tie it up. Then going into the ninth, they pushed across three runs.

In the bottom of the ninth, we had runners on first and second with one out when we hit into a double-play to end the game. It was just a really good high school baseball game. Both teams made errors at crucial times. I will say this, I was very proud of our kids that even when we got down, they never thought they were out of the game.

Our kids just kept playing hard and that's all we can ever ask. We did have 10 hits on the day, five of those belonged to Cutter Tharpe who had a fantastic day at the plate. Garlan Godfrey provided two more hits to go along with that, so that was seven of our 10 hits right there. We received good pitching again by Bryson Faulk who went five innings, giving up six hits, four runs, three earned. Probably not as sharp as he has been in the last couple of outings where he walked five and struck out eight, but I think he pitched well enough to win.

Then Cutter Tharpe came on and pitched the last four innings giving up five hits and



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Augie Harris started going four innings, giving up three hits, six runs-three earned, walked seven and struck out six in his game versus Westwood last week.

six runs, four earned, walked five and struck out four. If we cut down on our walks a little bit, with those two on the mound, we'll have a shot to win some more games.

Last Thursday, we traveled to Westwood again and the score doesn't really indicate how close the game really was because Westwood ended up winning this one 13-4, but it was 6-4 in the bottom of the fourth and we had our opportunities loading up the bases a couple of times and left those runners stranded and didn't receive the timely hit when we needed it.

That has been the story of our season thus far. We didn't swing the bats particularly well picking up only two hits, one each by Bryson Faulk and Cutter Tharpe and that was a little disappointing. We struck out a few more times than we have been. Westwood's pitchers were not bad at all and we actually faced the starter the week before so we kind-a knew what to expect coming into the contest. He did the same thing and pounded the zone, made us put it in play and they made plays behind him.

That's the reason that they won the game. Our pitching, I thought, was pretty good. Augie Harris started for us and went four innings, gave up three hits, six runs-three earned, he walked seven and struck out six. It was the same thing-if we cut down on the walks and we limit some of the free bases that we give 'em, we had an opportunity to win games. I told the kids Thursday that we're taking a few days off for spring break before we get back at it and I said, when we come back, it's a new season.

We're going to start 0-0 and we'll just try to make the best of whatever's left. I think they're on board with that. I think they need a break, they seemed a little bit tired and I can kind-a understand that because I'm right there with 'em. When we come back after spring break this Friday, April 4 against Rock Springs Christian Academy and it's going to be a 4:30 p.m. start at home.

We played them earlier in the year and I think they're very similar to us and they're very beatable. Hopefully the little bit of rest will be translated into some good baseball for the rest of the season.

EMA-EMS Director Don Willford Educates FA Sixth Graders

Contributed

Fullington Academy sixth graders had an incredible hands-on learning experience last Tuesday with Mr. Don Willford, Director and Paramedic of Dooly County EMS. They had a chance to put their study of first aid into practice. They were able to see how a cardiac monitor works (monitors your heart rhythm and can defibrillate a person in cardiac arrest), check basic vital signs, listen to lung sounds, have blood pressure checks, complete "stop the bleed" demonstrations, and discuss the dangers of vaping. It was an interesting learning experience.

A huge thank you to Mr. Willford for sharing his knowledge, passion, and real-world expertise with our students. These experiences inspire and educate in ways the classroom alone can't.

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DCSS Announces Tech. Integration Champ



By DCSS Congratulations to Dooly County Elementary School instructor, Mrs. Nikiana Garland on being named the DCSS Technology Integration Champion for the Third nine week's of 2024-2025. The Tech Integration Champion is a teacher who incorporates technology-based student projects in their lessons.

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