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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, JULY 31, 2025

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Cordele Police Investigate Early Morning Shooting During an entering auto Incident

By Cordele Police
Department

At approximately 4:30 a.m. last Wednesday, officers from the Cordele Police Department responded to Cardinal Avenue after hearing gunshots while on patrol in the area. Upon arrival, officers found a victim who had suffered a gunshot wound after confronting an individual that was searching through his vehicle.

Officers immediately provided first aid to the victim, who was later transported to Crisp Regional Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The suspect had fled the scene on foot before officers arrived. An extensive search of the area was conducted by Cordele Police officers and Crisp County Sheriff's Deputies; however, the suspect was not located. During the search, officers recovered several pieces of evi-

dence believed to be related to this incident.

The suspect is described as a Black male wearing dark clothing. Detectives from the Cordele Police Department have processed the scene, and

the investigation remains active and ongoing. We would like to thank the Crisp County Sheriff's Deputies who offered their assistance in this case.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encour-

-Lock your doors-
-Remove valuables-

aged to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921 or by email at cordelepd@cityofcordele.com. All tips can remain anonymous.

Drayton Fire Department- VVFD Respond to Residential Fire



By EMS Director
Don Williford

Drayton and Vienna Fire Departments, Dooly County EMS and Dooly County Sheriff's Department responded to a residential fire on Ayers Road around 5:30 last Monday night,

July 21. First arriving firefighters observed flames coming from the rear of the house and both fire departments quickly extinguished the blaze. The fire is believed to have started in the attic and the cause is still under investigation.

EMS did transport one individ-

ual to the local emergency room for minor injuries and all of the residents were able to exit the home without any further injuries. We encourage everyone to have working smoke detectors in their home for safety.

Dooly County Sheriff Craig Peavy explained that Major Darby Colvin, Captain Chase McNeese, Sergeant Avery Olds, Lieutenant Steven Peavy and Lt. Raul Monreal from Dooly County Sheriff's Office as well as, "Multiple agencies from different counties were assisting as well as participating and my officers as well assisting with instruction. I'm always willing to help Crisp County Sheriff Hancock because we work together on Special Response and Tracking Teams. I certainly didn't mind lending a hand."

The exercise is designed to train and evaluate participants on their response through an active shooter incident.

The scenario starts from the initial call in and it helps with the training by monitoring law enforcement response to post engagement, management including rescue teams down to who needs medical attention immediately or whether there are casualties, all the way to the emergency room to the student accountability area, the parent-student's unification area and even a press-area. All these things go into the active shooter

training that is designed to take you from start to finish.

A lot of people know how to respond and handle parts of the scenario, but there are other little things with this that people don't realize that is so important. For instance, the parents of the students in the unification area, informing the press know what's going on so everybody can be aware of what's going on. It's very in-depth and serious training that's needed and everybody needs to be able to attend this in whatever area that it is being conducted. I highly recommend that all deputies and police officers go through this."

Sheriff Billy Hancock talked about some of the other participating agencies, "We had Crisp County Fire Rescue, Cordele Fire Department, Crisp County EMS. We made up a 'mock' emergency room inside the gymnasium. We had doctors and nurses from Crisp Regional Hospital. It was an 'excellent' event."

Sheriff Hancock concluded by

**ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL
CONTINUED PG 3A**

City of Vienna-DCSS-Community Comes Together During Annual Back-to-School Bash

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The City of Vienna and Dooly County School System gathered Saturday for its annual Back to School Bash in the Downtown Square. Community Development Associate Kaleb shared the importance of, "Welcoming families, students, and community partners for a day dedicated to preparing local youth for the upcoming school year. The event, organized by the City of Vienna Community Development Department, provided essential school supplies, valuable resources, and a powerful sense of community connection. From 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., children from across Dooly County received free backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and other academic materials—all made possible through the generous support of local sponsors and organizations. In addition to the supply distribution, attendees had the opportunity to engage with a variety of community resource vendors offering information on education, health, youth programs, and more."

One of the event coordinators, Kaleb D. Green, shared, "This event was all about coming together as a community to ensure that every child starts the school year with the tools they need to succeed. It was an honor to help coordinate an event that



Dooly County Retired Educators.



Angelic Hearts for Dooly.

and better serve the needs of local families. The survey link can be found on the City of Vienna's official Facebook page. As students prepare to head back to

student's throughout the school year, whatever that might be."

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH
CONTINUED PG 6A**

UFR Experiencing a Busy July

By Kenny Mercer

Unadilla FireRescue has responded to nine calls so far during the month of July including an accident on I-75 at 119 southbound on July 13, a structure fire on July 13 on Pine Street and a large vehicle fire assisting Houston County Fire on I-75 126 northbound, an accident on Highway 230 East July 17 and a Wildland (Hay field) fire on Arena Road July 18.

Units also responded to a smoke scare back on July ninth on Pine Street, a service call when a vehicle made impact with a fire hydrant First Street at Pine Street July 14 and a road obstruction call with a tree down on Highway 230 East.



There have been 72 calls so far in 2025. We also participated in the Unadilla Back to School Bash July 19 handing out 25 smoke detectors and around 40 plastic hats as well as books, coloring books and stickers.

Creating Safe Spaces: The Gateway Center Inc. Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center

By Laura Bertelson-Jones
and Makayla Heath

In the heart of our community stands The Gateway Center, a beacon of hope and healing for children and adults who have experienced abuse or trauma. The Gateway Center is a Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center that offers services to the Cordele Judicial Circuit including Crisp, Dooly, Ben Hill, and Wilcox counties.

The Gateway partners closely with law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, mental health providers, and medical teams, all with one shared mission: to keep the victim's best interest at heart. One of the most critical services provided at The Gateway is the forensic interview process.

The CAC employs certified, specially trained professionals who conduct child-friendly fo-



rensic interviews for children between the ages of 3-17 years who are victims of sexual assault, physical abuse, or are witnesses to domestic violence, crimes, or violence towards others. These interviews are con-

ducted in a developmentally appropriate, non-leading manner that allows children to share their experiences in a safe and supportive setting, while also gathering accurate and legally sound information for investiga-

tions.

Equally important is the availability of forensic medical exams, which are performed by medical professionals trained in working with children and adults who may have experienced abuse. These exams are not only essential for documentation and evidence collection but also serve as an opportunity to assess their overall health and reassure them that their body is safe and cared for. Conducted in a calm, gentle environment, the exams help reduce fear and restore a sense of physical safety and dignity. But the care doesn't stop after the investigation.

The Gateway offers ongoing therapy and mental health support, recognizing that healing from trauma takes time. Licensed therapists provide evidence-based, trauma-informed therapy tailored to the needs of

each victim. Whether through individual counseling, art therapy, or family support sessions, the goal is always to help victims build resilience and move forward in their healing journey.

"Child Advocacy Centers like ours provide a coordinated response that helps reduce the number of times a child must tell their story," said a Gateway spokesperson. "It's about honoring the child's voice while minimizing additional trauma. And it's about providing everything they need—from immediate care to long-term healing—under one roof."

At The Gateway, healing begins with trust—and that trust is built not only through professional expertise but through a center that feels more like a home than an office. Soft lighting, play areas, comforting decor, and friendly faces create a

nurturing setting where children can feel safe and cared for.

Ultimately, The Gateway CAC and SAC is more than a facility—it's a promise to protect, advocate for, and stand beside every person who walks through its doors. As the center continues its vital work, it remains a testament to what communities can achieve when they come together to support their most vulnerable members.

The Gateway Center operates a free 24-hour crisis hotline. If you are in immediate danger please call 911. If you would like to speak with someone at our office please call 229-273-0600. If you would like to send donations you can Venmo us at: @TGCDonations, or by mail to: The Gateway Center, Inc. P.O. Box 4032 Cordele, GA 31010.

Community Partners Come Together During New Hire Orientation



Contributed

What an amazing day at Dooly County Schools. Last Tuesday, we welcomed our newest team members during our New Hire Orientation. Our new employees got to hear from various departments and received valuable insights from our Superintendent, Dr. Sherrod Willaford. We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful community partners who made generous donations to help our new hires feel right at home in Dooly County!

A huge thank you goes out to: Dooly County Chamber of Commerce, Sweet Evelyn's, 41 Cafe, City of Unadilla, Day Break Center, Central Ga. Tech, South Ga. Banking, The Gateway Center, Marlene Kimball, High Cotton and the City of Vi-



enna.

Your support means the world to us and shows exactly why Dooly County is such a special

place to work and live. Here's to a fantastic new school year with our amazing new team members.

Ga. Dept. of Public Safety Needs Your Assistance

Contributed

We still need your help. Our Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team (SCRT) is still reviewing video footage to identify the vehicle involved in a hit and run crash that occurred last month on Tuesday, June 17

at I-75 Southbound near mile marker 109 in Dooly County.

The incident occurred around 6:00 a.m. A pedestrian was struck and killed in the right lane and the suspect vehicle is possibly a semi-truck with damage to the right side headlight assembly.

If you were in the area at the time, are a CMV driver with any video footage around 5:55 a.m. or have any information that could assist in the investigation, please call the Troop H Radio Room and ask to speak with a member of SCRT at (229)386-3333.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on August 11, 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 requests.

Request #1 – Aaron J. Anderson has submitted application for Variance of Zoning for a parcel #97-21P that is currently zoned R-2 (Multifamily Residential). The purpose of the variance is to allow a reduced road frontage from 150 ft to 50 ft. The location is 231 North Meadow Ridge Rd: Unadilla, GA 31091.

Request #2 – LaTese Marshall has submitted applications for Rezoning of parcel #51-6J that are currently zoned R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to R-2 (Multifamily Residential). The purpose of the Rezoning is to allow a mobile home on the property for a residence. The location is Near Lewis Mill Lake development on Slosheye Trail Road. Vienna, GA 31092.

Request #3 – Ford & Amber Wilson has submitted application for Variance of Zoning for a parcel #36-26B that is currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The purpose of the variance is to reduce the setback allowance for chicken houses from 1500 ft from all sides to 300 ft on the front, 279 ft from the side, 500 ft from the right and 600 ft from the rear. The location is Hwy 230 east of Byromville, GA 31091.

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.



City of Vienna Explains Changes to Reconnect Fee

Contributed

The reconnect fee will go into effect August 21st. A letter that went out to customers states that according to City Administrator Michael Bowens, "Please note the Mayor and the City Council of Vienna, Ga. approved an action in the July 14, 2025 meeting to increase the reconnect fee to \$75 for any service that has to be reconnected following suspension of services due to non-payment of the utility bill.

This action was taken in response to the dramatic increase in the number of services disconnected each month for non-payment and employees having to go back out to reconnect them. Bills have a due date of the 1st of each month. After the 10th of each month, a 15% late penalty is added and after the 20th, services are subject to being disconnected for delinquency without further notice.

Customers can pay their utility bill in person, via mail, by

utilizing the drop box, online or over the telephone and have the amount automatically withdrawn by completion of the electronic draft authorization form.

This increase is scheduled to become effective August 21, 2025. Reconnect fees can only be paid in person or over the phone." If you have any concerns, feel free to call or come by city hall.

Dooly County Canning Plant Hosts Fla. Students



Story and photos by

Kylie Garrard

The Dooly County Canning Plant was up and running last week. We were thrilled to host students from Suwanee Middle School and High School FFA from Florida for a hands-on salsa-making experience. Thank you to the Suwanee FFA chapters for visiting us – your curiosity and eagerness to learn made our day. We hope this experience inspires your future in agriculture.



For more information about the Dooly County Canning Plant, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/286782366976973> or feel free to call Ag. Teacher Roger Teeple at 828-391-0537.

Now Hiring – Dooly County Public Works Department

The Dooly County Commissioners are accepting applications for the following full-time positions:

- Motor Grader Operator – \$19.24/hr**
Must have experience operating motor graders and heavy equipment for road maintenance and construction.
- Service Support / Mechanic / Equipment Operator – \$19.76/hr**
Responsible for repairing and maintaining vehicles and equipment, performing tire repairs, and supporting public works projects.
- Equipment Operator – Roadside Mowing – \$15.08/hr**
Operates mowing equipment and other machinery to maintain county roadsides and public areas. Experience with mowing and related equipment is preferred.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED
- Some experience required
- Valid Georgia Class C license (CDL a plus)
- Must pass drug test, background check, and MVR check

Benefits Include:

- Free Medical, Vision, and Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Paid Sick and Annual Leave
- 11 Paid Holidays
- Competitive pay based on experience

Please apply at Dooly County Commissioners Office – HR Dept 113 N. 3rd Street, Vienna, GA

Or online: www.doolycountyga.com

Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Dexter Whittaker Installed as Deacon at CCU



Contributed

It was a celebration Sunday afternoon, July 27 at Christ Chapel Unadilla as Dexter Whittaker was installed as Deacon. This was a powerful moment as we affirmed the calling and ser-

vice of a dedicated leader in our church family. We were honored to welcome Pastor Johnny Dean of New Poplar Springs Baptist Church as our special guest speaker for this occasion.

Dooly County 4-H Participates in Back to School Bash

By 4-H Leader
Quadarius Hardy

Dooly County 4-H was excited to participate in the City of Vienna's Back to School Bash. It was a fantastic opportunity to give back to our community, connect with families, and share the many great things 4-H has to offer. During the event, we were proud to unveil our 2025-2026 Dooly County 4-H theme — Level Up with Dooly County 4-H this year.

This inspiring theme was created by our very own Javis Bennett, a dedicated Dooly County 4-H'er and the Southwest District Senior Board President. We're incredibly proud of Javis's leadership and creativity in developing a message that encourages growth, learning, and taking 4-H involvement to the next level. Stay tuned for exciting programs and opportunities as we Level Up with Dooly County 4-H this year.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewobservereditor@gmail.com



Byromville Baptist Church 'A Night of Praise and Worship'

Byromville Baptist Church Student Ministry invites you to 'A Night of Praise and Worship' Sunday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m. Guest Speaker is Ben Hunley, Worship Pastor at Oak Hill Church Williamson, Ga. Music Leaders Jesse and Chelsea Adams will also lead the program. All ages welcome with food and fellowship to follow.

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 6:00 p.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. Every

Back to School Reminder for Dooly County Families

Contributed

As we prepare for the new school year, now is the perfect time to ensure your child is up to date with all required immunizations. Two convenient options for your family: AAPHC Clinic at Dooly County K-8 Starting July 31 Monday-Thursday: 7:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

St. Mark Baptist Church Breakfast of Champions

By Rev. E. Jordan, Pastor

On behalf of St. Mark Missionary Church, we are honored to invite you to our community initiative called, 'Breakfast of Champions.' Aimed at fostering collaboration between local city government, business owners, school administrators, non-profit leaders and community advocates.

It will be Saturday, August 16 at 10:00a.m. at St. Mark Baptist Church 529 West Union Street in Vienna. This gathering is an opportunity for us to exchange ideas, discuss shared goals, and explore meaningful partnerships that will enhance the wellbeing of our community.

Dooly County Health Department walk-ins welcome Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. by calling 229-268-4725. Don't wait until the last minute! Getting immunizations taken care of early ensures a smooth start to the school year. Let's start the school year strong and protected.

Local Club's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Contributed

It's a great time to shop for school supplies like pencils and sharpener, pencil case, erasers, pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, index cards, calculator, scissors, ruler, glue stick and

Your insight and leadership are invaluable in shaping solutions that will drive positive changes. We would be delighted to have you or a representative from your organization join us for a morning of engagement, networking and collective action.

Kindly inform us by August 4 by contacting via email or phone suellenjames05@gmail.com, 478-302-6880 or bojeking62@gmail.com 229-712-0016. Thank you for your dedication to our community. We look forward to welcoming you and working together for a brighter future.

small adhesive tape for inclusion in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox sponsored by the Vienna Woman's Club. Contact any member of the GFWC Ga. Vienna Woman's Club, a non-profit organization for more information or visit: gafwc.org.

ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

saying, "It was interesting for the law enforcement officers who were here training, so if this event happens in your community, they'll be ready."

HELP WANTED

SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES

Job Position Details: Queen Nails Vienna, LLC

Job Title – Nail technician

Job Duties – Provide nail services to clients including acrylic nails, basic manicure and pedicure services, and nail art.

Work Location – Queen Nails Vienna, LLC, 117 E Union Street, Vienna, GA 31092

Minimum Requirements – Applicants must have a nail technician license and have at least six months experience working in a nail salon.

Where to send resumes - k1a2.kids@gmail.com

Coffee and Classics Book Club Coming in September

By Library Manager Jill
Klobertanz

Starting in September, we will read the classic books you've always wanted to read but never got around to it. We will vote from a list of books in September so be sure and come to that

meeting to cast your vote and see your friends.

Coffee and Classics Book Club will meet the second Thursday of each month starting September 11 at 1:15 p.m. at Café 41. Presented by Dooly County Library and Café 41.

How to Spend \$1,000 Creative Innovative Evangelism Strategies

By South Ga. Conference of
United Methodist Church

If your district gave you \$1,000 for evangelism in your community, how would you spend it? Join us for a workshop Saturday, August 16 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Dooly

Campground in Vienna on developing innovative evangelism strategies and walk away with new ideas for your next district grant proposal. Cost is \$20 per person (includes lunch) Register at: <https://loom.ly/3ixlyV4>

Dooly K-8 Providing Book bags-School Supplies

Contributed

We are proud to announce that Dooly K-8 is providing book bags and school supplies to students in Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle school this year. Some important information: book bags this year must be mesh or clear. Distribution of bags will be the first day of school - July 31. We're excited to support our students as they gear up for another amazing year of learning and growth.

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

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

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts

229-268-2700

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In The Garden With AUGUST GARDENING

Columnist

August is a hot, lazy month for Georgia gardeners. Nevertheless, there are many things to be done to keep our gardens and landscapes up to par. Following are a few of these.

Cut back faded but healthy annual flowers by half, then water and fertilize lightly with a water-soluble fertilizer. A second season of blooms will appear in a couple of weeks.

During the heat of August, examine plants for signs of water stress (wilting, greyish leaves) before you water. When watering by hand, apply five gallons of water per ten square feet of garden space. This is approximately the amount of water delivered by a garden hose operating for one minute at normal pressure. Apply 50 gallons of water per 100 square feet.

Continue to fertilize annuals and perennial flowers every couple of weeks. When applying granular products, be sure to water afterwards to carry the nutrients down to the plants' roots.

Plant late summer/fall-blooming bulbs like Spider Lilies, Surprise Lilies, and Autumn Daffodils. Red Spider Lily (*Lycoris radiata*) has bright red spidery flowers on naked stems that stand out beautifully in the early fall garden. This bulb thrives in a shady garden with a well-

drained soil.

Mulch any new bulb plantings with one to two inches of mulch. Use buckwheat hulls, cocoa hulls, pine straw, pea gravel, or other products.

Plant spring-blooming Bearded Iris and divide overgrown ones. By doing this now the rhizomes will have time to acclimate before cold weather comes. When planting the rhizomes, space them one to two feet apart and cover them lightly with soil so the rhizomes are just below the soil surface. Leaf growth is initiated from the end of the rhizome so point this end in the direction you want the iris to grow.

If you divide a crowded clump of irises, lift the entire clump and break off the healthy rhizomes. Trim the leaves back to a height of two to three inches and replant. Water well after planting and continue to water as the plant puts down new roots. Discard any rhizomes that are shriveled or without leaves.

If you don't tarry, you can still get in a fall vegetable crop this month. Consider the following possibilities:

- Bush beans-plant to August 15.
- Cabbage (from transplants)-plant from August 15 to October 1.
- Broccoli (from

transplants)-plant from August 15 to October 1.

- Carrots-plant from August 15 to September 15
- Cauliflower (from transplants)-plant through the month of August
- Collards (from transplants)-plant through the month of August
- Cucumbers-plant to August 15
- Kale (from transplants)-plant through the month of August
- Rutabaga-plant from August 15 to September 30
- Spinach-plant from seeds August 15 to September 30
- Turnips-plant from seeds August 15 to September 15
- Squash (summer)-plant from seeds through the month of August

Harvest squash, okra, and cucumbers on a regular basis. If one fruit gets too big, the plant will tend to stop blooming and producing new fruit.

The soil you started your spring garden with has now been depleted of organic matter and associated nutrients due to the heat and rainfall of the summer. Before planting your fall vegetables, cover the soil with a one inch layer of compost, manure, ground pine bark, etc. and till it into the soil.

Consider sharpening your lawn mower blade(s). These should be sharpened at least once each summer to avoid the shredding of the grass when mowed.

I hope these suggestions will enhance your August gardening prowess!

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 timlewis@windstream.net.



Neil Joiner

Columnist

Joiner's Corner A STICK TUFT

A column from 2023 mentioned my having "A Round Tuit" years ago. I also confessed a present-day need for that long-lost token. Procrastination often sidetracks my good intentions.

Jim Hamrick, son of the late columnist Harry Hamrick, has encouraged me in my writing many times. After reading that column Jim sent me a round Tuit, plus its lesser-known cousin, the stick Tuit.

Both novelty items are on my desk to remind me of what needs attention. That doesn't always translate into action, but at least it prods my awareness. When our family was on a June vacation, the stick Tuit came to mind as I noticed some good examples.

St. George Island is a lovely and uncrowded Florida beach. Dolphins passed by close to shore almost every day. That's much better than having them do tricks in small pools, but that's a topic for later, maybe.

What reminded me of the Tufts were the various seabirds. Sandpipers busily trot along the shore, constantly pecking

for small crabs and such. Others, like seagulls, are mostly in the air, searching and diving, looking for fish in the shallows. A red-billed tern passed by a few times gliding just above the water, making quick dips and slight gulps while barely slowing its pace.

We had a special treat on two consecutive days. A bald eagle swooped down and both times retrieved a nice-size fish with its talons. The big bird circled a bit, perhaps tightening his grip or checking his GPS, then flew toward the bay side of the island to its nest.

Pelicans are among the most amazing fishers. From high above the water, often far from shore, they fold their wings and make diving plunges straight down. It's hard to tell when they succeed, but I've read that it's much of the time. Over and over they flap their wings to rise from the ocean, search for fish, then dive again.

On that same stretch of beach I watched an eleven-year-old boy who fished as relentlessly as the seabirds. He was surf fishing in conditions

much windier than normal. The weather was challenging and the fish scarce, but the young boy was undeterred. He would wade out chest deep to cast his baits then work three reels in holders he'd driven into the sand.

Each morning the boy pulled his loaded fishing cart to the water's edge. Through fifty yards of sand he tugged the heavy load. He'd fish most of the day, except for swimming and food breaks, then pack up his gear just before nightfall and pull the cart back to the house.

Two dog sharks, about three feet long, were his most exciting catches. An occasional crab would ride the bait in. He caught a few catfish, along with a flounder, ladyfish, whiting, and American croaker. For a week of fishing it wasn't much to show, but every day he optimistically followed that routine.

I'm proud of that kid. He never complained or quit trying, not even as his grandfather lazily dozed in a hammock on the porch. Whatever worthwhile he undertakes in life, I trust he'll keep that same attitude. Someone much wiser than me said, "Cast your bread on the water and it won't return void." That's good advice for a lot of things.

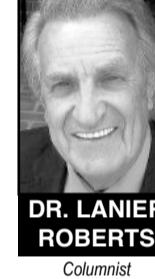
And if that young fellow ever needs a reminder, he can have the wooden Tufts on his grandfather's desk.

bowed up and she replied, "if you pull the trigger, I'm going to be with Jesus, if you don't, I'm going to church." WOW!

4). FAITH IS BELIEVING THE BEST IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST CRISES. --- Rom. 8:28 --- "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are the called according to His purpose."

5). FAITH MEANS TO REACH OUT AND GRAB HOLD OF NOTHING AND HOLD ON UNTIL IT BECOMES SOMETHING. --- II Kings 5:1-14. This is too long to print so I suggest you go there and see how Naaman, a captain of the Syrian army who was a leper held on to nothing for the first 6 dips in the Jordan river, BUT when he came up on the seventh dip, his skin was as smooth as a baby's skin and he was holding on to something now, HIS HEALING!!!

GOD BLESS EVERYONE OF YOU. Jesus loves y'all. Until next time.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS

Columnist

Writings From The Heart DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF FAITH IN THIS TROUBLED WORLD

Columnist

In the New Testament Jesus talked about a tiny seed, that when planted, it would sprout and then become a huge tree that would provide resting place for the birds and shelter for the ground animals. I call it the "mustard seed of faith" tree, Paul said in Romans we were each given a measure of faith. What is a measure of faith? Well, this little old lady in a Sunday School raised her hand in excitement and said, "I know, I know what it is." The teacher then asked her what it was, and she said, "it's enough to start with!" So, you see folks, we each have been given enough faith to start with by God. Listed now are different aspects of faith:

1). FAITH IS THE ACCESS ROUTE OF THE GRACE OF GOD---Rom. 12:3b.

2). FAITH IS THE REFUSAL OF THE WORLD SYSTEM FOR THE GOD SYSTEM. --- I John 2:15 "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

3). FAITH IS THE APPLYING ACTION TO THE WORD OF GOD. --- James 1:22" But be you doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." A good example of this is the wife who had a gun pressed to her head and was told by her husband she was not in any case going to church that day. Her faith

Dr. McBride's Dedication "We are Grateful for Dr. McBride's Dedication and Commitment"

By Dr. Sherrod Willaford

The Dooly County School System regrets to announce the resignation of Dr. Rodney McBride, who has served as the principal of the Dooly County High School for the last three years. Dr. McBride has decided to step down from the position in order to accept a position closer to his home.

During his tenure, Dr. McBride has made significant contributions to our school community, fostering a positive culture and climate, increasing student achievement, and ensuring growth for our students, faculty, and staff. Under his leadership, the Dooly County High School has seen increases in the graduation rate, unprecedented teacher retention rates, and improved community engagement.

"We are grateful for Dr. McBride's dedication and commitment to our students, staff,

and community," said Dr. Sherrod Willaford, Superintendent of Dooly County School System. "While we are sad to see Dr. McBride go; yet we fully support his decision to move closer to his family. He will be missed."

The school district is currently accepting applications to fill the vacancy created by Dr. McBride's resignation. Respectfully, Sherrod D. Willaford

The News Observer
Has NEW
EMAIL Addresses!

our email has changed to
editor@ganewsobserver.com

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

NEW

The News Observer

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

Send all submissions to:
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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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DCRD Introduces Girls Flag Football

Contributed

We are thrilled to introduce Girl's Flag Football for 14-year-olds at the Dooly County Recreation Department. A 10 and under team and a 14 and under team will be available as co-ed flag football ages 5-6. As this is a brand new sport for us, we are

eager to get started so, what are you waiting for? Get signed up today for Fall Sports!

We've got cheerleading 7-12, boys tackle football eight and under, 10 and under and 12 and under. Girl's flag football, and boys and girls soccer five and under, eight and under, 10 and

under and 12 and under. Age group determined by age September 1, 2025.

Call the office for any questions 229-268-9176. Registration is now through August 15. Register at: <https://doolycountyga.com/recreation-signup-forms/>.

Lady Trojans Softball "I Feel Like We're Going in the Right Direction."



FULLINGTON ACADEMY

July & August 2025

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TEAM	
7/25 - 7/26	Windsor Tournament	Macon	Friday: 9am & 12pm Saturday: 1st game @ 9am	
8/5	Windsor	Away	Varsity 6pm	MS 4pm
8/12	Twiggs	Home	Varsity 4pm	MS 6pm
8/14	CCA	Home	Varsity 4pm	MS 6pm
8/19	Terrell	Home	Varsity 4pm	MS 6pm
8/21	CCA	Away	Varsity 4pm	MS 6pm
8/26	Tiftarea	Away	Varsity 6pm	MS 4pm
8/28	Tiftarea	Home	Varsity 4pm	MS 6pm

By Head Coach

Chuck Hester

Last Friday and Saturday we were involved in scrimmages and allowed us to play free substitutions with a one hour and 15 minute time-limit. We were playing games against First Presbyterian Day School which is a AAAA school and we're an A school and we only lost to them 5-4 and the time limit caught us. I was really pleased with that particular game that we played that well against some really good high competition. So, we played FPD, John Milledge and Windsor and then turned around and played John Milledge again. As far as our overall effort, we did not win any of the four games we

played. We

got beat 5-4, John Milledge jumped on us pretty good, scoring eight in the first inning and ended up beating us 12-0 with everything that could have gone wrong in that particular game. We were playing games against First Presbyterian Day School which is a AAAA school and we're an A school and we only lost to them 5-4 and the time limit caught us. I was really pleased with that particular game that we played that well against some really good high competition. So, we played FPD, John Milledge and Windsor and then turned around and played John Milledge again. As far as our overall effort, we did not win any of the four games we

played. I told the ladies, we went from losing 12-0 to them to playing 2-0 and that should tell you where we're going. I feel like we're going in the right direction.

Pitching wise, I thought we did a really good job and we're a pretty young team on the mound. We only have one senior that pitches and she pitched pretty well for us. We had an eighth grader that pitched for us Saturday and did a phenomenal job. Her name is Raylee Johnson and she's going to be a really special player.

The regular season starts August 5 against Windsor Academy on the road, so we're going to be able to have some extra practice time before we get going.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Kay Barker was on hand, "Representing Crisp Regional Hospital. This is probably our eighth year. We enjoy giving back to the community and the kids."

Comica Felton with Angelic Hearts 4 Dooly said, "What we do for the schools and the community is provide leadership and scholarships for the students and a program where we are looking for alumni to mentor our youth and for our youth to come and sign up to be mentors."

The Kiwanis Club of Dooly and Scotty Mashburn was on hand handing out toiletry items for the kids: tooth brushes, toothpaste and wash clothes, soap for when they go back to school. Dooly County Library Manager Jill Klobberdanz was there, "Giving out pencils, pens, bookmarks and the food was from Karing Heartz. We just

love working with the community."

Tiffany Sinyard was at the event representing the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce and was busy handing out basic school supplies. Café 41 was also giving back to the community with pencil sharpeners and other items. The event would not be possible without the support of churches and community agencies and businesses in the community and coming together to donate school supplies for the kids. Among the county agencies on hand was The Dooly County 4-H Leader Quadarius Hardy along with several of his 4-H'ers, "We're looking forward to an awesome year here in Dooly County."

The Dooly County Sheriff's Department was handing out school supplies marking the fourth year of distributing school supplies to all the chil-

dren of Dooly County. Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford shared that The Dooly County Retired Teachers were participating because, "They are the school system."

The Bethlehem Baptist Church Women's Ministry and Ms. Victoria Clark was, "Giving away hygiene items, clothes, shoes whatever your kids are in need of." Shakiera McClendon with May Crafts was selling custom tumblers and water bottles, pens, T-shirts, Sweatshirts and key chains. She added, "We love to support our local community."

Shamari Webb and Shamonda Henry with Sweet Spot 2.0 tempted passerby with, "Peanut butter singles, brownies, peanut butter cookies and more." The City of Vienna Police, Vienna Fire Department, Dooly County STEM bus and Sno Biz were also in attendance.



First Responders in attendance.



Jill Klobberdanz with Dooly County Library



Photo Contributed

Pictured Left to right:

representing St. Paul Chapel:

Christopher Hudson, Elaine

Hudson, Jennifer Peebles,

Rev. Katie Griffis and Connie

Christmas.



Photo By Tim Franzén

Dooly County Sheriff's Office



Photo By Tim Franzén

Bethlehem Baptist Church Women's Ministry

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 5A - THE NEWS OBSERVER 7/31/2025

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240 Third Street
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File No: CO399.68858
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 2025
0722-VNO

MISCELLANEOUS

Diamond Communications LLC proposes to build a 228-foot self-support Communications Tower/Structure. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 608 Old Cordele Rd, Vienna, Dooly County, GA 31092 [Lat: 32-4-59.2, Long: -83-47-54.0]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1315467.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application

(www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC

Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS □ Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahami@trileaf.com, 7700 W. Hwy 71, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-519-9388. 7/31/2025 0726-VNO (113243)

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOOLY NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by JO ANN KIRKUS to RBC BANK (USA) in the original principal amount of \$50,000.00 dated July 28, 2009, and recorded in Deed Book 436, Page 256, Dooly County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to RBC BANK (USA), the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on August 5, 2025, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY SITUATE IN UNADILLA, COUNTY OF DOOLY AND STATE OF GEORGIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL THAT IMPROVED TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 12, THIRD LAND DISTRICT OF DOOLY COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 2 ACRES, FRONTING ON THE NORTHWESTERLY SIDE THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF STATE HIGHWAY NO. 230 FOR 12.5 FEET, AND RUNNING SOUTHERLY AT RIGHTANGLES TO THE SAID SIDE OF SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 409.99 FEET, THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF WHICH SEGMENT IS DISTANT 468 FEET EAST OF THE DISTRICT LINE BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD LAND DISTRICTS OF THE SAID COUNTY AND WITH ABUTTALS OF THE SAID SEGMENT ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE BY THE SAID HIGHWAY: ON THE EASTERLY SIDE BY THE LANDS FORMERLY OF JOHN THOMAS BRANNEN, NOW OF RONNIE

BRANNEN; ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE BY THE LANDS OF FERMERLY OF MOLLIE LANE, LATER OF C. F. BLACKMON, DECEASED, LATER OF MARCUS W EVERIDGE AND RONNIE J EVERIDGE, NOW OF JOHN WILLIAM SCOTT, JR.; AND ON THE WESTERLY SIDE BY THE LAND FORMERLY OF RUTH P. BLACKMON, JOANN B. EVERIDGE, DOROTHY B. HAMMOND AND JEAN B. LASLEY, NOW OF JOHN H. SMITH. SAID IMPROVED TRACT BEING THE IDENTIC REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN AND CONVEYED BY DEED DATED MARCH 19, 1976, FROM LAIDLOR HORACE BRANNEN TO CAPERS DAVID JONES AND ESSIE T. JONES, RECORDED MARCH 25, 1976, IN CLERK'S OFFICE, DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT IN DEED BOOK 126 AT PAGE 325. SAID IMPROVED TRACT BEING KNOWN ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT (2003) NUMBERING OF IMPROVED PROPERTY IN DOOLY COUNTY AS 8515 HIGHWAY 230. DEED BOOK 422 PAGE 220 PARCEL ID: 73A 11 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 8515 HWY 230

Said property being known as: 8515 GA HIGHWAY 230, UNADILLA, GA 31091

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are JO ANN KIRKUS or tenant(s).

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

PNC Bank, National Association
3232 Newmark Drive
Miamisburg, OH 45342
800-367-9305 (ext 4120611209)

Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

RBC BANK (USA),
as Attorney-in-Fact for
JO ANN KIRKUS
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 404-321-7112

Firm File No. 25-311284 - BrS
07/10/2025, 07/17/2025, 07/24/2025,
07/31/2025 0719-VNO (25-311284)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY

IN RE: MADISON CHERIE' ADAMS

All creditors of the estate of Madison Cherie' Adams, late of DOOLY COUNTY, deceased, 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.

THIS 30th day of June 2025
Christopher Wade Adams

Administrator for Madison Cherie' Adams
501 Main Street
Weaver, AL 36277

7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 2025
0720-VNO

tions should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Rooney Bowen, III
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Denal Fluellen
Clerk of the Probate Court
104 South Second Street
Vienna, GA 31092
(229) 268-4217

7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7/2025
0723-VNO

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOOLY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN RE: ESTA TE OF MARION FAULK SMITH, Deceased

All the creditors of the Estate of MARION FAULK 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 MARION FAULK 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

7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 2025
0725-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA