

Officials Express Wishes for a Safe Academic Year



Contributed

The Dooly County State Delegation, State Senator Larry Walker and yours truly, House District 150 State Representative Patty Marie Stinson along with state and local law enforcement wish-

es a safe and fun academic year from primary schools to universities and technical colleges. Special thanks to administrators, faculty, and all staff for everything you do to provide a safe learning environment. A safe school is a happy school.

Vienna Woman's Club Meet & Greet With Author Liz Carson Keith

By Cathy Jones

Liz Carson Keith was the featured author during the Vienna Woman's Club Meet and Greet held Monday, August 25 at the Dooly County Library. Mrs. Carson's latest novel, 'The Virginia Governess,' was published in 2024. It's a story about the Civil War from the perspective of a young wife and teacher who lived on a plantation in Reynolds, Ga. Mrs. Carson admitted, "I wrote the book in the first place to find a medium for publishing my great-grandfather's letters. The stories in the book are real, but I took a few liberties with time and space. It's historical fiction - I could do that."

Original family letters are a part of the narrative, adding authenticity and heart to the story. Captain Joseph Carson, Jr. penned the letters to his wife Charlotte "Lottie" Briggs Carson from 1864 until Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Captain Carson is remembered as the commander who led the charge during the Battle of Fort Stedman, which was the last battle General Lee's Army of Virginia won. Liz Carson has been im-



Photo by Cathy Jones
Author Liz Carson Keith speaking to a gathering at Dooly County Library about her latest novel, 'The Virginia Governess.'

mersed in her family's genealogy for many years. As she puts it, "When you start tracing your family's lineage, you find it's all about the connections with other people."

The Virginia Governess is avail-

able now in soft cover through Holland Press. A revised edition that includes additional family letters and new cover art created by Carson's niece Lily Payne will be published soon.

Local Club Introduces "Bonnie the Bookworm"



Photo by Cathy Jones
The Bonnie the Bookworm display is located on the brick wall just outside the front doors to Dooly County Library.

By Cathy Jones

The Vienna Woman's Club is excited to introduce "Bonnie the Bookworm" to the community. Bonnie the Bookworm is prominently displayed on the brick wall just outside the front doors to the Dooly County Library. According to club member Beth English, "We let the

rocks speak to us and found an inner object inside that we tried to create. You'll find a slice of watermelon, an alligator, a mountain scene, and a frog, among others. Each rock is unique."

Members of the community are invited to find a rock and create something new, mak-

ing Bonnie grow. Be sure to treat the painted rock creation with a clear acrylic sealant that will protect the paint from the weather. There's plenty of room for more rocks. In the near future, kids will be invited to participate in a scavenger hunt of books that match the rocks.

FUNDING TO UNADILLA

CONTINUED FROM 1A

leak-Pine Street at the Shell Station Tuesday, August 12 as well as a Dooly EMS Assist-support call on Pine Street that same day and a trouble unknown-no incident found on Cherry Street on August 5.

As part of his Mayor's report, Mr. Mixon announced,

"The city will hold an election November 4 for three council seats and qualifying has ended with the following candidates: Justin Bridges, incumbent, Lurry Brown, incumbent, Meredith Lester, incumbent, Trella Shell Adams, Stan Chaney, Larry Spivey and Bob Williams. Natural Gas letters have started going out concerning public awareness. The Public Service Commission requires the city to send the notices to all account holders once-a-year. They are informative and no action needs to be taken. Dooly State Prison handed out free backpacks at the pavilion Saturday, August 23. The new warden is making an impact on the community and we appreciate the initiative."

The agenda at the next council meeting Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m. will include approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

The council approved a business license for Phantom Fireworks and Heather, its Georgia-South Carolina regional manager spoke to

NOTICE OF ELECTION CANCELLATION

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-191, notice is hereby given that City of Pinehurst General Election scheduled for November 4, 2025 is cancelled. The following candidates have qualified for office and are unopposed:

Post 1: Jessica Angel Butler

Post 2: Joseph C. Williams

Post 3: Jan C. Peavy

The above unopposed candidates shall be deemed to have voted for him/herself.

This the 27th day of August, 2025

Election Superintendent

Jackie Fore-Chancy

City of Pinehurst

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

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

Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LIHEAP Program Announces Signup Dates



Sarita Hill

Photo Contributed

Contributed

The Georgia Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program aimed at supporting low-income households with their energy costs in Dooly County. This assistance can help reduce the likelihood of health and safety issues, including sickness, fire risks, or disconnection of services.

The Georgia LIHEAP program may be able to offer you one or more of the following types of assistance: Energy bill payment assistance or Energy crisis assistance. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program announces that signup for the elderly will remain December 1 and January 2 for the general public through the

Macon-Bibb Economic Opportunity Council for the LIHEAP program.

Sarita Hill, CEO says, "The Macon-Bibb Economic Opportunity Council (EOC), Inc. is committed to its mission of "Helping People, Changing Lives, and Building Families." With the backing of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, local businesses, elected officials, and community partners, we are dedicated to fighting poverty. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for all families and individuals."

For more information about the LIHEAP program sign up, call the Macon-Bibb Economic Opportunity Council at 478-738-3240.

IF YOU NEED TO ADVERTISE EMAIL
Phyllis Keaton
phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com
(229)938-6253

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewobservereditor@gmail.com

CCU September Food Pantry Dates

Christ Chapel Unadilla September food pantry dates will be Saturdays, Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 at CCU located at 400 Jeannette Street. There is no food drive this month. Pantry hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon with volunteer check-in from 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. For more information, call 478-627-9352.

Bingo Night in Byromville

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

Town of Dooling Meeting

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

Bobcat Bulletin

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

Coley and Meeks Reappointed to Cotton Commission Board

Contributed

In late July, the Commodity Commission Ex-Officio Committee met to make appointments to the Georgia Cotton Commission Board of Directors. GCC Vice Chairman Matt Coley, a cotton and peanut farmer from Vienna, and director Steven Meeks, a cotton, peanut, tobacco, and timber producer from Screven, were both reappointed to another three-year term on the Commission's board of directors.

Matt Coley and his father operate Coley Farms. The Coleys also operate Coley Gin & Fertilizer, a cotton gin and peanut buying point that has been operating since 1945. Matt has degrees from the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. He spent time in Washington as a staffer for Senator Saxby Chambliss and was instrumental in developing the 2008 Farm Bill. Coley holds leadership positions in many cotton organizations, including serving as a producer delegate to the National Cotton Council of America, director of Southern Cotton Growers, and Georgia State Chairman of the American Cotton Producers. Coley has served on the Georgia Cotton Commission board since 2012 and as Vice Chairman since 2017. He was a member of the Leadership Georgia class of 2016 and serves as a member of the boards of his community hospital and a local school. Matt and his wife have two daughters and are members of Cordele First Church.

Coley stated, "As a 4th-generation cotton producer, one of my top priorities is to make sure that the next generation can continue producing cotton in the future. The work of the Georgia Cotton Commission helps ensure this by maximizing

the \$1/bale investment from Georgia cotton producers for research, education and promotion. It is an honor to represent fellow farmers

by directing Commission investments that will help ensure the future of this industry and our local communities alike."

Steven Meeks operates Nine Run Farms and serves as operations manager for FMR Burch Farms. After graduating from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Meeks worked for Congressman then Senator Saxby Chambliss as well as the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and was a key staff member during the drafting, passage, and implementation of two farm bills. Over the years, Meeks has been an active leader of many cotton and other agricultural industry boards and has served as a member of the Commission's board since 2012. He is a graduate of the Leadership Georgia class of 2012 and is a former trustee of that organization.

Meeks has served the people of Appling, Bacon, Pierce, and Wayne Counties as a State Representative since 2018. In the General Assembly, he is a member of the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs; Appropriations; Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight; Creative Arts & Entertainment; Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications; Game, Fish & Parks; and Small Busi-



ness Development Committees.

He also serves as the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Economic Development. Meeks and his wife, Joy Burch-Meeks, have one son, John William, and are members of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Regarding his reappointment, Meeks said, "I am honored to have been reappointed to the Georgia Cotton Commission Board of Directors. I look forward to working with the other members of the Commission board to focus on programming that will enhance the sustainability and viability of cotton

production in Georgia now and in the years to come."

The Georgia Cotton Commission is a producer-funded organization located in Perry, Georgia. The Commission began in 1965. Georgia cotton producers pay an assessment enabling the Commission to invest in programs of research, promotion, and education on behalf of all cotton producers of Georgia. For more information about this and other topics please call 478-988-4235 or visit us on the web at www.georgiacottoncommission.org.

HELP WANTED

DOOLY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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(478) 825-2432

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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 Vienna, GA 229-268-4883

AOH Church of God
 Vienna, GA 229-268-1903

Bakersfield Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Bay Point CME
 Byromville, GA

Bethel Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-2848

Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Byromville, GA 229-433-2102

Big Poplar Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA

Brown Chapel Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA 478-627-9466

Byromville Baptist Church
 Byromville, GA 229-433-2505

Byromville Methodist Church
 Byromville, GA 229-321-9292

Camp Creek Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA 478-627-3929

Vienna Church of Christ
 Vienna, GA 229-268-1994

Vienna Church of God
 Vienna, GA 229-268-1404

County Line Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA

Destiny Worship Center
 International Ministries
 Vienna, GA (478) 273-8112

Dooling Baptist Church
 Byromville, GA

Double Branch Freewill Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA

Drayton Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-8456

Drayton United Methodist
 Vienna, GA 229-321-9292

Ebenezer Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-2964

Evangelistic Tabernacle Church
 Vienna, GA

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts
 229-268-2700

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

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

Akin Insurance Agency, Inc.
 113 N. Union St., Vienna
 229-268-4751 • Vienna

Proudly Serving Dooly County
 for more than 10 years!

121 N. 3rd Street
 P.O. Box 486
 Vienna, GA 31092
 229-268-2800

Chad Weesner
 INSURANCE AGENCY
 Vienna, GA

Midway Independent Methodist Church
 Vienna, GA

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
 Byromville, GA

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

New Bethel Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA 478-627-3775

Mt. Zion CME
 Vienna, GA 229-268-6013

Northside Missionary Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

New Bethel CME
 Pinehurst, GA

Pinehurst Baptist Church
 Pinehurst, GA

Pinehurst Methodist Church
 Pinehurst, GA

Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-8746

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
 Byromville, GA

Richwood Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
 Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3713

Reedy Branch Baptist Church
 740 Church Avenue
 Byromville, GA

Riverview Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Shady Grove CME Church
 Vienna, GA

Shiloh Methodist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-6852

Snow Methodist Church
 Unadilla, GA

St. John Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Springhill Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

St. Luke CME
 Lily, GA

St. Mark's Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Tippettville Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA

Trails of Faith Deliverance Holiness Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-4377

Turkey Creek Baptist Church
 Lily, GA

Unadilla First Baptist Church
 Unadilla, GA 478-627-3615

Unadilla United Methodist Church
 Unadilla, GA 478-627-3330

Vienna Congregation
 Vienna, GA

Vienna First Baptist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-4386

Vienna Methodist Church
 Vienna, GA 229-268-4207

Evangelistic Tabernacle Church
 Vienna, GA



In The Garden With SEPTEMBER CHORES

September is a time to roll up our gardening sleeves and get back to work after a time of rest (or downright neglect) from attention to the yard and garden. There are many gardening chores to be done this month. Let's look at a few of them.

This is a crucial month for dividing and transplanting perennials. Perennials divided and transplanted now have time to develop good new root growth before cold weather slows them down. Dig, divide, and replant overcrowded beds of bearded iris, daylilies, Shasta daisies, tall phlox, and many others. Spread evenly over the new planting area a liberal amount of organic matter and bulb fertilizer. Mix this into the soil at least six to eight inches deep. Space roots at least one foot apart in all directions so that root competition will not be a problem for a few years.

It is time to plant fall greens and salad crops. Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce from transplants. Plant beets, carrots, chard, kale, rutabagas, mustard, turnips, and lettuce from seeds. Try several kinds of lettuce—head, romaine, and leaf types.

Light pruning of shrubs and

hedges this month is permissible as long as it is done very carefully. As always when pruning, first take out any diseased or damaged wood. Then shape the plants as you normally would, removing the tips of the newest overextended growth. It is not advisable to severely prune at this time, as the new, tender growth will be susceptible to the coming cold.

If you decide to prune your big leaf (mop head) hydrangeas this fall, be very careful so as not to interfere with next year's crop of showy white, pink, or blue flower heads. Big leaf hydrangeas (*H. macrophylla*) bloom on the tips of last year's growth. So when you prune, cut out only old canes which once held or now hold faded flowers. Be sure to leave all new shoots from this year's growth undisturbed.

Camellias are often bothered by scale insects, which suck plant juices and cause discoloring of the leaves, eventually weakening the plant. The latter part of September may be cool enough to spray with horticultural oils for control of scale on camellias and other broad-leaf evergreens. But beware—if temperatures remain above 85 degrees, it is still too hot to use oil sprays. Wait un-

til temps hold at about 80 degrees or lower.

Due to the extremely warm growing season, you growers of pumpkins and winter squash may be seeing early coloring and ripening of these crops. What to do? If the vines are still healthy (green and growing), the best approach is to leave the fruit on the vines and keep the vines healthy for as long as possible. As the vines begin to die down (becoming more brown than green) let the fruit cure in the field for 10-14 days. This curing process will harden off the skin, which will allow the fruit to store longer. After this, the fruit should be sprayed or washed with a 10% chlorine bleach solution (9 parts water to one part bleach) to help kill any fungi or bacteria that may be present. Be sure and let the fruit dry before storing them.

Store them in a well ventilated place at 55 degrees with a relative humidity of 65-75%. Make sure you store only the best fruit, as rots from poor quality fruit can spread quickly to the good fruit.

September is the perfect month to start a compost pile. Leaves are beginning to fall. You'll soon be dragging out the lawn rakes! More on the value of fallen leaves later.

September is a refreshing time in many ways—football, milder weather, and getting back into the garden. Let's get busy!

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.

It's Time to Prepare as Hurricane Season Has Arrived



By EMA Director
Don Williford

Hurricane season has intensified across the southeast and Dooly County Emergency Management Agency is urging residents to take precautionary steps to prepare for any type of natural disaster including hurricanes, flooding and severe weather.

With the recent forecast predicting above average storms for the remainder of the year, we

encourage everybody to make preparations in the event of a storm. Everyone needs to have at least a seven-day amount of your prescription medicine, some non-perishable food that does not require refrigeration or cooking such as protein bars, plenty of baby formula and canned goods.

Also, you need to have at least one-two gallons of water for the residents of your home, flashlights with new batteries. Remember, if you have rechargeable batteries, those might be usable due to power outages.

We also need to make sure we have plenty of personal hygiene products and any important documents need to be in a water proof safe. We also need to identify some safe shelter locations in the event of a tornado or heavy winds. Make sure you have communication protocols in place, in other words if your family is in a different location than yours, that you all can be able to reach each other by a working cell phone to let everyone know that each one of you is okay. We don't want to forget about our furry pets and

make sure that we have plenty of food, carriers and any type of vaccination records.

Also stay informed of any type of evacuation routes. In a storm or hurricane, those evacuation routes may be 'compact' and 'full' with residents fleeing from Georgia and Florida into our region. Also, make sure that you have gas in the tank in case you need to relocate during the storm.

Always stay informed through local media and Dooly County EMA does have a Facebook page that we will distribute information as we receive it. Also, be sure and monitor your local weather channels.

Anytime there is a pending storm, we want to make sure that you're prepared. Sometimes we might know that the storm is arriving, such as a heavy rain that might cause trees to fall onto power lines and cause unexpected outages for an unknown length of time. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call: Dooly County Emergency Management Agency: 229-947-0705.

Georgia Sets The National Standard For Pro-Worker Leadership

By Vincent Vernuccio,
GA Public Policy Foundation

As we older folks think about Labor Day is a time to celebrate the American worker. But it's also a time to ask ourselves: What state is doing the best job of putting workers first?

Georgia has an incredibly strong claim. The Peach State isn't just leading the way in pro-worker reforms at the state level. It's also the home of federal leaders who are fighting for workers in Washington, D.C. Few states, if any, have so many principled, pro-worker leaders at every level of government.

The state's leadership in Atlanta is clear in many ways. For decades, Georgia has been a right-to-work state, giving workers the choice of whether or not to pay union fees. As a result, they can opt out of paying a union without fear of losing their jobs. That policy has undoubtedly contributed to Georgia's booming economy. Manufacturers in particular may be more likely to set up shop in the Peach State because of this simple, commonsense policy.

But Georgia didn't stop at right-to-work. Two years ago, Gov. Brian Kemp, State Sen. Mike Hodges, R-Brunswick and State Rep. Will Wade, R-Dawsonville, led the charge for an innovative new reform that gives workers even greater protection. Under this law, companies that receive state incentives must protect the privacy and the secret ballot for their workers in unionization

elections—the same kind of voting process Americans use in political elections. This reform protects workers from intimidation and harassment, ensuring that they can make their voices heard without fear of reprisal.

To see why this reform matters, consider what happened next door, in Alabama. Last year, the United Auto Workers convinced about 70% of workers to sign cards supporting unionization at two auto factories. This "card-check" method is the opposite of the secret ballot, since unions can publicly pressure workers to sign these cards. Often, the card check is the end of the story—employers recognize it without holding a secret-ballot election.

When the vote was held in private, a majority of workers at the auto plants voted against unionization, showing that the secret-ballot is the best way to gauge workers' true wishes. Similarly, in Georgia, workers at many companies know their rights are protected, and it's yet another reason for job creators to come to the Peach State.

This state leadership is already enough to set Georgia apart as a pro-worker haven. But the state's leadership is also apparent in our nation's capital. Rep. Rick Allen, from Georgia's 12th congressional district, recently re-introduced the Employee Rights Act—the single most important pro-worker in America today.

The Employee Rights Act is full of reforms that would protect and strengthen workers'

rights. Building on Georgia's state policy, it would require the secret ballot for all unionization elections in America—no more card check. It would also protect workers' privacy by letting them determine what personal information unions can access. And in the 26 states like Georgia with right-to-work laws, the Employee Rights Act would let workers who opt out of union membership negotiate their own contracts—something they're currently banned from doing.

The ERA goes even further by protecting workers' right to build their own small businesses as independent contractors. And workers would have greater freedom to pursue entrepreneurship by starting franchises, since the ERA ends the shifting federal standards that have long threatened this pro-worker business model.

These are just a few of the pro-worker reforms in the Employee Rights Act. Rep. Allen deserves praise for championing this bill and defending the freedom that workers need. The same goes for leaders in Atlanta who've made the Peach State a model of reform, especially Gov. Kemp, State Sen. Hodges and State Rep. Wade. The pro-worker progress that's started in Georgia is spreading nationwide—and this Labor Day, that's the best thing of all to celebrate.

F. Vincent Vernuccio is president of the Institute for the American Worker.

Raffensperger Continues Summer Election Integrity Audit with Cross-State Data Accuracy Mailing

By Office of Ga Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger

Atlanta — Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced the next phase of the 2025 Voter Registration list maintenance audit.

"As part of our continued list maintenance audit, Georgia's Elections Division mailed out cross-state notices to 27,450 people identified through our secure multi-state list sharing agreement as having moved out of state," said Raffensperger. "We will be encouraging these people to cancel their Georgia

voter registrations if they have moved. If they still live in Georgia or have returned to Georgia, these voters will be able to go online to the Online Voter Registration (OLVR) system, to their My Voter Page (MVP) or to simply return the notice to maintain their status as 'Active' voters."

The mailing occurred last week. Voters receiving the notice will be given 40 calendar days to respond before any change is made to their registration status.

This secure multi-state list

sharing service identified these records as having more recent voter or driver services activity in another member state. Half the states in the country (25) plus D.C. currently comprise this membership.

"Ongoing list maintenance is vital to keeping our voter rolls accurate and up-to-date," Raffensperger said. "Clean voter rolls mean clean elections, and Georgia leads the way in providing free, fair, and fast elections to our voters."

VHPC

CONTINUED FROM 1A

needs to be. Sometimes, that can be an issue and it's not that they willingly are going against what the commission recommends. It's just that there's a due process and sometimes

that gets in the way of the right things happening."

The Vienna Historic Preservation Commission was established by the City of Vienna in 2003, followed by the designa-

tion of the Vienna Central Historic District. The VHPC meets monthly and all meetings are open to the public.

The News Observer

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

Send all submissions to:
editor@ganewsobserver.com

Local news means the world to us.

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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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: P.O. Box 186 Vienna, GA, 31092

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Deadline for legal submission is Friday Noon prior to First publication.
Email word document to editor@ganewobserver.com

LEGALS

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

CITATION
PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
RE: ESTATE OF LATRA VIUS KEONTA BENTLEY, (FORMER) MINOR/WARD

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The conservator(s) of the above estate, has/have applied for Discharge from said trust. This is to notify the above interested party(ies) to show cause, if any they can, why said conservator(s) should not be discharged from office and liability. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and filed with the above Probate Court, (address) 104 South Second Street Vienna, GA 31092 on or before September 29, 2025 said date being more than 30 days from the date of publication, or if personally served, then 10 days from the date of such service. All pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the below address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees.

If any objections are filed, a hearing

will be scheduled for a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Rooney Bowen III, Judge of the Probate Court
By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court
Dooly County Probate Court
104 South Second Street
Vienna, GA 31092
(229)268-4217
9/4/2025
0736-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY LEE BENJAMIN

All creditors of the estate of said deceased, late of said county, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 18th day of August, 2025.

Wesley Benjamin

492 Muse Street SW

Atlanta, GA 31030

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 2025

0734-VNO

NOTICE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY

RE: PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF FINAL RETURN

ESTATE NO. 19-0030

TO: ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST

John W. Sherrer, Jr., acting in his capacity as County Administrator for Estate of Latravious Bentley, has filed a Petition for Approval of Final Return to said Estate of Latravious Bentley. This is to notify you that objections to the petition, if any, must be filed by September 20, 2025, 2025. All objections to the petitioner must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections and all pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled for a later date in the Probate Court of Dooly County, courtroom 11, located at Second Street, Vienna, Dooly County, Georgia. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Rooney Bowen III, Judge of the Probate Court
By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court

Dooly County Probate Court

104 South Second Street
Vienna, GA 31092
(229)268-4217
9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 2025
0737-VNO

GEORGIA, DOOLY COUNTY NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of Willie Mae Shaw, 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 required to make immediate payment. This 14 day of August, 2025.

ALBERT CARL SHAW, AS EXECUTOR OF THE

ESTATE OF WILLIE MAE SHAW, DECEASED

Mr. Albert Carl Shaw
10 E Calhoun Street
Reynolds, Georgia 31076
8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 2025
0731-VNO

Collins, Executor of the Estate of Reuben Leon Collins, hereby gives in terms of establishment comprising Section 53-7-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated notice to all creditors and claimants of the above named decedent's estate to render in an account of their demands, properly attested, to said Executor and all persons owing to said estate are required to make prompt payment to said Executor having postal address of 106 Wembley Court, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

Robert Leon Collins
Executor
LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC
Attorney for Executor
8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 2025
0732-VNO

PUBLIC SALE - AUCTION

Public Sale to the highest bidder all contents of Vienna Mini Storage unit #4. Located on Hwy 90west, Vienna, Ga.

Contents: miscellaneous merchandise in the possession of Ralph Smith and personal property of Miranda Adams.

Sale Date: September 6, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

2. Jaliz Johnson Bass, unit #18
3. Felix Lawrence, unit #21
4. Tamyra Almond, unit #27
5. Erica Reehal, units #41 and #2
6. Chip Moore, unit #44
7. Kimberlyn Snipes, unit #49
8. Latoya Royal, unit #51
9. LaShonda Passmore, unit #57
10. Sue James, unit #61
11. Shonds Seay, unit #60
8/28, 9/4, 2025
0735-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF R.C. MERRELL

All creditors of the estate of said deceased, late of said county, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 18th day of August, 2025.
Brenda Lee Merrell
250 Clearwater Place
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 2025
0733-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Undersigned, Robert Leon

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred. The tentative budget requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate, therefore, before the Mayor and City Council of Vienna, Georgia may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Vienna City Hall, 203 West Cotton Street on September 12, 2025 at 12:00 noon and on Monday September 22, 2025 at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Vienna, Georgia has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by **6.69** percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at **12:00 noon on September 12, 2025** in Vienna City Hall.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at Vienna City Hall on **September 22, 2025 at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm.**

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **13.50 mills**, an increase of **0.847 mills**. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than **12.653 mills**. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of **\$ 100,000** is approximately **\$ 32.19** and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of **\$ 300,000** is approximately **\$ 101.64**.

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Vienna does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Vienna City Hall, 203 West Cotton Street, Vienna, GA on September 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy for the past five years. A Public Hearing will be held Friday September 12, 2025 at 12:00 noon. A second Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday September 22, 2025 at 12:00 noon at City Hall followed by a third Public Hearing on Monday September 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

CITY OF VIENNA	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	62,504,204	65,988,751	77,834,087	85,430,490	88,278,727	87,097,399
Motor Vehicles	251,570	934,150	789,810	750,200	792,330	662,830
Mobile Homes	479,487	464,819	475,298	475,298	475,714	526,839
Timber - 100%						
Heavy Duty Equipment						
Gross Digest	63,235,261	67,387,720	79,099,195	86,655,988	89,546,771	88,287,068
Less M & O Exemptions	6,956,579	7,031,853	8,309,285	8,582,753	8,203,141	9,703,085
Net M & O Digest	56,278,682	60,355,867	70,789,910	78,073,235	81,343,630	78,583,983
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	56,278,682	60,355,867	70,789,910	78,073,235	81,343,630	78,583,983
Gross M&O Millage	21.500	21.500	20.299	19.749	21.500	21.500
Less Rollbacks	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Net M&O Millage	13.500	13.500	12.299	11.749	13.500	13.500
Total City Taxes Levied	\$759,762	\$814,804	\$870,645	\$917,282	\$1,098,139	\$1,060,884
Net Taxes \$ Increase		\$55,042	\$55,841	\$46,637	\$180,857	\$ (37,255.23)
Net Taxes % Increase		7.24%	6.85%	5.36%	19.72%	-3.39%

NOTICE

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the County Commissioners Office on September 19, 2025 at 10:00 AM 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

COUNTY WIDE		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
C o u n t y w i d e A r e a	Real & Personal	399,044,113	407,333,900	492,287,300	538,390,610	570,326,986	633,912,536
	Motor Vehicles	5,707,720	4,860,010	4,134,100	4,244,010	4,177,580	3,756,570
	Mobile Homes	2,499,686	2,527,433	2,574,310	2,574,310	3,083,330	3,288,720
	Timber - 100%	2,730,560	2,208,119	7,053,315	8,350,391	3,964,707	5,825,432
	Heavy Duty Equipment	52,000	0	14,035	98,800	37,641	0
	Gross Digest	410,034,079	416,929,462	506,063,060	553,658,121	581,590,244	646,783,258
	Less Exemptions	113,348,674	111,809,219	145,967,865	157,461,637	171,439,074	227,520,073
T A X	NET DIGEST VALUE	296,685,405	305,120,243	360,095,195	396,196,484	410,151,170	419,263,185
	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	21.5190	21.4590	20.1920	19.7160	19.5430	19.4920
	Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	2.5190	2.4590	2.2420	2.2660	2.0930	2.0420
	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	19.0000	19.0000	17.9500	17.4500	17.4500	17.4500
	TOTAL M&O TAXES						

DCMS Football Team 'Dominates' in 'The Grove'



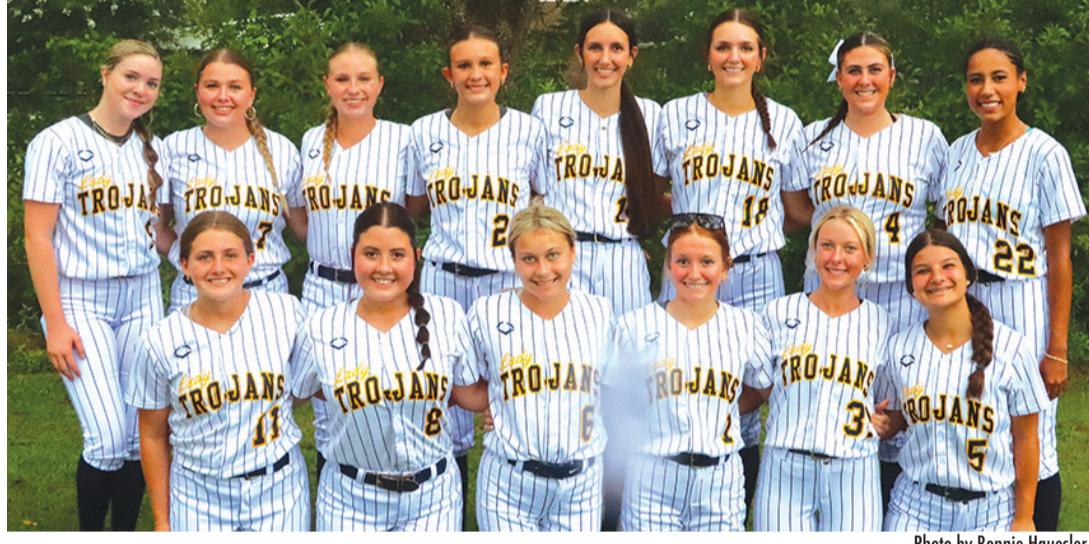
Contributed

The Dooly County Bobcats were dominant last Wednesday bringing home a 38-0 victory over the Macon County Bull-

dogs in 'The Grove'. Our boys showed incredible heart, determination, and teamwork on the field. Every play, every tackle, every yard gained, pure Bobcat

Pride. Congratulations to our amazing team, coaches, and everyone who made this victory possible. This is what Bobcat Nation is all about.

Lady Trojans Gain Confidence with Two Huge Wins



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 Carli Gibson.

By Head Coach
Chuck Hester

The Fullington Academy Lady Trojans Softball went 2-0 this week beating the TiftArea Lady Panthers in Chula, Ga. last Tuesday and we beat them in extra innings 5-4. The winning pitcher was Rayelee Johnson and she also had two hits, Carli Gibson picked up three hits on

the day and two stolen bases. Last Thursday, we also played TiftArea, but this time we hosted the Lady Panthers in Pinehurst and we won that game 12-0 and again, Rayelee Johnson was the winning pitcher and also again was successful offensively picking up two more hits, scored two runs and struck out seven batters. Evelyn Fletcher had two stolen

bases, Carli Gibson and Brooklin Cromer were busy on the base paths with each picking up a stolen base on the day and Brooklin also smacked a double. We played Tuesday, Sept. 2 against Southland in Pinehurst, Ga. and then will travel to Westwood in Camilla, Ga. Thursday, Sept. 4 with the first pitch at 4:00 p.m.

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Title I Block Party Brings Excitement, Spirit and Energy



Contributed

What an amazing Title I Block Party at Dooly County High School Tuesday afternoon, August 26. It was definitely the place to be. The energy was incredible and our school com-

munity truly came together. A special thanks to our fantastic food trucks for keeping everyone fed and happy.

All the dedicated faculty and staff who joined us. Our incredible band for the perfect perfor-

mance. Our spirited cheerleaders who brought excitement to the event. Our DJ for keeping the music going. And most importantly, all our wonderful families who made this event truly special.



Lasseter Tractor Co. Donates 'Gator'



Contributed

Fullington Academy would like to send out a huge thank you to Lasseter Tractor Company for their incredible generosity. We are beyond grateful for their donation of a John Deere Gator to our school.

CGTC Police and Local Law Enforcement Clear Active Shooter Threat on Macon Campus of Central Georgia Technical College, August 26

Contributed

Macon, Ga. - At 2:25 pm on Tuesday, local law enforcement and the Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) police gave an "all-clear" to the lockdown and shelter in place advisory for the Macon campus of CGTC, as it had responded to 911 calls about

an active shooter threat. Normal campus operations have resumed.

Shortly after 1 pm, a 911 call was made to Macon-Bibb County dispatch of an active shooter threat on the College's Macon Campus. CGTC Police, joined by the Bibb Sheriff's department and Georgia State Patrol, responded immediately within minutes of notification.

CGTC sent an emergency notification alert to the Macon campus group at 1:37 pm advising of the alert to shelter in place, followed by an institutional alert at 2:07 pm to advise the

**THANK
YOU
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This gift will be such a blessing to our campus and will make a lasting impact for years to come. We are so thankful for community partners like Lasseter who invest in our students and school family.

College community of the situation, as authorities continued to assess the

validity of the threat. At 2:25 pm, when the all-clear was given, a follow-up message was sent to the College community via the CGTC emergency alert system that the threat was a hoax and normal campus operations had resumed.

After initial assessments indicated the situation was a hoax, law enforcement officials continued their sweep of the entire campus and all buildings to ensure student, staff, and faculty safety.

During the lockdown, Bibb County Board of Education dual enrollment students were temporarily delayed leaving campus, which led to a slight interruption to the afternoon bus schedule for the system. Bibb County students on CGTC's campus were released to travel back to the Hutching's Career Academy once the all-clear was

given. College leadership expresses its immense gratitude to law enforcement and first responders for their prompt attention to the threat and assurance to the safety of its students, faculty, staff, and the Macon-Bibb community. The response time is something the College and community should be proud of.

CGTC Police and Campus Safety personnel remain vigilant to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff on all campuses.

Notice To The Public from The News Observer:
Due to the Labor Day Holiday our press schedule was changed.
Any sports stats from 8/29/25 will be in next weeks issue.