

The News Observer

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 24, 2025

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Commissioners OK Middle Flint Regional E911 FY Budget Increase

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

A funding request from Middle Flint Regional E911 Authority for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 of a little over \$123,646 was approved by the commissioners. The current funding is \$108,791. This marks an increase of \$14,855 over last year's budget request. Board Chairman David Barron signed off on a contract with Reeves Construction Co. for the resurfacing on Liberty Church Road totaling \$452,235 with that work to be completed by June 30, 2025.

Also, under the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Fiscal Year 2024 Action Plan where GDOT had a list of 29 roads to be centerlined striped, Dooly County was eligible for \$165,480, leaving \$17,728 unspent on that completed project. The remaining amount would need to be returned. No action was taken. The county is eligible for \$900,264 from GDOT through the FY 2025 Local Road Assistance Program Application must be submitted by June 15. More information on those road projects will be addressed at the next meeting.

The board agreed to table a decision on a request from the Cordele Judicial Circuit on the FY 2025-2026 budget until the Governor signs a bill that would reduce the request for funding. Officials with the Department of Natural Resources Floodplain Unit-State of Georgia were asked to present the latest on the National Flood Insurance Program and one of the issues that Dooly County needs to address is after reading through the codes, there were inconsistencies with the ordinance that the state has on file dating back to 2009.



It was stated that there is important language missing that are part of the minimum standards specifically in relation to Recreational Vehicles and that they can only be on property and in place for 180 days. Those

BUDGET INCREASE CONTINUED PG 4A

Two Accidents are Under Investigation in Dooly County

By EMS Director

Don Williford

Dooly County Public Safety officials were busy with several wrecks throughout the county last Thursday, April 17. The first accident occurred just inside the Vienna City Limits at Roseburg Road and Highway 41 involved a log truck and a passenger vehicle. One injury was reported in that wreck. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched as well along with Dooly County EMS, Vienna Police Department, DCSO and Georgia State Patrol. The Vienna Fire Department was required to extricate the driver out of the car.

The female patient involved in the Vienna wreck had moderate injuries and was initially transported to a local hospital for evaluation, but was later transported to Phoebe Putney Hospital due to her injuries from the accident.

The vehicle also received significant damage to the driver's side. The investigation is still



A local woman had to be extricated from this vehicle following an accident with a log truck last Thursday morning.



Photo by Don Williford

A second accident last Thursday involved five vehicles, two those being semis on I-75 mile marker 118. Three patients were injured, but none of those were believed to be serious.

TWO ACCIDENTS CONTINUED PG 4A

HOUSE OF RAEFORD

Industrial Pretreatment Permit Granted

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The council gave a green-light to an Industrial pretreatment permit for the House of Raeford. According to City Administrator Michael Bowens, "It has been updated specific to House of Raeford, Inc. The previous pretreatment permit was in the name of Tyson. They have a handle on what their process is like in the wastewater they generate. They do a pre-treatment to the water before it's sent to our wastewater treatment plant and so we have all the parameters they have to meet, flows, the discharge and the testing pro-

cedures and testing days. Public Works Superintendent Nathan Jordan had recommended and the council agreed to hire a new employee, Mr. Tramon Barlow to the grounds crew.

According to Mr. Bowens, "He has gone through all of the proper protocols and procedures, background checks, etc. He has passed all of those and meets those qualifications. The city application for a Community Development Block Grant was submitted April 4 and the Department of Community Affairs will announce the award

HOUSE OF RAEFORD CONTINUED PG 4A

Deacon George Jordan Celebrates 106 Years!



Pictured are Mayor Eddie Daniels, Mr. George Jordan and Bethel Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Bobby G. West as the mayor reads a proclamation in honor of the 106-year-old lifetime resident of Vienna, Ga.



The event started with a police led motorcade of his congregation at Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna as well as members of the Dooly County community.

By Reverend Bobby G. West and

Tim Franzén News Observer Reporter

It was George Jordan's day last Tuesday, April 15 and it started with a birthday drive-by with a police-escort of well wishers from Dooly County including members of his congregation at Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna. According to his Pastor the Reverend Bobby G. West, "To describe Vienna resident George Jordan as a rare individual would be an understatement. In fact, Deacon George Jordan is truly exceptional. He is an African

American and a World War II combat veteran, a remarkable combination when considering that out of 16 million World War II veterans, approximately 900,000 were Black Americans. Only about 125,000 of these brave individuals were deployed overseas to engage in combat, and George was among them. Today, less than 1% of all veterans belong to the World War II era, making Deacon George Jordan even more extraordinary, as he stands well below that already minuscule

JORDAN 106 YEARS CONTINUED PG 2A

Vienna Church of God Participates in Annual 2025 CrossWalk



By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Vienna Church of God Pastor Scott Bryant, his wife Amy along with other area churches observed Good Friday in a special way. Different denominations participated in bringing, 'A Light of Hope' Good Friday, April 18.

Pastor Bryant said, "Jesus tells us in Matthew Chapter 16 to take up our cross daily. Good Friday, we were representing what he has done for us and how he walked his journey and carried his cross. We are taking up our cross and putting our faith

in action walking with people from Crisp, Dooly and Wilcox Counties joining in. Different

people carried the cross and passed off to other community members.

The walk started at Hand of Hope, 1205 South Seventh Street in Cordele April 18 and traveled approximately three miles along Sixteenth Avenue out to Georgia Home Center on the left before you get to Sunbelt Ford in Cordele. It took approximately two and half hours with a police escort.

The event again was hosted by Hand of Hope, Inc. For more information locally, you can contact Vienna Church of God for upcoming community events.

what he did on Good Friday for us."

Sandi Carnes, director of the Hand of Hope in Cordele that coordinates this annual event added, "We are very honored to be doing this for the ninth year in a row, we plan to keep on doing it. We're the city on the hill letting everybody know why Jesus is so important and the most important person you'll ever introduce your children to."

The event again was hosted by Hand of Hope, Inc. For more information locally, you can contact Vienna Church of God for upcoming community events.

Hogs 4 Housing GBA Contest Coming Up Very Soon

Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb

Just a friendly reminder about the upcoming Hogs 4 Housing GBA contest at the BIG PIG JIG venue on May 2 and 3. Please text or call me and let me know if you plan to join us so that I can add you to the team roster! You can screenshot, scan and email or text me your app! As always, if I can do anything at all to assist you, please never hesitate to reach out to me! (229) 322-1596.

For any teams that are willing to donate any left-over pork you have after the competition we would appreciate having that again this year. We were able to make two fundraisers out of one with your generous donations of nearly 200lbs of BBQ! This is an extremely important fundraiser for Crisp Dooly Fuller Center for Housing, and I hope we can count on you to support this meaningful cause. We are a non-profit 501c3, Christian Housing Ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing

worldwide. By forming partnerships with local organizations, The Fuller Center provides the structure, guidance and support that communities need to build and repair homes for those in need in our local community. We have built over 24 homes locally for very deserving families that would otherwise not have the means to realize home ownership. We also assist with weatherization projects, wheelchair ramps, minor home repairs and other housing needs. In addition

JORDAN 106 YEARS CONTINUED FROM 1A

percentage. Deacon Jordan is a man of great character, a devout individual deserving of immense respect."

Born on April 15, 1919, he officially celebrated his 106th birthday on April 15, Tuesday, at Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna. He has been a member of this church for 78 years and holds the distinction of being its oldest member. Growing up in the early 1900s, George was one of ten children born to a family of sharecroppers in Skag, Morgan, and Dooly Counties. Back then, cotton and peanuts were the main crops, and hard work was a way of life for George and his family as they plowed the fields, often singing spiritual hymns still cherished in churches today.

Tragedy struck when George's father passed away when George was just five years old. His mother, Emma Jordan, bravely took on the responsibility of raising ten remarkable children. George Jordan stands out as an extraordinary individual, being the last surviving sibling of the ten Jordan children. Farming quickly turned into fighting for George when, in 1942, the draft called his name as World War II raged on. He began his military training at Fort Benning, Ga. before

receiving orders to join a truck battalion that would eventually embark on a fleet of ships headed to Okinawa, Japan.

Upon arriving on the island, George and his comrades faced nightly bombing, the loss of fellow soldiers, and even a typhoon. He vividly recalled that during the storm, ships were washed ashore, men were swept away, and countless buildings were destroyed. One of George's assignments in Okinawa involved transporting Japanese prisoners to temporary compounds in his truck.

After completing his tour of duty, George returned to the United States with an honorable discharge and four military medals: the World War II Victory Medal, American Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Upon returning home from the war, George worked in both farming and industrial jobs, ultimately retiring after 18 years with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

He was married to the love of his life, Leona, for over 50 years until her passing in 2011. Together, they raised four children: two sons, Nathan Jerome and George Keith, and two daughters, Sandra Paulette and Emma Luella, both of whom

have passed away.

During his 72 years at Bethel Baptist, George has served as Sunday School superintendent, treasurer, former chairman of the deacon ministry, and is currently a deacon. He has also played a vital role in teaching the men of the church how to raise hymns in a special and stirring manner.

Today, George Jordan stands tall and healthy. He remains independent, cooking and caring for himself while maintaining his own home. However, his son Nathan checks in on him daily and serves as his father's chauffeur when needed.

When I asked Mr. George about his secret to a long and blessed life, he replied, "I was always honorable to my mother and never crossed her. Oh, I might have gone out in the backyard to say a few words and cry like a baby, but I never did it to her face." George recalled the biblical verse from Exodus 20:12: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Deacon George Jordan is indeed a rare gem—a noteworthy man who has honored his country, his community, his family, and God throughout his illustrious life. Mr. Jordan enjoyed the

Mayor Signs Proclamation- Flower Arrangement Presented to Library Celebrating Garden Week



By Marsha Mulderig

Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels signed a proclamation recently celebrating Garden Week April 20-April 26 in Georgia.

The proclamation read in part, "Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through planting of seeds, care of all plants and the harvesting of the riches of their efforts. Gardeners seek to add beauty,

splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers.

Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology. Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for many citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience.

to the housing program, we also have a Thrift Store as a part of our ministry.

Thanks to generous donations from the community and area businesses, we can provide quality low-cost items to include clothing, housewares, furniture, appliances and much more. In these challenging economic times having the thrift

shop in our community is a great resource for families that are struggling to make ends meet. We also provide items and resources to families who are going through hardship and in desperate need of a helping hand at no cost.

Please support this great contest and help us provide the needed resources to so many deserving

families that are desperate for this assistance. Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of others. Don't forget, we will also have the PCA Pizza Cookoff on Friday, May 2. If you have any questions about the Pizza Cook Off, please call Jerry Belcastro at (404) 992-4309. I look forward to seeing all of you again very soon.



Photo By Tim Franzén
Mr. George Jordan who celebrated his 106th birthday, Tuesday April 15, 2025

Jordan has extended a legacy of devotion to Almighty God and Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior and the historic Bethel Baptist Church where they have worshipped for over 60 years. The City of Vienna congratulates Mr. George Jordan on his excellent legacy of love, grace,

faith, courage and dignity."

The Tuesday, April 15 festivities concluded for the most part with a revival night of service held at Bethel Baptist Church in honor of 106-year-old Deacon George Jordan.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on May 12th, 2025, at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the Planning Commission to receive citizens' input and comments on the following zoning request.

Request #1 – Jesse Paaso has submitted a Zoning Variance Application for Parcel 74C-53. The property is presently zoned Agricultural, which requires 150' road frontage. The Variance will allow ingress/egress to the property by a 110' of road frontage. The property is located at Hwy 41 North of Unadilla, GA.

Dooly County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Dooly County will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (seven working days).

For more information, contact Zoning Administrator Glenn A. Layson at 229-268-4228.



PUBLIC NOTICE Scrap Tire Recycling Event

The Dooly County Public Works Department will conduct a Scrap Tire Recycling Event on the following days: Mon-Thurs, May 5-8; and Mon-Thurs, May 12-15.

County residents are invited to bring old tires for recycling. There is a limit to the total number of tires that can be accepted at this Event. The Event will be a first come first served basis.

The Event may end early, depending on the number of tires received. Tires cannot be from a source considered a Tire Generator by the Georgia EPD.

For additional information, you can contact the Public Works Department at 229-645-3361.

Obituaries

Danny Calhoun

Danny Calhoun, age 78, of 105 Cardinal Avenue, Perry, died Thursday, April 10, 2025, at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Born in Hawkinsville, he was the son of the late Malcolm Calhoun and Carrie Mae Mitchell Calhoun. He was a United States Army veteran and retired as a supervisor at Fort Benning. Danny loved arrowhead hunting, fishing and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. More than anything else, he loved his family.

He is survived by his wife, Edna Calhoun of Perry; his children, Danny Lynn Calhoun of Front Royal, VA, Michael Dutcher of Unadilla, Debbie Cross

(Jeff) of Perry, Dale Dutcher of Unadilla, Keith Dutcher of Americus and Millie Kobs of Andersonville; his brothers, Wayne Calhoun (Cathy) of Elbert, CO and Greg Calhoun (Debbie) of Parrottsville, TN; many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

No services were held.

For those who wish to honor Danny's memory, the family suggests a memorial gift to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10306.

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

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

Douglas "Chris"

Martin

Douglas "Chris" Martin, age 70, of 618B Tom Taylor Road, Hawkinsville, died Monday, April 7, 2025, at his residence.

Born in Vienna, he was the son of the late Douglas Martin and Virgie Mashburn Martin. He was a United States Army veteran. Chris was a free-spirit who loved having a good time, riding motorcycles and spending time with his family and friends. He treasured his daughter and his grandchildren most of all. He had worked at Georgia Pacific in Vienna and retired from Acuity Brands Lighting. Chris was a Christian and attended Home Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Crystal Martin of Hawkinsville; his brother, Mike Martin (Ann) of Hawkinsville; his sister, Beth Bridges of Hawkinsville; his brother-in-law, Doodle Vaughn of Hawkinsville; his grandchildren, Damon Snow,

Devin Snow and Brooklyn Dotson; 3 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Gail Vaughn and Patty Johnston.

No services were held.

The family suggests a donation to Crystal Martin to assist with her ongoing medical expenses. Checks may be mailed to Crystal Martin, 618B Tom Taylor Road, Hawkinsville, GA 31036.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Georgia Hospice Care for the care given to Chris during his final days.

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

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

Deadline for legal submission is Friday Noon prior to First publication. Email word document to editor@ganewsobserver.com. 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 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 petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 12, 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, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 2025
0696-VNO

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.

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4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 2025
0703-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF BENNIE BARRON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 25-0014

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of SHIRLENE BARRON, for a year's support from the estate of BENNIE BARRON, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before May 5, 2025, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate

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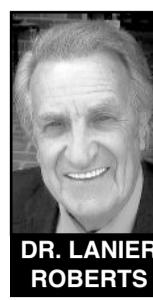
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TIM LEWIS

In The Garden With COWPEAS



Writings From The Heart A FEW THINGS

Cowpeas, or field peas, are legumes commonly grown today for food, hay, grazing, and soil building. A native of central Africa, the cowpea has spread to practically all warm, tillable areas of the earth.

Cowpeas are very popular in the state of Georgia, and make a good, relatively inexpensive soil builder. Very easy to grow, field peas thrive on practically any type of well-drained soil with a pH in the range of 5.5 to 6.5. They are generally able to withstand drought fairly well. As soil conditioners, they make sandy ground more compact and heavy clays more friable through added humus. The legume reactivates dead soil with myriads of bacteria from nodules-supplying nitrogen. For this reason, gardeners should apply a limited amount of nitrogen to the soil or face a pea crop with lush growth and low yields.

For food, cowpeas are prepared as follows: soak peas in lukewarm water several hours, then let simmer at low heat until tender. Season with pork fat, onion, cheese, green pepper for a tasty, sustaining dish. Cowpeas have 19.4% protein, 54.5% carbohydrates, and 1.1% fat. Their vitamin content, especially B1, is high.

Plant cowpeas an inch deep and about three inches apart in well-drained soil in late spring and every two weeks thereafter until July 15 for a suc-

cession. Sow them in double rows six to eight inches apart and the rows three to four feet apart. One pound of seed sows 100 feet of drill if spaced three to four inches apart.

I would like to review some of the more popular cowpea varieties as well as some not so familiar ones, as you may want to consider planting some this year.

*Big Boy (60 days) is a prolific home garden, dual purpose type edible pea, ideal for canning and freezing. A medium-early semi-vining pea.

*Cream 40 (60 days) is a cross between the extra early Blackeye and a midseason Cream variety. Pods are high above the foliage. Vining is at lower levels and does not interfere with harvest. Developed to fill the need for an early, more productive long pod Cream variety.

*Pinkeye Purplehull (50 days) is one of the most popular peas. A true white purplehull pod for market, freezing, or shipping. When green, the peas are white with a small purple eye. Flavor is excellent. With favorable weather, will produce two crops on the same plants in one season.

*Zipper Cream (70 days) is one of the most popular peas around the middle Georgia area. Large pods filled with whitish-green irregular-shaped peas. Easy to shell by hand, like unzipping a zipper. Very prolific pea.

*Mississippi Silver (55 days) is a crowder pea with beautiful silver-colored pods. It is earlier, has less vine, more concentrated yield, and shells much easier than any other crowder type. Bunch type plant.

*Calico Crowder (also called Polecat Pea or Hereford Pea) are buff-colored with maroon splashes. Very flavorful.

*Big Red (Mandy) Ripper is an heirloom variety from Virginia and North Carolina. A pea with 10" pods containing up to 18 peas per pod! Reddish-green pods are borne high on the vines, which are resistant to heat and drought.

*Coronet Pinkeye: An improved pinkeye purplehull variety.

*Mississippi Pinkeye 2: An improved pinkeye with better seedling vigor and cold tolerance.

*Elite Crowder: A prolific bush-type cream pea with large pods and easy-to-shell peas.

*California Blackeye No. 46: An improved blackeye variety with more erect plants and good yields.

*Dixie Lee: A popular variety known for its high yield, disease resistance, and adaptability.

*Sadandy (Sa Dandy): An open-pollinated variety with small, white cream peas.

*Knuckle Purple Hull: A bush-type cowpea with purple pods and large, plump peas.

There are many other cowpea varieties to choose from, but space does not permit a fair description of them. Try some cowpeas in your garden—you'll be glad you did!

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 timlewis1@windstream.net.



Writings From The Heart A FEW THINGS

1). We certainly received a blessing today at the sunrise (Sunrise) service. Some of us were standing outside the church building around 6:53 and people just kept coming. They kept coming. They kept coming. By the time we started there were probably OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE at that wonderful service! As usual, our pastor, Brian Leverett did a wonderful job preaching. Afterwards, we were fed a wonderful breakfast that would make the greatest chef proud. Later, Jean and I went to Cordele where I preached "He Is Risen" at Peavy Memorial Church. In total, a very great day, Amen.

2). Let's pray for ALL the

hackers to repent of their sins, accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, forsake sins, and live for Him for the rest of their lives. As they are, they are a "pain in the neck". I've been hacked lately. It's NOT fun, hackers. Stop disrupting people's lives! Amen.

3). Some people like to say, "I love you to the moon and back", and there is NOTHING wrong with that. When it comes to Jesus loving us, I like to say, Jesus loves us "to heaven and back." Amen

"Jesus loves us (to heaven and back) this I know, for the Bible tells us so." By Anna Bartlett Warner. Until next time.

TWO ACCIDENTS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

ongoing by the Georgia State Patrol.

The second accident occurred at the 118 mile-marker northbound involving five vehicles, two of which were semis. Dooly County EMS along with the Dooly County Sheriff's Department, Georgia State Patrol and Department of Public Transportation responded to this incident.

I-75 was blocked with only one lane of flow of traffic due to the debris from the accident which slowed down traffic through

out the interstate. That caused the local county roads and U.S. Highway 41 to be overwhelmed with the amount of interstate traffic.

It took approximately three-and-a-half hours to clean the interstate so that traffic could flow again. Dooly County EMS transported three patients involved in the accident to the local hospital with no severe injuries noted.

At last report, the accident was still under investigation by the Ga. State Patrol. We would

also like to encourage everyone to use caution at this time of year when traveling on county roads due to the increase in farm equipment and please use extreme caution when attempting to navigate around these kinds of farm implements.

Some of which are taking up a large space of the road and use must abide by all traffic rules when overtaking these vehicles. If you have questions, please feel free to give us a call at 229-947-0705.

BUDGET INCREASE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

on Parcel 10-7 to allow a recreational vehicle to be placed on the property located at 204 Drayton Loop in Vienna. A decision had been postponed back on January 13. That property is currently zoned R-2 or residential multi-family. A resident spoke in favor of the conditional use request, while one was opposed. The planning and zoning commission had tabled a decision back in December, 2024 until more clarity of the ordinance could be obtained.

Following a recent meeting, Chairman Tony Turner with a second by Mack Jordan, the planning and zoning board recommended the request be denied due to the fact that it did not comply with the present ordinance of Section nine-criteria for the review of conditional use and does not meet the six items listed in that section.

Following discussion, the commissioners agreed to accept the recommendation of the planning and zoning board to deny the conditional use application request. Mr. Sanders stated during his financial report that he had, "expressed concern

about our local option sales tax and special purpose local option sales tax and recently I reached out to Crisp County and from February-March, our sales tax dropped 18%. Crisp County for that same period, increased 10%. Macon County increased one-and-a-half percent. We'll wait to see what happens at the end of this month before we get too alarmed."

The Dooly County Public Works Department will conduct a scrap tire recycling event Monday-Thursday May 5-8 and Monday-Thursday May 12-15.

County residents can bring old tires for recycling, however there will be a limit on the total number of tires that can be accepted. It will be on a first come first served basis. Also the scrap tire recycling event might end early, depending on the number of tires received. The county is eligible for up to \$73,000 from the Environmental Protection Division. Tires cannot be from a source considered a 'Tire Generator' by the Georgia EPD.

The board was informed of the need to adopt in the near future, an ordinance regulating Crypto-

currency and Data Mining operations. It was recommended that the planning and zoning commission advertise a public hearing on this potential ordinance at their next meeting. A decision was tabled on a request made by the Dooly County Industrial Development Authority to replace a member of that board who has not been able to attend the meetings.

A request by Fire Coordinator Don Williford was OK'd by the board to declare a 2006 Stewart and Stevenson Military Cargo Truck six-by-six as surplus property and sell it on GovDeals. An update was provided on the River Road drainage project to be performed by Griggs Construction between Campers Haven Road and Collier Cemetery Road. The work on that will begin May 12. Signs will be posted about that closing.

In other news: A special election will be held Tuesday, June 17, 2025 for two seats on the Ga. Public Service Commission: District #2 and District #3.

HOUSE OF RAEFORD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

recipients this fall. We're working with our current webpage host and have talked with other potential hosts to understand if our webpage is Architectural Barriers Act compliant and if not, what plans are there to make it ABA compliant. There is a new law that all municipal webpages have to be ABA compliant by April of 2027. The city attorney has been consulted."

Amanda Neisent was scheduled to address the council with a request to propose as the executive director of family connections, but was unable to attend this meeting.

According to the city administrator, "They would partner with the city on a project to unify the literacy campaign to designate all public parks in Vienna as 'Get Dooly Reading' literacy parks. It's not changing the name of the parks. They'll provide a bench with a 'Get Dooly Reading' plaque on it and a little library in each park

that doesn't already have little libraries in there. They want to launch that during the summer reading campaign. They want to promote literacy and promote reading and they will provide the books, little libraries and benches for doing that." No action was taken at this meeting.

In other news:

- Owners of the Cafe 41 in Vienna across from the courthouse were in attendance at the meeting. This business is open for breakfast or lunch, inside dining and carryout. Breakfast and lunch sandwiches, salads and soups. Bakery items, coffee, tea and specialty drinks.

• Ga. Cities Week is scheduled for this week—April 21-April 26.

- The National Day of Prayer service is planned for the downtown park Thursday, May 1 at 12 Noon sponsored by the Vienna Church of Christ.

Free Summer Meals Program Coming This June

Contributed

As the school year winds down, we're excited to announce our Free Summer Meals Program for June kids 18 and under. Available the entire month of June. Two convenient options: non-congregate site at DCHS-Mondays only starting at 10:00 a.m. (parent-guardian pickup available).

Congregate site at Dooly County K-8 Academy-Monday-Friday with breakfast 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and lunch 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. No registration needed—just show up. First come, first served. If you have any questions, contact Dooly County School Nutrition at 229-268-4761.

The News Observer

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

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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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DCSS Receives Georgia Reading Grant, "Promoting Literacy"



Photos by Kylie Garrard
School Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford and Second Grader Miss Jelani Jackson. Dooly County Board of Education meeting was called to order by Second Grader Miss Jelani Jackson who is a student in Mrs. Tyson's class and Madame Chair Sherri Taylor.

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The school system was awarded a Georgia Reading Grant and is committed to a partnership promoting literacy throughout Dooly County. The school system received notification back in February that the DCSS was one of 10 districts that were awarded the grant.

This grant according to spokesperson Latori West, "Will help us to develop stronger community partnerships, such as our rec. department, family connection and even strengthen our community within the schools. Literacy is a big thing and it is something that we are striving daily to work on in our schools and our community. Working through those partnerships have really helped with our educational and community engagement and working with early literacy that we are focused on. There was a tremendous turnout for Literacy Night, but we're looking to take what we learned from that event to go forward. We want to continue that momentum and keep the focus on educating our kids."

Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford highlighted some positive academic highlights, "School Nutrition earned a perfect score. The transportation department passed its two-day annual bus inspections and returned for p.m. bus routes. The construction work at the high

school with upgrades at DCCA are shaping up. The stadium upgrades in particular with the stadium and the concession stands. Professional learning for Full Time Equivalent, a new system that's coming down to us from the state. We are also getting ready for testing."

The special ed department is completing internal preparation for federal and state monitoring. Professional learning sessions are being scheduled for future dates. Dr. Rodney McBride and Mrs. Kylie Garrard attended the National Youth at Risk Conference. We're in the midst of our financial audit as well. Our financial literacy workshop was very informative. Mr. Brian Cromartie from Wells Fargo discussed ways to overcome financial challenges, managing finances, adjusting daily spending, developing savings plans and understanding credit. We were also entertained by the Golden Sound of the South. The DCMS track team was featured on Top Rated Sports at a track meet held in Ashburn,

Ga. The board approved the purchase of summer essential backpacks and 500 workbooks in the amount of \$20,496. The students will provide essential educational resources and support for grades K-five to prevent summer learning loss.

The school board also OK'd the latest DCSS 2025-2026 employee handbook, Dooly County Prep Academy Code of Conduct, DC K-8 Student Code of Conduct and Dooly County Student Code of Conduct. The construction of a DCHS Sensory Room for special ed students that will be supported by trained staff, the room would be a structured environment so that the kids receive maximum benefits. The cost would be \$34,000 and the funding source would be the special education budget.

The school board agreed to submit a Dooly County School System-Georgia School Boards Association Exemplary Board application to recognize the way that the school system is working towards increasing its all around success rate. The

school board also gave a green-light to the Fiscal Year 2026 salary schedules and supplements.

Mr. David Barron addressed the board and stated, "We have had things that have been accomplished in the past and we never got recognition for it. That's what creates pride here in Dooly County and we need to do something about that. We're always picking on the rec. department and the rec. department is good and is doing well. Guess what, Dooly County's future is at the high school because they're good too. Why is it that we went 0-10 (football) and 1-21 (in basketball)? Something's wrong with that picture right there."

Items for board discussion featured a powerpoint presentation by Mr. David McLaughlin, vice president of business development with ESS. His company specializes in hiring, placing and managing qualified substitute teachers and school support staff in K-12 districts. No action was taken.



OF PUBLIC HEARING COMPLETION OF CDBG GRANT # 22p-x-046-2-6317

City of Vienna has completed the FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant. The following activities were completed: P-03J-01 Water Improvements, T-03J-00 Engineering and A-21A-00 Administration. Each of these grant activities benefited a total of 298 persons.

City of Vienna will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday April 30th at 1:00pm at the Vienna City Hall, 203 West Cotton Street, Vienna, GA 31092 for the purpose of discussing the completed activities and receiving citizen comments. All citizens are invited to attend this Hearing.

A copy of the Final Quarterly Report is now available at City Hall for review. Any person desiring to comment on the performance of the project may write to the City at PO Box 436, Vienna, GA 31092.

The City of Vienna is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. The city is committed to further Fair Housing. For reasonable accommodation or if you need an alternative format or language please contact city clerk, Margaret Shelley at 229-268-4744 before April 29th.

Persons with hearing disabilities can contact us through the Georgia Relay Service, by dialing (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.



'Boots and Bows' Father-Daughter Ball

Contributed

We warmly invite you to join us for our "Boots and Bows" Father-Daughter Ball on Saturday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the DCES cafeteria. Ticket Information: Presale: \$15 for Fathers | \$5 for Daughters. At the Door: \$20 for Fathers | \$10 for Daughters. This year's theme is Western, and we encourage all attendees to dress in Western-themed attire—though it is not required. Come out and support the Dooly County Golden Sound of the South Band Program as we celebrate an evening of fun, family, and community. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Federal judge sides with Georgia in 'water wars' with Alabama

By Dave Williams
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The state of Georgia has won another legal case in its long-running "water wars" with Florida and Alabama.

A federal judge Monday sided with Georgia, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority in a dispute over allocation of water from Lake Allatoona.

The decision upheld the Corps' decision in 2021 to grant Metro Atlanta's water supply requests from the lake and allocate more of the reservoir to meet the long-term needs of Cartersville and Bartow County.

The state of Alabama had challenged the federal agency's decision, arguing it would allocate too much water from the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin to Georgia.

"Backed by thorough analysis, factfinding, and experience, the Corps determined that granting Georgia's water-supply request would have little, if any, effect" on Alabama's water needs, U.S. District Judge Loren

AliKhan wrote in a 38-page decision. "The record is replete with evidence showing negligible or non-significant impacts."

Danny Jackson, managing director of natural resources at the ARC, praised the ruling.

"We are pleased to have a final decision that brings long-awaited certainty to all ACT stakeholders after decades of litigation," he said. "This ruling affirms our communities' responsible management and investment in water resources. We look forward to collaboration with all of the stakeholders in our shared river basins to address water challenges together."

In Georgia's other long-running water wars battle with the state of Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court also sided with Georgia, ruling in 2021 that Florida failed to prove its allegations that Georgia's water consumption from the Chattahoochee and Flint river systems caused the failure of Florida's oyster industry in Apalachicola Bay.

Representatives of water supply systems in Gwinnett, Forsyth and Hall counties finalized an agreement with the state of Georgia the following year guaranteeing them water from Lake Lanier through 2050.

Dooly County School District Tentative General Fund and Special Funds Budgets - All Funds July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Description	Total All Funds	General Fund	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Special Revenues	School Nutrition Program
ANTICIPATED REVENUES						
Local Property Taxes	\$ 7,864,982	\$ 6,304,982	\$ 1,560,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Sales Taxes	-	\$ -	-	-	-	-
Other Local Sources	1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	-	-	-	-
State	9,203,994	\$ 7,153,835	-	-	\$ 2,050,159	-
Federal	2,933,386	\$ -	-	-	\$ 1,975,687	\$ 957,699
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$ 21,002,362	\$ 14,458,817	\$ 1,560,000	\$ -	\$ 4,842,897	\$ 957,699
Transfers From Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance 7/1/2024	3,369,306	3,029,306	340,000	-	-	-
Total Funds Available	\$ 24,371,668	\$ 17,488,123	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ 4,842,897	\$ 957,699
ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES						
Instruction	\$ 10,453,396	\$ 7,009,464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,443,932	\$ -
Pupil Services	973,345	699,500	-	-	\$ 273,845	-
Improvement of Instructional Services	464,823	323,704	-	-	\$ 141,119	-
Instructional Staff Training	382,944	26,500	-	-	\$ 356,444	-
Educational Media Services	362,473	311,500	-	-	\$ 50,973	-
Federal Grant Administration	211,683	-	-	-	\$ 211,683	-
General Administration	1,302,521	1,302,521	-	-	\$ -	-
School Administration	1,486,324	1,486,324	-	-	\$ -	-
Business Administration	501,981	501,981	-	-	\$ -	-
Maintenance & Operation of Plant Services	1,710,626	1,700,318	-	-	\$ 10,308	-
Student Transportation Service	1,214,118	887,064	-	-	\$ 327,054	-
Central Support Services	645,126	645,126	-	-	\$ -	-
Other Support Services	205,039	177,500	-	-	\$ 27,539	-
Other Outlays	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-
School Nutrition Services	1,452,530	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,452,530
Enterprise Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	755,577	-	755,577	-	-	-
Undistributed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 22,122,506	\$ 15,071,502	\$ 755,577	\$ -	\$ 4,842,897	\$ 1,452,530
Transfers to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance 6/30/2025	\$ 2,249,162	\$ 2,416,620	\$ 1,144,423	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ (494,831)

*The Dooly County Board of Education will hold its first public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund & Special Funds Budget on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

*The Dooly County Board of Education will hold its second public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 for the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund & Special Funds Budget at 1:00 p.m.

*All meetings will be held at the times referenced in the Board Room at the Dooly County Board of Education Central Office, 202 Cotton Street, Vienna, GA.

Bobcats Soccer Teams Ready for the State Playoffs



Contributed

The Lady Bobcats secured a 2-1 win in overtime against Hawkinsville last Wednesday in 'The Grove' and with that win, the girls secured the #two spot in the region. Eunice Reyes and Sophia Gracia each had one goal. Seniors Angela Borrallas, Keili Reyes, Esmeralda Reyes, Eunice Reyes, Kenia Gonzalez, Gleyni Velasquez and Kaziya Burden were all recognized at halftime of their victorious match.

The Bobcats meanwhile secured a 4-1 win over Hawkinsville. Gustavo Jimenez had a hat trick (three goals) and Jesus Vega had one goal. It was also Senior night with Julian Garcia and Jason Mendoza honored at halftime of the match.

Next up, we traveled to Milledgeville, Ga. to take on Georgia Military College last Thursday. Our girls dropped their match against GMC with a score of 3-0. The Lady Bob-

cats had several players out, but we're still proud of their efforts. The Bobcats also dropped last Thursday's match with a score of 5-1. Jesus Vega scored our lone goal.

We're proud of our boys for their efforts. Next up, our boys traveled to Cordele, Ga. Saturday, April 19 to take on Crisp County in our last regular season non region match for the Bobcats and unfortunately we came out on the short end 2-0. Definitely not the result we wanted but it was a good tune up for the state playoffs. The boys overall record is 16-4 and 8-2 in the region.

The Lady Bobcats are 13-7 overall and 8-4 in region play. Next up, the girls hosted Southwest Georgia STEM Charter Tuesday, April 22 in the First Round of the GHSA State Playoffs, while the boys entertained Crawford County Wednesday, April 23 in the 'The Grove' with the kickoff at 6:00 p.m.

Fullington Academy Celebrates Senior Day Thursday

By Head Coach
Benji Brown

Last week, we had sort of a rough go of it finishing our region series with Grace Christian Tuesday in Bainbridge, Ga. with a 10-0 loss. We only had two hits in the contest and those came late. We just never could get anything going. Our two hits belonged to Cutter Tharpe and Garlan Godfrey both had two hits-a-piece and led the way.

We didn't play well early in the game and got behind 7-0 in the first two innings, but after that, we settled down and played a little bit better, but we just couldn't get a hit, which resulted in a 10-0 loss. Then last Thursday, we hosted Grace Christian in our third game in the region series and lost 9-4 and we probably should have won. We didn't play well defensively where we kicked it around and made nine errors.

I thought Bryson Faulk pitched exceptionally well and deserved a much better fate than what he got. His line was six innings, five hits, eight runs and only

three of them earned, three walks and six strikeouts. We did hit the ball a little bit better with eight hits on the day; Cutter Tharpe and Garlan Godfrey both had two hits-a-piece and led the way.

We had the bases loaded a couple of times and then we just couldn't bust it open. You leave the ballpark a little frustrated just thinking if you had played a little bit better that you probably would have won the ball game. Last Friday, we played Terrell Academy at home, which is a AAA school.

They're not as good as they've been in the past, but they've still got a pretty good ball club. The seniors that they have waited their turn because they've been really good the last three or four years and they ended up beating us 14-4 and again we had our chances to make it a little closer than that, but I think we had the bases loaded once and had runners at second and third two or three times. I thought our pitching was pretty good. We threw three eighth graders for the five innings that we played. Cash Greene, Eli Ashley both pitched



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler
Bryson Faulk, who pitched exceptionally well in a 9-4 loss to Grace Christian last week.

an inning and Brantley Ross threw three innings for us and all three of them pitched well. They got outs and soft contact and again, we made a few errors again that cost us in the long run. This week, we only played

FA Senior Will Greer-Scholarship Recipient



Contributed

A big congratulations to Senior FFA officer Will Greer who was one of 29 Future Farmers of America members from across the state who was awarded a Georgia FFA Foundation Scholarship. He will be recognized on stage during the third general session at the Ga. FFA State Convention in just a few short weeks.

Lady Trojan Evelyn Fletcher Advances to GIAA State Tennis Tourney

Contributed

Congratulations and good luck to Fullington Academy's Evelyn Fletcher. She has advanced to the GIAA state tennis tournament and is currently ranked #five in the state in women's singles.



VGC Holds Annual Plant Sale



Contributed

The Vienna Garden Club held its annual plant sale on the downtown square. All profits will

go to the Syra Ambrose Scholarship fund for college-bound seniors from Dooly County High School and Fullington Academy.

DCHS JROTC at GRITS Festival



Contributed

The Dooly County High School JROTC represented its school and themselves with pride while presenting the Colors at the recent GRITS festival

in Warwick Ga. Also pictured is Warwick Mayor Juanita Kinchen who is a major supporter of the Dooly County High School JROTC.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Dooly County Election
402 Hawkinsville, Rd
Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-9023

Special Primary Election (PSC) Public Service Commissioner

June 17, 2025

Election Day - All precincts will open 7am to 7pm

Deadline to register for the Special PSC Election

Monday, May 19, 2025

Early Voting at the Vienna Voting Precinct ONLY 8am to 5pm

May 27, 2025 Early Voting for June 17, 2025 Special Primary PSC Election
PSC (Public Service Commissioner) Election
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am thru 5:00 pm
(Saturday Voting Days May 31st & June 7th - 8am - 5pm)

June 6, 2025 Last day to accept absentee ballot applications for the June 17, 2025 Special Primary PSC Election

VOTE

Public Service Commissioners District 2

Democratic - Alicia Monique Johnson

Republican - Lee Muns
Timothy Guy Echols (Incumbent)

Public Service Commissioners District 3

Democratic - Daniel Blackman
Democratic - Peter Jacob Hubbard
Democratic - Keisha Sean Waites
Democratic - Robert Leslie Jones

Republican - Terrell Fitz Johnson Sr (Incumbent)