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The News Observer

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2025

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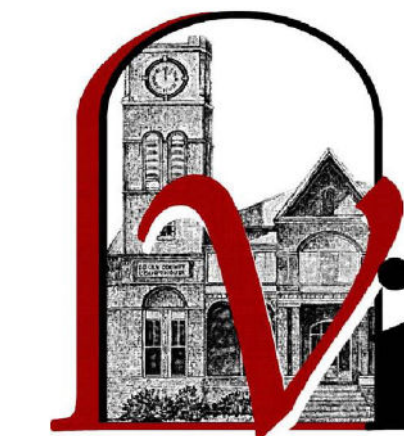
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Council Sets Tentative 2025-2026 Millage Rate

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The council has tentatively set the 2025-2026 millage rate at 13.5. City of Vienna Administrator Michael Bowens also announced that he had heard from, “The new proprietors of the Old Roseburg-Ga. Pacific site and they are making progress installing the Crypto Currency Data Mining operation there. We did request some more information from them. They are looking into the various permits they need to apply for to begin operations.”

A meeting was held with the House of Raeford representatives to discuss plans for that facility and their water and wastewater needs to facilitate this including expanding sprayfields on the West side of town including, “Changing and upgrading some equipment and hopefully are looking to expand by August or October of next year. First,



they have got to get permits, etc. New signs have been installed at the Anthony Bowens Park and a new sign outlining the rules is under construction. He also commented, “We’re still working with the insurance company on the repairs that need to be done to the fence and also sent them some more information they requested.”

The mayor acting upon a request by

Public Works Director Nathan Jordan recommended and the council agreed to hire Juan Vega by the City of Vienna Public Works Department.

Also, a request submitted to allow for a block party was denied by the council. City Clerk Margaret Shelley announced that the city has received a total of over \$994,000 in local tax collections. Both Councilmen John Mathis and

Walter Brown commented about several issues regarding code enforcement at some of the apartment complexes in the city.

City Councilwoman Tabata Carter announced, “That we are getting geared up for Vienna Day once again on the first Saturday in October 4. This time I would like to get participation from the city, please. This is not for one particular family group, it’s for everybody. All ethnicities, so please come out and fellowship with us, eat, drink and have a good time. Also, we’ve come up with something called ‘Dooly Day’ for everyone from Vienna, Byromville, Lilly, Pinehurst, Dooling and Unadilla shortly after the Vienna Day and we want everyone in Dooly County to participate in Kickball, Volleyball, etc. That’s also going to be held at the Pig Jig site. It’s called ‘Dooly Fun Day’ and come out, fellowship and have a great time.”

Council Takes Next Step to Bring CHIP Grant Funding to Unadilla



By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The council adopted the policies and procedures and program design for the Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant. This would be used to administer the CHIP

grant program set forth by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for financial assistance pursuant to the 2025 CHIP agreement. In a related item, A resolution was also approved for the Georgia Statutes by local governmental entities as part of the CHIP grant process.

Mayor Myron Mixon also reiterated, “That we here at city hall, any employee or elected official have anything to do with the CHIP application. All we do is that if we get the grant, it would be administered by the Department of Community Affairs. They can set up an office

inside city hall or the community center. They will be taking all the applications. There will be none of us making that call.” Public Works Director Leon Lester announced that a sewer and water cap was completed recently on Third Street.

He also reported, “The repairs on the Cherry Street lift station, the two-inch water line, was scheduled to be in by Fri-

day, August 29. I did receive a couple of quotes on a walk behind ditch witch. We had to do water repairs on both Beacham Avenue and Borum Street along with gas repairs. Unadilla FireRescue responded to nine calls so far in August and a total of 83 for the year including a Vehicle Accident Sunday, August 24 on I-75 123 Southbound. Also on August 24, a Dooly EMS As-

sist/ Support on Pine Street.

A Structure fire on Borum Street Friday, August 22. A grass brush wildland fire along I-75 at Exit 123 southbound Tuesday, August 19, a structure fire on Browns Chapel Road Thursday, August 14 as well as a false alarm on Oak Street also on August 14, a natural gas

FUNDING TO UNADILLA
CONTINUED PG 2A

VHPC Denies Certificate of Appropriateness Addition



By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Vienna Historic Preservation Commission met last Wednesday and on the agenda was a review of an application for a certificate of appropriateness addition at the home of Gary Dennard located at 415 A East Church Street. He had been issued a COA for the roof replacement with a metal roof and window at the home and was seeking a ruling on whether it would be permissible to add brick to the exterior. The VHPC members in attendance-Beth English, Jillian Meadows, Chairman Bryan Cochran, Cheryl Jenkins and Betsy Pharr voted to deny the request due to guidelines stating that any additions should match the original material. Bricks would not, “suffice for that,” according to Mr. Cochran.

Commission member Beth English also explained, “When we did our original preservation guidelines, we tried to be

very generous and not nearly as ‘tight’ as most of the historic commissions, so we did allow for the vinyl over the wood which most historic commissions do not even allow. But because brick is so completely different from the architectural, it would destroy the integrity of the construction of the house. The roof is great, the windows are fine but it just doesn’t comply with the guidelines of our ordinance. Our concern has to always be the architectural integrity of the property within the historic district because of the national requirements.” Chairman Bryan Cochran added, “I do know that we allow the Hardie Point Siding which is not susceptible to termites and that would be okay.” The VHPC also addressed concerns expressed by Mr. Dennard about dilapidated houses in the city.

Mrs. English replied, “They can’t contact all of the people who have an ownership in the

house, which has been a huge problem for at least the last 20 years. It’s a process and it is a mess and there’s one right there on Lilly Street that is a health hazard, we’ve got rats and mice and roofs gone on part of that house. I’m sure those neighbors would really appreciate it and it abuts several nice houses and people have really worked hard to do that. Maybe request a conversation with the city attorney about what can be done to remedy that and it’s really dangerous.

There’s such a long process with the notice and it just takes a long time. None of us are happy about it. I can assure you that before we had this historic preservation commission, we lost a lot of beautiful homes to what is called, ‘demolition by neglect.’ That part of the ordinance, the enforcement and for the attorney and the judges to push that to the point that it

VHPC
CONTINUED PG 4A

Two Suspects Including a Vienna Resident Charged with Aggravated Assault Among Others

By CCSO

The Crisp County Sheriff’s Office received a call shortly before 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 26 regarding an aggravated assault within the city limits. The victim, a pregnant woman, was taken to Crisp Regional Hospital for treatment.

The suspects, Keyonna Killens and Anjarvius Lavant fled the scene after kicking in the door and assaulting the victim by kicking and hitting her. Anjarvius Lavant, a 29-year-old male from Cordele, Ga. was later arrested and is charged with: Aggravated Assault, Home Invasion - Second Degree, Criminal Damage to Property - Second Degree and Criminal Attempt to Commit a Felony.

The Crisp County Sheriff’s Office announced that Keyonna Killens a 30-year-



Photo Contributed
Keyonna Killens from Vienna, Ga. arrested and charged with aggravated assault, criminal attempt to commit feticide among others.

old female from Vienna, Ga. has been arrested on charges of Aggravated Assault, Criminal Attempt to Commit Feticide, Home Invasion - First Degree, Criminal Damage to Property - Second Degree (three counts).

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.

Authorities Respond to Numerous Non-Serious Accidents

By EMS Director
Don Williford

DCSO, Georgia State Patrol along with Dooly County EMS responded Friday morning, August 29 to numerous non-serious car accidents on I-75. The majority of these car incidents occurred due to water on the interstate and drivers not slowing down and using precautions. Fortunately, there were no

significant injuries in these accidents, but they did block the flow of traffic for a time to clear these mishaps.
We do recommend that everyone, when it is stormy or there is water on the roadway, please slow down, use caution and always make sure that you have plenty of tread on your vehicle’s tires and they can handle the driving conditions when you’re

traveling.
Anytime there is significant water on the roadway, there is a potential for accidents. Small fender benders can lead to additional accidents especially on the interstate as traffic backs up. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call: 229-947-0705.

Local Club Introduces “Bonnie the Bookworm”



Photo by Cathy Jones

The Bonnie the Bookworm display is located on the brick wall 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

the council, “We are family owned and based out of Youngstown, Ohio and we partner with local non-profits such as VFW, churches, high school bands and they often run this as a fund-raiser. In order to operate in the state of Georgia, there’s a mandate for every two fireworks stands, one has to be non-profit. We have to give preferential treatment to non-profits because it gives back to the local community. We do partner with stores such as Kroger, but again I prefer local businesses-property owners because it invests in the local community. Before we even start the permitting process with the city, we have to pay a fire safety fee. It is good through the calendar year January 31, 2026. It is earmarked for the fire department fire safety prevention and then the permitting process begins.”
The lease will be 30-days December 14, 2025-January 8, 2026 and then June 13, 2026-July 12, 2026.

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 Commissions 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 LIEAP 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.

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 Business 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
JOB OPENING – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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(229)938-6253

Dooly County
Community
CALENDAR

email: thenewsobservereditor@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 doolycounhigh. 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. (TFN)

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. (TFN)

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CHURCH DIRECTORY
Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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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

Brooks Auto Parts
229-268-2700
313 W. Union St., Vienna
Open Through Lunch
Eddie Conner, Manager

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121 N. 3rd Street
P.O. Box 486
Vienna, GA 31092
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Chad Weesner INSURANCE AGENCY
Vienna, GA

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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

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
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Pinehurst Methodist Church
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Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Byromville, GA
Richwood Baptist Church
Vienna, GA
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
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Reedy Branch Baptist Church
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Shady Grove CME Church
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Shiloh Methodist Church
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Smyrna Baptist Church
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Snow Methodist Church
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St. John Baptist Church
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Tippetville Baptist Church
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Trails of Faith Deliverance Holiness Church
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Turkey Creek Baptist Church
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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



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.”



Parables To Ponder MY CONCEPT OF HEAVEN

The Bible describes heaven as having streets of pure gold. If allowed to create my own heaven, I would choose the dirt streets of old Perry, Georgia. My hometown was an enchanting place, a paradise on earth. If I could board a time machine, I would return to Perry during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. I was born and raised at 800 Ball Street, two blocks south of the New Perry Hotel. My parents lived on one side of the house, my grandparents on the other. I graduated from Perry High School in 1953 and lived in Perry the first 20 years of my life.

I came from a poor family, but there was no shortage of love. Although, while growing up, all I owned was a bicycle and a basketball, I felt like I had everything until later in life when I found out what I didn’t have. My family had no car, so we walked everywhere. My granddaddy purchased his groceries at Mr. J. W. Bloodworth’s store on Carroll Street, a half mile from our house. We walked to town to buy the groceries and then carried them home in large paper bags. There were no TVs in Perry, only radios. There were no computers or I-pads, only hand-cranked adding machines. No digital scales in grocery or clothing stores. There was no Internet or social media. When World War II ended in 1945, we received the news by word of mouth. There

were no smart phones. We had a party line whose number was 241-L. To place a call, you picked up the receiver and told the switchboard operator the number you wished to call.

On Saturdays, practically everyone converged on downtown Perry to buy groceries, to watch people come and go, and to chat with old friends. Men and boys would line up at the barber shop to get B.W. Bozeman, Mr. Stripling, and Mr. Summers to cut their hair. The old Roxy Theater was open all day Saturday. For 14 cents, you could watch a western, double feature, continued serial, comedy, and world news. Popcorn was a dime and a Coke or candy bar was a nickel.

Perry was a basketball town and, thanks to Hall of Fame coach, Eric Staples, Perry High School established a basketball dynasty. Coach Staples became the winningest coach in America during his era, 1933-1965. Coach Paul Hartman’s 1966 Perry team captured another state title the year after Coach Staples retired from coaching. Perry was a basketball town whose townspeople had great pride in their basketball teams and followed the games throughout the state. The old gym burned to the ground in 1969, the night of Coach Staples’ retirement as Superintendent of Schools. The gym is now located at 101 Pearly Gates Boulevard. Next

door in heaven is the old Baptist Church, since torn down, where I met the Lord at age 11.

Perry had only three policemen. On hot summer nights, you could sleep at night with the front and back doors open, and the windows up. The only air conditioner was a handheld fan. In the 1940 census, Perry was a small town, a close knit community of 1609 people where church life was important. On Sundays, every business closed except a single gas station. In those days, there was no I-75 passing through Perry. There was no Walmart Shopping Center on Sam Nunn Boulevard—because Sam was still going to school and playing basketball with me—only a lonely, sparsely populated road from downtown Perry to the railroad tracks in Fort Valley where, because I had no car, I hitchhiked to see the love of my life, Beverly Davis, of Fort Valley, to whom I was happily married for 68 years until her passing. I often flagged down Mel Tolleson and other Perry boys traveling to the Valley to see their sweethearts. All vehicles from up north traveling to Florida had to pass through the center of downtown Perry, where travelers would often see a wonderful old fellow nicknamed Gun Rod, its janitor, sitting on the steps of the Perry Bank, since burned down. I wish I had more space, but I leave you with what the scripture states about heaven: “God and Jesus will be there”... “We will worship God, and see Him face to face”... “God will wipe all tears from our eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain.”

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

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DCMS Football Team ‘Dominates’ in ‘The Grove’



Contributed

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



Photo by Bonnie Huesler
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

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Title I Block Party Brings Excitement, Spirit and Energy

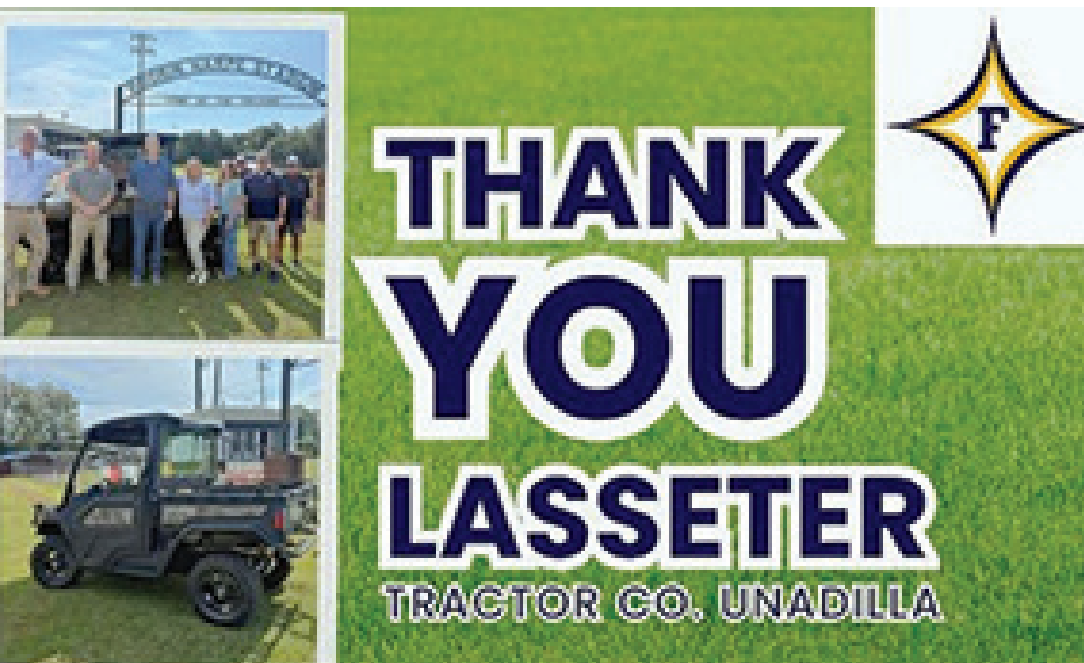


Contributed

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

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 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 Hutchings 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.