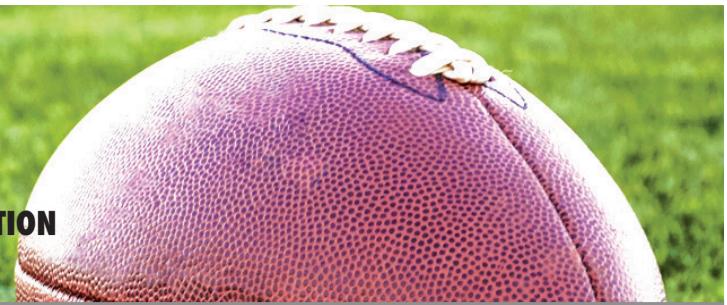


# Celebrating Dooly County Football and Athletics

SEE B SECTION



# The News Observer

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

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

VOLUME 123 • NUMBER 35 • Price \$1.00 tax included

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

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## DCCA-CTAE Programs Benefiting from Grant-Title Funding

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

The board approved the following: The Perkins CTAE Grant to support the program at both the Dooly K-8 Academy and the high school in the total amount of \$522,906 used to purchase instructional supplies and

### Death Investigation in Cordele



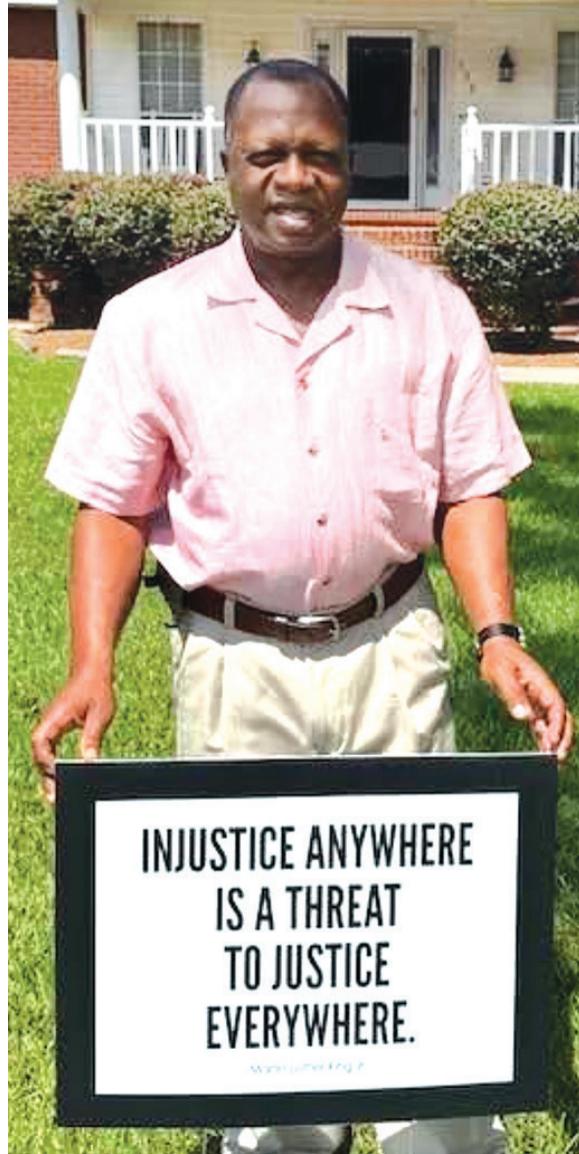
Story and photo by Cordele PD

The Cordele Police Department Detective Division is actively investigating a death that occurred in the 1000 block of South Eighth Street. Wednesday morning, August 20 officers responded to an abandoned residence where a deceased female, identified as thirty-nine-year-old Lanatara Jones from Cordele was discovered. At this time, the cause of death has not been determined.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) was requested to assist our Detectives with processing the scene and gathering evidence. The family of Ms. Jones has been notified and the Cordele Police Department extends our deepest condolences to them during this difficult time. As this is an active investigation, no further details are available at this time. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

### Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels, "Spreading love throughout Dooly!"

Photo provided by Bert Gregory



equipment and salaries. In a related item, officials OK'd the Artificial intelligence pathway for the DCCA-CTAE program at the high school using a specific course to program, outline and develop AI, "In a meaningful way that is beneficial around the world."

The board also approved a Transcend CCL Pilot memorandum of understanding with a focus on career connected learning using Title funds of \$30,000. Board members OK'd the annual renewals of Fiscal Year 2026 contracts for Speech Therapy Services, Occupational Therapy Services and Physical Therapy Services. A FY 206 School Nutrition Program (SNP) Procurement Plan and SNP food and supply bids were awarded and approved by the school board.

Also receiving the go-ahead were the Fiscal Year 2026 local school board governance team norms, conflict of interest and code of ethics adoption including transparency and accountability. Also the local school board training plan for FY 2026 as outlined and required by legislation. Also, the board accepted the resignations of DCES Physical Education Teacher Donna Peavy and Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Brenna Wright effective

immediately.

Shantinika Felton spoke during the public participation, "When I was in the school system, I asked for a social media policy to be put in place for employees. The event that was supposed to take place July 28th from 4:15-5:30, to my understanding, more than Unadilla, Pinehurst and Vienna are in Dooly County. You have Lilly, Byromville and you have Dooling. Also, background checks in the school system. How often and if they are done to people who have access to sensitive information-Employees identification, birthdays, etc?"

CFO Christopher Stephens highlighted the fact that, "If you compare July, 2024 to July, 2025, the district realized a savings of around \$4,500 due to energy savings. The SPLOST V distribution report for the month of July, the district received \$128,954 in revenues."

School Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willard recognized three individuals in the school system who volunteered to participate during the Georgia Association of Educational Leader's new executive coaching program. The three were awarded a certificate and pin in

DCCA-CTAE CONTINUED PG 2A

## Willie 'Freight Train' Raines Urges Students to Make Positive Choices

Contributed

We were excited that "Freight Train" Willie Raines rolled through Dooly K-8 Friday and straight up crushed it with his anti-bullying presentation. Our kids got to see this him literally squeeze pants like they were paper, but the real flex? Showing them that being someone's friend hits way harder than being a bully ever could.

The energy was unmatched and these students walked out knowing exactly what real strength looks like. When you see someone getting picked on, you step up. When you see someone alone, you reach out. That's the power move right there. A special thank you Sheriff Craig Peavy and Captain David Jones for keeping this tradition alive year after year.

Dooly County High School students

FREIGHT TRAIN  
CONTINUED PG 2A



## Steve Sanders Retiring Next Year After, "40-Years of Service."

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

Administrator Steve Sanders has officially notified the county that he, "Plans to retire May 1, 2026. At that time, I would have 40-years of service with the county." He started out as a deputy county clerk because, "The county administrator position didn't exist 39-years-ago."

With that announcement, the Dooly County Commissioners are, "Seeking applications-resumes for the position of full-time county administrator. Resumes will be accepted by email or in person to Linda Woodson, Human Resource Director-Dooly County Board of Commissioners 113 North Third Street Vienna, Ga. 31092 or email:lwoodson@doolycountyga.com. Deadline for resumes is September 30. Mr. Sanders also suggested that the ideal applicant as county administrator should be able to, "Manage folks" and know finance."

The board learned at the meeting that the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 general fund budget totals \$16,663,115, an increase over last years. The 2025-2026 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax budget

is projected to be \$2,780,000. To fund the budget, commissioners will be able to keep the millage rate at 17.45 and the county will generate \$159,000 more in property taxes.

Even though the county is leaving the millage rate the same, the state requires a form that the county must use to calculate whether the county has a tax increase or not. The tax digest is not penalized for new construction. The state requires that the county advertise a property tax increase of 2.62%. There will be three public hearings Thursday, Sept. 4 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, Sept. 4 at 6:00 p.m. and the final public hearing will be Friday, Sept. 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Again, "This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 17.45 mills, an increase of 0.445 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 17.005 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$25.81 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$26.70."

Mr. Sanders also stated, "In 2024, one mill of taxes generated \$410,000, but this year one mill of



Photo Contributed  
County Administrator Steve Sanders  
who will be retiring May 1, 2026 after  
40-years of service.

taxes will generate \$419,000. Leaving the millage rate the same as last year's at 17.45, we'll generate \$159,000 more property taxes."

The state has also released the results of the preliminary sales ratio study for the 2024 tax digest and Dooly County's ratio is 38.03 and according to officials is within the target of the county's tax assessor. The board discussed the completion of the asphalt patching on River

SANDERS  
CONTINUED PG 4A

**DCCA-CTAE**

CONTINUED FROM 1A



Photo By Tim Franzén

Dr. Monica Kearse along with Christopher Stephens and Dr. Hollie Walters who participated in the GALE Leader's new executive coaching program and were awarded certificates and a pin for completing one year of the program. Also pictured is Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford.

appreciation to CTAE-DCCA Director Dr. Monica Kearse, CFO Mr. Christopher Stephens and Dooly K-8 Academy Principal Dr. Hollie Walters for completing year one of the program and the Georgia Department of Education, "To better serve children."

He also shared, "They all have decided to continue with their executive coaching and be better able to serve in our community and I'm really proud of them because I really can see the benefits of the leadership. Investing time, trying to become better at our craft and you're recommended for that."

The board OK'd two band out of state field trips in October to Historically Black Colleges and Universities Alabama State in Montgomery, Ala. and Florida A&M-Tallahassee, Fla. Also a list of fundraisers was also approved by the school board. Kindergarten student Kaisen Burns from Mrs. Tomesia Taylor's and Ms. Andria Fleming's classes gaveled the school board meeting to order. He shared that he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

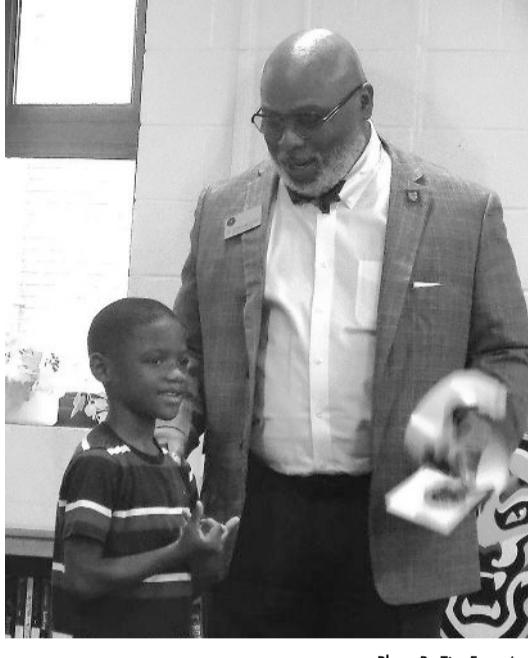


Photo By Tim Franzén

Kaisen Burns who gaveled the school board meeting to order Thursday night along with Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford.

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – SETTING MILLAGE RATE****CITY OF PINEHURST**

**THE CITY OF PINEHURST WILL HAVE A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025 AT 7:00 PM WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SETTING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR 2025.**

**THE CITY OF PINEHURST WILL HAVE A SECOND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 AT 7:30 PM WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR 2025.**

**CONNIE CHRISTMAS, MAYOR  
CITY OF PINEHURST**

**FREIGHT TRAIN**

CONTINUED FROM 1A



also participated in this important assembly last Friday and learned about the dangers of illegal substances and vaping and to make positive choices.

A huge thank you to Willie 'Freight Train' Raines and DJ Smooth for taking time out of their schedules to educate and encourage the DCHS students with powerful messages that will have a lasting impact. Some of the topics discussed were combat bullying, suicide prevention, character building, positive behavioral intervention (PBIS or Operation Reclaim our Youth) and drugs and alcohol prevention.

Raines is president of Reclaiming Ground Inc. (RGI) that is based in Warner Robins, Ga. and has spent over 15 years leading school assemblies that empower youth to make positive social and academic choices. The students did a fantastic job listening, engaging, and showing that

they are committed to making positive choices for their future.

We also extend our gratitude to Sheriff Craig Peavy and Captain David Jones for making this meaningful experience possible for the Dooly County School System. Together, we are building a safer, stronger community for our students. For more information, email: reclaimyourground@gmail.com.

**Dooly County 4-H Represented at Gala**

Contributed

Kaleb Green and Dooly County 4-H Leader Quad Hardy attended the 2025 Georgia 4-H Gala on Saturday, August 23 at the Classic Center in Athens, Ga. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the impact of 4-H across our state.

Kaleb had the special honor of delivering greetings and the Invocation during the event with spotlight as a, "Passionate youth leader and public servant committed to civic engagement. He currently serves as a Ga. 4-H State Representative and Ga. BETA State President. Kaleb advocates for thousands of students at the local, state and national levels. He has represented Ga. at the National 4-H Conference and National FFA Convention.

As a delegate, he promoted initiatives supporting education, agriculture and communities. Kaleb recently earned First place in the Dean's Award for Civic Engagement. His work reflects his favorite motto, 'Encourage the greatest of those to help and the least of those to hope.' His leadership is rooted in service, purpose and uplifting others.



Photo Contributed

Photo Contributed

Kaleb Green and Quad Hardy

Kaleb's accomplishments show how youth voices can influence meaningful change inspired by his journey. He plans to enter politics to continue advocating for equity and opportunity." It was a memorable night full of inspiration, connection, and 4-H pride.

**NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The **Dooly County Board of Education** has tentatively adopted a 2025 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by **2.56%**.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on the tax increase to be held in **Room 101 of the Dooly County Board of Education Central Office, 202 Cotton Street, Vienna, GA on September 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.**

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase will be in **Room 101 of the Dooly County Board of Education Central Office, 202 Cotton Street, Vienna, GA on September 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **16.404 mills**, an increase of **0.409 mills** above the roll-back rate. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than **15.995 mills**.

The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of **\$150,000** is approximately **\$24.54** and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of **\$150,000** is approximately **\$24.54**.

**NOTICE**

The Dooly County Board of Education does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the **Dooly County Board of Education Central Office** on September 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

**CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY**

BOARD OF EDUCATION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
V A L U E	Real & Personal	399,044,113	407,333,900	492,287,300	538,390,610	570,326,986
	Motor Vehicles	5,707,720	4,860,010	4,134,100	4,244,010	4,177,580
	Mobile Homes	2,499,686	2,527,433	2,574,310	2,574,310	3,083,330
	Timber - 100%	2,730,560	2,208,119	7,053,315	8,350,391	3,964,707
	Heavy Duty Equipment	52,000	0	14,035	98,800	37,641
	Gross Digest	410,034,079	416,929,462	506,063,060	553,658,121	581,590,244
	Less Exemptions	115,091,448	113,461,927	147,644,681	159,459,081	173,199,558
	NET DIGEST VALUE	294,942,631	303,467,535	358,418,379	394,199,040	408,390,686
R A T E	MILLAGE RATE (Maintenance & Operation)	16.4040	16.4040	16.4040	16.4040	16.4040
TAX	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$4,838,239	\$4,978,081	\$5,879,495	\$6,466,441	\$6,699,241
	Net Tax \$ Increase	(\$6,927)	\$139,843	\$901,414	\$586,946	\$232,800
	Net Tax % Increase	-0.14%	2.89%	18.11%	9.98%	3.60%
						4.87%

## Obituaries

### Edna M. Goodroe

Edna Marie Minnick Goodroe, age 96, passed away on August 16, 2025, at The Villas Retirement Home in Cumming, GA, where she had resided for the past nine years.

She was born in Roanoke, VA, on October 14, 1928, to the late James Andrew Minnick and Lydia Virginia Marsh Minnick. She attended Troutville High School in Daleville, VA. During World War II, she worked in an apple packing factory. She wrote a note of support and thanked the troops for their service and included it in one of the boxes that was shipped. Her future husband, who was serving in Europe at the time, was the one who opened the box and discovered the note. When the war ended in 1945, he headed to Roanoke to find the young lady who had touched his heart. They fell in love quickly, and she married Charles B. Goodroe, and moved to his hometown of Unadilla, where she lived her entire adult life.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Unadilla for more than 50 years. She had a 37-year career as Head of the Housing Authority of Unadilla, Vienna, Pinehurst, Lilly and Byromville, and oversaw the operation of 234 public housing units as well as seven



Farmers Home houses until her retirement in March 1997.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Goodroe, who she was married to for over 50 years, and her four siblings.

She is survived by her two sons, Charlie Goodroe (Carol) of Macon, GA and Michael Goodroe (Joane) of Roswell, GA; Grandchildren, Chip Goodroe, Christopher Goodroe, Michael Goodroe, and Nathan Goodroe; and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Goodroe will be laid to rest at Walnut Cemetery in Unadilla, GA. The family is planning a private service. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the Unadilla First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 314, Unadilla, GA 31091.

### FA Homecoming Week Coming Soon

#### Contributed

Fullington Academy's Homecoming week will be here before we know it. The students and staff have so much fun dressing up during this spirit filled week. This year's themes each day are

Monday, Sept. 22-Farmer vs. Farm Animal, Tuesday Sept. 23-Superhero. Wednesday, Sept. 24-Alien vs. Astronaut. Thursday, Sept. 25-Color Wars and Friday, Sept. 26-Homecoming night-Blue and Gold.

### Dooly County Community CALENDAR

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



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 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. - 4PM  
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

#### "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. (TEN)

#### 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. (TEN)

## Qualifiers for Vienna City Council Election

By Michael Bowens, City Administrator

For the seat currently held by Walter F. Brown:1. Walter F. Brown-Incumbent, 2. Shaterra Lundy, 3. Babette L. Lewis, 4. Angela Childs and 5. Jaroskey Bullard. For the seat currently held by John Thomas Mathis: 1. John Thomas Mathis-Incumbent.

### Open Hearts Thrift Store, "Transforming Lives-Supporting Communities in Need."

By Allison Bowen

As the seasons begin to shift, it's the perfect time to discover fresh finds and little treasures that brighten your home and wardrobe. Come see what's new on our shelves today—you never know what unique items you might uncover at Open Hearts.

Wishing you a wonderful day filled with kindness, community, and good surprises. As a reminder we are open from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Open Hearts is a non-profit organization located at 1404 East Union Street in Vienna.

#### Open Hearts Reminds You, "Let's Carry Kindness"

Let's carry kindness with us everyday. Open our hearts a little wider, and spread love wherever we go. At Open Hearts Thrift Store, every purchase and ev-



ery donation helps change lives. Together, we're building hope, one act of generosity at a time. So, remember: small gestures can make the biggest difference. Let's fill every day—with purpose, compassion, and joy. As a reminder we are open from 10 to 1 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Open Hearts of Vienna-1404 East Union Street.

### Dooly State Prison Bookbag Giveaway

Contributed

Dooly State Prison sponsored a Free Bookbag giveaway and lunch last Saturday in downtown Unadilla. The event was sponsored by the Dooly State Prison staff and lasted as long as supplies were available. Thank you, Dooly State Prison, for pouring into our community.

### FA FFA Meeting

Contributed

Join us for our First Fullington Academy FFA meeting of the school year this Thursday, August 28 from 5:30 p.m. until

6:30 p.m. at the FFA yard that will feature slip and slide kickball. This is for both middle and high school FFA students. We hope to see you there to kick off another great school year.

## HELP WANTED

### Dooly County Board of Commissioners

#### JOB OPENING – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners is currently seeking resumes for a full-time County Administrator.

Interested candidates may request the job description by contacting Dooly County Board of Commissioners Human Resource Director, Linda Woodson 229-268-4228 or in person at the Dooly County Board of Commissioners located at 113 N Third Street, Vienna, GA. Salary will be based on education and experience. The County offers a benefits package that includes free health insurance, Retirement, and Life insurance.

#### Application Process:

Applicants must submit a resume to:

Linda Woodson  
Human Resource Director  
Dooly County Board of Commissioners  
113 N. Third Street  
Vienna, GA 31092 or Email: [lwoodson@doolycountyga.com](mailto:lwoodson@doolycountyga.com)

Resumes will be accepted by email or in person through September 30, 2025.

Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## FOR RENT

### Doublewide Mobile Home For Rent

in Oglethorpe, Ga.  
3 bedroom 2-bath, large  
yard in quiet area.  
Call Sue or Bill  
(478) 353-7348

## GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

### JULY TERM, 2025

#### DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT

To the Honorable Amy Bryant, Judge of the Superior Court for the Cordele Judicial Circuit:

The Grand Jury empaneled for the July Term, 2025, Dooly Superior Court, was sworn in on August 18, 2025 at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Grand Jury's organization consisted of Monica Irwin, Foreperson, Heather Howard, Clerk and Lyndon Childs as Bailiff.

The Grand Jury wishes to thank Judge Amy Bryant for her helpful and informative charge and District Attorney Bradford L. Rigby and Assistant District Attorney Heather Calhoun for their assistance.

We, the Grand Jury, considered 26 bills of indictment, returned 25 true bills and 1 no bill.

A committee composed of Christopher Hudson, Cortavious Cochran and Eason Peavy inspected the Dooly County Jail and found it to be in good condition.

After discussion and consideration the Grand Jury set the pay of Grand Jurors, Traverse Jurors, and Coroner's Jurors at \$25.00 per day. The pay for Foreman and Clerk of the Grand Jury will be \$27.00 per day. The pay set for Bailiffs will be \$30.00 per day.

The Grand Jury recommends that these presentments be published in the official newspaper of Dooly County, Georgia, and that such paper be paid the usual fee for publication.

Monica Irwin, Foreperson

Heather Howard, Clerk

The above and foregoing general presentments having been returned and read in Open Court, it is Ordered that they be received, spread upon the minutes of this court and published as recommended.

In Open Court, this 28 day of August, 2025.

Judge Amy Bryant, Judge Superior Courts

Cordele Judicial Circuit

Bradford L. Rigby, District Attorney

## 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

229-268-4366

Qualifiers for Vienna City Council Election

Vienna, GA 229-268-6795

#### 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



## In The Garden With MORE ON OVERHAULING TIRED RAISED BEDS

Last week we looked at some ways to overhaul our tired raised beds. We consider a couple more this week. These are from Rural Sprout magazine.

Red flag: Where did all these weeds come from?

If your raised bed has become prime real estate for chickweed, purslane, or other unwelcome guests, it's time to roll up your sleeves. Healthy, vigorous crops are one of the best weed suppressors. When your veggies are struggling and the weeds are thriving, it means the weeds are outcompeting your crops for light, space, and nutrients.

Hit the refresh button and then mulch. Yes, pull up all the weeds. Then top dress with compost to replenish lost nutrients. Finally, add a thick (2-3") layer of mulch. Mulch will suppress weed growth and hold in moisture while keeping the soil relatively cool.

Red flag: The same disease problems show up each year

When you start seeing the same issues year after year, you know your soil has become home to pathogens that are overwintering. It's time to evict them.

Break the cycle. You've got to interrupt the pest life cycle and kill the pathogen in your soil. Start by clearing out all the debris at the end of the season. Remove old roots from the soil as well. You want to

leave as little plant material behind as possible.

Here's the hard part. To effectively kill soil pathogens, you'll need to solarize your soil. Cover it with clear plastic in the summer for 4-6 weeks. This traps heat from the sun in the soil, allowing it to superheat and reach temperatures that will kill any harmful microbes in your soil.

Of course, this means one of two scenarios. You can either pull everything up and close your garden early while it's still hot or you can start your garden late next year, waiting for warmer temperatures to arrive before solarizing the soil and then planting afterward. Either way, you're going to have a shortened season, but it's well worth it if you've been battling with the same disease issues for several seasons in a row.

If the problem persists even after solarizing, it may be best to remove the top 6" of soil and replace it with fresh compost and new soil.

Preventing red flags in your raised beds

Once you've refreshed your raised beds and added compost, now what? How do you keep your raised beds in tip-top shape so you don't have to go through all this trouble in the future?

First, mulch. Mulching is important in raised beds. Mulching goes way beyond looking nice. As discussed

earlier, we know that mulch suppresses weeds. And that's great as it really does make growing and gardening easier. But mulch also saves plants during heat waves!

Mulch holds water in the soil. We all know plants need water, but when it comes to raised beds, having consistently moist soil can be the difference between a happy, healthy plant and one with fried roots.

When the temperatures soar, plants attempt to push their roots deep into the ground where it's cooler and they have access to more water. With raised beds, they've only got the soil that's in the bed, so sending roots deeper may be difficult or impossible. And raised bed soil tends to be warmer than ground soil.

Because you mulched, you now have moist soil hidden beneath that protective layer. This moist soil actively cools the roots of your plants. Cool roots – cool plant.

Next, amend. Remember, a raised bed is a closed system. Whatever nutrients we want our plants to have, we have to put them in the soil ourselves. This means adding things like compost each season, which provides the soil with a continuous supply of organic matter. Adding specific soil amendments will replenish your soil each year with essential nutrients as well as trace minerals.

By addressing red flags and remembering to mulch and amend, you'll have healthy raised bed soil that continues to support healthy plants and big harvests.

*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*



NEIL JOINER

Columnist

## Joiner's Corner

LITTLE MISS  
SUNBEAM

Jane made a trip to her hometown of Thomasville in January. She and her brother went there to spend time with their sister. I was a tad envious when I learned they had a visit with Little Miss Sunbeam.

In the 1950s I was quite smitten by the gorgeous little blonde featured on Sunbeam Bread wrappers. I wondered if she was real, and would have traded a Superman comic book for a game of Spin the Bottle.

I only played Spin the Bottle once. We were at an old farmhouse on my Uncle Murray's property that a group of ladies converted into the Community Clubhouse. They met there for fellowship and educational programs. Mrs. Carolyn Cromer, Dooly County's Home Demonstration Agent, covered subjects such as sewing and canning. The ladies also shared clandestine tips, like how to add five dollars to the grocery check for a secret stash of cash.

A kid's party was held there one night. I don't remember the occasion, but recall playing a couple of games. We began with Pin the Tail on the Donkey. After that we sat in a circle on the floor and took turns

spinning a Coke bottle. When the bottle eventually pointed toward me I bolted toward the door, thrilled at getting to run around the house in the dark with a girl well above my cuteness scale. We were supposed to hold hands but she outran me. I realized too late my shoelace wasn't really untied.

Jane, Rick, and Ellen parked in front of their childhood home on Jefferson Street and headed toward the door. The current owners were in the midst of a major renovation of what will be a guest house. It's a good thing I wasn't there. My heart may have stopped when greeted by Little Miss Sunbeam. She and her husband gave them a guided tour.

There's a lot of information about that iconic character. An artist sketch of an unidentified girl playing in a New York park is thought by some to be the origin. There are, however, other theories. One picture I found online shows a Mississippi lass whose family believes she inspired the artwork. There's a definite resemblance and the timing seems right.

Another aspect of the story includes Patty Michaels, a nota-

ble child model. She was hired by Sunbeam Bakeries in 1955 to bring Little Miss Sunbeam to life. At age five her photo reportedly appeared on breadwrappers in the New York area. Michaels, who went on to have a successful acting and singing career, died in 2010 at age 60. I don't know the details.

Multiple young girls portrayed Little Miss Sunbeam for various events, some vying for the title in pageants. Countless others no doubt enjoyed playing pretend with friends or wistfully dreaming in front of their mirrors. I'm not sure who inspired that original depiction, but Flowers Baking Company in Thomasville had an official, real-life version.

Peggy Flowers Rich is who my wife remembers as Little Miss Sunbeam. She was the smiling blonde with curly hair riding the floats in Thomasville's annual Rose Parade. Based on the hospitality recently extended to Jane and her siblings, I'd say the sweetness she once personified stayed with her after the parades all ended.

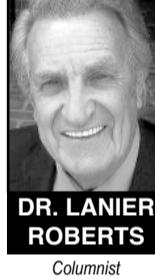
Little Miss Sunbeam is all grown up now, and we're both past the age of playing Spin the Bottle. If, however, that opportunity had come along during childhood, there's one thing I'm sure of. Before we reached the door, the laces to my shoes would have been tied with double knots.

these days to those I leave it to. Anyway, it still looks pretty good and runs quite well. Some people try to buy it about once every three months. Who knows, if the right person offers me what it's worth, I might just sell it before I leave this earth for heaven.

3). Well, Our Braves ran out of gas this year (as a matter of fact they NEVER had any gas this year), BUT THERE IS ALWAYS next year! I'm taking my loyalty to the Georgia DAWGS for the rest of the year and into January 2026. GO DAWGS!!!

Remember, Jesus loves us to heaven and back. Matt. 5:16. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Until next time.

## Writings From The Heart SOME THINGS TO TALK ABOUT



## Writings From The Heart

SOME THINGS TO  
TALK ABOUT

DR. LANIER ROBERTS

Columnist

1). Jean and I went to Cordele Walmart last week and saw two good friends there. We talked in one Isle and then, as the shopping progressed, we saw each other several other times. I think it's nice to do things of this sort, meet someone you know there, fellowship some, and just enjoy the day. Those two friends are such nice people and a joy to be around.

Gary and Janice, keep on being who y'all are. Y'all are loved by SO MANY.

2). I had my a/c repaired on my 1996 Impala Super Sport about 15 years ago for \$806.00 (the compressor and what goes with it), now it needs replacing again. It's gonna cost (they said) \$1300.00 to \$1400.00 for parts and labor. I suppose that's in line after so many years. What do you all think? Some of you might say: "Rev. Roberts, why spend that much on a car so old?" Well, it's classified as a "Collector's Item" and will be worth a lot of money one of

## Letter to the Editor: Citizen Voices Concerns

## By Melanie Sangster

The Citizens of Vienna, sewage customers and General Public: There are concerns about the way the City of Vienna conducts business and the public handling.

1. There are many questions asked about water bills. When it was determined that there was not a water leak present. Then city officials want to dis-

miss complaints and that's odd. It should be investigated further.

2. Public participation in city council meetings is not being dealt with by rules of procedures.

According to the procedures the mayor and city administrators make the request and then decide whether the individual/group can be added to the agenda.

3. Employees unauthorized use of a vehicle and only fired and not charged each citizen should be able to in this case.

4. Using money without proper authorization (not letting council know and not approving the completion and job well done. Greg Glenn- 512 Pecan Street Vienna, Ga. 31092.

## SANDERS

## CONTINUED FROM 1A

Road at that site where a new culvert was installed as well as the painting of a centerline and edge line striping.

In a report from the planning commission, the commissioners learned that a variance for a parcel by Aaron J. Anderson on North Meadow Ridge Road was approved to allow a reduced road frontage from 150 feet to 50 feet. Also Ford and Amber Wilson had requested a variance for property on Highway 230 east of Byromville currently zoned Agricultural to allow for a setback allowance for chicken houses from 1,500 feet on all sides to 300 feet on the front, 279 feet on the left side, 500 feet on the right side and

600 from the rear.

The owners, "Volunteered to include cypresses across the entire front of the property to give a visual block." The planning commission voted five in favor and two against the request and two members were absent. The board is in the process of drafting a proposed ordinance regulating Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities changing the sound threshold to 65 decibels during any 15 minute interval during daytime or 60 decibels during 15 minute intervals during nighttime.

No action was taken, but it was recommended that the planning commission and Dooly County Board of Commissioners hold

separate public hearings on the ordinance before adoption. The ordinance is currently under a 90-day moratorium. Commissioners also agreed to continue its memorandum of understanding between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service and Dooly County because part of the salary comes from UGA with the county agreeing to provide a salary supplement, along with free office space and a small budget for supplies.

In other news: Monday, September 1-Labor Day will be a

holiday for county employees.

Local news means the world to us.

How they say that in... English: Locker Spanish: Taquila Italian: Armadietto French: Casier German: Schließfach

Did You Know? Harvard University and the College of William & Mary are the oldest colleges in the United States, opening in 1636 and 1693, respectively.

Get the PICTURE? Can you guess what the bigger picture is? Answer: School bus

Local news means the world to us.



# Lady Trojans Looking for Much Need Wins This Week

By Head Coach  
Chuck Hester

We lost last Tuesday to Terrell Academy 9-2 giving up six runs in the first inning and I brought in an Eighth grader Raylee Johnson to pitch and she gave only one earned run, struck out seven batters the next six innings and pitched phenomenally. Raylee also had two hits over her own and Carli Gibson had three hits in the game.

We left 14 runners on base, but overall, we played really well after the first inning and I could not gripe about that at all. Terrell's a AAA school and I thought we played them competitively. Last Thursday, we went to Citizens Christian Academy in Douglas, Ga. who are the defending state champions.

The score was 2-1 going into the fourth inning and Raylee Johnson was also on the mound for this game and played hard. She also had two hits that game against CCA, but we wound up losing because they ended up taking on several runs late in the game, not of her own doing. We didn't help her defensively in the field and we wound up losing that game 9-1.

It was a doubleheader and we turned around in the next game and when we lost to CCA 18-

0. I told our girls, I said 'This is where we're trying to be and trying to match what they've been doing because they've been really successful in softball the last two years.'

For us to get on that plateau, let's take what we've learned from this experience in Douglas and try to go out this next week and work on everything we can to get to where we need to be. I think we are starting that process and CCA is an exceptional team and they are the favorite having only lost one girl from last year's state championship team. So, they've brought everybody back and have a really good squad.

We don't get into region play for another two weeks. This week, we have two games against another AAA school, TiftArea and the week after that, we play Southland, a AA school and then we finally get to start our region play the following Thursday. I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can do against teams in our classification. Obviously the higher the classification, our schedule is a little tougher, but I think it will help us in the long run.

Right now, it doesn't look like it's helping us because we have some losses. But I also told the girls, we're not going to play



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler  
Carli Gibson who had three hits in the game against Terrell Academy.

teams as good as they are every time out. Hopefully, our young people are getting some playing

time and experience and will try to get out there and better themselves the farther we go along.

## FA Track Team Competes at 10th Annual Furlow XC



By Coach Caitlin Mixon

Our cross country runners competed in Americus at the 10th Annual Furlow XC meet recently. Congratulations to Zoey Pope on taking First place overall in the two mile and setting a course record on a very hard course. Congratulations Annalise Grinolds on taking second place in the one mile with a very impressive time. Congratulations Caroline Akin on taking

ninth place and running strong on a tough course. Congratulations Claire Fletcher on taking 11th and pushing hard.

Abby Mixon and Maddison Lamberth helped the team out with finishing hard so we could take third place overall and bring home a trophy in the two mile. Varsity athletes Chase Hughes, Taylor Allen and Evelyn Fletcher competed in the event and finished with

good times. Our junior pro Athletes competed and looked so strong on such a tough course many had Personal Records today. I am so proud of all the work they are putting in. We are Trojan Proud.



## Middle Ga. EMC Donates Water to Athletes

Contributed

Dooly County K-8 Academy is incredibly grateful to Middle Georgia EMC for their generous water donation to our athletes. Year after year, Middle Georgia EMC continues to support our student-athletes by keeping them hydrated and healthy. This partnership means the world to our Dooly K-8 community. Thank you for being such an amazing community partner and for always looking out for our kids. We couldn't do it without supporters like you.

## Dooly County Bobcats Football Game Canceled

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County High School football game that was scheduled for Friday night, August 22, was, "Canceled due to weather," according to Head Football Coach Tony Alexander. The Bobcats return to action against the Worth County Rams in a non-region matchup this Friday night, August 29 at 7:30 in Sylvester, Ga.

## DCMS Football Team Plays in 'The Grove'

Contributed

The Dooly County Middle School Football Team played their only home of the season against Macon County this Wednesday, August 27 in 'The Grove' and we'll be celebrating our Eighth Graders on "Eighth Grade Night".

## FA Shotgun Team Off to Good Start

Contributed

Starting the season off with a bang as the Fullington Academy Shotgun Team finished Third at our first Sporting Clay event last week.



## NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a 2025 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by 2.62% percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Dooly County Commissioners Office located at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna:

- Public Hearing #1: Thursday, September 4, at 10:00 AM
- Public Hearing #2: Thursday, September 4, at 6:00 PM
- Public Hearing #3: Friday, September 19, at 10:00 AM

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 17.45 mills, an increase of 0.445 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 17.005 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$150,000.00 is approximately \$25.81 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$150,000.00 is approximately \$26.70.

## Bobcat Varsity Coaches Hold DCRD Football Camp

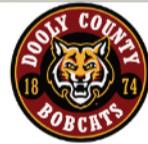
Contributed

We are very appreciative of the Dooly County Football Coaches Tony Alexander, Offensive coordinator Alvin Jones, Running Back Coach Tracie Walker, Receivers Coach Ben Miller, Offensive Line Coach Bryan Forehand, Defensive Line Coach Dion Colson, Linebacker Coach Tommy Sanders Jr. and Defensive Coordinator Kereon Merrell for putting on a football camp with our athletes and coaches this morning.

Despite getting home very late from their game that Friday night, they still took the time to be there for our kids Saturday morning, August 16. This is what it's all about! Dooooooly!



Principal - Alvin Williams Asst. Principal - Dr. Chiquita Granville Athletic Director - Brandon Dawkins



### 2025-2026 DCHS BOBCATS

# 0 Jamont'e Taylor  
 # 1 JayVion Sanders  
 # 2 Brexton Gaston  
 # 3 Antavious Hunter  
 # 4 JayQuan Burke  
 # 5 Cecil King  
 # 6 Kayvon Felton  
 # 7 Seven Sutton  
 # 8 Thailyn Bryant  
 # 9 Scotty Freeman  
 # 10 Marcus Bryant Jr.  
 # 11 Markevion Riggins  
 # 12 Keveon McCray  
 # 13 Keyhon Colson  
 # 14 Zayden Bell  
 # 15 Jaiden Sanders  
 # 16 Kenderrious Thomas  
 # 17 Ohmarien Shazer  
 # 18 Jesus Vega  
 # 19 Mikell Daniels  
 # 20 Vincent Gaston

# 21 Car'Lil Westberry  
 # 22 Ranzavier Wellons  
 # 23 Stacy Manning  
 # 24 Kareem Glenn  
 # 25 Kimani Williams  
 # 28 Micheal Deniels  
 # 30 Montavion Lee  
 # 32 Deyton Pringle  
 # 35 Fred Nicey  
 # 50 Kentavious Lucas  
 # 51 Quintorion King  
 # 55 Ahmaji Felton  
 # 56 Charico Rush  
 # 57 Charles Nance  
 # 58 Ja'Cambrion Dawson  
 # 59 Jaden Williams  
 # 66 Senorris Sutton  
 # 72 Kah'darius Ray  
 # 74 Aiden Carr  
 # 77 Devin Peterson  
 # 80 Jia'Quavion Mainor

### 2025 COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Tony Alexander  
 OC/QB - Alvin Jones  
 DC/DB - Kereon Merrell  
 RB - Tracie Walker  
 Band Director - Jabbar Muhammad

LB - Tommy Sanders  
 DLL - Deion Colson  
 WR - Ben Miller  
 OL - Bryan Forehand  
 Cheer Coach - China Adams



Photos Contributed  
 Meet the Bobcats Football Team and Cheerleaders & Colorguard!



Photo from Dooly County High School Facebook  
 Cheering on the Dooly County Football Team



**Bobcats**  
2025-26



**Good Luck on a  
Winning Season,  
Bobcats!**



**Dooly County Board  
of Education**

**Cory Jones, Board Chair, District 1**

**Katrice Martin, Board Vice-Chair, District 5**

**Andrew Felton II, District 2**

**Alexandria Pollock, District 3**

**Michael Bowens, District 4**

**Dr. Craig Lockhart, Superintendent**

***This is Dooly! Headed to the Top.***

**[www.dooly.k12.ga.us](http://www.dooly.k12.ga.us)**

## **Dooly County Bobcats Football**

*"Everybody says it's a rebuilding year, but we're going to push our players to the maximum and get them prepared successfully every week throughout the season."*

By Head Football Coach  
Tony Alexander

Leading up to the regular season, we played Terrell County in a scrimmage Friday, August 1 in a scrimmage with three quarters varsity and one quarter our younger players because everybody is still trying to earn their spot. We're filling out a depth chart and then after that we played Westover Friday, August 8 in a home scrimmage in 'The Grove' and that was a great test for us to see where we're at coming out of camp that took place during July with OTAs and seven-on sevens.

Westover has a good program with the number two offensive tackle in the nation as a junior. After that we are going to play the defending State Champion, the Toombs County Bulldogs away Friday, August 15 with the kickoff at 8:00 a.m..

They are division I A state champions from last year, so to start the new ERA of the program, we're going to play state champion in the higher classification that we are in. A very well coached team and a lot of good athletes, but I feel like we've got a lot of good athletes as well. We just haven't had the opportunity to showcase those that we've got and no better way than by playing them in their home stadium. It's going to be one of those games where we preview what kind of team we're going to be.

Our team is very talented to come off the record that they had last year. Seven Sutton is going to be our quarterback 6 feet 195 pounds. He can throw it 50 plus yards, he can also run it and he's also very smart; cerebral and he's just to get better with decision making and taking care of the football. But, he's a leader out there and we're going to be real 'crisp' on offense.

At running back we've got

Kayvon Felton, he's a sophomore and about 5 feet nine and 170 pounds, but one of the quickest running backs I've ever coached in my career and has breakaway speed. Offensive line is big and I think they average about 270 pounds. Devin Peterson is our center and is about 6 feet and about 360 pounds and is quick with snaps. He's a senior.

Our left tackle is Ken Lucas and a four year starter and about 6' 4" 250 and long arms and brief time offensive lineman and received all region recognition as an offensive lineman for three straight years.

Our right tackle is Charles Nance at 5' 11" and is also a cerebral player and I'm looking forward to him stepping up this year. Our left guard is Quinton King and is about 5' 11" and 240 pounds, so we've got a big offensive line. We plan on running the ball behind the offensive line. On the outside, they've got their own personality with Brexton Gaston and will be one of my two receivers along with Keveon McCray and our receivers have different skill sets.

Cecil King is a guy we're going to rely on and Jayvion Sanders is a guy with immense talent at right receiver for us. We've got a freshman, Jaiden Sanders at 6' 2" 195 pounds and Ohmarian Shazer who has become one of the guys. In the secondary, we've got Jamonte Taylor and he's cerebral from the back end and will get everybody lined up and I could really see him coaching some day because he's so smart and knows the back end so well. Brexton Gaston is pretty much a lock down at corner and at the other side, a combination of guys and we'll work in everybody at the corner-back position and Cecil King, Keyhon Colson at the other safety spot beside Jamonte Taylor.

We want to be a class program and change the narrative that surrounds this program. We want to do that by winning a lot of games and reaching the level that Dooly County must reach to win the state championship in an area that is known for football and we want to be an accurate representation of that in the state. We are really the first team that gets to be characterized as South Georgia Football.

We want to be an accurate representation of what that means and represent the community that loves Bobcat Football. We're working on the character aspect and really building these guys up to believe in themselves and also getting them exposed to a new way of thinking about how football is done in 2025. The coaching staff includes offensive coordinator Alvin Jones, our running back coach is Tracie Walker.

Our receivers coach is Ben Miller, offensive line coach is Bryan Forehand, defensive line coach is Dion Colson and Linebacker coach is Tommy Sanders Jr. Our defensive coordinator is Kereon Merrell. We've got a great staff, a bunch of young guys and we're just trying to give back to the kids. It's a great tradition here, but we also want to carry that tradition forward and we also want to bring eyes to the program. We've got a bunch of athletes and there shouldn't be a reason why they're not getting the exposure that they need because they can play with anybody.

Everybody says it's a rebuilding year, but we're going to push our players to the maximum and get whatever we can out of them and make sure we get them prepared successfully every week throughout the season. We saw that with Montravius Adams, Travis Glover and Keith Humphrey back in the day, so that's the kind of vision that we want to set for this program.

We want it to be the one-stop shop for great men, great football players and great kids and great character. By the time our region schedule gets here, we should be clicking on all cylinders and our goals for this season is to win the region and bring a home playoff game to Dooly County.

## **DOOLY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



P. O. Box 308, Vienna, GA 31092  
229-322-1596



Rhonda@bigpigjig.com

www.bigpigjig.com



**We encourage families  
and friends to come out  
and watch our young  
athletes compete this  
Football Season!**



TROJANS FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE			
15 AUGUST	VS CRISP ACADEMY	HOME	7:30
22 AUGUST	VS JOHN HANCOCK	HOME	7:30
29 AUGUST	*@ WESTWOOD		7:30
5 SEPTEMBER	*@ GEORGIA CHRISTIAN		7:30
12 SEPTEMBER	*@ CRISP (ROOBIN CLASSIC)		7:30
19 SEPTEMBER	*VS CCA	HOME	7:00
26 SEPTEMBER	*VS DAVID EMANUEL	HOME	7:30
3 OCTOBER	*@ GRACE		7:30
17 OCTOBER	*@ SHERWOOD		7:30
23 OCTOBER	*VS VIDALIA HERITAGE	HOME	7:30

\* DENOTES REGION GAME | 9/26 HOMECOMING | 10/23 SENIOR NIGHT

## 2025 Varsity Football Roster

### Fullington Academy Trojans

Name	#	Grade
Aidan Hill	8	12
Landon Cobb	17	12
Garlan Godfrey	44	12
Augie Harris	0	11
Brock Wetherington	55	11
Blake Hendrickson	1	10
Brayden Cole	2	10
Clay Sangster	6	10
Brayden Kinna	11	10
Jase Smith	27	10
Luke Campbell	50	10
Luke Perfect	65	10
Ben Murphy	75	10
Fletcher Faircloth	3	9
Cash Greene	4	9
Brantley Ross	5	9
Landon Kinna	13	9
Tucker Sorrow	18	9
Eli Ashley	22	9

Head Coach: Mike Ashley, Defensive Coordinator: James Martin

OF/DF Line Coach: Jim Hartin, QB Coach: Brody Ashley, Assistant Coach: John Warlick

## 2025 FULLINGTON TROJAN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Team	Time
8/1/25	OFF	
8/8/25	Intrasquad Game	7:00
8/15/25	CRISP ACADEMY	7:30
8/22/25	JOHN HANCOCK	7:30
8/29/25	*@WESTWOOD	7:30
9/5/25	*@GEORGIA CHRISTIAN	7:30
9/12/25	*@CRISP(ROOBIN CLASSIC)	7:30
9/19/25	*MEMORIAL DAY	7:00
9/26/25	*DAVID EMANUEL	7:30
10/3/25	*@GRACE	7:30
10/10/25	OFF	
10/17/25	*@SHERWOOD	7:30
10/23/25	*VIDALIA HERITAGE	7:30
10/31/25	FIRST ROUND	TBD
11/7/25	SECOND ROUND	TBD
11/14/25	SEMIFINALS	TBD
11/20/25	STATE CHAMPIONSHIP	TBD

\*DENOTES REGION GAME. 9/26/25- HOMECOMING. 10/23/25- SR NIGHT.

## Fullington Academy Football

"I'm looking forward to the season and seeing what these young guys do and who steps up as far as leadership roles."

### By Head Coach

Mike Ashley

This is my second year as head coach and looking forward to 2025. We've got a real young team. We lost eight seniors last year and that is going to be tough to replace. However the middle school guys we've got coming up as freshman now have a lot of football I.Q. They're going to help us out tremendously in several spots.

I've got three seniors, Garlan Godfrey being the main leader on the team. He's my big lineman and will also be a running back, linebacker, defensive end and offensive guard. Garlan's got a chance to play at the next level. A real smart guy. He's slimmed down a little bit and got a lot faster, so I'm expecting to see a lot of good things out of him.

I've got Aidan Hill, another senior-running back and linebacker who had about 800 yards last year before he had an injury that kept him out of the last three games of the season. I fully expected him to have close to 1,200 yards last year, but his injury kind-a hurt our team. He'll be one of the main running backs along with Landon Cobb. He's been working hard ever since he got there and will be Outside Linebacker, so a small senior group and we only have two juniors, one is Augie Harris who I really expect will take on a huge role at multiple posi-

tions as a receiver and running back-outside linebacker-safety. He's made a big leap as far as the weight room with his speed and shot up a couple of inches, so he's definitely going to be an impact player for us.

Some of the freshmen that I'm looking to step up and make an impact and one is Eli Ashley, he's one of the starting corners and receivers and has been coached hard all of his life. He's got a good motor on him. The only thing he'll have to get up to speed on is his size being a freshman going against seniors. But I fully expect him to be able to do that. Another one that we have coming in is Cass Greene. He'll be our backup quarterback and is picking up the offense really well. He's got a good arm, he's just got to get faster as far as the speed of running the ball.

Of course, Blake Henderson, our starting quarterback last year as a freshman had over 1,500 yards and ended up with 24 touchdowns, four interceptions, so he's going to be a major part this year. He's starting to really understand the offense as far as what I'm trying to accomplish on each play. He's reading the defense really well, so I'm looking forward to him having a really good season.

We've got a couple of sophomores because we have a big sophomore class with Luke Campbell seeing a lot of playing time on the offensive line, Jase Smith who is going to be

my starting center this year and has a major role to play in our offense because everything starts with the center. His weight room progress has been really good and is a lot stronger from last season. I turned over the defense to Coach James Martin, so I'm kind-a excited to see. He'll bring a couple of different looks. It will take a little off my plate so I can focus on offense and special teams.

We've got a good sports staff and Brody Ashley, my oldest son, just finished playing college baseball in Memphis, he's coming back and will be working with the quarterbacks. He'll be my eyes in the booth and then we have Jim Hartin coming in as offensive line coach. He's been with me for two years, so he's starting to get them where I want them to be, a little bit tougher. Summer's been pretty brutal working four-days-a-week going 8-12 every single day and giving them Friday off.

Other than that, these guys have been really getting after it and I'm looking forward to the season and seeing what these young guys do and who steps up as far as leadership roles. We'll be starting off with a rival game against Crisp Academy, but I'm really excited to see what happens. It's been a great Summer, these guys have been putting in a lot of work in, in the heat and they've done really well so far. I'm really excited to see where we go this year.

## FA Football Seniors

Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Pictured are Aidan Hill, Garlan Godfrey and Landon Cobb.



## Senior Cheerleaders



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Pictured are Izzy Ross, Brooklin Cromer, McKinley Causey, Rylee Reed, Keira Musselwhite and Aubrey Pope.

## FA Senior Softball Players

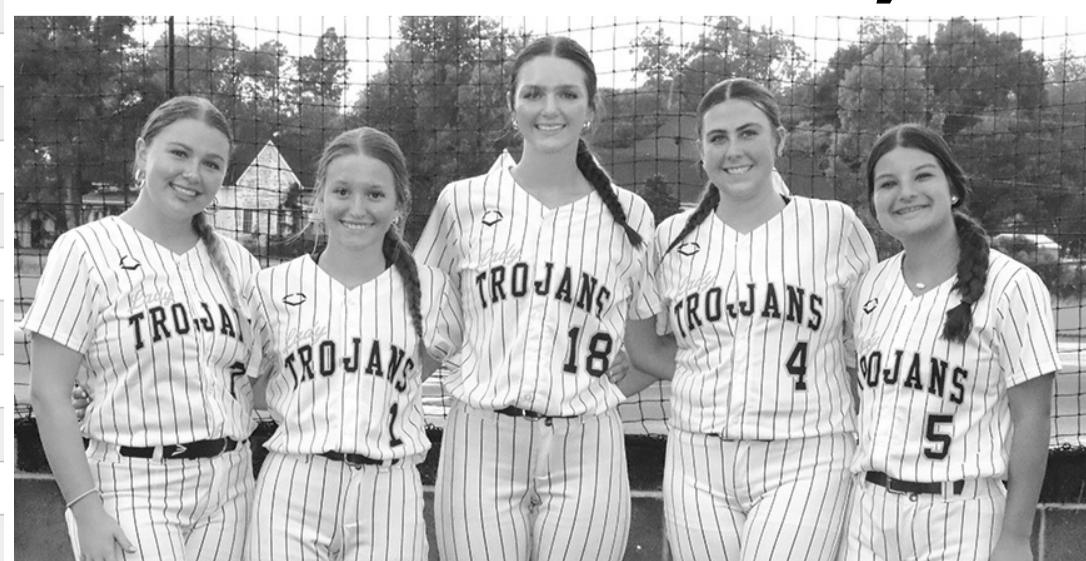


Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Pictured left to right: Brooklin Cromer, Izzy Ross, McKinley Causey, Rylee Reed and Aubrey Pope.



# The Fullington Academy Varsity Football 2025-26

Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Pictured seated left to right: Fletcher Faircloth, Brantley Ross, Cash Greene, Luke Campbell, Tucker Sorrow, Ben Murphy.

Kneeling: Blake Hendrickson, Brayden Kinna, Brayden Cole, Jace Smith, Landon Kinna and Eli Ashley.

Standing: Clay Sangster, Aidan Hill, Garlan Godfrey, Landon Cobb, Reshawn Story, Brock Wetherington, Augie Harris and Luke Perfect.



## FA Varsity Cheerleaders



Kneeling: Ragan Rainey, Payton Hudson, Izzy Ross, Sadie Chambliss, Brooke Cromer, Aubrey Pope.

Middle Row: Brook Hobbs, Keira Musselwhite, Olivia Cawthorn, Ellis Campbell, Brianna Kent.

Back Row: Kade Vaughn, McKinley Causey, Morgan Causey, Rylee Reed and Carlee Hamsley.



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TROJANS  
ACADEMY**  
Established 1970

*The mission of Fullington Academy is to provide a complete education program in a safe, Christian environment. We are committed to promoting social and civic responsibility along with education to develop compassionate, self-directed lifelong learners.*

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## FA Football Coaches



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Pictured seated left to right: John Warlick, Woody Greene, Brody Ashley, Head Coach Mike Ashley, James Martin and Jim Hartin.



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

## Fullington Academy Cheerleading Coaches

FA Cheerleading Coaches Emily Ashley, Heather Grinolds- head coach and Joni Ross.

**DOOLY COUNTY FOOTBALL  
IS AMPED UP  
AND READY TO EXPLODE!**

**GO, TROJANS!  
GO, BOBCATS!**

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Season Generates  
Many Victories!**

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## Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Varsity Softball Team

Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Kneeling: Abby Mixon, Ellis Campbell, Brook Hobbs, Izzy Ross, Sadie Chambliss, Aubrey Pope.

Standing: Rayelee Johnson, Brooklin Cromer, Evelyn Fletcher, Kade Vaughn, Morgan Causey, McKinley Causey, Riley Reed and Carlie Gibson.



### FA Softball Coaches



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Head Softball Coach Chuck Hester. Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Assistant Softball Coach Brandi Marks.

### 2025 Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Varsity Softball Roster

	Name	Jersey #	Grade
1.	Izzy Ross	1	12 <sup>th</sup>
2.	Rylee Reed	4	12 <sup>th</sup>
3.	Aubrie Pope	5	12 <sup>th</sup>
4.	Brook Hobbs	6	9 <sup>th</sup>
5.	Brooklin Cromer	7	12 <sup>th</sup>
6.	Ellis Campbell	8	9 <sup>th</sup>
7.	Rayelee Johnson	9	8 <sup>th</sup>
8.	Abby Mixon	11	8 <sup>th</sup>
9.	Morgan Causey	15	10 <sup>th</sup>
10.	McKinley Causey	18	12 <sup>th</sup>
11.	Kade Vaughan	20	10 <sup>th</sup>
12.	Carli Gibson	22	11 <sup>th</sup>
13.	Evelyn Fletcher	25	11 <sup>th</sup>
14.	Sadie Chambliss	31	10 <sup>th</sup>

Head Coach: Chuck Hester, Assistant Coach: Brandi Marks

### 2025 Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Softball Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Team
7/25-26	Fri -Sat	Windsor Tournament	Macon, Ga	Fri:9&12- Sat:1 <sup>st</sup> game 9am
7/29	Tuesday	OPEN		
7/31	Thursday	OPEN		
8/5	Tuesday	Windsor	Away	Varsity 6pm
8/7	Thursday	OPEN		MS 4pm
8/12	Tuesday	Twiggs	Home	Varsity 4pm
8/14	Thursday	CCA	Home	Varsity 4pm
8/19	Tuesday	Terrell	Home	Varsity 4pm
8/21	Thursday	CCA	Away	Varsity 4pm
8/26	Tuesday	Tiftarea	Away	Varsity 6pm
8/28	Thursday	Tiftarea	Home	Varsity 4pm
9/2	Tuesday	*Southland	Home	Varsity 4pm
9/4	Thursday	*Westwood	Away	Varsity 4pm
9/9	Tuesday	*Crisp	Home	Varsity 4pm
9/11	Thursday	Terrell	Away	Varsity 4pm
9/16	Tuesday	*SGA	Home	Varsity 4pm
9/18	Thursday	*Southland	Away	Varsity 4pm
~9/23	Tuesday	*Westwood	Home	Varsity 4pm
9/25	Thursday	*Crisp	Away	Varsity 4:00pm
9/30	Tuesday	Worth	Home	Middle School
10/2	Thursday	*SGA	Away	Varsity 4pm
10/7	Tuesday	Twiggs	Away	Varsity 4pm
10/9	Thursday	OPEN		
10/16-10/18		GIAA State Finals- Columbus, GA		TBD

\*Region Games. ~9/23 Sr. Day

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*from, Mayor Myron Mixon,  
 Council Members and Staff*

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