

The News Observer

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

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James Lonnie Smith pleads guilty to 2018 charges of murdering two women

Press Release by Brad Rigby, District Attorney (May 6, 2025)

On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, James Lonnie Smith pled guilty in Crisp County Superior Court before Judge Chris Hughes to the Malice Murders and other charges regarding the deaths of Sheena Jones and Shawna Ware. Smith was sentenced on Thursday, April 24, 2025, to a composite sentence of LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE plus a CONSECUTIVE TWENTY FIVE YEARS TO SERVE in the Georgia Department of Correction.

The plea stemmed from events that occurred in the morning hours of May 5, 2018, wherein Smith went to the residence of Sheena Jones and Shawna Ware in the city of Cordele and shot both women with two separate handguns. Police were alerted within minutes and Smith fled to Houston County where he hid out in a hotel. Later, multiple law enforcement agencies went to arrest Smith at the hotel and Smith engaged in a shootout with officers until he was apprehended. The GBI investigated both incidents with assistance from the Cordele Police Department, Crisp County Sheriffs Office, Perry Police Department and Houston County Sheriffs Office.

Smith pled guilty to Malice Murder, Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault (2 Counts of each), Home Invasion, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission a Felony (4 counts), and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon (2 Counts). Originally, the District Attorney had filed notice to seek the death penalty for these murders but it was withdrawn in exchange for the pleas of guilty.




Photo By Cordele Judicial Circuit DA Brad Rigby  
Sheena Jones and Shawna Ware

Linda Mitchell, Our Professional Woman of the Year for 2024!



Photo Contributed  
Linda Mitchell with her daughter Sherry Stokes Forehand.



Photo Contributed

By Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb

Nearly 100 professional women from Dooly County and the surrounding area gathered at the 24th Annual Dooly County Professional Women’s Luncheon on May 7th at Vienna Methodist Church, celebrating the incredible impact they have on our community.

We were thrilled to be entertained by the gifted Allison Yelverton, setting the stage for the introduction of this year’s highly deserving nominees: Sheila Almond, Angie Burton, Melanie Peavy Davis, Sheena Jones, and Linda Mitchell. We are so proud of all our outstanding nominees!

Congratulations to Linda Mitchell, our Professional Woman of the Year for 2024! Linda Mitchell is the Executive Director of Daybreak Pregnancy Care Center where she leads the organization’s operations and the implementation of the center’s programs. She provides leadership and support to a very dedicated staff and volunteers that carry out the mission of the organization by providing quality care to those in need in our community through direct services, education and resources to families. She is also a certified parenting teacher and works with college students doing their internship at the center, mentoring and providing invaluable leadership. She is always there for her clients doing everything she can to assist them. Linda is also very active in the community and has collaborative partnerships with the Dooly County Chamber, Family Connection, Crisp Dooly Fuller Center for Housing and The Reason.

Linda is a member of the Dooly County Kiwanis Club and serves on numerous boards and committees to include the Sheriff’s Foundation, Her Plan, DFACs,

WOMAN OF THE YEAR CONTINUED PG 4A

The DCHS Introduces New Head Football Coach

Coach-Dr. Tony Alexander and family.



Photo By Tim Franzén

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

Dooly County High School Principal Dr. Rodney McBride introduced the new Head Football Coach who is now, ‘Coach-Dr. Tony Alexander’, who recently deferred his doctorate degree, “Many of you know him as ‘Tony’, Coach Alexander, ‘TA’. He is a local product out of Crisp County. He has already put in, so he’s already proven to us what he’s going to do.”

Dr. McBride also took time out, “To wish Coach Cecil Lester the best in his future endeavors. He stabilized the program and did a great job.”

Coach Alexander commented about how he was a Crisp County Cougar, “Yes it’s true, I graduated from that blue school about nine miles away. Right here in Vienna-Dooly County though, we’ve got everything that we need and I can’t wait until we start spring OTA’s (organized team activities). Here at Dooly County High School,

we’re going to put Passion, Attitude and Work (PAW) into our school. We’re going to play football with great character. Offensively, we’re going to go downhill, running and own and take care of the ball kind of team. Our quarterback, he’ll run the ball. At Dooly County, we’ll be playing great defense, running the ball and taking the ball down the field. On special teams, we’re going to have continuity. I feel like I’m at home, but we need your support, but also in time. We’re going to win and do it with pride, with discipline and integrity.”

Dr. McBride concluded the introduction by saying, “We’re looking forward to an exciting football season and it’s going to be an experience.” Coach Alexander had met earlier with a group of eighth-graders at DCMS who will be freshmen next year. He shared valuable insights on good sportsmanship, the importance of keeping grades up and serving the community.



Photo Contributed

2024 Nominees Melanie Peavy Davis, Angie Burton, Sheena Jones and Linda Mitchell.

Dooling Community Men’s Club Holds Fifth Annual Trail Ride

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

Kenneth Oliver, spokesperson for the Dooling Community Men’s club who held its fifth annual event explained that, “This is a Dooling nursing home donation trail ride. We experienced issues with the weather, but we did have people who came to support our efforts. We still had the food that we’re going to sell for our nursing home. We dropped off items to the nursing homes in Byromville and in Macon County this past weekend and purchased snacks and body baths and all kinds of goodies for the residents to honor them on Mother’s Day.

That’s what the Director at 4 Angels of Byromville Healthcare Center told us that they needed, so we delivered those items late last week. We also If anybody would still like to make a donation to help defray

TRAIL RIDE CONTINUED PG 4A



Photo Photo by Kenneth Oliver



# City of Vienna Announces Coloring Contest Winners



**Contributed**

As part of this year’s Georgia Cities Week, themed “Imagine the Possible”, the City of Vienna hosted a vibrant coloring contest to showcase the artistic talents of our young leaders.

We’re thrilled to announce the winners: First Grade: Whillow O’Hara, Ja’Nardia Glenn. Third Grade: Angel Cordova and Sixth grader Keylee Wells. Your creativity and imagination truly brought our community’s spirit to life.

A heartfelt thank you to all the students who participated. Your colorful contributions made this celebration even more special. Let’s continue to imagine the possible together.

# ‘Accomplishment’ Word of the Month in the DCSS

**By Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford**

The month of May marks the middle of Spring, filled with memories and special moments to celebrate as we acknowledge our graduations, Mother’s Day, and Teacher’s Appreciation Week. As we embrace these special occasions, I want to take a minute to reflect on our collective accomplishments and the spirit of gratitude that fills our entire school community.

This month, our word of the month is “Accomplishment,” a fitting reflection of the hard work, dedication, and resilience displayed by our students, faculty, and staff throughout the school year as we show appreciation for obtaining our goals. Collectively, we may not be exactly where we want to be, and we may not have reached our targets, yet it is very necessary that we commend those students, staff, and community members who have improved, grown, and may have reached their goals.

With that said, I commend each of you. I hope that all our educators have enjoyed the Teacher Appreciation Week tokens and acknowledgements. One more time, I request that everyone take time to recognize and honor these incredible educators who impact our lives daily. Their commitment to nurturing and inspiring our students is invaluable. Let’s show our appreciation through kind words, thoughtful gestures, and heartfelt thanks.

Also this month of May, Mother’s Day is upon us, a special occasion to recognize the love and support of mothers and mother figures in our lives. Their enduring encouragement and divine guidance shape our dealings daily. Let us celebrate our mothers for their sacrifices and the countless ways they uplift our community.

Lastly, graduation is just around the corner (May 24, 8:00 a.m.), and I am filled with pride as we prepare to honor the Dooly County High School Class of 2025. This milestone is a testament to their hard work and perseverance, and I encourage everyone to join us in celebrating their achievements as they embark on new journeys.

Together, let us continue to foster a supportive and encouraging environment for our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for your dedication and passion that makes our school community a wonderful place to learn and grow.

# City Hall Recognizes Margaret Shelley

**Contributed**

We want to give a big shout-out and heartfelt thank you to our amazing City Clerk Margaret Shelley. You might not always see the work being done, but trust us—it’s a lot!

From keeping up with records, making sure meetings go smoothly, and helping keep everything in order, our city clerk does it all with care and professionalism. You’re one of the key people who help keep our city running, and we’re so grateful for your hard work, attention to detail, and the calm, steady presence you bring every day.

We appreciate you more than words can say—thank you for everything you do!



# Chamber-Family Connection Observe Teacher Appreciation Week



**By Chamber President CEO Rhonda Lamb**

I had the privilege of delivering cookies to all our exceptional Dooly County educators and support staff today on behalf of the Dooly County Chamber and Family Connection in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all that you do each and every day to inspire and empower our children and our community. We are grateful for your unwavering commitment to excellence that sparks positive change and fuels a brighter future for our most treasured asset, our children.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) CONTRACTOR TO OPERATE A 5311 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS OF DOOLY COUNTY

### NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners invites proposals for a service provider for the operation of its Section 5311 public transit service, to begin operation on July 1, 2025, for a two-year period, with an option at the discretion of the Dooly County Board of Commissioners to extend for five (5) additional years. This public transit service is a federal and state subsidized service through 49 USC Section 5311, Federal Transit Administration Other than Urbanized Areas Transit Fund Program. Copies of the Request for Proposal (RFP) document may be obtained from:

Dooly County Board of Commissioners  
Mr. Stephen C. Sanders, Administrator  
113 North Third Street  
Vienna, GA 31092  
229-268-4228  
[scsanders@doolycountyga.com](mailto:scsanders@doolycountyga.com)

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners seeks proposals from qualified firms or organizations (public, private, non-profit) with experience in all aspects of public transportation administration, planning, management, operations and vehicle maintenance, and coordination with County, County, regional, state, and federal agencies.

The RFP includes the Terms and Conditions and Technical Specification defining the requirements of the proposal and identifies all significant evaluation factors, listed in descending order of importance.

An evaluation committee will consist of representatives with sufficient technical expertise to adequately address and evaluate proposals received.

The RFP is publicly advertised and will be issued to all requesters.

Proposers must submit proposals in two (2) parts. The first part includes, but is not limited to technical and contractual proposal, including all required submittals. The second part includes but is not limited to proposed price and cost data, including all required submittals. All information including the number and names of Proposers is kept confidential, within legal constraints. Each proposal part must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and be clearly labeled as: Response to Transit RFP – Technical Proposal and Response to Transit RFP – Cost Proposal

Technical proposals should identify any proposed substitution or additional features with an explanation of the benefits they offer the County. It is expected that the cost impact of these benefits will also be reflected in the cost proposal. Price quoted will be for a firm-fixed per trip cost rate to cover the administrative cost and for the service hours that are generated by the service demand.

This procurement shall conform to the procurement requirements of the Georgia State Purchasing Code, with emphasis on Sections 50-5-67 and 50-5-83.

This procurement process shall also conform to the procurement requirements of the Federal Transit Administration’s Third Party Contracting Requirements Circular Number C.4220.1f. Per C.4220.1f, this is procurement by competitive proposal/request for proposal.

Public opening of bid of proposals will be held. The County will open the proposals at 9:00 A.M. on June 12, 2025 at 113 North Third Street, Vienna GA 31092 and will distribute the proposals to the evaluation committee for review.

The evaluation committee will evaluate the formal proposals received and rank them in order of preference. The evaluation committee may conduct interviews with those firms determined to be within the competitive range.

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to award a contract on the basis of proposals submitted without negotiation, to reject any and/or all proposals, to re-advertise for proposals and to waive any informality in any proposal and to determine the most responsive proposal by its own criteria, as described within the specification.

Discussions will not disclose information contained in competing proposals.

A final ranking of candidates will be made and interviews and negotiations held with those proposers determined to be within the competitive range.

## PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY SUBMIT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL. QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY, MAY 29, 2025 AT 4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME. QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING. EMAIL SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS IS PREFERRED. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Dooly County Board of Commissioners  
Mr. Stephen C. Sanders, Administrator  
113 North Third Street  
Vienna, GA 31092  
229-268-4228  
[ssanders@doolycountyga.com](mailto:ssanders@doolycountyga.com)

### Response to Questions:

A response to questions received in writing will be sent to all parties as an addendum to the RFP and posted to the Dooly County website. Only a written addendum to the RFP shall change the RFP language. The County shall not be responsible for oral interpretations.

## ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9:00 AM, LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 12, 2025. NO PROPOSALS SHALL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME AND DATE.

All correspondence and sealed proposals shall be delivered to:

Dooly County Board of Commissioners  
Mr. Stephen C. Sanders, Administrator  
113 North Third Street  
Vienna, GA 31092  
229-268-4228  
[scsanders@doolycountyga.com](mailto:scsanders@doolycountyga.com)

One original and two copies of the proposal should be submitted to Steve Sanders, Dooly County for review. The County will not be responsible for any costs incurred by Proposers in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP).

## REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS, DEVIATIONS OR APPROVED EQUALS TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND/OR SPECIFICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY NO LATER THAN 4:00PM, LOCAL TIME, ON MAY 29, 2025.

Proposing firms must not be on the System of Award Management (SAM) list of ineligible firms. The successful Proposer will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws and regulations. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) shall be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals.



# Vienna Woman’s Club Celebrates Armed Forces Day

Contributed

Vienna Woman’s Club members will celebrate Armed Forces Day by providing tours at the Dooly County Veterans Museum Saturday May 17, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Museum is located on South Third Street in the former Royce’s Barber Shop and Draft Board building. Armed Forces Day is a special observance when citizens thank the men and women of

the United States Armed Forces. The Day was first conceived by President Harry S. Truman in 1949 when all branches of the service were unified under one department- the Department of Defense. It is celebrated on the third Saturday every May. The community is invited to visit the Museum and view the unique and historic items on loan from Dooly County veterans.

# Local Club Honors Memorial Day

Contributed

Members of the Vienna Woman’s Club will again place flags on the graves of our American heroes for Memorial Day. If

your loved one does not have a military marker, please notify a club member and we will ensure that the grave site is covered.

# 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.

# Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: [thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com](mailto:thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com)

## Christ Chapel Unadilla May Food Pantries-Food Drive

Christ Chapel Unadilla, located at 400 Jeannette Street will open their pantry on **Saturdays May 17 and May 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.** They will hold a food drive **Friday, May 9 starting at 11:00 a.m.-until** in the community center parking lot. For more information, contact CCU at 478-627-9352.

## GFWC Vienna Womans Club Announces Museum Hours

The Dooly County Veterans Museum will be open on the following days from **May 17, Armed Forces Day. May 26, Memorial Day. June 6, D-Day. June 14, Flag Day-Army Day. September 18, Air Force Birthday. October 13, Navy Birthday. November 10-11 Marine Day and Veterans Day and December 7, Pearl Harbor Day.** Private tours can be arranged for other dates and times by texting 229-347-0834.

## Bingo Night in Byromville

Enjoy Bingo Game night on the second Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Byromville Municipal Complex. This is for individuals 55 and older. Free entry-fellowship-games and prizes.

## Town of Dooling Meeting

The Town of Dooling-Town Meeting will now be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00p.m. (Except for the months of July & Dec. when no meeting will be held.) If you plan to bring an issue to the board, please contact the Mayor in writing a week before the town meeting to be placed on the agenda.

## Bobcat Bulletin

Please watch Bobcat Bulletin via Facebook - Instagram. FB Dooly County High School.

IG [doolycounthigh](https://www.instagram.com/doolycounthigh). Every Monday at 1:00PM. Courtesy of Mr. A. Kendrick’s A/V Class.

## Dooly County Library

1200 East Union St., Vienna Mon. - Thurs. 9AM-6PM Fri. 9:30A.M. - 4P.M. *Closed Saturday.* **Thursdays - COLOR & CHAT.** Color books and colored pencils will be provided or you can bring your own. For more information contact Jill Kloberdanz, library manager library at 229-268-4687.

## The Elizabeth Harris Library

**Unadilla Location:** Tues-Thurs 8:30AM-6PM Friday 9AM-4PM Saturday 9AM-12PM Noon **Byromville Location:** Tues-Thurs 2:30PM-5:30PM

## Summer Reading Club Theme ‘Color our World’

Summer Reading Club programs are FREE. All of the Elizabeth Harris Library Programs will be on **Wednesdays in June at 4:00 p.m.** **June 4 -** Birght Star Theater storytales. **June 11 -** Animal Tales zoofarie earth **June 18 -** Care of Magical Creatures **June 25 -** Wildlife Wonders

## “An Hour of Encouragement”

Pastor Dean and the New Poplar Spring Baptist Church would like for you to join us every Wednesday night @7pm for “An Hour of Encouragement” on our Conference Call line. Please dial (253) 993-3761. (TFS)

## Bethlehem Baptist Church

Worship With Us Each & Every Sunday. Worship starts at 11:00am. Bible Study on each Sunday at 5:00pm. Jerry Jamal Sanders, Sr., Pastor. (TFS)

# FA Students Tour Dooly County Library

Contributed

Mrs. Grinolds’ Fourth and Fifth grade students from Fullington Academy recently toured the Dooly County Library, in Vienna. In class they have been learning about the resources the library has to offer.

While visiting they learned all about the services they provide the community, and then they had a scavenger hunt.

Some students were able to find pictures of their par-

ents and grandparents in the older Fullington Academy yearbooks. Library Manager Jill Kloberdanz stated, “We loved having Ms. Grinolds’ students from Fullington Academy tour the library.

They learned all about the services we provide then they had a scavenger hunt. Some of the students found their parents’ school pictures in the yearbooks from our Special Collection.”



# Daybreak Pregnancy Center Holds Mother’s Day Luncheon

By Cordele Police Department

A Mother’s Day Luncheon was held last Wednesday at the Daybreak Pregnancy Care Center. Past clients with their babies along with some new clients toured the facility and received a Mother’s Day present and a meal. The Cordele Police Department is honored to serve on

the Board at Daybreak. If you are interested in learning more about this mission, please contact us or Linda Mitchell at Daybreak Pregnancy Center 1300 Union Street in Vienna at 229-268-1261. It’s open Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. After hours: 229-805-3332 or by email at [daybreak2023@yahoo.com](mailto:daybreak2023@yahoo.com).



# Ag in the Classroom Book Donated to Elizabeth Harris Library

By Rhonda Woodward Bartlett

The Newest Ag in the Classroom book donated by Angie Burton is “The Chalk Garden” by Sally Anne Garland available at Elizabeth Harris Library in Unadilla. It was read by Julianne Woodward Bartlett. Pictured are Raya Daniels, Katie Mason and Allison Yelverton. Thanks Angie Burton.



**NEED TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS?**  
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# Bethel Baptist holds Annual Baccalaureate Program



**Contributed -** Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna, Ga. held its Annual Baccalaureate Program for the Class of 2025 last Sunday, May 4. The pastor of the church is the Reverend Dr. Bobby G. West.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

**Athens Hill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-4883  
**AOH Church of God**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1903  
**Bakersfield Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Bay Point CME**  
Byromville, GA  
**Bethel Baptist Church**  
Vienna, 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  
**Vienna Church of Christ**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1994  
**Vienna Church of God**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1404  
**County Line Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Destiny Worship Center International Ministries**  
Vienna, GA (478) 273-8112  
**Dooling Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Double Branch Freewill Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Drayton Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-8456  
**Drayton United Methodist**  
Vienna, GA, 229-321-9292  
**Ebenezer Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-2964  
**Evangelistic Tabernacle Church**  
Vienna, GA

NAPA

**Brooks**  
**Auto Parts**

**229-268-2700**

313 W. Union St., Vienna  
Open Through Lunch  
Eddie Conner, Manager

**THE CITIZENS**  
**AGENCY**

“Dependable Insurance”

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**  
Vienna, 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  
**Lilly Baptist Church**  
Lilly, GA  
**Lilly Methodist Church**  
Lilly, GA 229-433-5691  
**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1582  
**Little Poplar Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Living Water Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Mars Hill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-6795

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*Chad Weesner*  
**INSURANCE AGENCY**

Vienna, GA

**Midway Independent Methodist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Mt. Moriah Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**New Bethel Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-627-3775  
**Mt. Zion CME**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-6013  
**Northside Missionary Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**New Bethel CME**  
Pinehurst, GA  
**Pinehurst Baptist Church**  
Pinehurst, GA  
**Pinehurst Methodist Church**  
Pinehurst, GA  
**Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-8746

**Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Richwood Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Pleasant Valley Baptist Church**  
Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3713  
**Reedy Branch Baptist Church**  
740 Church Avenue  
Byromville, GA  
**Riverview Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Shady Grove CME Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Shiloh Methodist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Smyrna Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-6852  
**Snow Methodist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**St. John Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Springhill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**St. Luke CME**  
Lilly, GA  
**St. Mark’s Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Tippettsville Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Trails of Faith Deliverance Holiness Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-4377  
**Turkey Creek Baptist Church**  
Lilly, GA  
**Unadilla First Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-627-3615  
**Unadilla United Methodist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-627-3330  
**Vienna Congregation**  
Vienna, GA  
**Vienna First Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-4386  
**Vienna Methodist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-4207



OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY WRITERS ON THIS PAGE ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE NEWS OBSERVER



TIM LEWIS  
Columnist

In The Garden With  
**DROUGHT  
RESISTANT  
PERENNIALS**

Most gardeners these days look for plants that require low maintenance. This necessarily includes those which, once established, are able to withstand harsh conditions during the growing season and those which return year to year to grace their gardens. We call these champions perennials. This week we take a look at some perennials which have the reputation of withstanding the heat and drought of southern summers.

Drought resistant plants are generally those with leaves that are small, thick, glossy, silver-gray or fuzzy. Each of these traits helps them conserve moisture. The following perennials are good choices for the moisture-minded gardener.

Yarrow (*Achillea* varieties)—Not only does this delicate, lacy-leaf perennial tolerate heat and drought well, but it is also a great cut flower. And, while deer, rabbits, and most other pests won't touch it, butterflies love it. It appears in a number of varieties, with blooms in shades of yellow, red, orange, pink, and white. *Achillea* prefers full sun and well-drained soil and grows from two to four feet tall.

Lavender (*Lavender angustifolia*)—This is one plant that

is tough as nails and looks and smells wonderful. Considered an herb, it boasts of blue, lavender, purple, or white flowers in summer. Lavender is great for drying and using in crafts as well as in cooking. Grow it in full sun in well-drained soil. Reaches about three feet tall.

Sedum (*Sedum* varieties)—Scores of sedum types and varieties exist and most are tough and drought resistant. Some are grown for their flowers, such as 'Autumn Joy', but others such as 'Frosty Morn' and 'Angelina' are blessed with gorgeous leaves that look great from spring to fall. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Grows from six inches to two feet tall, depending on type.

Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)—This resilient perennial blooms most of the summer producing lots of mauve-purple blooms that make excellent cut flowers. Attracts butterflies too. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Grows from one to five feet tall, depending on variety.

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia* species)—This is a tough prairie plant which blooms all summer and into the fall. Its flowers are marked with shades of red and yellow. Plant it in full sun and well-drained

soil. Reaches up to three feet tall, depending on variety. Some popular ones are 'Goblin' and 'Arizona Sun'.

Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*)—An easy to grow ground cover with soft, fuzzy leaves and an elegant silver sheen. Provides good contrast with other flowers, especially those with shades of red and blue. Can be aggressive in rich soil. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Grows to 18 inches tall.

Baptisia (False Indigo)—This is an easy to grow perennial that thrives with little maintenance and is very long-lived once established. It forms an upright, vase-shaped mound of attractive blue-green foliage topped with long, charcoal stems which carry the flowers in late spring to early summer.

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)—Gather bouquets of this tough perennial all summer long. Following the fabulous flowers, green fruits develop which rupture to reveal seeds with long, silvery-white, silky hairs resembling its cousin, common milkweed. These are excellent in dried flower arrangements.

Other popular perennials which defy the harsh southern summers include gaura, delosperma (ice plant), buddleia (butterfly bush), and many others.

In summary, there are many excellent drought-resistant plants out there—you just have to find them!

*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.*



DR. LANIER  
ROBERTS  
Columnist

Writings From The Heart  
**SOMETHING  
I WANT TO EXPRESS**

I lost the brother (May 6th) I was closest to in age (21 months older than me) and in relationship also as we were that close together in age. Jimmy was one-of-a-kind brother. He's the one I wrote about several years ago entitled: FROM RAGS TO RICHES.

He had such an infectious personality (I always wanted

a personality just like his.) and people always enjoyed being around him. He smiled almost all the time and would laugh more than anyone else at the clean jokes he told. He, his wife, our sister, Cindy (her husband, Doyle), Jean, spent a week together in Hawaii back in November 2005. What a blessing that was. I love ALL

my siblings, but I'm really going to miss Jimmy as he always set the example for me and his influence on me helped me accept the Lord in 1975.

It's just goodbye right now, Jimmy, but I'll get to reminisce with you again one of these days when I get to heaven with Jesus. You were loved by SO MANY.

I can almost see you now walking the streets of gold alongside our Savior, Jesus Christ. I love you. ---Lanier---

Yes, Christians will get to reminisce when we get to heaven, only about the good things, though. Jesus loves us to heaven and back. Until next time.

**WOMAN OF THE YEAR**  
CONTINUED FROM 1A

CASA for Foster Children, EckerdConnects, Georgia Rights to Life, Healthy Families, and Adopt an Angel in Crisp and Dooly Counties. Linda is also passionate about helping with those in need and advocating and addressing needs of the homeless, food insecurity and supporting Celebrate Recovery. She is the Senior Director at Northern Heights Baptist Church and member of Northern Heights Baptist Church Food Ministry.

Ms. Linda was named Mother of the Year for the State of Georgia in 2014. There is never a time that you reach out to Ms. Linda that she does not step up to do whatever is necessary to assist. She has a huge heart and such a capacity for giving back to her community. It is her mission to make a difference in someone's life.

Congratulations to our longtime Volunteer Stacie Beach for being recognized with a special events MVP award! A heartfelt thank you to our Sponsors, whose generosity and support empower us to celebrate these exceptional women.

Chamber Diamond Sponsor: Brannen Motor Company Platinum Sponsors: Cadence Bank, Middle Georgia EMC, Silver Sponsor: Dooly County Family Connection. We extend our deepest gratitude to the City of Unadilla, City of Vienna, and the Dooly County Commissioners for their unwavering support.

We also appreciate our Event Sponsors! Gold Sponsors: Brannen Motor Company, City of Unadilla, City of Vienna, Middle Georgia EMC, Cadence Bank, Georgia Power, and Albany Area Primary Health Care. Silver Sponsors: South Georgia Banking Company and Daybreak Pregnancy Care Center. Bronze Sponsor: Piggly Wiggly, Vienna.

Each professional woman received a special gift from the Chamber and a door prize from our sponsors. Thank you to our Door Prize Sponsors: Marlene



Photo Contributed  
Nominee Sheila Almond who was unable to attend.



Photo Contributed  
Attendees were entertained by the gifted Allison Yelverton.



Photo Contributed  
Amanda and Rhonda awarded longtime Volunteer Stacie Beach with a Special Events MVP award.

Kimball, Century 21 Cadence Bank, Crisp Dooly Fuller Center, Dooly County Family Connection, BIG PIG JIG, Dooly County Sheriff Department, Ellis Brothers, Holly Black, Keaton's Kreative Kreations, Melinda Faye Brown, Paparazzi, and South Georgia Banking Company. We appreciate our centerpiece sponsors, Rhonda Lamb and La'El Sanders.

A special thank you to my incredible team, the professional women of the Board of Directors! Chairman, Amanda O'Neal Neisent, Community Development Chair, Marlene Kimball, Tourism Chair, Maggie McGruther, Finance Chair, Cheryl Card, Board members: Sabrina Sinyard Holmes, Rhon-

da Woodward Bartlett, Carrie Mashburn, Brenetta Chaney Childs, and Dr. Monica Kears. Thank you to our phenomenal staff Tiffany Sinyard and Phyllis Keaton. We also appreciate our wonderful team that always steps up when we need them: La'El, Heidi, Freya, Jax, Jay and Ashton!

The Dooly County Chamber proudly recognizes and honors all professional women who selflessly devote countless hours to their profession. We are deeply grateful for your invaluable contributions to our area workforce through your unwavering commitment and dedication. You truly make a profound difference in our community!



BILLY POWELL  
Columnist

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 (Neviim), and the Writings (Ketubim). The first letters of these Hebrew words - T, N and K -- form the name of the Hebrew Bible - the Tanakh. 1

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 methods 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 A.D, the eyewitnesses 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."

**TRAIL RIDE**  
CONTINUED FROM 1A

the cost, we would be more than pleased to accept any monetary assistance because we do this every week to give back to the nursing home, so if you can help us out, and whatever God guides you to do, that would be really appreciated.

Again, we do this for our

local and area nursing homes and we give back to the elderly citizens in Byromville and Macon County at Christmas as well to make sure that all the patients have Christmas gifts and this month for Mother's Day."

The trail ride attracts 50-75 participants not only from

Dooly and Macon Counties, but from as far away as Valdosta. If you would like to donate to this ongoing project of the Dooling Community Men's Club, feel free to contact Mr. Kenneth Oliver at 478-244-7855.

**The News Observer**  
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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.

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF DOOLY**  
**IN RE ESTATE OF PATRICIA E. RICHARDS, DECEASED.**  
All creditors of the Estate of Patricia E. Richards, late of said County, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.  
This 28th day of April, 2025.  
**Suzanne L. Alford**  
**Executor of Patricia E. Richards, deceased**  
**2709 Clubhouse Dr**  
**Lake Wales, FL 33898**

J. Mitchell Gibbs  
RAINWATER, GIBBS & WRIGHT, LLP  
P.O. Box 1096  
Cordele, Georgia 31010  
5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 2025  
0708-VNO

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**Undersigned, Annie Lou Smith, Executor of the Estate of Eunice B. Jordan,** hereby gives in terms of establishment comprising Section 53-7-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated notice to all creditors and claimants of the above named decedent's estate to render in an account of their demands, properly attested, to said Executor and all persons owing to said estate are required to make prompt payment to said Executor having postal address of 304 W Woodward Street, Vienna, GA 31092.  
**Annie Lou Smith**  
**Executor**  
**LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC**  
**Attorney for Executor**  
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 2025  
0705-VNO

**STATE OF GEORGIA,**  
**COUNTY OF DOOLY**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF GEORGE LAMAR SMITH, Deceased**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
All the creditors of the Estate of **GEORGE LAMAR SMITH**, 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 me.  
**Amy Smith Boyer and George Mark Smith**  
**as Co-Executors of the Estate of George Lamar Smith, deceased**  
**P.O. Box 736**  
**Forsyth, GA 31029**  
Amy Smith Boyer  
Attorney at Law  
Vaughn, Wright & Boyer LLP  
P.O. Box 736  
Forsyth, GA 31029  
(478)994-3830  
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 2025

0706-VNO  
**GEORGIA, DOOLY COUNTY**  
All creditors of the **Estate of Lillian Caroline Gresham, deceased, late of Dooly County**, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.  
This 21st day of April, 2025.  
**Wilma Jean Thompson and Carolyn Rebecca Tison, Co-Executors of the Estate of Lillian Caroline Gresham**

**Jon L. Coogle**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**P.O. Box 178**  
**100 Sumter Street**  
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068  
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 2025  
0707-VNO

**DOOLY COUNTY JUNE 2024 MOBILE HOME TAX SALE SHERIFF'S SALE**  
**PAULA M. SMITH**  
**EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF DOOLY**  
Under and by virtue of certain tax Fi.Fa.'s issued by the **Tax Commissioner of Dooly County, Georgia, in favor of the State of Georgia and County of Dooly**, against the following named persons and the personal property as described immediately below their respective name(s).  
There will be sold for cash or certified funds at public outcry, before the Courthouse steps in **Vienna, Dooly County, Georgia, between the legal hours of sale, on the first Tuesday in June 2025, the same being June 3, 2025.**

The following personal property will be sold between the legal hours of sale, 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The personal property listed below and described will be sold. The personal property hereinafter described has been levied on as the personal property of the persons whose names immediately proceed the personal property description. The respective property is located in Dooly County, State of Georgia. The years for which said Fi.Fa.'s are issued and levied are stated below the name of the owner in each case.  
**This is a buyer beware sale and all property will be sold as is. The County makes no warranty, neither expressed nor implied, as to title.**  
**Personal Property is sold with no right of redemption.**  
Each defendant and tenant in possession, if applicable, has been notified of levy time and place of sale. Purchaser shall pay for title, all transfer cost, all taxes, advertising cost and recording fees. At the discretion of the Tax Commissioner's office, payment will be required within two (2) hours of the completion of the tax sale. In the event a bid is not properly paid, the property shall be **re-offered at 2:00**

**PM on the day of sale.**  
File #: 2  
Map/Parcel Number: 2581 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Barron, De-nardo Renee; PB-2581  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-2581, being a 2008, 16x76, Horton Homes Inc, Echo Mobile Home, MFG ID# H216941G, located at 546 Howell Road (David Barron MH Park).  
Years Due: 2021-2024

File #: 5  
Map/Parcel Number: 266 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Brown, Calvin; PB-266  
Current Property Owner: Brown, Calvin & Corrine  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-266, being a 1992, 14x66, Peach State Homes, Signature Mobile Home, MFG ID# PSHGA11792, located at 200 Burns Street (Mary A Brown MH Park).  
Years Due: 2021-2024

File #: 7  
Map/Parcel Number: 230 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Bryant, Lashandra; PB-230  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-230, being a 1985, 14x60, Horton Homes Inc, Summit Mobile Home, located at 4745 Franklin Road (Henderson Bryant Est MH Park).  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 17  
Map/Parcel Number: 3122 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Cross, Glenn Dexter; PB-3122  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-3122, being a 1998, 16x60, Fleetwood Westfield Mobile Home, MFG ID# GAFLV07A41343W212, located at 1336 Lonesome Pine Road.  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 22  
Map/Parcel Number: 85 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Felton, Debra; PB-85  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-85, being a 1984, 24x52, Catalina Mobile Home, MFG ID# GBICM13959AB, located at 5035 West Road (Johnsons Land MH Park).  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 26  
Map/Parcel Number: 1090 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Gates, Darrick Lamonta; 1090 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as

Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1090, being a 1980, 14x66, Family Housing Mobile Home, MFG ID# FH4125, located at 807 Grant Street.  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 27  
Map/Parcel Number: 914 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Glover, Kierra Nicole; 914 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-914, being a 1999, 22x48, Sweetwater Mobile Home, MFG ID# SHGA4246A & MFG ID# SHGA4246B, located at 160 Chandler Road.  
Years Due: 2022-2024

File #: 28  
Map/Parcel Number: 263 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Jackson, Girdene; 263 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-263, being a 1983, 12x60, Guerdon Mobile Home, MFG ID# GDWGA3668220425, located at 3869 Highway 215.  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 36  
Map/Parcel Number: 2622 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Lester, Terrica; 2622 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-2622, being a 1983, 14x67, Craftsman Mobile Home, located at 333 Cosby Street.  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 37  
Map/Parcel Number: 381 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Little, Nettie Mae; PB-381  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-381, being a 2017, 16x76, Clayton Homes Inc, Windsor Mobile Home, MFG ID# WHCO22757GA, located at 536 Gregory Street (Susan McNeese MH Park).  
Years Due: 2022-2024

File #: 40  
Map/Parcel Number: 1589 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: McGhee, Markeshia; PB-1589  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1589, being a 1986, 14x66, Homestead Homes, Innovator Mobile Home, located at 820 Bodrey Road.  
Years Due: 2019-2024

File #: 41

Map/Parcel Number: 1935 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: McKinnon, Everett Estate; PB-1935  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1935, being a 2002, 12x34, Custom Homes Mobile Home, located at 160 Pats Camp Road.  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 43  
Map/Parcel Number: 432 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Merrell, Kim Marie (aka Kim Smith); PB-432  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-432, being a 1978, 12x66, Guerdon, Wayco Mobile Home, MFG ID# GDWTGA23782376, located at Louis Sanders MH Park.  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 44  
Map/Parcel Number: 1914 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Mitchell, Yolanda Brown; PB-1914  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1914, being a 1996, 22x52, Sweetwater Homes Manufactured, Cheyenne Mobile Home, MFG ID# SHGA1326A & SHGA1326B, located at 508 Gregory Street ( Susan McNeese MH Park).  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 48  
Map/Parcel Number: 816 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Rawls, Mattie & McGriff, Jacquiel aka Jacqueline; 816 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-816, being a 1998, 24x60, Bell (Bellcrest), Sedonia II Mobile Home, MFG ID# GBHML31367A & MFG ID# GBHML31367B, located at 105 Redwing Road.  
Years Due: 2022-2024

File #: 49  
Map/Parcel Number: 1005 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Ray, Casey Arneal; 1005 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1005, being a 1999, 24x56, Destiny, Omni Mobile Home, MFG ID# 068864A & MFG ID# 068864B, located at 508 Foundry Street.  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 50  
Map/Parcel Number: 15 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Ross, Vernell L; 15 M/H  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia,

Acct# PB-15, being a 27x60, Crimson Industries, Crimson Mobile Home, MFG ID# CALS1860A & MFG ID# CALS1860B, located at 500 Foundry Street.  
Years Due: 2023-2024

File #: 52  
Map/Parcel Number: 331 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Spivey, Willie Joe; PB-331  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-331, being a 1996, 14x48, Destiny, Omni Mobile Home, MFG ID# O-51842, located at 1150 Church Ave (Willie Oliver MH Park).  
Years Due: 2018-2024

File #: 63  
Map/Parcel Number: 1254 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Quick, William W; 10B 5 .1 / 1994 Pioneer Mobile Home 14x48  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-1254, being a 1994, 14x48, Pioneer Housing Systems Inc Mobile Home, located at 676 Drayton Loop.  
Years Due: 2021-2025

File #: 64  
Map/Parcel Number: 454 M/H  
Defendant(s) in FiFa: Tucker, Lisa G; 61 26B.1 / 1995 Horton Summit 27x20 mobile home  
Current Property Owner: Same as Defendant(s) in FiFa  
Property Description: MOBILE HOME ONLY: Dooly County, Georgia, Acct# PB-454, being a 1995, 27x60, Horton Homes Inc, Summit Mod (T) Mobile Home, located at 704 Rober-son Road.  
Years Due: 2021-2025

5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 2025  
0710-VNO

**N O T I C E TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF DOOLY**  
All creditors of the estate of **EDGAR LARRY TYNDAL A/K/A LARRY EDGAR TYNDAL**, 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.  
**Joey Tyndall, Executor**  
**1580 Collins Road**  
**Pinehurst, Georgia 31070**  
Sara C. Diamond Wechsler  
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP  
PO Box 1770  
Perry, GA 31069  
478-987-1415  
5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 2025  
0709-VNO

# Three South Georgia Technical College Diesel Technology students awarded Caterpillar Excellence Scholarships

By SGTC  
Americus, Ga.—Three students in the Diesel Equipment Technology program at South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) were awarded the South Georgia Technical College Foundation Caterpillar Excellence Scholarships recently in recognition of their hard work, work ethics and grade point averages. They were recommended by instructors Chase Shannon and David Cox.  
Sergio Perez of Americus, Austin Rouse of Cordele and Levi Williams of Butler, were the students selected to receive the Caterpillar Excellence Scholarships. Each student received \$1666 from the scholarship to purchase tools for their chosen career field.  
All three of the students expressed their appreciation to Caterpillar and the South Georgia Technical College Foundation for the opportunity to receive these scholarships. Even though they have not completed the program yet, each student is already working in this field.  
Sergio Perez will be the first in his family to complete a college education. “Being a student at South Georgia Technical College has been a great experience that I never imagined I would have. The help and support that I have received not only from my peers but also my instructors David Cox and Chase Shannon has been exceptional,” said Perez.  
“I have always known that I wanted to enter the field of mechanics, specifically diesel mechanics. Growing up I had the opportunity of helping my dad with the work that he would do on either vehicles or heavy equipment. But I have never owned my own tools. I have always had to search around my father’s toolbox to find the exact

tools that are necessary for each job. With this scholarship, I will be able to purchase my own tools.”  
Perez was recommended for a job while he was still enrolled in the program and after graduation, he is hoping to continue as a full-time employee. He also said that if anyone is interested in this career, they “should definitely go for and enroll. You will be glad you did.”  
Austin Rouse of Cordele is currently in his last semester of the Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology program at SGTC and he is excited to be cross the finish line. “At 27, going back to school was a pretty scary thought. I wasn’t even sure if it was possible. But with the help of my wife and the instructors and staff at South Georgia Technical College they made a way for me that I never thought was possible.”  
Rouse, who is a happily married man with a family, began working full-time at the OSB mill in Cordele as a production worker at age 19. His job included working 12-hour swing shifts and occasional mandatory overtime. He continued to move up the ladder, but there seemed to be little to no chance of landing a day shift job, so he realized he wanted to make a career change so he could spend more time with his family.  
He has always had a passion for being outdoors, especially on the water. “Being on a boat was second nature with my dad and two brothers whether it was off shore on the coast of Florida or back in the swamps of the Flint River. Everyone always tells me to do what you love and you will never work another day in your life,” said Rouse, who added that working on boats and engines would be a dream come true for him.

He began researching schools that offered such classes and was surprised there wasn’t many choices. But he learned that the South Georgia Technical College campus in Americus had an excellent diesel program. So, he talked with Instructor David Cox and made the jump and enrolled.  
He was able to continue working full-time at night and travel to Americus to take day classes. He had a burning desire to give himself and his family a better life and he describes this chapter of his life as “nothing but amazing. The training and instruction were as advertised and did not disappoint. It had the perfect mix of in-class instruction and the hands-on work in the shop. My instructors went above and beyond to work around my schedule and give me the tools I needed to succeed, not only at school but beyond graduation.  
“I cannot express the gratitude I have for everyone making this happen for me and how excited I am to begin this next chapter in my life. Thankfully due to the HOPE Grant and scholarships, the time I spent here only cost me sleep and a slight rise in fuel costs from week to week.”  
The third student recognized was Levi Williams of Butler. Williams is a dual enrollment student, who will graduate from the SGTC Diesel program before he receives his high school diploma. “While in high school, I was told about a fast track dual enrollment plan. I looked into the program and finished my high school prerequisites and came to South Georgia Technical College to pursue my dream career.  
“This option allowed me to jump ahead and pursue my career faster and complete both high school and technical college at the same time. South



Georgia Technical College is a popular institution that I have always heard about and I knew it was a good institution to attend because it has good ratings. I have friends who have been very happy attending here and I knew this was the right place for me,” said Williams.  
Not long after Williams enrolled, he landed his first diesel mechanic job and the instructors were able to work with his schedule and help him to continue his education while working part-time.  
“Both of the instructors are great educators. They explain everything in great detail and always make sure we don’t have any questions before moving on. When I got here and got settled, I knew I had made a great decision to come and pursue my education at South Georgia Technical College. I am very excited about my career and pathway as a diesel technician,” said Williams.  
Even though all three students enrolled at different stages of their lives, they have each already been offered employment in their chosen fields even before graduation. The cooperation between their employers and their instructors made it easy for them to continue to pursue their dreams.  
And now thanks to the CAT

Excellence scholarship, each student will have his own tools that will provide them a great foundation for the career of a lifetime. The current estimated starting pay for entry-level diesel technicians is around \$46,000 per year and the job outlook for the next five years is expected to grow by nearly 10 percent.  
“These students exemplify and personify all of the qualities we look for in a scholarship recipient,” said South Georgia Technical College Foundation Executive Director and VP of Institutional Advancement Su Ann Bird. “We appreciate Caterpillar for the funds to be able to award these scholarships to these outstanding diesel technicians.”  
Chase Shannon and David Cox, SGTC Diesel Equipment Technology Instructors, also praised the students. “These students are hard workers. They have good work ethics, they enjoy challenges and they are very observant,” said Shannon. Cox agreed and said “These three students have what it takes to succeed in life. They are always asking questions and when they finish one task, they ask what else we have for them to do or learn about.”  
Students were selected for this scholarship based on instruc-

tor recommendation, academic achievement, test scores, and interview. Funding for these scholarships is made available by the SGTC Foundation through donations made by the Caterpillar Excellence Fund. The partnership with Caterpillar addresses the need for qualified Diesel Equipment technicians and assists students who have made achievements in the Diesel field.  
South Georgia Technical College is currently accepting students for Summer Semester. Classes start May 22 and individuals can apply on online at [www.southgatech.edu](http://www.southgatech.edu). Registration is planned for May 20.  
Individuals interested in the Diesel Equipment Technology program can contact Chase Shannon at [cshannon@southgatech.edu](mailto:cshannon@southgatech.edu) or David Cox at [david.cox@southgatech.edu](mailto:david.cox@southgatech.edu) and individuals can apply on online at [www.southgatech.edu](http://www.southgatech.edu).  
*Picture: South Georgia Technical College Diesel Technology instructors David Cox (right) and Chase Shannon (left) are shown above with the SGTC Foundation's three Caterpillar Excellence Scholarship winners. They are: Sergio Perez, Levi Williams and Austin Rouse.*



# DCHS Track Team Performs Well



By Athletic Director  
Brandon Dawkins, Photos by  
Brandon Dawkins

A big Dooooly congratulations goes out to our GHSA State Championship Track athletes for their performance in Albany at the Class A Division II State Championships. We are proud of all our Bobcats. Our Girls Relay Team with Ajayla Royal, De’Asia Smith Zaquoia Woodham and Chassidy Bell who placed sixth and Francisco Rodriguez performed well in both the 1600 and 3200.

Top photo: Lady Bobcats relay team.

Side photo: Francisco Rodriguez.

# Dooly County Boys Soccer All-Star Selection



Contributed

Dooly County High School Soccer standouts Jesus Vega-Forward and Dodany Méndez - Midfield have been selected to participate in the Divarsity All-Star game. The match will be played Saturday, May 17 at Sprayberry High School 2525 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Ga. Congratulations! We are so proud of Dodany and Jesus for earning their spot on the all-star roster.

# Fullington Academy Holds Annual 2025 FFA Banquet



Contributed

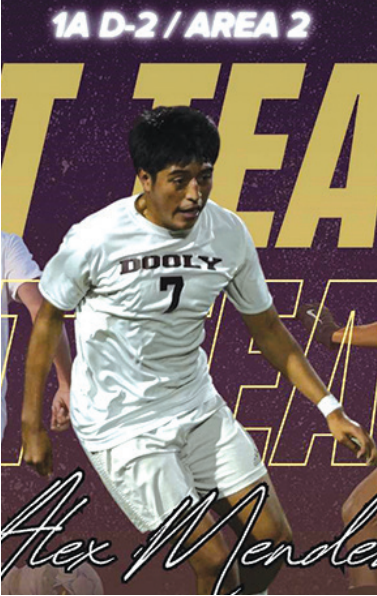
Last Tuesday, our officer team held our End of the Year Fullington Academy FFA banquet at Rabbit Ridge Farms, GP. Awards were handed out in Jr. Vet Science Team- Hadley Sangster, Bella Grace Knox, Lexi Smith, Paisley Williams and Caylee Hillard.

Golden Standard award: recognizes students who exceed the expectations within the classroom, demonstrate leadership skills, and have implemented all the components of the

three-circle model- Bevie Burk, Madelyn Thompson, Mason Scarborough, Myles Thompson, Landon Cobb.

Greenhand Degree Recipients: Luke Perfect, Ragan Rainey, Lexi Smith, Bella-Grace Knox, Hope Knox and Hayden Hatcher. Jr. Wildlife Team- Eli Handley, Evan Handley and Grady Wiggins. Jr. Livestock Evaluation team- Gabby Wiggins and Colt Hughes. Jr. Poultry Judging Team- Paisley Williams, Lexi Smith, Caylee Hilliard and Hadley Sangster.

# Dooly’s 2025 Soccer Season Comes to an End



Alex Mendez, Dodany Mendez, Cristian Chunn



Gustavo Jimenez



Jesus Vega

**Contributed**

The Final score from last Tuesday’s Third round match was 8-1 with the Bobcats ending their season with a defeat at the hands of Lake Oconee Academy. It definitely didn’t go how we wanted it to go, it was a close game at the half, only down 2-0, but in the second half, we made several mistakes that LOA capitalized on. No excuses.

We’re proud of our boys, for a great season, for their commitment and dedication along this season. We’re bringing back everyone back next season and we’re adding a couple more talented eighth graders, so stay tuned for the 2026 season.

We also had the following area selections for the men’s



Michael Hyatt Jr

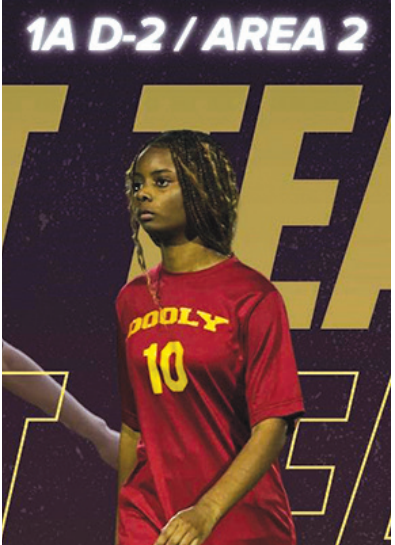
program including Offensive Player of the Year: Jesus Vega, First team all-area: Dodany Mendez, Gustavo Jimenez and Alex Mendez. Second Team all area: Michael Hyatt Jr. and

Cristian Chun. Honorable Mention: Belber Morales and Bryan Perez We’re proud of our boys for earning their selection to the different Area teams.

# Lady Bobcats Named to Region 1A Division Area Two Soccer Team

Contributed

Dooly County Women’s Soccer team had the following area selections from its program: Offensive Player of the Year: Eunise Reyes, First Team All-Area: Sophia Gracia, Sherly Sandoval, Shortin Woodard, Kaziya Burden and Keili Reyes. Honorable Mention: Angela Borrallas, Gleyni Velasquez and Esmeralda Reyes. We’re proud of our girls for earning their selection to the different Area teams.



Eunise Reyes, Kaziya Burden, Shortin Woodward



Sherly Sandoval, Keili Reyes, Sophia Gracia

**Creed Speaking-** Bella Grace Knox, **Discussion Meet-** Ben Howard, **Golden Attitude:** For going into every situation with a smile on their face and a positive outlook- Rylan Sangster.

**Good for Nothing:** for doing good for no reason other than it’s the right thing to do- Hayden Hatcher. **Rising Sun:** demonstrating exemplary leadership potential as a first-year member- Eli Handley and Hope Knox.

**Get in the Truck:** for not missing a trip, near or far, car, bus, or plane? Sign this one up for anything- Paisley Williams and Lexi Smith. **Mr. Go To:** for always being “on call” and willing to help where needed- Dawson Blake.

**Work Horse:** for the individual who embodies the traits of being helpful, hardworking, and above all else, dependable-Ragan Rainey.

**Glass Half Full:** for an individual who chooses to see the positive in challenging situations, rather than dwelling on negativity or limitations-Chase Hughes.

**Go-Getter Award:** for an individual eager to pursue opportunities and make things happen no matter the circumstances- Bella-Grace Knox. **Blue Jack-ets,** **Blue Collars:** These two students work together to uplift each other, and are known for being “two peas in a pod.”- Brody Everidge and Jose DePaz Lozano (Blue Collar Boys).

**Heart of Gold:** an individual who demonstrates exceptional acts of kindness, service, and compassion. Making a positive impact on their school and community- Will Greer.

**Proficiency Application Recognition:** Jackson Smith- First place in Area three, Rylan Sangster- First place in Area three, Brody Everidge- First place in Area three, Keira Musselwhite- Central Region Winner and Second place in state. Ben Howard- First place in Area three.

**Heart for Ag Scholarship Recipient:** Ben Howard **Discovery Degree Recipients:** Ellis Campbell, Grady Wiggins. **Chapter Degree Recipients:** Chase Hughes and Brock Wetherington. **State Degree Recipient:** Brody Everidge. Fullington Academy FFA Honorary Membership Recipients: Hamp Jones and Family as well as Melissa Williams and Family.

A special shoutout to our 2024-2025 officer team. As advisors, we couldn’t have asked for a better group of students to lead our chapter over this past year. They made us so proud as we watched them take the reins and conduct our banquet from start to finish last Tuesday.

Whether it’s attending an FFA

event, on the field, or in the classroom we can always rely on them to lead by example and set the standard for others to follow. Our four seniors have poured so much of themselves into this organization over the past seven years, and we are so thankful for all they have done. They have forever left their mark on this chapter. We are so proud of each and everyone of you, Thank you for your year of service to the FA FFA Chapter.

We also loved getting to see all of our members and their families, chapter supporters, friends, and alumni members as we highlighted the achievements from throughout this past year. We are so thankful for everyone that played a role in making not only last night happen, but those who have supported this group of students throughout this past year. It takes a village to run a successful FFA program, and Fullington Academy FFA is blessed to have some of the greatest people in our corner.