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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

**SHELTER**  
**CONTINUED PG 2A**

# Dooly Campground Celebrates 151st Annual Camp Meeting

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

Rev. Jeff Cook, who started his service back in June as District Superintendent for the North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Districts of the United

Methodist Church welcomed everyone to the 151st annual Dooly Camp meeting Sunday. He is senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Warner Robins. Beth English then introduced Congressman Sanford Bishop who had been

invited to join in the celebration at the Dooly Campground. Bishop who is serving his 17th term in the U.S. House of Representatives told the gathering the country is made of people, “From different communities, yet we all come together

with the love of this great nation, the love of our neighbors and the hope that we can make the world a better place. This Tabernacle has served for over 150-years and generations before us have come here communing with one another and with God. Just as we are today and just as we hope that others in generations to come will do. May God continue to bless this hallowed ground.”

Bert Gregory, campground director exclaimed, “I’m delighted by the crowd that’s here, a diverse group of people of different faiths, walks of life, races, sexual orientation. All those things are important because all people have a place at this table. Support the campground with your prayers, your presence and your gifts.”

Rev. Lowery Brantley added, “Lives have been changed because of the testaments, the prayers of individuals, the preaching of the word, by the hymns. In this place, lives have been remembered and celebrated in this holy place. One-hundred-fifty-years and now our 151st year.” Rev. Katie Griffis, St. Paul Chapel delivered a prayer of, “Faith, Hope and Love.”

Bishop Robin Dease delivered a sermon stating, “The good news is that God gives love, you yourself will feel love and whenever love is born through God, may you practice loving others in a spiritual way so that



Photo Contributed  
UMC Bishop Robin Dease who delivered the sermon at both the 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. services of the 151st Annual Dooly Campground meeting. Also pictured is Rev. Katie Griffis with St. Paul Chapel.

God might rejoice in you with the word of God for the people of God.” Holy Communion and Benediction was led by Bishop Robin Dease and Reverend Jeff Cleg-horn, pianist, who provided worship music and the new roof dedication.



Photo By Tim Franzén  
Congressman Sanford Bishop who spoke at the 151st annual Dooly Camp meeting Sunday. (In the background is Dooly County Commissioner Timothy Robinson).

## SHELTER

CONTINUED FROM 1A



Photo By Tim Franzén  
Pictured left to right: DCSS Chief Operations Officer Felicia Madison, DCHS Principal Mr. Alvin Williams, CEO -CCA-CTAE Director Dr. Monica Kearse and Cyndi Garrison who discussed her vision for a Dooly County Farmers Market with a start-up in the spring of 2026.

which is ‘Memphis in May’. The Big Pig Jig® had 30 hog entries, 81 pulled pork, 86 ribs for a total of 197 entries and Memphis in May had 24 hog, 30 pulled pork and 51 rib entries for a total of 105. We are the biggest and we are the best. We beat Memphis in May. I’m super proud of everybody that’s a part of that and all the people that work so hard to put this event on. We have several big events at the Big Pig Jig® this year. Oct. 27 there is a book signing, a line dance and trail ride. Vienna Day will be Oct. 4. We currently host three barbecue contests and we are in the early planning stages for a fourth dual contest. The Big Pig Jig ® will be held the seventh and eighth of November and our arts and crafts and vendor areas are completely full. We are still looking for some free entertainment for Saturday 12-5. New this year, we’re hosting a graphic arts contest for our 90’s theme, ‘Getting Piggy Jiggy With Us.’ You have until Sept. 30 to get those submissions in and the winner will get \$200.”

Both the chamber of commerce and family connection will be participating in the Trunk or Treat and the Not so Scary Reading event at Dooly K-8 Academy Oct. 24 beginning at 9:30 a.m. for around 700 children as well as Reading with Santa and ‘The Reason’ activities.

Brenetta Childs, election supervisor, reminded attendees about the upcoming special election-municipal general election where all county voters are urged to return to the polls to vote in a public service commission election, while Vienna residents will vote for the seat currently held by Walter F. Brown is being opposed by Shatara Lundy, Babette L. Lewis, Angela Childs and Jaroskey Bullard. John Thomas Mathis,

incumbent, is unopposed for the other seat on the City of Vienna Council.

In Unadilla, the city will hold an election November 4 for three council seats and qualifying to run for three seats on the council are Justin Bridges, incumbent, Lurry Brown, incumbent, Meredith Lester, incumbent, Trella Shell Adams, Stan Chaney, Larry Spivey and Bob Williams.

Cyndi Garrison with Café 41 is interested in starting a local farmer’s market in Dooly County. “My hope is to have it start up sometime in the spring Thursday evenings from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. so people that work can also participate or come and shop. It will go through the fall. The types of food that we’re looking for are artisan foods, homemade crafts or folk art, glass art, plants or seedlings, produce that’s Georgia grown or your own garden. Jams and jellies, granola or anything that you can make at home and then resell. If you have home-made soaps or candles, baked goods, honey, eggs and meats as long as you have a license.”

Amanda O’Neal-Neisent, coordinator of Dooly County Family Connection talked briefly about a recent audit of the state partnership of family connection. “It took them about a year and half to audit us, but when their findings came out, there were no findings and commended us on the fact that every county could be doing something different, but we’re all moving the ‘tick’ marks to bettering our community. We are fully compliant for Dooly County. We continue to work with the homeless coalition with Crisp and Wilcox Counties.

We’re striving hard to help out our families and looking for grant funding, programming that runs through that and offer a resource, please let us know. ‘The Reason’, our local version

of Toys for Tots, has been doing this for 17-years and serves about 300-400 children. We are starting the collection of items. If your organization would like to be a part of this, contact me at 229-947-2788 or: doolycountyfamilyconnection@gmail.com. We are also starting to take families, so if you know of one that needs to be served, it’s anonymous.”

The new principal at the high school Mr. Alvin Williams who has already made his mark on the lives of students shared, “As we go forward with the help of the career academy, Dr. Kearse and the support of the district, we look forward to giving you students that you can be proud of.” Also present at the meeting was a representative from Senator Raphael Warnock’s office.

You can visit his website at <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/>. Rev. Gregory McClendon with Christ Chapel Unadilla said, “We have a pantry that’s been fully functional for several years now. If you identify a family that’s in need of food, anytime of the day, you can call us and we have a team that will meet at the pantry and make sure that family has food. That’s for anyone in Dooly County.” For more information, contact CCU at 478-627-9352 or christchapelunadilla@gmail.com. Debra Burnam with the FVSU Head Start in Vienna announced, “We’re serving one and two year olds, the three, four and some five year olds if their birthday falls after September 1. We’re so excited to be back in our building and we really appreciate Dooly County Schools for housing us for two years.”

In other news: The Peanut Pickin’ Yard Sale will be from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. The route is Unadilla to Quitman, Ga. and has been going on in Dooly County since 2009.

## Byromville Baptist Celebrates Pastor Reed Benson



Contributed

Pastor Reed Benson has served in ministry for 50 years and a celebration was held this past Sunday following the service in Saliba Hall. GEMS also helped

serve at the Byromville Community Food Pantry for its September service project.

Mountain Movers wanted to join in the celebration with heartfelt cards for Pastor Reed

and Mrs. Pat who has been by his side for most of those years. Mountain Movers meets every Sunday evening at Byromville Baptist Church from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



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Contact the City of Unadilla for more info (478)627-3022

## Advertisement for Bids

The City of Vienna will accept sealed bids on the work below at the City Hall, 203 West Cotton Street Vienna, Georgia 31092 until 2:00 p.m. local time, **October 14, 2025** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Project Title: **2025 LOCAL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS GRANT PROJECT CITY OF VIENNA RESURFACING OLD AMERICUS ROAD**

The project consists of:

The Project consists of the repair and resurfacing of approximately 0.83 miles of Old Americus Road, from Coney Road to the city limits of Vienna, GA.

The time of performance will be 150 days.

Payment for the work shall be made monthly based on the progress of construction.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Agreement, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at:

J. Paul Rakel, Jr., P.E.  
SOWEGA Engineering, LLC  
158 East Lee Street  
Dawson, Georgia 39842

Nathan Jordan  
Public Works Director  
City of Vienna  
203 West Cotton Street  
Vienna, Georgia 31092

Copies may be obtained at the office of SOWEGA Engineering, LLC, and P.O. BOX 735, DAWSON, GEORGIA 39842, upon payment of \$300.00 for each set. No refunds will be made.

The Owner reserves the rights to waive any and all informalities, to reject any and all bids, and to disregard all nonconforming, non-responsive, unbalanced or conditioned bids.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. The bid security shall be at least five (5%) of the bid.

All bids will remain subject to acceptance for 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

City of Vienna  
203 West Cotton Street  
Vienna, Georgia 31092

## PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on October 13, 2025, at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the Planning Commission to receive citizens’ input and comments on the following zoning requests.

**Request #1** – John Mark Coody has submitted application for Variance of Zoning for a parcel #87-14C that is currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The purpose of the variance is to allow a reduced setback from 90 ft from the center of the road to 50 ft. The residents want to build an addition on the Side of the building. The location of the property is 1615 Holstein Rd. Vienna GA 31092.

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

**Request #3** – The Dooly County Board of Commissioners is considering adopting an Ordinance to Provide Regulations for Cryptocurrency and Data Mining. The Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed ordinance.

Dooly County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Dooly County will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (seven working days).

For more information, contact Zoning Administrator

Glenn A. Layson at 229-268-4228.



PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Board of Commissioners is considering adopting an Ordinance to provide regulations for **Cryptocurrency and Data Mining facilities.**

The Board will conduct a Public Hearing at 9:30 AM on October 16 to receive public comments on the proposed ordinance. Dooly County will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice. For more information, contact County Administrator Stephen C. Sanders at 229-268-4228.

Community Fishing Day

The DCHS Pond will be open for community fishing on Saturday, September 27 from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Bring your gear and enjoy a morning by the water. For more information, contact Roger Teeple at 828-391-0537.

DCHS Beta Club Induction Ceremony

Contributed

Join us as we celebrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service at the DCHS Beta Club Induction Ceremony on Thursday, September 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. This includes award presentations, formal induction of new members, a candle lighting ceremony that symbolizes knowledge and leadership responsibilities. These elements celebrate achievements and inspire students to strive for excellence. Come show your support as we recognize these outstanding students. Sponsors are Ms. West, Mrs. Garrard and Ms. Tumblin.

DCSS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Spirit Week

Contributed

It's Hispanic Heritage Spirit Week and our Bobcat family is coming together to celebrate the rich culture, history, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Each day will bring exciting spirit themes and opportunities for our students and staff to show their pride, creativity, and unity.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com



October 26 190th Homecoming Harmony Baptist Church

Harmony Baptist Church of 5925 Pinehurst Hawkinsville Road, Unadilla is celebrating their 190th Homecoming on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The Homecoming Celebration Service will begin at 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Former pastor Rev. Jeff Dykes of Cochran will be our Homecoming speaker. Following the service a covered dish dinner will be held in the church fellowship hall.

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.

**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. (TFS)

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

City of Vienna Spooktacular Event

Get ready Vienna because our final food truck Friday of the year is rolling in with a spooktacular Halloween Edition. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 31 from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at Vienna City Square. We're calling all food trucks and vendors (just \$20 participation fee)—with every dollar supporting our Thanks-giving give away to help families in need.

After grabbing some delicious bites, swing by City Hall to kick off your Trick-or-Treat festivities —each office will have goodies ready for the kids. Bring your costumes, your family and your appetite for a frightfully good time. For any questions or concerns, please contact Kaleb D. Green Kaleb.Green@cityofvienna.org or call City Hall at 229-268-4744.

DCHS HOMECOMING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

an unforgettable Homecoming Bonfire with huges thanks to Cherish Sutton for kicking off.

This is Bobcat territory.Thank you to our special speaker Keith Mumphrey for inspiring words, and DJ Smooth for keeping the vibes high all night. Big love to our PowderPuff coaches for leading with energy and heart, and to all the girls and classes who competed and showed out—Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, you made Bobcat Nation proud.



Photo By Tim Franzén



(left) Bobcats football team. (right) The homecoming bonfire.



Photos By Tim Franzén

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

**Athens Hill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-4883  
**AOH Church of God**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1903  
**Bakersfield Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA  
**Bay Point CME**  
Byromville, GA  
**Bethel Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-2848  
**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA 229-433-2102  
**Big Poplar Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Brown Chapel Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-627-9466  
**Byromville Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA 229-433-2505  
**Byromville Methodist Church**  
Byromville, GA 229-321-9292  
**Camp Creek Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-627-3929  
**Vienna Church of Christ**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1994  
**Vienna Church of God**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1404  
**County Line Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Destiny Worship Center**  
International Ministries  
Vienna, GA (478) 273-8112  
**Dooling Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Double Branch Freewill Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Drayton Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-8456  
**Drayton United Methodist**  
Vienna, GA, 229-321-9292  
**Ebenezer Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-2964  
**Evangelistic Tabernacle Church**  
Vienna, GA

**Evergreen Baptist Church**  
Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3476  
**Faith Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-2798  
**Forest Chapel Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA 478-645-3476  
**Harmony Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Healing and Deliverance Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Liberty Baptist Church**  
Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3584  
**Lilly Baptist Church**  
Lilly, GA  
**Lilly Methodist Church**  
Lilly, GA 229-433-5691  
**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-1582  
**Little Poplar Baptist Church**  
Byromville, GA  
**Living Water Baptist Church**  
Unadilla, GA  
**Mars Hill Baptist Church**  
Vienna, GA 229-268-6795

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

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

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



TIM LEWIS  
Columnist

In The Garden With  
GROWING  
SWEET ONIONS

Onions are one of the few vegetables that can be planted from late September to late October in middle Georgia. Since Georgia has become internationally known for the world-famous Vidalia onion, and since they are so good, many gardeners have asked how to grow this unique onion.

The characteristics (size, shape, color, sweetness, etc.) of the onion bulb that will be harvested next spring can be directly attributed to two factors-genetics and environment. We determine what those onions will be like by our selection of the appropriate genetic material (variety) and by properly managing the environment.

Genetics first. There are many onion varieties available to gardeners. All of these fall into one of three day-length groups: short day, long day, or intermediate. The short day group contains the true Vidalia onion as well as the Vidalia types.

Why is day length important when it comes to growing onions? Bulb formation in onions is primarily a day length response. In short day onions, bulbing begins when a day length of approximately 11 hours occurs. In Georgia, this day length is usually achieved

in the spring during February and early March.

Now for environment. Sweetness of onions is directly related to the amount or concentration of sulfur-containing compounds within the bulb. In order to grow a low pungency “Vidalia type” sweet onion, gardeners should apply only low to moderate amounts of sulfur to their onion soils. High rates of sulfur and late applications increase bulb sulfur content and therefore onion pungency.

Following are some recommendations for growing sweet “Vidalia type” onions in your garden.

(1) Select a short day, sweet onion variety such as Granex 33, Granex 429, Sweet Vidalia, or Texas Sweet.

(2) In middle and south Georgia, direct seed in the garden or set transplants in late September or early October.

Raised beds made by mounding up soil are ideal, especially if your soil is heavy clay. Mix a 2-inch layer of compost into the soil before placing an organic or timed-release fertilizer into planting furrows, following label rates. Set plants one inch deep, so that their roots are well covered with soil but the top of the transplant’s neck is

not buried too deeply or rotting may occur. Space plants 6 inches apart in furrows 12 inches apart.

(3) Maintain a soil pH of 6.0 to 6.5 and provide an adequate supply of nutrients. Apply no more than one ounce of actual sulfur per 150 square feet and do not apply sulfur after December 31. Onions are heavy feeders, so don’t be shy with the fertilizer!

(4) Onions roots are shallow and not very efficient at taking up moisture, so they need a steady supply of water to grow without interruption. Although they actually recover well from drought and start growing again when watered, it is best to keep the soil consistently moist until the bulbs enlarge.

(5) You may mulch with a light layer of weed-free and herbicide-free grass clippings or other fine mulch. Onions naturally push toward the surface as they form bulbs and it is best if the tops of the bulbs are allowed to bask in dry sun. Remove much that might keep the expanding bulbs excessively moist.

Some gardeners will find it difficult if not impossible to grow the very sweet, mild “Vidalia type” onion. Heavier soils tend to hold more sulfur and such soils may contain enough residual sulfur to make onions hot. Try it anyway-you might be pleasantly surprised!

Tim Lewis is a Georgia Green Industry Association Certified Plant Professional, gardening writer, and former Perry High School horticulture instructor. He can be reached at (478)954-1507 or timlewis1@windstream.net.



NEIL JOINER  
Columnist

Joiner’s Corner  
GYPSIES

During my teenage years I wrote a few songs. All of the evidence is thankfully gone. They weren’t awful for a kid with a Silvertone guitar ordered from Sears & Roebuck, but too elementary to pass along.

There’s only one from which I remember any lines. It must have been my favorite. “I got pots and pans and a dog named Fang, trailer and guitar and a woman who swings. They call me the gypsy, and maybe I am. I just keep traveling on, just kind of hanging round, don’t plan to ever settle down.” I don’t know what inspired those whimsical lyrics. Maybe it was the gypsies who used to occasionally come by our farm.

Some folks were hesitant to do business with them, but Daddy knew a few by name and was acquainted with multiple generations in one family. They would drive down from South Carolina and stop by about once a year, offering to paint the rusty tin on our shelter or selling off-brand shop equipment.

Daddy only had the shelter painted once that I recall. They

quoted a high price but kept dropping, finally getting down to almost nothing. He didn’t expect the silver coloring to last past a big rain, but figured a temporary shine was worth a few dollars.

We still have a couple of pieces of shop equipment he bought from the gypsies - a hydraulic press and a free-standing drill. He enjoyed trading with them, as had his father before him. Daddy would get updates on some of their family members he’d met through the years, then they’d be gone again.

Or maybe that song evolved from a more personal experience. I’m not sure why a group of us boys went to Cordele, but curiosity led us to a house on US 41 with a sign advertising palm readings. A lovely young lady in the yard made stopping seem like a grand idea, Cupid’s arrow, however, fell flat when she took us to her grandmother.

Not wanting to be impolite, nor confess my true motivation, I paid the three dollars asked. The rest of the fellows decided one reading by an elderly woman was enough. The knowing

lady, however, sensed a hint of interest from my buddy Joe Sanders. And thus began the negotiations.

They bargained back and forth until settling on a one-dollar fee. Despite the price differential, Joe and I had similar futures foretold. He too would meet someone special and would also experience an impactful yet still-undefined event. I guess it was a lesson in economics, but it’s hard to put a price on a good story.

It’s possible that song came from watching Sonny and Cher on TV. Cher wasn’t a gypsy but played the role well. Her natural mystique, however, has faded from too many look-young surgeries. I’m not sure how much of the original packaging is left.

I never had a real desire to roam the country. My own bed has always suited me better than a covered wagon. But on many summer nights our front-porch swing cradled the fleeting fantasies of youth. I would strum my guitar and share wistful thoughts with an understanding audience of crickets and fireflies. Sometimes the dog listened too.

Time has long erased what inspired that gypsy song, for make-believe adventures can only last so long. In my heart I still believe what I’ve always known. Wherever life may take us, there’s no place quite like home.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS  
Columnist

Writings From The Heart

SOME THINGS  
SOME PEOPLE  
MIGHT NOT KNOW

1). What Dr. Martin Luther King said as part of his “I Have a Dream” speech, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” I might not have agreed with everything he did, but I highly agree with this people found truth and someday I pray it will be 100% accomplished. Amen. His statement is really based upon MERIT in every-

thing we do in life.

2). That Abraham Lincoln was not a member of the same political party as was Bull Conner (the man who had dogs attack African Americans), George Wallace and Lester Maddox. He was a member of the party that helped free the slaves in the USA, and the same party who helped pass the Civil Rights law in 1964. What a hero he is!

3). There was another man that went before Martin Luther

King who had a similar name and became famous for his Ninety-Five Theses. I suggest you goggle Ninety-five Theses if you aren’t familiar with this. His name is Martin Luther.

4). That bacteriologist Sahachiro (Shichiro) Hata and Paul Ehrlich became famous for the drug that was used to fight syphilis. They tried 606 different compounds before they were successful, so they called the initial drug 606. (What?! 606 times before they were successful?! We all can learn a powerful life lesson from that. Even our commitment in serving the Lord and going to church. LET US NEVER GIVE UP!!!

Jesus loves us all. AMEN! Until next time.



BILLY POWELL  
Columnist

Parables To Ponder  
APOSTLE PAUL’S  
VISION OF THE  
THIRD HEAVEN

In 2 Corinthians 12: 2-4, the Apostle Paul reveals he was transported to heaven: “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.” In the ancient world, the first heaven consisted of the earth and its atmosphere. The second heaven was the region of the sun, moon, and stars. The third heaven was the dwelling place of God.

The man to whom Paul alludes is the apostle himself. His vision of the third heaven was inexpressible, meaning that words were insufficient to describe what he experienced. Paul experienced unsurpassable ecstasy in his nearness to God. He did not know whether his body and soul were caught up to the third heaven or whether his soul temporarily

went out of his body, as he explains: “Whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know.”

My granddaddy Powell once told me that he fainted while working outside in the hot sun, evidently from a heat stroke. During his swoon, Granddaddy said he went to a beautiful place like heaven. When I asked what he saw, Granddaddy said that words were inadequate to express what he experienced. Granddaddy’s journey may have been similar to Paul’s. Paul’s foretaste of life in heaven with Christ may have influenced him to write Philippians 1.21: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Paul doesn’t state the reason for his trip to heaven. It may be that God granted Paul this personal experience to steel him against the suffering he would experience on his missionary journeys. Paul was shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, stoned and left for dead, and in the end beheaded by the Roman Emperor Nero.

Having glimpsed the ineffable beauty of heaven that awaited him, Paul was able to face the trials he suffered.

The Bible discloses that both Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings: 2:11) were taken up bodily into heaven. Isaiah was not transported to heaven, but had this vision of heaven. “I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above the Lord stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two wings he covered his feet, and with two wings he flew...” John the Revelator was carried away in the spirit to a high mountain. There he saw the Holy City whose streets were pure gold. “I did not see a temple in the city,” wrote John, “because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” John continues: “The city does not need the sun or the moon, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its lamp.”

Even though we have not experienced heaven as Paul, we can claim the assurance of this scriptural promise: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

DREA Extends Community Support



**Contributed**  
Dooly Retired Educators Association has a widespread presence in the community. Members, Ms. Catherine Bur-

den and Dr. Qwen Dexter participated in the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce and Dooly County Family Connection Quarterly Network-

ing Luncheon. Also pictured are Tiffany Sinyard, Amanda O’Neal-Neisent, Rhonda Lamb and Sabrina Holmes.

The News Observer  
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**OUR GOAL:** The News Observer is published proudly for the citizens of Dooly County and the adjoining counties by The News Observer/A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News. Our goal is to produce a quality, profitable, community-oriented newspaper that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, team work, loyalty, and a strong dedication towards printing the truth.

**OUR POLICIES:** Signed Letters to the Editor are welcomed. Please include address and phone number. Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error. We cannot be responsible for return of pictures or material unless stamped, return addressed envelope is enclosed.

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Photo by Kylie Garrard  
First grader Zalia Merrell gavelled the September 18 school board meeting to order.

tor effective Sept. 11.

CFO Christopher Stephens reported on the, “SPLOST V distribution report for the month of August. The district received \$150,049.59 in SPLOST V revenues that exceeded projections. I would also like to point out that SPLOST V collections will end at the end of the month and

SPLOST VI collections will begin in October.”

Miss Zalia Merrell, a first grade student from Mrs. Mathis’ class at Dooly County K8 Academy, called Board of Education meeting to order. She wants to be a Registered Nurse when she grows up.

Subscribe Today!  
478-825-2432

Deadline for legals submission is Friday.Noon prior to First publication.  
Email word document to editor@ganewsobserver.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.

**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 the Latravius Bentley, has filed a Petition for Approval of Final Return to said Estate of Latravius 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

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOOLY COUNTY**  
Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **William Emerson Turner** to RBC Bank (USA) dated 7/18/2011 and recorded in Deed Book 467 Page 221 Dooly County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to RBC Bank (USA), conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$50,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned

at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Dooly County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on October 7, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 90 OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF DOOLY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND CONTAINING 1.98 ACRES ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY J. R. CURTIS, REGISTERED SURVEYOR NO. 402, SAID PLAT OF SURVEY DATED MAY 24, 1973 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 109, CLERK'S OFFICE, DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORD COPY THEREOF ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION BY

REFERENCE THERETO FOR ALL PURPOSE. PARCEL ID: 40-22  
**KNOWN AS: 4644 SUMMERVILLE RD**  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).  
Said property is commonly known as **4644 Summerville Rd, Unadilla, GA 31091** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Estate and/or Heirs of William Emerson Turner or tenant or tenants.  
PNC Bank, N.A. is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to

negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.  
PNC Bank, N.A.  
Loss Mitigation  
Mail Locator: B6-YM10-01-1  
3232 Newmark Drive  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
1-888-224-4702  
Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.  
Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.  
The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy

Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.  
PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to RBC Bank (USA) as agent and Attorney in Fact for William Emerson Turner Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400.  
1434-2355A  
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1434-2355A  
09/11/2025, 09/18/2025, 09/25/2025, 10/02/2025  
0738-VNO (1434-2355A)

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOOLY

NOTICE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 21-2-379.6(C), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING AND PREPARTION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION/SPECIAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 .

TESTING WILL CONTINUE FROM DAY TO DAY UNTIL COMPLETE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT DURING TESTING. SAID TESTING AND PREPARATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT DOOLY COUNTY ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GEORGIA.

Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration  
Betty Bryant, Chairperson  
Dooly County, Georgia

NOTICE OF COMPUTATION AND CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 21-2-492, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMPUTATION AND CANVASSING OF THE RETURNS OF VOTES CAST IN THE NOVEMBER 4,2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION/ SPECIAL ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DOOLY COUNTY ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION OFFICE AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GA ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM.

EARLY VOTING WILL START ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 THRU FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025, FROM 8:00AM TO 5PM AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD IN VIENNA, GEORGIA FOR ALL ELIGIBLE DOOLY COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS FOR DOOLY COUNTY (INCLUDING MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR TOWN OF BYROMVILLE, CITY OF LILLY, CITY OF UNADILLA AND CITY OF VIENNA FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.)

SATURDAY VOTING DAYS ARE SATURDAY OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AND SATURDAY OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8:00AM TO 5PM AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD IN VIENNA, GEORGIA FOR ALL ELIGIBLE DOOLY COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS FOR DOOLY COUNTY (INCLUDING MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR TOWN OF BYROMVILLE, CITY OF LILLY, CITY OF UNADILLA AND CITY OF VIENNA FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.)  
ELECTION DAY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, ALL ELIGIBLE DOOLY COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS WILL VOTE AT THEIR ASSIGNED VOTING PRECINCT. THE POLL WILL OPEN FROM 7AM TO 7PM.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER SPECIAL ELECTION IS COUNTY-WIDE AND ALL ELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLEASE VOTE. THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER ELECTION WILL BE INCLUDED ON ALL BALLOTS. THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION WILL BE INCLUDED ON BALLOTS FOR ELIGIBLE VOTERS REGISTERED AND RESIDE WITHIN THE APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL. IF YOUR MUNICIPAL IS NOT HAVING A CITY ELECTION, YOUR BALLOT WILL CONTAIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER RACE ONLY.

THIS 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025  
Election Superintendent, Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration  
Betty Bryant Chairman  
Brenetta Chaney-Childs, Election Supervisor  
Jessica Fudge, Assistant Election Supervisor  
Dooly County, Georgia

Lady Trojans Looking to Pick up Wins in Region Play

By Tim Franzén  
News Observer Reporter

The Fullington Academy Lady Trojans dropped two games this past week losing to Southwest Georgia Academy, Tuesday, Sept. 16 4-0 and to Southland Academy 10-2 Thursday, Sept. 18 on the road in Americus. In the game against Southwest Ga. Rayelee Johnson had both hits for the girls and picked up a stolen base on the day. In the Southland Academy game, Fullington Academy's Izzy Ross, a senior and McKinley Causey, also a senior, each contributed with doubles in the game. Brooklin Cromer and Sadie Chambless scored the two runs for the Lady Trojans. Izzy Ross had a stolen base and Brooklin Cromer also swiped two bags in the contest. Fullington played Westwood Tuesday, Sept. 23 in Pinehurst before meeting up with rival Crisp Academy in Cordele Thursday, Sept. 25 taking on the Lady Wildcats with the first pitch at 6:00 p.m. The Lady Trojans at press-time were 1-4 in the region.



PPhoto by Bonnie Hauesler  
#22 Carli Gibson

Promotion Ceremony Held Honoring Colonel Renata R. Turner

Contributed

Colonel Renata R. Turner, United State Air Force was recognized during a promotion ceremony honoring her service Friday, Sept. 12 at Verhulst Hall-Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Ga. She is the daughter of Arthur L. Turner of Byromville, Ga. and Willie L. Turner of Elko, Ga. Colonel Turner is the commander, 94th Mission Support Group, Dobbins Air Reserve Base. She is also responsible for the leadership and management of agile combat support squadrons, flights and staff agencies for a wing that consists of eight C-130H3 aircraft and nearly 2,000 traditional Air Force Reservists, Air Reserve Technicians, Active Guard Reservists, federal civil service employees and host base contractors. The 94 MSG consists of approximately 1,100 personnel of the Civil Engineer-Host Base Civil Engineer, Communications, Logistics Readiness, Security Forces, Force Support and two Aerial Port Squadrons as well as Emergency Management, Contracting and Bio-Environmental Flights. The 94 MSG also provides direct support to area partners that include the Navy, Marines, and Ga. Army and Air National Guard. Colonel Turner entered the Air Force in 2003 as a graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, N.C. She has served in various leadership capacities including duties as Military Personnel Section Chief, Protocol Officer, Squadron Officer School Instructor, Aide-de-Camp, and squadron commander. She has also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Prior to her current position, she was the Commander Trainee, 94th Mission Support Group, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.



DOOLY COUNTY REC 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 27 SATURDAY 10:00 VIENNA

TURNER COUNTY 8U,10U, GIRL'S FLAG VS DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U, GIRL'S FLAG

SEPTEMBER 30 TUESDAY 6:00 & 7:00 DH VIENNA

MACON COUNTY GIRL'S FLAG VS DOOLY COUNTY GIRL'S FLAG

OCTOBER 4 SATURDAY 10:00 AMERICUS

DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U AT SUMTER COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U

OCTOBER 7 TUESDAY 6:00 VIENNA

PEACH COUNTY 8U,10U VS DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U

OCTOBER 11 SATURDAY 10:00 VIENNA

SUMTER COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U VS DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U

OCTOBER 14 TUESDAY 6:00 VIENNA

MACON COUNTY 8U,10U VS DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U

OCTOBER 16 THURSDAY 6:00 VIENNA

MACON COUNTY 12U, GIRL'S FLAG VS DOOLY COUNTY 12U, GIRL'S FLAG

NOVEMBER 10-13 KIWANIS BOWL in Fitzgerald 8u,10u,&12u Football

NOVEMBER 17-22 GRPA DISTRICT in Tifton 8u,10u,&12u Football

OCTOBER 18 SATURDAY 10:00 ROBERTA

DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U AT CRAWFORD COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U

OCTOBER 21 TUESDAY 6:00 CORDELE

DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U AT CRISP COUNTY 8U,10U

OCTOBER 23 THURSDAY 6:00 ASHBURN

DOOLY COUNTY GIRL'S FLAG AT TURNER COUNTY GIRL'S FLAG

OCTOBER 25 SATURDAY 10:00 VIENNA

TAYLOR COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U VS DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U, 12U

OCTOBER 28 TUESDAY 6:00 FORT VALLEY

DOOLY COUNTY 8U,10U AT PEACH COUNTY 8U,10U

OCTOBER 30 THURSDAY 6:00 FORT VALLEY

DOOLY COUNTY 12U, GIRL'S FLAG AT PEACH COUNTY 12U, GIRL'S FLAG

FA's August FFA Member of the Month



Contributed

Senior FFA member Brooklin Cromer is an amazing asset to our FFA Chapter. She's caring, determined, well-rounded, and a true leader. You can find her on the softball field, cheering on our Trojan football team under the Friday night lights, or busting shotgun out of the sky with the shotgun team. But, she always shows up no matter the circumstances. We are so proud of Brooklin and are extremely grateful to have her as a member of our chapter.

Photo by Will Fitzgerald

We played Wheeler County on Homecoming night last Friday and ended up being a tough game because of their experience in their program and how simple they keep things. We started out the game with great coverage on our kickoff team as Jay'Quan Burke came down and stopped their return on the one-yard line.

On the next play, their center snapped the ball over their quarterback's head and that resulted

in us getting a safety. Then from there, they kicked it off to us and Javion Sanders returned it to the two-yard line and ended up scoring on that drive, but we missed the extra point to make it 9-0.

We also recovered a fumble, but we did not convert it to points on that drive. We missed three field goals, I believe on the night. After that, Wheeler's experience and their tenacity being five-years into their program kicked in and they just started 'pounding' and rockin' us. I'm not sure about

the exact number of rushing yards we gave up, but I suspect it was way past 250 rushing yards.

On the positive side, we didn't move the ball all game, but either turned the ball over, didn't convert on fourth downs, but we minimized penalties, but we went higher in turnovers as a team. Defensively, they had a running back that we had trouble bringing to the ground. We made contact with him, but in my opinion is one the most underrated running backs in the state of Georgia. He's a low to



Photo by Andre Kendrick

*Pictured are the 2025-2026 Ms. Dooly County High School Emily Garcia with Runner-Up Shamari Webb. Congratulations also to our 2025-2026 Mr. Dooly County High School Seven Sutton and Runner-Up Michael Hyatt.*

the ground running back, very powerful and we had a lot of difficulty bringing him down.

We lost this one 50-9. Wheeler County is one of the better teams in our region and I think last year, they were the number two or three seed in our region. With us rebuilding, I think it's finally set in that we are and Wheeler County is at the height of their program with this senior running back and he has a lot of seniors around him.

They just do what their coach asks them to do and we're still working with the kids to 'buy in' and most of our guys just

need to trust the process, but I think it's beginning to settle in, especially amongst the coaches that we are in the midst of a rebuild, so we're still going to fight hard in the region and put our best foot forward. Just keep coaching the boys 'up' and realize that we've got five games left and we play four quarter football for five games. What we've done is ended up beating ourselves and that never results in good football.

So, coaches, players and everybody involved, we've got to do a better job of getting our guys prepared. Homecoming was great and it was definitely a sight to see especially the parade, the bonfire and we had

our homecoming dance at the school Saturday night. We're moving in the right direction and of course we want success, but we've got to go through this process to build a solid foundation to make this a program that's sustainable.

The Dooley County Bobcats will be on the road Friday night against Montgomery County who is 1-4 and who have lost four games in a row, the latest to Telfair County 24-21. The Bobcats who are still looking for their first win of the season are hoping to rebound against the struggling Eagles. Kickoff Friday night in Mount Vernon, Ga. will be at 7:30 p.m.

By Head Coach  
Mike Ashley

We had another home game last Friday in Pinehurst facing Citizens Christian Academy out of Douglas, Ga. A team that came in to take over Memorial Day's schedule because they didn't have a football team. They're kind of a young team like us, well coached, they play hard, but we knew if we did the things we needed to do that we'd come out with a win. The thing that keeps getting us in the last three losses that were by one score is just discipline. I preached since I got there that defensive ends have got to have the outside contained.

We got sucked in a couple of times which led to a score and then covering the tight ends. When you're facing a team like CCA, they're a heavy run-set which we shut the run down last Friday, so it comes down to covering the tight end and the running backs. We've worked constantly the last couple of weeks on that, but for some reason, my guys just get it through their head that the tight ends are the only ones that can beat you.

We let a couple slip behind us and there was nothing that we didn't show the guys during the week on film, and showed them during practice and I reiterated in the locker room before the game, that if we cover the tight ends, we win. We started out good on offense, moving the ball and got some blocking. As the game went on, we have yet to put a four quarter game out

on the field. We play really well for three quarters and then some of my guys start letting up. I've been hard on 'em this year about finishing and doing the things that we need to do the right way. We had some guys that played really well. Brock Wetherington had a really good three quarters and played hard in the middle of the defense and the offensive line.

Garlan Godfrey always gives me 100% and was big on defense and offense. He carried the ball a few times out of the fullback position and got us in the end zone and leaves it all out on the field. The later the game went, they didn't show us anything different and for some reason the line kept breaking down. My sophomore quarterback was just running for his life and we had open routes down field and we knew if we could block that my receivers were going to be able to get open and they did. We were kind of hindered-Eli Ashley had a cast on his arm where he cracked his wrist during practice, but still had a couple of receptions. But, that's the first game this year that he didn't record a touchdown.

Aidan Hill ran the ball really well and Augie Harris had a much better defensive night. He got to where he was breaking down and had some big hits on quarterback. I felt pretty comfortable. The game went back and forth until late in the game, we had control of it. I preached at halftime that we need to finish the game because had the lead

at half. They got the ball first in third quarter and drove it down the field and it's like nothing I said registered with the kids-it was hard loss 34-28 for everybody. A lot of kids played hard, we just had a couple that just had breakdowns defensively that cost us the game.

Moving forward, we've got David Emanuel Academy coming up, it's homecoming. The seniors wanted to play DEA because of the way we left off the season last year with a loss that kept us out of the playoffs. DEA plays hard with a heavy run set, but do throw the ball a little bit. We've just got to put a complete game together and once we do, then we're going to be fine. That put us back to .500 on the season and we only have four games left because it seems like we just got started. Homecoming is a big deal around Fullington with a lot of activities during the week dressing up as different characters, but without football we don't have homecoming. Have fun but when it comes practice time, get refocused because no one would be at homecoming if it wasn't for football. It's hard to keep these guys focused.

It was that way at Windsor and everywhere else that I've been, but at the end of the day, we need to focus on football and our individual job because if everybody does their job and not worry about everybody else, then that's what makes us the best on the field. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. and homecoming

activities at halftime and all the cheerleaders get excited about it. I've also implemented a football Friday where all the kids go into classrooms and read to the younger kids and it just kinda brings everybody together. I thought it was a big success. I appreciate Dr. Rose Campbell letting me put that in and gets the younger kids excited about coming to the football games.

We had a good crowd last Friday and I expect an even bigger one this coming week so I'm hoping I can put up a big win homecoming night and make the fans happy and just get out of our funk. We win the games we're supposed to but when it comes to these teams we're even with, we keep 'killing' ourselves. Westwood, I believe we should have won that game, Georgia Christian-one score game-Friday night-one score game. We're one score away in three games of being unde-



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler  
#2 *Brayden Cole*

back to work and hopefully we can get it fixed.



## Contributed

We are incredibly proud of our shotgun team's performance at the competition hosted by Deerfield-Windsor Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Flint Skeet and Trap Club in Albany, GA. Our student-athletes demonstrated focus, discipline, and strong technical skills across all three events—sporting clays, skeet, and trap.

Finishing 4th overall against some tough competition is a solid achievement and a testament to the hard work our shooters have put in during practice. We're seeing steady progress, and this event was another step forward in building a strong, competitive shooting program at Fullington Academy.

**- FRIDAY EVENING AUCTION PREVIEW -**

*21ST ANNUAL*

*EVERYONE WELCOME*

**ALL YOU CAN EAT SEAFOOD SUPPER**  
**& BAKED GOODS AUCTION**

**FRIDAY EVENING \ SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025 \ 4:00PM - 8:00PM**

**BOILED SHRIMP, FRIED SHRIMP, FRIES, CATFISH, CHICKEN FINGERS,  
 HUSHPUPIES, COLE SLAW, CHEESE GRITS, AND GREEN BEANS**

**Seafood Plates - Adults - \$22 Ages 4-10 - \$8**  
**Under 4 - Free / Ice Cream Bar \$4.50**

**. MONTEZUMA MENNONITE SCHOOL BENEFIT AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025 10:00 AM**

**CANNED GOODS | HAND STITCHED QUILTS | SWEET CORN | TOYS**  
**HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE | PECANS**  
**PORK SAUSAGE | TOOLS | CRAFTS | PROCESSED BEEF - STEAK, ROAST, ETC**  
**HOMEMADE GRANOLA | MUCH MORE!**