



RE-ELECT Coach Walter Brown FOR CITY COUNCIL

Proven Experience, Proven Leadership

Vote December 02, 2025

- Some Accomplishments: • Loft Apartments on 9th Street
- Pine View Trace Apartments • Sidewalks on W. Union Street
- Reorganization of Tyson Foods to House of Raeford Farms
- New Homes on East Pine Street

- 20 Yrs of dedicated services as City Council Member & 8 Yrs as Mayor Pro-Tem
- 100 Hours of Municipal Training for Elected Officials
- Economic Development • Taxation • Municipal Finance • Ethics • Conflict Resolution
- Small Town Redevelopment • Municipal Law • Law Enforcement Service

Future Projects: • Motels and Restaurants on I-75 • More Factories and Stores • More Jobs

*Paid for political ad.

The News Observer

"Local news means the world to us."

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, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

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VPD Transforming to a More Comfortable, Approachable Uniform

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Vienna Police Officer Javarise 'Jay' Terry announced that, "Two months ago, we were awarded a \$5,000 grant by Ga. Power for the police department to transform into a more approachable uniform to the public. So, over the next weeks or so going through December, each officer will be dressed in blue. We'll be transforming to a more comfortable, approachable uniform where we can be better community police."

He also said that the lights on top of the patrol cars, "For some reason, people that drive by the high school don't see us. They don't see that big truck with blue lights on. They're still going through there at 60-70 miles per hour, so that's something that we're going to be addressing."

City Administrator Michael



Photo by Tim Franzén

Pictured left to right: Councilwoman Tabatha Carter, Councilman Walter Brown, (standing) Officer Javarise 'Jay' Terry, Mayor Eddie Daniels, Councilman Albert King, Sr. and John Mathis.

Bowens reported that there was a gas audit. "By the Public Service Commission recently. Auditing the gas department performing tasks in their training. They also audited all the files and the paperwork, etc. There were no findings in that report. We're working on the 2025 Immigration compliance reports

to the department of audits and accounting. We also underwent some training so that we have all those done and completed to their liking. They have to complete the audit by the end of March."

The council agreed to accept a low bid recommended by SOWEGA Engineering of over

\$131,039 from Griffin Grading and Concrete, LLC to perform the resurfacing of Old Americus Road. Officials also approved beer and wine sales and consumption on premises license for Café 41 located at 107 South Third Street.

Mayor Pro-tem Walter Brown asked about the work being

performed on Grant Street including crush and run in that area. Mr. Bowen stated, "They are waiting on the asphalt plant (that runs less than 70 days-a-year)."

In other news: An upcoming holiday to be observed by the City of Vienna are Thanksgiving Day-Nov. 27 and Nov. 28.

2025 Big Pig Jig® Recap and Thank You

By Dooly County Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb

The smoke has cleared and the results are in. The 2025 BIG PIG JIG® was another record-breaking year of barbecue excellence, community spirit, and Southern hospitality. Grand Champion-Congratulations to the 2025 BIG PIG JIG® Grand Champion Smoke Master, Will Hair and Katie Redus Hair of Memphis, Tennessee. We also congratulate every team that walked the hallowed stage at the Big Pig Jig. An amazing achievement in a field of outstanding competitors.

To those who didn't walk this time, we'll see you on stage in 2026. You can find a full list of scores on our Facebook page. Jimmy Maxey Reserve Champion: Off the Chain Top Ten for each MBN category: Hog: Sweet Meat Butcher Shop, Real-licious Q, Moonlight Smokers, Rescue Smokers, Bubba Grills, Rolling Kolbz Competition BBQ Team, Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., Shark Bite BBQ, Bad Rooster BBQ, Southern Hogs. Pulled Pork: Smoke Master's BBQ, Off the Chain, Rustic Q, Florida Boys, Blue Smoke, Heavy Metal Hogz, Late for Supper, Reed Nut Smokers, Fat Side Up, Southern Hogs. Ribs: Off the Chain, Union Street BBQ, Georgia Bull Haws, Free Smokes BBQ, Bad Rooster BBQ, Sweet Meat Butcher Shop, Jaw Droppers



Photo by La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb

First Place Pork and Grand Champion Smoke Masters-Memphis, Tennessee



Photo by La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb

First Place Hog-Sweet Meat Butcher Shop

BBQ, Flaming Hogs, Mudd Hogg, Flying Butts Bar-B-Que.

Ancillary contests top three Stew: Sweet Smoke Q Florida Crew (B), The Arsonist, J and J Cook Team. Sauce: Off the Chain BBQ (B), Old Smokey BBQ (B), Smokestack Lighting. Chili: Bad Rooster BBQ, Apocalypse Sow, Flyin Butts Bar-B-Que. Chicken: Sweet Smoke Q Florida Crew (B) County Line Swine(B) Sweet Smoke Q Florida Crew (E).

Signature Beverage: Sweet Smoke Q Florida Crew, Flyin Butts Bar-B-Q (B), Barefoot

BIG PIG JIG
CONTINUED PG 5A



Photo by La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb

First Place Ribs and Jimmy Maxey Reserve-Off the Chain-Social Circle, Ga.

DCSS Celebrates Significant Growth on 2025 CCRPI Results

Contributed

Vienna, Ga.-November 2025 - The Dooly County School System (DCSS) is proud to announce gains on the 2025 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), reflecting the district's continued focus on academic excellence, progress, and readiness for all students.

The Georgia Department of Education's recently released CCRPI data shows that Dooly County Schools improved in nearly every domain across all grade bands, demonstrating that the district's commitment to high-quality instruction, literacy and numeracy initia-

tives, and whole-Child support is making a measurable difference.

Dooly County Elementary School showed growth across every CCRPI component: Content Mastery: Increased from 33.0 in 2024 to 38.4 in 2025, with notable gains in ELA (+6.46 points) and Science (+14.4 points). Progress: Rose from 68.5 to 78.7, including a 17-point surge in ELA progress (from 64.84 to 82.38). Closing Gaps: Jumped from 70.0 to 96.7, showing that the school is meeting the needs of diverse learners and accelerating growth among all student groups. Readiness: Increased again to 72.6, maintaining exceptional perfor-

mance in Beyond Core (99.31) and Attendance (72.45) indicators.

"These results highlight the extraordinary work of our teachers and staff who are closing learning gaps while enriching instruction," said Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willafor. "Our students are thriving academically and socially, and that's something worth celebrating." Dooly County Middle School also saw consistent improvement: Content Mastery: Increased from 35.6 to 39.7, with strong gains in ELA (up to 39.95) and Math (up to 38.36). Progress: Rose to 84.3, including a near-perfect 99.1 in ELA progress, one of the highest in the

district. Closing Gaps: Maintained high performance at 86.4, showing sustained equity in achievement. Readiness: Climbed to 76.9, with literacy rising nearly 10 points to 55.25 and continued excellence in Beyond Core (97.88) and Attendance (77.69). "Middle school is where we bridge foundational skills with higher-order thinking," said Chief Academic Officer Holly Black.

"The data confirms that our focus on literacy, vocabulary development, and engagement strategies is paying off." Doo-

CCRPI RESULTS
CONTINUED PG 4A

Dooly County Veterans Museum, "Celebrating All Men and Women Who Served."



Photo By Tim Franzén

Sharon Wilkin holding a picture of Veteran James Edward Kinard.



Photo By Cathy Jones

Mike Bowden with his Naval photo.



Photo By Cathy Jones

Thalia St. Lewis (Navy Vet) and Bo Dolph (Army Vet)

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

In celebration of Veterans Day last Tuesday, the Dooly County Veterans Museum on South Third Street was open for tours.

Mrs. Sharon Wilkin, a member of the Vienna Woman's Club was hostess at that time and she said, "We celebrated our veterans, so of whom have given the ultimate sacrifice of life. Those who are still with us that we honor. We're proud of this museum. It's been a dream of the Vienna Woman's Club for many years and we had two veterans visit Nov. 11 with more expected. We're still accepting donations. (Last Tuesday), I received three dona-

ceptions with a n o t h e r a n t i c i p a t e d. The V i e n n a W o m a n ' s C l u b c o n t i n u a l l y a c c e p t s m o n e t a r y d o n a t i o n s a n d a r t i f a c t s f o r o u r m u s e u m. Y o u c a n c o n t a c t a n y m e m b e r o f t h e V i e n n a W o m a n ' s C l u b o r m a k e a c h e c k o u t t o V i e n n a W o m a n ' s C l u b P. O. B o x 6 6 V i e n n a, G a. 3 1 0 9 2."

She shared the story of James Edward Kinard, who was the father of Kathy Byrd, "He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a baseball player in the 38th Infantry Regiment in 1949 at Fort Lewis, Washington. He played second base and we now have a picture of him in his uniform and a picture of all the players on his team." The museum is in what was the draft board office and more recently Royce's Barber Shop.

Vienna Woman's Club members have cataloged and organized many photos and new articles written about Dooly's Veterans. There are examples of uniforms and other mementos on display. In recognition of Veterans Day last Tuesday, Café 41 was, "Proud to give back to the men and women who served our country, 10% of all sales (Veterans Day) were donated to the Veterans Museum in Vienna. A place dedicated to preserving stories of courage, sacrifice and service. We invited our community to join us for a meal, a coffee or a sweet treat, knowing that a portion of your purchase helps support a local treasure that keeps our veteran's history alive. Let's come together to honor our heroes, celebrate their service and give back in a meaningful way."

The museum is open on military holidays or by special appointments. A private tour can be arranged by calling 229-347-0834.



Photo By Cathy Jones

Dan Bradley listens to Mike Bowden's experiences aboard a Naval carrier.

St. Mark Baptist Church Celebrates Our Veterans

Contributed

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church gathered on Sunday, November 16 to honor the brave men and women who have served our country with courage, dedication, and unwavering sacrifice. The Veteran's Day Program was a tribute to their commitment to protecting our freedom and preserving the values we hold dear. The program's title, "Land of the free because of the Brave," expressed the sentiments of this special recognition.



phasized that as we reflect on their service, past and present, we recognized not only their strength, but also the resilience of their families and loved ones

Pastor James Jordan em-



Photo Contributed

(photo left) The DCHS JROTC presented the colors. (photo right) Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels presented a proclamation along with Pastor Jordan to the veterans paying tribute to their commitment to protecting our freedom and preserving our values.

who stand beside them. May this program inspire the entire Vienna, Dooly County community to continue showing appreciation, offering support, and upholding the enduring spirit of patriotism exemplified by our veterans. Key features of the program included a Proclamation to our Veterans read by Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels and Chairperson Sue Ellen James.

The Dooly County High school JROTC carried out in the best patriotic fashion the

traditional presentation of the colors at the event. Songstress Rosa Borden performed several soul stirring selections including 'I'll Rise up' by Andra Day, 'If it had not been for the Lord on my Side, Didn't it Rain, How I Got Over and Just a Closer Walk with Thee.' Many thanks to our speaker, Chief Master Sergeant Norman F. Dexter Sr. (Airforce), who is a Vietnam War Veteran and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Dr. Elaine Leggett (Army).

Many thanks to Chairpersons: Ms. Sue Ellen James, Dr. Bobbie Jean King, Sergeant Major Wilbert Smothers and the congregation of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church.



Photo Contributed

Pictured (center) is the guest speaker for the occasion, Chief Master Sergeant Norman F. Dexter, Sr. who served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

City of Pinehurst's regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on December 4, 2025 has been cancelled.

Further details of our January, 2026 meeting will be announced during the month of December, 2025.

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 PREPARATION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN THE MUNICIPL GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025 WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 AM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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.

EARLY VOTING WILL BE AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH THRU WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, 2025 AT VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT, 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GA. THE POLL WILL BE OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM. ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025, AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY. THE POLL WILL OPEN FROM 7AM TO 7PM. THIS IS A MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTION. ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS FOR THE CITY OF VIENNA WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.

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 DECEMBER 2, 2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DOOLY COUNTY ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION OFFICE AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GA ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025 BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM.

EARLY VOTING WILL BE AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH THRU WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, 2025 AT VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT, 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GA. THE POLL WILL BE OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM. ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025, AT THE VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT ONLY. THE POLL WILL OPEN FROM 7AM TO 7PM. THIS IS A MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTION. ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS FOR THE CITY OF VIENNA WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.

THIS 12TH, DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

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

Early Voting for Dec. 2 Vienna City Council Runoff

Contributed

The Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration announces that early voting for the upcoming runoff election for a seat on the City of Vienna Council between Incumbent Councilman Walter F. Brown and Babette L. Lewis will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 24, 25 and 26 at the Vienna Voting Precinct only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

VFBC Gives Back at Thanksgiving



Contributed

Vienna First Baptist Church gave back to the community over the weekend by packing 79 food boxes. The 'Thanksgiving Back' boxes included everything needed to enjoy a complete Thanksgiving meal for their families. The box contained a Shady Brook Farms frozen turkey, chicken stuffing mix, black tea, yams, cranberry sauce, green beans, etc.

Vienna First Baptist Church along with the boxes sent along a Thanksgiving card that said in part, "A Thanksgiving Blessing for you. May the LORD bless you. May the LORD show you His kindness and have mercy

on you. May the LORD watch over you and give you peace-Numbers 6:24-26. God loves you and He wants you to experience peace and an abundant and eternal life. If you have accepted Jesus, tell another Christian about your decision. Join a local church in your community, read the Bible and pray daily.

If you have questions about accepting Jesus as your Savior and would like to speak with our Lead Pastor Brian Leverett, please call the church office (229) 268-4386 or email the church at viennafbc@gmail.com."

FriendsGiving at Big D's

Contributed

Come out and enjoy Thanksgiving, Nov. 27 with us at Big D's 400 North Third Street hosted by T and G Productions and Community. There will be free entry and food from 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. Eat, Watch Football, Be Thankful.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com



Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Food Box Giveaway

Shiloh Baptist Church at 205 Second Street, Elko, Georgia

Will sponsor a Thanksgiving Food Box Giveaway, Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. First Come, First Serve. Rev. Roosevelt McWilliams, Pastor

Nov. 23 Byromville Baptist Church Community Thanksgiving Service

Let's gather together to praise God and thank Him for all His many and wonderful blessings at a community Thanksgiving service to be held at Byromville Baptist Church at 713 Patterson Street, Sunday, Nov. 23 at 6:00 p.m.

CCU November Food Pantry

Christ Chapel Unadilla will hold its November Food Pantry from 10:00 a.m. until 12 Noon Saturday, November 22 at the church 400 Jeannette Street in Unadilla. Volunteer arrival is 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 478-627-9352 or email: christchapelunadilla@gmail.com.

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. (TNS)

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. (TNS)

Unadilla's Christmas Parade Grand Marshal Announced

Contributed

The City of Unadilla is proud to announce Mrs. Alice West as this year's Christmas parade Grand Marshal. Mrs. Alice is a life-long resident of Unadilla and a proud community member. This year we will celebrate her 100 years of life as we showcase her Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. for the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Parade. Parade spots are still available but are filling fast. Contact City Hall for more information.



Crisp-Dooly-Sumter Chief Ranger Justin Brown Promoted

By Georgia Forestry Commission

Please join us in congratulating GFC's Justin Brown on his promotion to the position of Rural Fire Defense Program Manager. The RFD program helps rural communities establish and maintain fire protection programs in unprotected communities. With over 18 years of dedicated service to GFC, Justin has a wealth of experience in wildfire suppression, equipment acquisition, and emergency response.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership as Chief Ranger for the Crisp-Dooly-Sumter Unit, RFD program coordinator, and for securing millions of dollars in federal property to support local fire departments. Justin's proven ability to build partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies along with his

commitment to firefighter safety and community engagement will serve him well as he leads GFC's efforts to strengthen rural fire protection across Georgia.

September and October brought slightly higher than normal wildfire averages in Georgia. In other news, Statistics show increases in both the number of fires and acreage burned. Currently Georgia is in a La Nina weather pattern, which typically ushers in drier, warmer conditions to the Southeast.

The National Interagency Fire Center is predicting above average wildfire potential for the southern half of the state through November. With prescribed fire and site prep season underway, landowners are urged to carefully monitor local weather conditions before doing any kind of outdoor burning.

Dooly County Middle School Named 2024-2025 Literacy Leader by GaDOE

Contributed

Vienna, Ga. November 10 — Dooly County K-8 Academy has been recognized by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) as a 2024-2025 Literacy Leader, a distinction awarded to schools demonstrating exceptional student achievement and growth in reading and literacy. Dooly County K-8 is among the 406 schools across the state to earn this recognition.

At the middle-school level, the Literacy Leader designation is awarded based on achievement, growth, or both on end-of-grade assessments. The criteria recognizes the crucial importance of grade-level reading and requires higher

growth from schools with lower achievement levels. The award is determined using the Georgia Milestones Reading Status indicator, which measures students' Lexile scores tied to specific English Language Arts test items.

Dooly County K-8 was recognized for sixth-grade achievement and seventh-grade growth. "This recognition reflects the collective dedication and focused efforts of the entire Dooly County Middle School team in advancing literacy growth and continuous improvement," said Dr. Sherrod D. Willaford, Superintendent of Dooly County Schools. "Becoming a Georgia Literacy Leader was an intentional goal, and achieving it af-

firms the commitment and hard work of the faculty and staff in ensuring every student develops as a confident and capable reader and learner."

"We are incredibly honored to receive the Georgia Literacy Leader Award for our sixth-grade achievement and seventh grade growth," said Dr. Hollie Walters, Principal of Dooly County Middle School. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our exceptional teachers, the hard work of our students, and the strong partnership with our families. I am incredibly proud of our entire school community for this achievement."

The Literacy Leader honor celebrates schools that demonstrate

extraordinary student progress and proficiency. Georgia's continued progress in literacy reflects sustained, statewide efforts to strengthen foundational learning. This school year, new English Language Arts standards, developed by Georgia educators and aligned to the science of reading took effect, ensuring students build strong reading, writing, speaking, and language skills from the earliest grades. Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, State School Superintendent Richard Woods will visit select schools identified as Literacy Leaders to recognize and congratulate them.

ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE

(1 of 4 Sales)

First Sale - Nov. 22nd 7:30am - till

2420 U.S. Hwy 341 N

Perry, GA 31069

Home decor and more... (No early sales).

VWC Holds November Meeting



Photo by Cathy Jones

Thalia St Lewis loved the teddy bears that were included in each box. Also pictured is Club Member Beth English.

Contributed

The Vienna Woman's Club had a very productive club meeting in November. One hundred shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach of Samaritan's Purse.

Members also donated Soup-Chili-in-a-Bag kits to help SNAP recipients during the government shut-down.

Donations were collected for Wreaths Across America (WAA) Members will attend the WAA dedication and assist during the placing of the wreaths at Andersonville Historic Cemetery on December 13.

Vienna Woman's Club is also again sponsoring Deck Down-town.

Businesses are invited to create festive window displays or decorate the outside of the storefront. School groups, churches, civic organizations, or citizens are invited to place a decorated tree in the courthouse square.

Prizes awarded-sponsored by the Vienna Woman's Club. Owner-created designs only.

Help make Vienna beautiful for the holidays. Contact Cathy Jones for more information at 229268-4776.

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 Wesleyan Church Vienna, GA, 229-321-9292
Ebenezer Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-2964
Evangelistic Tabernacle Church

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

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

Chad Weesner INSURANCE AGENCY
 Vienna, GA

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

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
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 Unadilla, 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



In The Garden With AMARYLLIS AND CHRISTMAS CACTUS

TIM LEWIS
Columnist

As the Christmas season approaches, many of you will be thinking of ways to brighten your interiorscapes. One of the best ways, of course, is with the use of flowering plants.

First is the amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*). Ordinarily a spring-flowering tropical bulb, this showy bloomer brightens up any room when forced to bloom indoors. No cold period is required for these bulbs as is required for some others.

Amaryllises grow from large bulbs, some nearly as big as a grapefruit and weighing more than a pound. Even on average-sized bulbs, blooms are eight to ten inches across. The plant produces three or four flowers at a time atop each thick one-to two-foot tall stem. Usually, just as the first flowers fade, the bulb sends up a second flower stalk.

Some bulbs are identified by color only—white, pink, red, orange, or striped. These are not as hardy or large or as long-lasting as the vegetatively propagated ones, with fancy names such as Appleblossom, Beautiful Lady, Fire Dance, Scarlet Admiral, and White Giant.

When potting up amaryllis bulbs, remember that they love tight quarters. If the pot is too big, you'll likely get nice leaves but no flowers. It is best to use a pot that is no more than two inches larger in diameter than the bulb. The bulb itself should be left about half way out of the soil. The roots grow from the base of the bulb. Fill the pot with a

well-drained soil mix and then water.

The first sign of growth is the flower bud itself—the leaves don't usually develop until the flowers are opening. Once the large, tear-shaped flower bud is visible, the plant should receive a feeding once a month, enough water to keep the soil barely moist, at least three to four hours of sun, and temperatures in the 70's during the day and in the 60's at night if possible.

If you would like a spectacular show in your home during Christmas, force some amaryllises. Visit your local nursery or garden center or favorite online plant source and get started! You can also purchase prepped bulbs at various locations.

Next is the Christmas cactus, *Schlumbergera bridgesii*, also known and grown for its bright colors and profusion of flowers.

If you buy a Christmas cactus plant in bloom, put it in a bright spot out of direct sun, as too much light will make the leaves turn yellow. Average household temperatures are fine. Avoid drafts from heater vents and fireplaces. Keep the soil barely moist and feed the plants every other week with a good, all-purpose fertilizer. The plants will stop blooming in late winter or early spring, but it is best to continue to give them this care until the fall.

It is not particularly difficult to get the Christmas cactus to bloom every winter, as long as it is given some special at-

tention during its rest period, from early September until flower buds form. It flowers in relation to day length and night temperatures during the rest period. When the fall nights are in the 50 to 60 degree range, flower buds will form regardless of how many hours of darkness the plant receives. But if the night temperatures are greater on average than 60 degrees, the plants will require at least 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness every night for about six weeks; either put the plants in an unused room or cover them with a dark cloth at night if they are in a lit room. Remember—the plants will still need bright light during the day. (A plant left outside until frost is likely to have had enough cool nights to have formed flower buds by the time it is brought inside). During the fall (October), while the buds are forming, stop fertilizing them and water them very sparingly—just enough to keep the stems from shriveling.

Once the flower buds appear, the night temperatures and hours of darkness no longer matter. Place the plant in a bright spot and enjoy watching the buds open.

The Christmas cactus flowers best when it is rather pot bound, but if it becomes too crowded for space, it won't bloom well. So, when you notice a loss of flower production, or if it's been several years since the plant has been repotted, move it up to a slightly larger pot in the spring before you set it out in the garden for the summer.

These cactuses can be easily propagated from stem tip cuttings taken any time of the year.

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.



Writings From The Heart A POEM ABOUT MOTHERS

DR. LANIER ROBERTS
Columnist

A mother who grew up in days of old, scrubbing clothes in freezing cold hanging them on lines with ice dripping down could not afford to dry in town.

Milking 4 cows in the morn having to do this before first child was born.

sewing old clothes that were always torn, always happy and never forlorn.

Sweeping yards with sagebrush broom cleaning house room by room all this was not bittersweet to her. the love for family she did prefer.

As life rolled on her body wore out, she had worked hard, that's no doubt. Her final days came, she fell asleep, her precious soul did our Lord keep.

In heaven now with our precious Lord, mingling with saints in one accord. No regrets this mother would say, if you are saved, you too will be with the Lord someday.

May the Lord bless and keep you and may His grace surround each of you. Amen. Until next time.



Parables To Ponder WILL FAVORITE PET JOIN YOU IN HEAVEN?

BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Many years ago, a German shepherd dog, about a year old, walked into our yard. The abandoned dog was starved and thirsty; obviously he had lived a hard life. Beverly and I decided keep him. We named him Appy (for Apparition—“suddenly appeared” in our yard). For the next eight years we gave Appy enough love to compensate for all his previous mistreatment. When I was away at work, I knew Beverly was being well protected, because Appy guarded our premises.

As Appy grew older, he began having difficulty standing up and walking. We carried him to Dr. Felix Smith Jr. who diagnosed Appy with radial nerve damage. Appy was relegated to staying inside our garage. Twice a day, I carried this 90-pound dog onto the grass where he could use the bathroom. That went on for weeks. Since Appy could not swallow properly, he would not attempt to eat, not even

hamburger, steak or chicken. A mysterious paralysis was spreading quickly through his body. A milkshake from McDonald's was all that Appy could consume.

It became extremely taxing for me to carry Appy from the garage onto the lawn, so Beverly and I set up a temporary living arrangement for him on our front porch. There I could drag Appy to and from the lawn so he could use the bathroom. The dog was increasingly in more pain and discomfort and occasionally would cry out. The curtain was rapidly falling on Appy's life and, in his condition, death was not the worst alternative, so we called Dr. Ben Smith. Just before Dr. Smith administered the lethal injection, I placed my head beside Appy's and said, “We love you Appy.” He responded by lifting his paw to let me know he returned that love. Then Dr. Smith injected the anesthesia. Within moments, Appy was drifting into eternity. When a

beloved pet dies, the question naturally arises if your pet will be allowed to enter heaven. Rev. Billy Graham stated “if animals would make us happier in heaven, surely there will be a place for them.”

A ‘true’ story in “The Telegraph” suggests that pets join their masters in heaven: A veterinarian was requested to euthanize an irreversibly ill dog, whose owner had died recently. The two were inseparable—the owner being like the dog's daddy. The vet puts the dog on the table. He pets the dog and explains what will happen. “You'll be given two shots. After the second shot, you'll see a bright light...run toward that light. You'll also see a bridge. Your daddy will be waiting for you. Cross the bridge and jump into his arms.” After administering the first shot to sedate the dog and the second to end the dog's life, the vet tells the dog again to look for the light and the bridge. After a few seconds, the dog's tail begins to thump the table furiously. Taking his last breaths, the dog's tail continues to wag strongly. Realizing what was happening, the hair on the veterinarian's neck stood straight up. He said to the dog, “You've made it. You're with your daddy now.”

Community Welcomes new FACS Agent

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Dooly County once again has a Family and Consumer Sciences agent with Dooly County Extension. Destiny Phillips who has been working in that capacity since mid-October spoke on several topics, including her background, “Before this position, I earned my bachelor's degree at Georgia State University.

I have spent most of my life around the Metro-Atlanta area, but I have recently relocated to Houston County. In terms of my work experience prior to this, I worked with a non-profit baby supply bank where I was the program coordinator.

In this role, I oversaw various programs that provided families in need with essential items such as diapers and formula across the state of Georgia. I then moved on to a position with the University of Georgia as the associate program coordinator for the (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education) SNAP-Ed program. This program provided nutrition education for low-income individuals.

What drew me to this role was that it was based in education whereas my previous role at the baby supply bank was more



Photo Contributed
Destiny Phillips UGA Extension Dooly-Pulaski Counties Family and Consumer Sciences Agent

hands-on in the community distributing essential resources. What I love about my new role as a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent is that it combines both of those passions. I'll be able to get out into the community, be hands-on, but I'll also have the educational component which is very important to me.

In terms of what I would like to do in the community now that I'm here? Of course, I'm new, so I still have lots of training I must complete before I'm able to provide some of these resources for the community. Primarily, I would like to focus

on programming pertaining to chronic disease prevention, nutrition education and physical activity. I've been in this position for around a month and I've been focused initially on research determining the community's needs.

Now, I'm getting out into the county and meeting community members, different organizations serving the citizens of Dooly County. I'm going to the pre-existing board and council meetings and I'm really interested in making those connections to continue learning.

So far, I have gone to the county health fair and met a lot of people there, I've gone to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and more. I'm hopeful to attend the upcoming Dooly County Family Connection meeting and make really meaningful ‘connections’ in the community so we can hopefully combine our resources and make a larger impact together. I'm just really excited to be here. I have so much more learning to do and I'm looking forward to all that is to come.”

For more information, contact Destiny Phillips UGA Extension Dooly-Pulaski Counties Family and Consumer Sciences Agent at: 229-268-4171 or by email at: destiny.phillips@uga.edu.

to equity and intervention support. Readiness: Improved to 56.8, with major growth in Pathway Completion (79.75) and Accelerated Enrollment (59.38) signaling that more students are graduating ready for college, career, and life.

“These numbers represent real students meeting their goals, earning credentials, completing pathways, and walking across the stage ready for what's next,” Dr. Sherrod Willaford. “It's proof of what happens when a community rallies behind its schools.”

A District Moving Forward Dooly County Schools outperformed the state in Closing Gaps

Grateful Hearts at Dooly K-8



Contributed

We are so Thankful for our amazing Dooly County Retired educators who came in to assist with our Thanksgiving luncheon for our Pre-K through Second grade students last Wednesday. Your support and dedication to our youngest learners made this special celebration possible.

It truly takes a village, and we are blessed to have such a caring educational community. Thank you for giving your time and spreading joy to our students during this season of gratitude.

at both the elementary and high school levels and exceeded the state in Progress at the middle school level. Across all grade bands, Dooly County's CCRPI scores reflect steady, systemwide improvement. Dooly County Schools outperformed the state in Closing Gaps at both the elementary and high school levels and exceeded the state in Progress at the middle school level. The district's intentional focus on literacy, professional learning communities, observation and feedback cycles, strong attendance initiatives, and whole-child development supports has created a culture of growth, resilience, and achievement.

“These results are not by chance,” said Black. “They represent years of hard work, alignment, and a belief that every student in Dooly County can achieve at high levels. We're proud, but not finished. This momentum will continue.” The Dooly County School System, located in Vienna, Ga. serves approximately 1,100 students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. DCSS is committed to ensuring “Student Achievement and Success for All” through a focus on instructional excellence, professional growth, and a positive culture and climate that supports the whole child.

CCRPI RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

ly County High School made remarkable progress, reversing several multi year trends and closing performance gaps: Content Mastery: Jumped from 24.3 in 2024 to 33.5 in 2025, with the Math component tripling from 11.74 to 36.62. Progress: Increased from 61.7 to 73.7, including double-digit improvements in both ELA (+14 points) and Math (+12 points). Closing Gaps: Held steady at 83.3, a testament to the school's commitment

The News Observer

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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 TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF LORRAINE R. GAUNT, DECEASED.

All creditors of the Estate of Lorraine R. Gaunt, late of said County, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 10th day of November, 2025.
Charles B. Coley
Executor of Lorraine R. Gaunt, deceased
19828 Hwy 27
Vienna, GA 31092
J. Mitchell Gibbs
RAINWATER, GIBBS & WRIGHT, LLP
P.O. Box 1096
Cordele, Georgia 31010
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 2025
0753-VNO

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOOLY COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Douglas H Wilkes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for American Advisors Group, its successors and assigns, dated 12/8/2020 and recorded in Deed Book 625 Page 249 Dooly County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Car-

ington Mortgage Services LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$255,000.00, 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 December 2, 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:

PARCEL 1: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 5.20 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING IN AND BEING A PART OF LOTS OF LAND NOS. 53 AND 56 IN THE NINTH LAND DISTRICT OF DOOLY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND FURTHER BEING DESCRIBED AND SHOWN AS TRACT NO. 3 ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED FOR DOUGLAS H. WILKES BY EARL D. RAINES, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1512, DATED AUGUST 2, 1995, A COPY OF SAID PLAT OF SURVEY BEING RECORDED IN CLERK'S OFFICE, DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT, IN ITS PLAT RECORD 9, AT PAGE 49, SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORDATION THEREOF BEING BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED

HEREIN FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION. PARCEL 2: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 5.03 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING IN AND BEING A PART OF LOTS OF LAND NOS. 53 AND 56 IN THE NINTH LAND DISTRICT OF DOOLY COUNTY, GEORGIA, FRONTING ON PART OF ITS NORTHWESTERLY SIDE COUNTY ROAD NO. 92 AND FURTHER BEING DESCRIBED AND SHOWN AS TRACT NO. 2 ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED FOR DOUGLAS H. WILKES BY EARL D. RAINES, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1512, DATED AUGUST 2, 1995, A COPY OF SAID PLAT OF SURVEY BEING RECORDED IN CLERK'S OFFICE, DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT, IN ITS PLAT RECORD 9, AT PAGE 49, SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORDATION THEREOF BEING BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION. PARCEL 3: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON CONTAINING 4.07 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING IN AND BEING A PART OF LOTS OF LAND NOS. 53 AND 56 IN THE NINTH LAND DISTRICT OF DOOLY COUNTY, GEORGIA, FRONTING ON ITS NORTHWESTERLY SIDE COUNTY ROAD NO. 92 AND FURTHER BEING DESCRIBED AND SHOWN AS THAT 4.07 ACRE

TRACT ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED FOR JAMES A. BRAXTON BY EARL D. RAINES, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1512 DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1991, A COPY OF SAID OF SURVEY BEING RECORDED IN CLERK'S OFFICE, DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT IN ITS PLAT RECORD 10, PAGE 53, SAID PLAT AND RECORDATION THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION.

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 99 Lamar Rd, Vienna, GA 31092 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): Shirley B. Wilkes or tenant or tenants.

CeLink is the entity or individual des-

igned, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage. CeLink 3900 Capital City Blvd Lansing MI 48906 CeLink Loss Mitigation Department P.O. Box 40724 Lansing, MI 48901-7924 Phone: 866-446-0026 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. Carrington Mortgage Services LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Douglas H Wilkes Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1823-826A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1823-826A
11/06, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 2025
0750-VNO (1823-826A)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF ADA NELL BELLFLOWER

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

This 20th day of November, 2025.
MARY BETH MOORE
433 EARL CROOK RD
MARSHVILLE, GA 31057
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 2025
0761-VNO

Shooting in Crisp County

By GBI

Preliminary information from the GBI Medical Examiner's Office, as well as other evidence gathered during the investigation, indicates Calhoun died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. GBI agents have met with Calhoun's family to share facts from the case. Once the investigation is complete, the case file will be given to the Cordele Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review.

At the request of the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, GBI Agents were investigating an officer involved shooting in Crisp County, Ga. One man died in the incident. No officers were injured. Preliminary information indicates that on Friday, November 7, the Crisp County Sheriff's Office received information that Deonte Rashad Calhoun, age 25,

of Tifton, Ga. was traveling to Crisp County, Ga. and was wanted on four counts of Aggravated Assault.

Crisp County Deputies spotted Calhoun on Frontage Road in Cordele, Georgia, and initiated a traffic stop. Calhoun stopped, got out of the car, and ran away. Deputies then pursued Calhoun. During the chase, there was an exchange of gunfire. Calhoun was shot and pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the GBI Regional Investigative Office in Americus at 229-931-2439. Anonymous tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online>, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

Cordele Police Investigating Waffle House Shooting

By CPD

The Cordele Police Department is currently investigating a violent incident that occurred shortly after 3:30 a.m. Sunday at the Waffle House in Cordele. Officers responded to a report of a disturbance involving gunfire and upon arrival, officers located two adult male victims. One victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds, and the second victim had been physically assaulted by several individuals.

Both victims were transported for medical treatment and are currently receiving care.

No Waffle House staff members were injured during this incident. Officers detained one person of interest. After cooperating with officers, that individual was released.

Just before lunch Sunday, Nov. 16, one of our officers spotted the shooting suspect from the Waffle House incident on the front porch of a residence in the city. A quick coordinated effort was implement-

ed between our office and the Crisp County Sheriff's Office which resulted in the successful arrest of twenty-year-old Kelwin Jackson of Cordele. Jackson was arrested without incident, and a firearm was recovered. Jackson has been charged with Aggravated Assault with more charges pending as the investigation progresses.

A second suspect was identified as being twenty-seven-year-old Jer-mall Burks of Cordele. Burks was located at a residence in Cordele

and was escorted to the Police Department by officers and deputies. As of this time, Burks has been charged with Battery.

No other information will be released at this time. We again would like to thank our officers and Crisp County Deputies for their diligent work in identifying and locating these individuals. Anyone with any information related to this incident is asked to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921.

12 Arrested in Operation Raydiant Shadows Targeting Sex Traffickers and Commercial Sex Buyers in Dougherty County

Contributed

Dougherty County, Ga. (November 10) - As a result of a proactive, multi-agency online undercover investigation coordinated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit (HEAT), in partnership with the Albany-Dougherty Special Investigations Unit (SIU), Albany Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Georgia State Patrol, twelve individuals were arrested in an operation targeting sex traffickers and commercial sex buyers in the Dougherty County area. Six commercial sex workers met with victim advocates and were offered services.

The following people were arrested and charged with Pandering: Don Hill, age 46, of Dawson, Ga., Alan Adkins, age 28, of Leesburg, Ga., William Price, age 58, of Albany, Ga., Michael Saxton Evans, age 43, of Albany, Ga., Paige Thomas, age 40, of Alexandria, Va. (also charged with Obstruction), Daniel Alexander Chiles-Garcia, age 17, of Bronwood, Ga., Malik Yoba Lawrence, age 26, of Leesburg, Ga., Brandon Denard Mitchell, age 41, of Arlington, Ga. (also charged with Possession of Cocaine), Mason Conley, age 32, of Cordele, Ga., Malcolm Jefferson, age 40, of Charlotte N.C., Patrick Kelly Bushman, age 52, of Baconton, Ga., Kyle Pack, age 37,

of Albany, Ga. was only charged with Possession of Drugs and Outstanding Warrants.

Additional charges and arrests may be forthcoming. "Operation Raydiant Shadows" took several months of planning and involved the collaboration of several law enforcement agencies. The arrestees, ranging in age from 17 to 58, traveled from areas around Dougherty County, GA with the intent to purchase sex or sell sex commercially.

The goal of "Operation Raydiant Shadows" was to draw in commercial sex buyers for demand reduction and draw in commercial sex workers to offer services. The objective was to

identify and arrest pimps and human traffickers through this two-fold approach. This investigation involved multiple law enforcement agencies working together to combat human trafficking.

This investigation is active and ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the GBI's HEAT Unit at 404-270-8433 or the Albany Dougherty SIU at 229-430-5150. All forms of human trafficking should be reported to Georgia's statewide human trafficking hotline at 1-866-ENDHTGA. Trained law enforcement agents, advocates, and first responders are available 24/7 to answer calls.

BIG PIG JIG

CONTINUED FROM 1A

BBQ. Deviled Eggs: Pogo's Porkers, Bad Rooster BBQ, Triple T. Best Booth: Free Smokes BBQ. Taste of the Jig: The Arsonist. Competition Overview: This year's event featured 108 teams, 103 MBN teams and 5 ancillary teams, cooking 230 championship entries: 37 Whole Hogs, 92 Pulled Pork and 101 Ribs.

Additionally, there were 221 ancillary entries: Stew - 52, Sauce - 47, Chicken - 57, Chili - 22, Deviled Eggs - 16 and Specialty Beverage - 27. A grand total of 451 entries were judged and we had more pork entries than the Memphis in May World Championship or Smoke Slam. Sincere thanks to our dedicated judges for their professionalism and for returning year after year. Sponsors and Partners- We could not do this without our incredible sponsors and community partners.

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors, we couldn't do this without your commitment and support: City of Unadilla, City of Vienna, Brannen Motor Company, Cadence Bank, Myron Mixon Smokers, Albany Area Primary Health Care, Albany Beverage Company, Georgia Power, Middle Georgia EMC, Papa's Little Cookers, Green Acres Nursery and Fence Company, Superior Exterminators of Georgia, South Georgia Banking Company, Central Georgia Technical College, Hoot's Sauce, Mediacom, Perry Brothers, Wells Hardware, Waste Management, The News Observer, and House of Raeford. A huge thank-you to the City of Vienna Public Works Department, Vienna Police Chief Lucas and his officers, and our Pig



Photo by La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb
Second Place Ribs Union Street BBQ.

Jig Security Team - Justin Gilliam, Donnie Gilliam and Jax Lamb-Heath for keeping things running smoothly. We also thank our official photographers La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb and reporter Tim Franzén with The News Observer for their continued coverage and support.

Vendors: The vendor area was filled with great food, crafts, and fun. Thank you to every vendor for your outstanding efforts and for creating such an enjoyable atmosphere for our visitors. Chamber Family and Volunteers- To our tremendous volunteers and event staff, thank you for giving your all year after year. Special appreciation goes to our MBN Representatives Maggie and Adam Adkison, and Greg and Lois Sebastian for your professionalism and dedication. We also thank Scott McDaniel and Will Hair for their help with the MBN Judges Training Class.

A heartfelt thank-you to our Chamber Board for your con-

tinued support and commitment, and to Chairman Amanda Neiscent. Your leadership and strength are invaluable; you are my rock. Gratitude also to the "Chamber Girls" -Tiffany Sinyard, Stacie Beach, Phyllis Keaton, and Crystal Hayslip for your hard work and dedication that make this event possible. You amaze me every year.

Team Appreciation: To all our teams, you are the heart and soul of the BIG PIG JIG®. This event exists because of your dedication, passion, and barbecue excellence. You're not just teams; you're family. BIG PIG JIG® Service Awards: Recognizing those who go above and beyond in service - I could never repay you for all that you do. Thank you. Jim Maxey, Grant Sparrow, Scott West, Tracy Hughes, Michael Bush, Allen O'Neal, Trent Cady, Robby Royal, Warren Of-fenberg and Scott Godman, and Brian Griffis. Rock Star Award: For always being there for the



Photo by La'El Sanders and Jay Lamb
Third Place Ribs-Georgia Bull Haws, Dooly County.

2:00 a.m. emergency calls, water, power, or anything needing special attention- Wilton DeLoach.

The Tony Award: For outstanding service and always stepping up: Meat Gone Wild Team: Jack Herndon and Tyler Payne. The Charlie Award: A new honor was introduced this year in memory of Mr. Charles Speight, a decorated soldier, Navy pilot, businessman, devoted husband and father, and longtime Cham-

ber board member. Mr. Speight's energy and devotion to the community were unmatched from recruiting judges to selling raffle tickets and supporting all Chamber events. Even at age 103, he remained active and encouraging. The First Annual "Charlie Award" was presented to Howard Harris, who embodies the same dedication and community spirit that defined Mr. Speight's legacy.

Looking Ahead: Upcoming

events include: Dilly Dally in Dooly - February 27-28, 2026, Hogs 4 Housing - TBA, Hope Fest Backyard Contest - March 2026. Mark your calendars for November 6-7, 2026 for the next BIG PIG JIG® in Vienna, Ga. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for another amazing year. Your continued support, enthusiasm, and love of barbecue make this event what it is today, a Georgia Barbecue Hall of Fame tradition.

Fullington Boys, "Can Definitely Compete for a Region Championship."

By Head Coach James Martin

This year, we have two seniors on our team and they're going to be our leaders on the court as far as scoring and off the court, kind-a making sure everybody is in line with each other. They've done a great job with only a little over a week of practice because of football. We share players in small GIAA schools. So, we had three practices last week and we had one scrimmage that we lost. There weren't a lot of bright spots in it, but primarily we learned that we're not a super-fast team. So, we've got to be very methodical in everything we do. This season, I think we're going to have a pretty good record this year. We have a favorable schedule compared to last year. We have our senior big man Garlan Godfrey and he's going to probably lead us in scoring, blocks and in most statistical categories outside of steals and

assists. He's going to be the one that we kind-a play through.

Our other senior, Aidan Hill who is kind-a the one that is our best defensive player and can almost shut-down the best player of a team. So, we're going to rely heavily on those two. Then, we have Brandon Bloodworth who was our leading scorer with eight points Friday night, the most he's scored in a varsity game in his whole career. It was nice to see that. He's very good defensively. He has fast hands, so I'm pretty excited about him.

Then we have Blake Hendrickson who helps keep the flow of the game going and is our best ball handler and kind of breaks a press by himself and is our point-guard. Then, our fifth starter, we're going to shuffle around to see what we have seven that can start right now, so outside of those

seven, someone is just going to have to step-up especially when we get deep into the season.

This week we have three games with Twiggs Academy who we played Tuesday, which we should win. It will be good to get our offense going after that game Friday. T

hen Thursday and Friday, we host our Wonder Five tip off Tournament at Fullington Academy. We will be without our big man Garlan Godfrey Thursday because he'll be gone for a football all-star game. We're going to play Rock Springs on that day, which is a pretty good team, so we'll see what we can do without Garlan. Aidan Hill, Brandon Bloodworth and Blake Hendrickson, so we'll have to figure out who our other two players will be that will step-up for us.

Then Friday, we play Trinity who was one of their only wins last season and it's the school that

I used to coach at. I have a special place in my heart against Trinity, so I love to beat them. We played them this summer and they beat us pretty easily, but they've had some injuries and we've improved since this summer. It will be fun to see what we can do Friday and then the season gets crazy after that. I just hope we stay healthy.

The biggest concerns with the team are staying out of foul trouble and teams that are a little more athletic, we're probably going to struggle with. But teams that are slow, I think we're going to be able to pick apart which is good for us because in our region pretty much all teams are slow, so it should be a good year. We'll see how it goes week by week, but I'm pretty excited and I think we have a team that can definitely compete for a region championship and see how far we can go into the state tournament.

Lady Trojans Win Scrimmage Versus Lady Bobcats-Twiggs Academy Kicks Off Season

By Head Coach Van Bailey

I'm just excited about the new year and we had a chance to scrimmage with Dooly County High School and I thought this would be great for our team. I thought it would give our girls a chance to play some real good athletes, good physical basketball players and give us an idea of where we are and what we need to work on.

Last Friday, we started off sluggish, slow and struggled to score. Dooly County came out playing physical, real fast and it took us a little awhile to adjust to the speed. I came in with the mindset that I wanted to play 13 girls, everybody in this game, empty the bench to give us some film work to look at.

Throughout the first quarter, we got all 13 girls in and got some good playing experience. We did fall behind as early as 18-4. Midway through the second quarter, we settled down. Olivia Cawthon

came in and hit a big jump shot and we started crawling back into it and we were able to go into the half only down 23-15.

We picked up our intensity on defense a little bit, but we went to a full-court matchup press and put a little pressure on the ball, played a little man-to-man half court as well as traditionally had been our zone for the game. Trying to turn 'em over and it did work. We had a great third quarter outscoring them 14-5 to take that 29-28 lead going into the fourth. We pulled ahead as much as eight. In the fourth quarter, Dooly County came back and narrowed the gap to three. We ended up winning the scrimmage 38-34. A tremendous effort for our girls, stepped up and matched the physicality. That was my biggest concern is how we would play against a very physical team. I thought we did a really good job of doing that once we got used to the speed that Dooly was playing at.

We were able to create some turnovers. We were led in scoring by our two seniors. Izzy Ross had 11 and Rylee Reed chipped in eight points. McKinley Causey also had six. We learned a lot of things that we need to do better and a lot of things that we did well and it surprised me in areas. I'm really appreciative of Dooly County. They were a great host and I'm hoping maybe we can continue playing each other in scrimmage games in the future. I think it's good for both schools and the community.

Looking forward to getting the season started this week as well traveled to Twiggs Academy Tuesday, then we have our Wonder Five Centennial Basketball tournament in Pinehurst against Trinity Christian Thursday night at 6:30 and then playing against TiftArea at 3:30 p.m. Friday with both games at Fullington.

Ag in the Classroom with Angie Burton

By Elizabeth Harris Library Manager Rhonda Woodward-Bartlett

Be sure to 'Thank A Farmer'. Another wonderful Ag in the Classroom from Angie Burton from Dooly Farm Bureau. In the book 'Thank A Farmer', it states, "Bread, milk, rice, wool, fruits, vegetables: things that fill our daily lives. Thanks a Farmer takes a lyrical, luminous journey from coast to coast through the country's farmlands. From commercial farms to family farms and wheat fields to cherry orchards, from planting to harvesting to market and from breakfast to dinner."

The book is written and illustrated by Maria Gianferrari and Monica Mikai. Maria Gianferrari "Has two connections with farming. She is descended from a long line of dairy farmers in Emilia-Romagna Italy whose



cows provide milk to make the region's famous Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese. Grew up in New Hampshire, down the street from Barrett's Farm and across the street from a maple sugar house. She now lives with her family in Massachusetts. Her website is mariagianferrari.com.

Monica Mikai is an author and illustrator who strives to create art that generates emotion, comfort and wonder. She grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a small city surrounded by farmland. Monica now lives in Va. where there are currently 43,225 farms."

For more information about Elizabeth Harris Library, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/BooksMakeMugglesintoWizards/>, call 478-627-9303, email Rhonda Woodward-Bartlett at rwbartlett@lbrls.org or visit at 312 Harman Street in Unadilla, Ga.

Lady Bobcats End Regular Season with a Victory



By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Lady Bobcats Flag football team had a double dip versus the Houston County Lady Bears and the Northside of Warner Robins Lady Eagles and lost both of those games by identical scores

of 26-0.

Dooly County ended the season on a positive note last Thursday, picking up a win on the road over rival Crisp County 7-6. The Lady Bobcats ended the regular season with a record of 6-8 overall and 2-5 or in sixth place in Single A Division III-Area three.

FA One Act Play Cast Earns Second Place Finish



Codributed

Congratulations to the Fullington Academy One Act Play cast on earning Second Place at the GISA State Competition with their hilarious performance of "A Tangled Web." Kincee Hancock picked up the Outstanding Performance Award, while Luke Stevens received an Honorable Mention.

We are incredibly proud of this talented group and their dedication, creativity, and teamwork. A huge thank-you to Coach Heather Grinolds for her leadership and support.

Update on Mathnasium Night

Codributed

The Mathnasium Night at Dooly County K-8 Academy has been rescheduled and will take place on a later date. We will share the new details as soon as they are finalized. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

DCRD Deeply Saddened by Coach Blake Taylor's Passing



Contributed

The passing of Coach Blake Taylor has left us deeply saddened as he was a key member of the Dooly County Recreation Department coaching

staff for many years. His absence on the team bench will be profoundly felt. Coach Taylor was a loyal supporter of Dooly County sports. He will forever be missed.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on December 08, 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 – Rebecca Sutton on behalf of John Law submitted a Variance application for parcel #42-13 currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The Variance is to reduce the front setback from 90 ft from the center of the road to 50 ft. This Variance is for a storage shed to be placed in the yard. Property located at 4884 Pinehurst-Byromville Rd Pinehurst GA 31070.

Request #2 – Corey & Lakesha Daniels have submitted a Conditional Use application for parcel #61-26B currently zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential). The Conditional Use is to allow a Group Home/Reentry Partnership Program to be used in the home on the property. Property located at 704 Roberson Rd, Pinehurst GA 31070.

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.

