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# The News Observer

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

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## Coweta County School Names Field in Honor of Dooly County Native Donny Blackshear

By Lisa Blackshear

In the summer of 1973, Head Coach of the then Vienna High School Vikings Wayne Strickland and Assistant Coach Phillip Jenkins beamed with glee as their superstar quarterback Donny Blackshear signed a full scholarship to play football at Fort Valley State University. Years of hard work, dedication, and the forever presence of his coach and mentor, Coach Harry Ward had paid off. Fast forward 52 years, while Donny is simply known as *Coach* in Newnan, Ga., his real name is cemented in school history with the dedication of Donny Blackshear Field.

After college, Donny began his teaching and coaching career in the 1979-1980 school year as the junior varsity boys' basketball coach at Newnan High School. Donny coached both Varsity Football for 13 seasons at Newnan High School and served as the Head coach of



Honoring the new Donny Blackshear Field.

Photo contributed

**DONNY BLACKSHEAR**  
CONTINUED PG 2A

## Unadilla Mayor-Council Gather for Called Meeting

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The City of Unadilla Mayor and Council met Monday, Nov. 17 for a public hearing on an application that was filed by Chandricka Hamlin to rezone a parcel of land located at 930 Third Street from Residential to Commercial for the purpose of operating a personal care home.

During the open public hearing, Ms. Hamlin said that she would, "Have a nurse on duty that is required by the state." Mayor Myron Mixon stated, "If we rezone it, it can be commercial even though you put it as a rental property or somebody else buys it or you could sell it as a commercial property, they could do whatever they want

**UNADILLA**  
CONTINUED PG 3A

## Commissioners Tap Mrs. Danielle Jefferson as New Dooly County Administrator

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The Board after the Executive Session announced the finalist candidate to take over as county administrator upon the retirement of Mr. Steve Sanders May 1 of next year. She is Danielle Jefferson and according to current county administrator, "(Danielle Jefferson) is currently employed by the City of Thomaston as Director of Human Resources and Government Operations. In compliance with State Law, the board of commissioners must wait at least fourteen days before making the official offer of employment. The Board plans to offer employment to Mrs. Jefferson at their December 4 regular meeting."

The board had received a total of 94 resumes and interviewed five candidates during the search. The water well at the Third District Fire Department collapsed and will need a new well and two proposals were received on that project and commissioners approved a bid of \$12,000 from Taylor Well Drilling, Inc. out of Hawkinsville, Ga. including drilled well, pump and motor.

Dooly County EMA Director Don Wiliford also announced that, "There was a firefighter 101 class last week with six new firefighters that took their tests and

we are pretty sure that all those have passed. I want to thank Braxton Warren for doing the class. So, we will have six new volunteer firefighters coming on board. We do have to purchase turn-out gear which is around \$38,000 and will come out of SPLOST which once the chiefs approved that. Through some partial grants, we hope to bring that down a little bit to \$28,000. The sheriff's department is donating radios and that saved us \$5,000 and I want to thank the sheriff's department.

ACCG Insurance Services submitted a proposal for the First Responder PTSD insurance coverage for next year for volunteer fireman, EMT's, deputies, corner, dispatchers and jailers at the sheriff's department at a cost of \$22,792 with no increase from 2025. Firefighters are also covered for cancer insurance and that renewal will see a slight increase to \$10,869 for next year.

Following a public hearing on a zoning request submitted by Brent Gunter that the zoning at 1298 Campers Haven Road be changed from multi-family residential (R-2) to General Commercial (C-2) to develop a Travel Trailer Park was approved by commissioners. Vivian Thomas, senior member with ENSYNC professional growth consultants, spoke to the board along with other representa-



Photo Contributed

Commissioners name Danielle Jefferson as the new Dooly County Administrator upon the retirement of Mr. Steve Sanders May 1 of next year.

tives of that group about an Assessment of Dooly County. We have found as been declared by different apparatuses within Georgia, as a county, that is in essence a dying county.

Economic development is my specialty and I have done economic development successfully for five years. I want to talk with you about some alternative things

to look at to bring to Dooly County. ENSYNC is designed to bring all the elements that you have like a puzzle to make sure they work together to build a whole picture. Let's look at what you have to offer the world. You have I-75 and you have these opportunities here that we think we can build on and help you build on as well. We're looking at your workforce development and housing.

We're looking at food and making organic food and an ecosystem that feeds back into itself. We're looking into how we can turn a decentralized water system into something that pays you back continuously. Everybody's looking at power because AI and data centers are coming everywhere. You have an asset, land, water, food and these are the things that nobody can live without and placement near I-75."

She also added, "It is possible for us to come here and put a farm to grid ecosystem in your area." The board heard from Glenn Layson, building official and zoning administrator who shared an update on the county's building permit fee schedule in 2026, that will not for the most part, include an increase in costs,

**COUNTY ADMIN.**  
CONTINUED PG 3A

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## Dooly County Celebrates Milestone in Community Safety



Photo by Don Williford

Colby Parker, Jonathan Slocum, Trace Jones, Jackson Smith, Tyrique Driver, Benjamin Moore and Lead Instructor Braxton Warren.

### By EMA Director, Don Williford

Six new volunteers successfully completed the Basic Firefighter 101 training course as Dooly County celebrates a milestone in community safety this past week. The graduation marks the beginning of their service to the county's fire departments and the residents they will protect.

The intensive program introduced recruits to essential firefighting skills, including fire behavior, equipment use, safety procedures and teamwork under pressure. The vol-

unteers dedicated countless hours during months to both classroom instruction and hands-on drills, preparing them to respond to emergencies with confidence and professionalism. Braxton Warren, class instructor praised the graduates, noting that their commitment strengthens the county's ability to respond to fires and other emergencies.

These men have stepped forward to serve their neighbors and that is something worth celebrating. Their courage and dedication will make a real difference in our commu-

nity. The six graduates will now join Dooly County's volunteer fire stations, adding vital manpower to protect homes, businesses and families across the region.

Their achievement reflects not only personal determination, but also the county's ongoing investment in training and preparedness. Our community leaders congratulate the new volunteers and recognize the importance of volunteer service in keeping Dooly County safe.

## Representative Patty Stinson meets with SGTC President



Photo Contributed

State Representative Patty Stinson is shown above talking with SGTC President Dr. John Watford.

### By SGTC

State Representative Patty Stinson of Butler visited South Georgia Technical College and President Dr. John Watford to talk with college officials about current opportunities, challenges, and priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Stinson has served in the Georgia House of Representatives since 2013 and represents District 150. Nearly 60,000 residents reside in her district which includes parts of Sumter, Macon, Dooly, Peach and Taylor Coun-

ties. South Georgia Technical College has a seven-county service area which includes three of the counties in Stinson's district, Sumter, Macon, and Taylor counties.

Rep. Stinson is currently a member of the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Health, Higher Education, Rural Development, Special Committee on Resource Management, and Ways & Means committees. She is also the Vice Chair of the State Planning & Community Affairs committee.

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## DREA Joins in Community Discussion



Contributed- Members of the Dooly Retired Educators Association joined forces recently with parents, students, and stakeholders for a crucial conversation about our schools and community.

## FA Board of Directors Announces New Head of School

### By Dr. Sherrod Williford

Dear Fullington Academy Families and Community, The Board of Directors of Fullington Academy is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Russell Lawley as the new Head of School, effective December 1, 2025. Originally from Selma, Alabama, Russell Lawley boasts an impressive career in education spanning more than 25 years. His journey includes 17 years in educational leadership, complemented by degrees from Auburn University, Albany State University, and Georgia College.

Mr. Lawley is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Russell is committed to excellence both in and out of the classroom. He has been happily married to Tonya Lawley for over three decades. Their son, Corey Lawley, shares a beautiful family with his wife Hollie and their four children: Rilynn, Aubrey, Cannon, and Carter. Outside of work, Russell enjoys weight training and spending quality time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Lawley has expressed his enthusiasm about joining the Fullington family and is eager to work alongside our faculty, staff, students, parents, and community partners to continue building upon the school's proud tradition of excellence. His leadership philosophy centers



on fostering strong relationships, encouraging innovation in the classroom, and ensuring that every student is supported in reaching their full potential.

We are confident that under Mr. Lawley's guidance, Fullington Academy will continue to thrive and uphold the values that have defined our school for generations. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Russell Lawley to the Fullington Academy community. Sincerely, The Fullington Academy Board of Directors.

## FA Middle School Choir Receives Superior Rating



Contributed

Congratulations to our FA Middle School Choir for receiving a Superior rating at the GAPPs (Ga. Association of Private and Parochial Schools) Choral Festival last week. These Seventh graders sang beautifully and represented Fullington Academy extremely well.

## DONNY BLACKSHEAR

### CONTINUED FROM 1A

girls' varsity for 11 years from 1986-1997. He then coached girl's middle school basketball at Central Middle School in 1998 before becoming Head Coach at Smokey Road Middle School. As Head football coach for 15 years, he won eight championship titles and five runner-up titles.

During his overall football coaching tenure from 1979 to 2013, Donny and his teams appeared in 26 playoffs and won a total of 13 championships. He finished the last decade of his career coaching girls' basketball at Smokey Road Middle School from 2013 to 2023 until he retired after 41 years of service.

"In addition to being one of the winningest coaches in our county's history, Coach Blackshear is one of the best teachers to have served Coweta County Schools. He is not only a great coach, but a great human being. He's also been a rock for students, parents, faculty, staff, and the Coweta community for 40+ years," said Corey Searcy, Athletic Director, Coweta County School.

As a Dooly County native, Donny is the son of Elisha Blackshear Sr. and Eunice Mc-



Photo contributed

Donny Blackshear, from a 1973 clipping from the Vienna News when he signed a full, four-year grant-in-aid with Fort Valley State. Looking on were Viking Head Coach Wayne Strickland (right) and Assistant Coach Phillip Jenkins.

Williams Blackshear of Pinehurst, Ga. Nowadays, he is enjoying retirement to the fullest as a father and a fan who now watches football games coached by his son Desmond, who followed in his footsteps as a high school

coach. Whether it was playing or coaching football, basketball, softball, track or soccer, Donny set the bar as high as his motto - "Good, better, best, never let it rest until your good, is better and your better, is best."

### 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 use 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.



# Local Club Teams Up With Wreaths Across America



Contributed

The Vienna Woman's Club just purchased 25 wreaths from Wreaths Across America. Such a wonderful organization. Please consider buying a wreath also. They're \$17 each and you can designate which cemetery to send it to. We chose Andersonville National cemetery because it's close by and it is also the place where we volunteer to place the wreaths.

They do a beautiful service at noon Saturday, Dec. 13 and then you can work alongside other volunteers and lay wreaths. Help them reach their goal to have a wreath on every grave in the cemetery.

Andersonville still needs about 3000 wreaths to be able to fulfill that goal. Contact any club member for more information or visit: <https://wreath-sacrossamerica.org/>.

## UNADILLA

CONTINUED FROM 1A

to with it unless there are some stipulations that are binding."

The rezoning request now goes before the planning and zoning board who will hear any comments or concerns, then the planning and zoning board will make a recommendation to the council. The mayor also commented, "I don't think the mayor and council have any problems, with the stipulation that it stays like it is or it's a rental property, which it is. It can't be anything other than what we're designating it for. In other words, people have to be living there and not selling anything."

The council also adopted the 2025 CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Program) grant documentation pertaining to Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises or (MBE/WBE). "Provisions in CHIP grant programs to promote diversity in contracting and ensure these businesses are

given the opportunity to participate in associated contracts and procurement for services, supplies, and construction."

Also, the Section three plan was approved that, "Requires recipients of HUD funding to direct employment, training, and contracting opportunities to low-income individuals and the businesses that employ these persons within their community."

Also given the OK was the Language Access Plan, "For individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). This plan is a blueprint for providing meaningful access to CHIP services and information in a language the LEP individual can understand." A fundraiser for the Class of 2026 DCHS seniors was also given a green-light in the Unadilla Community Center to defray the cost of the annual senior trip.

## COUNTY ADMIN.

CONTINUED FROM 1A

but a synopsis of additional types of permits to be issued and costs associated. The planning commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 to consider two zoning requests at 4884 Pinehurst-Byromville Road and property located at 704 Roberson Road.

In other news: Upcoming county holidays to be observed are Thanksgiving Day, Nov.

27, Christmas Eve-Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Day-Thurs- day, Dec. 25 and News Years Day-Thurs- day, Jan. 1. The county commissioners meetings for January, 2026 will not be on the first and third Thurs- days due to the first Thursday falling on New Years Day. The board had agreed at an earlier meeting to convene on January 8 and January 22, 2026.

## Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: [thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com](mailto:thenewsobservereditor@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. - 4P.M. 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. (775)

### 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. (775)



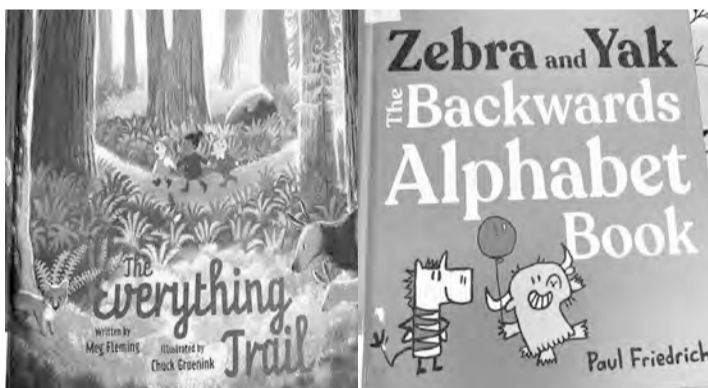
## City of Unadilla's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Parade

Contributed

The City of Unadilla is excited to announce our 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Parade. We would like to take this time to personally invite you to participate in what we believe will be the most exciting Christmas parade our community has seen in years. We hope each of you will take the opportunity to participate in this event and join us as we celebrate the magic of Christmas.

The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. It is free of charge to place an entry in the parade. We are looking for entries of all kinds. Individuals, families, businesses, organizations, churches and schools. We are asking all entries to incorporate the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas theme. We hope to see lots of lights on each entry. If you have questions, please email [ssinyard@cityofunadilla.com](mailto:ssinyard@cityofunadilla.com) or call city hall at 478-627-3022.

## Byromville Public Library's New Books



Contributed

We have two new children's books at Byromville Public Library-The Everything Trail written by Meg Fleming and Illustrated by Chuck Groenink and Zebra and Yak-The Backwards Alphabet Book by Paul Friedrich. For more information, visit the library at 511 Main Street in Byromville, call 478-433-5100 or visit [lbrl.org/byromville](http://lbrl.org/byromville).

## Breakfast With Santa at Byromville UMC

Contributed

Flint RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency), Let's Read Georgia, Byromville United Methodist Church and St. Paul Chapel will bring a special holiday pantry to our neighbors Saturday, Dec. 20 at 9:00 a.m. Bring your little ones for a delightful morning filled

with joy and wonder.

Join us for a festive morning as we share food, joy and community spirit during this Breakfast with Santa event. Children can share their holiday wishes, enjoy a delicious breakfast and revel in the magic of the season. Everyone is welcome.

## Open Hearts of Vienna Closed This Week

By Allison Bowen

We just wanted to let everyone know that Open Hearts Thrift Store, 1404 East Union Street in Vienna we will be closed this week. We will be back after Thanksgiving, Monday, Dec. 1. Happy Thanksgiving.

## School Superintendent's Monthly Message

By Dr. Sherrod Willaford

As we enter the heart of the fall season and Thanksgiving, our word of the month is gratitude. It reminds us to pause and reflect on the many blessings within Dooly County Schools. Gratitude is more than a simple "thank you"; it is a feeling of thankful appreciation for benefits received.

And in our district, we have so much to be grateful for. I am grateful for our students, whose determination and curiosity drive our commitment to student achievement and success for all. Their effort each day reflects the belief that every child can grow, excel, and reach their highest potential. I am grateful for our teachers and staff, who nurture a positive culture and climate through their compassion, professionalism, and dedication. Their continuous learning and willingness to grow embody our belief in staff learning and development as a cornerstone of excellence. I am grateful for our families and community partners, who strengthen our work through their engagement and support.

Your recent engagement in supporting our football, basketball, lady bobcat flag foot-

ball teams, and our DCHS Senior night is a demonstration of how powerful it is when we come together to listen, share, and collaborate. Likewise, the Transcend partner meeting brought together committed educators and community voices to envision innovative learning opportunities for our students. I extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and have supported our Bobcats, your presence truly matters.

And finally, I am grateful for the countless individuals who help ensure we maintain efficient and effective operations, allowing our schools to function smoothly and safely each day.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage each of us to slow down and embrace this season of connection, time with family and friends, moments of reflection, and opportunities to express gratitude for the people and experiences that enrich our lives.

Thank you for your continued support of Dooly County Schools. May this season remind us of the strength we have when we honor and appreciate one another.

# 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**

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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

**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



TIM LEWIS  
Columnist

## In The Garden With POINSETTIA SELECTION AND CARE

Thanksgiving is upon us and now most Americans turn their thoughts to Christmas. This means, for one thing, that it is one month before we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It also means that it is time for poinsettias and an article on their selection and care.

One of the most delightful Christmas decorations is the poinsettia. Few plants are as showy as a bright, well-grown poinsettia. While red is the most popular color (approximately 80% of poinsettias sold are red), a wide range of other colors, including white, pink, marble, burgundy, and speckled, are on the market. Hundreds of varieties are available to growers, but only a handful dominate sales.

I thought it would be helpful once again if I shared with you some of the aspects of selecting a quality poinsettia. If you haven't bought yours yet, following these guidelines will help you be more satisfied with your poinsettia purchase.

First, choose plants with fully colored bracts (the colored leaves). Flowers are actually the yellow centers. Avoid plants on which the flowers are completely open and shedding pollen unless it is well into the month of December. They are past their prime and

may not hold up very long.

Look for plants with dense, plentiful foliage. This is a sign of a healthy plant. Also, beware of swarming whiteflies (the major pest of the poinsettia) as you move the leaves of the plant. It is best to avoid such insect-infested plants.

Proper proportion of plant height and shape relative to container size is important to an aesthetically pleasing poinsettia. Plants should be round in shape when viewed from above and should appear balanced, full, and attractive from all sides. Generally, the height of the poinsettia plant and pot together should be no more than about two and one-half times the diameter of the pot (e.g., about 23-25 inches for a 10-inch pot or 20 inches for an 8-inch pot).

Select plants with strong, stiff stems, and erect bracts that show no signs of wilting, breaking, or drooping. Bewary of plants still in plastic or paper sleeves or jammed up tight against other plants in a sales display. Crowding can cause bract breakage and other problems. Poinsettias need space for air circulation. If the plant looks wilted and the soil is moist, that is a tell-tale sign of root rot (unless it has just recently been watered). Don't buy that one!

When transporting the plant, protect it from chilling winds and temperatures below 50 degrees. Poinsettias are very susceptible to drafts-hot or cold-and will not tolerate them.

Here are some dos and don'ts of poinsettia care:

DO place your plant where it can receive indirect sunlight for several hours a day (the more light and brighter the light the better).

DO provide room temperatures of between 65 and 70 degrees F if possible. Poinsettias will last longer if kept on the cool side and the color of the bracts will be enhanced as well.

DO water your plant when (and only when) its soil feels dry to the touch an inch or two into the soil.

DON'T place plants near cold drafts, heater vents, or fireplaces.

DON'T expose plants to outside temperatures below 50 degrees. Being natives of Mexico, poinsettias like it warm!

DON'T over water your plant or allow it to sit in standing water. Always allow the excess irrigation water to drain completely through the bottom of the pot.

DON'T fertilize your plant when it is in bloom. Wait until after the blooming season.

I hope these pointers have been helpful. Enjoy your poinsettias this Christmas!

*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 A FEW MORE GOOD LINES

While I was writing "A Few Good Lines," other sayings came to mind. Today's selections don't have a common theme. They're just an assortment of random things.

John Offenber, one of Unadilla's finest, has enough good lines to fill a column. One of my favorites is from several years back. Our paths had not crossed in a while, which John cleverly acknowledged. "Neil," he said with a big grin, "I haven't seen you since Moby Dick was a minnow."

Marian Bowen had a good line for almost any situation. "The best way to become a sweet old lady," she would say, "is to be a sweet young lady." Another of her sayings also applied to behavior. "You couldn't please him with a pleasing stick," she'd opine. My wife sometimes pretends she's looking for a pleasing stick. I have no idea why.

Audrey Bowen, one of Daddy's sisters, had a lot of worthwhile sayings. One of them was, "Nobody ever plans to become an alcoholic." It's thought provoking, plus the last

word can be omitted for playing fill in the blank. Another bit of her sage advice was, "It's only a bargain if you need it." I should have that inscribed on my wallet. About six months ago I bought a battery operated tiller because it was a deal. So far I've spent more time putting it together than tilling.

The word "tiller" reminded me of a story my father enjoyed sharing. It's off topic but I enjoy side roads. Daddy would tell about a man who married a lady named Tillie. She died and he married her twin sister Millie. Millie died and was buried near Tillie, separated by a space reserved for their husband.

As the grieving man stood beside Millie's coffin, he whispered to the undertaker. "When I die," he said, "bury me between Millie and Tillie, but lean me just a little bit toward Tillie."

Daddy had a few good lines he heard from his father which he passed down. One was, "Never date a girl you'd be ashamed to marry." Another was, "If someone cusses a lot while they're working, they

may not know what they're doing."

Cooper Taylor, a longtime friend, has the same jolly outlook at age 94 as when we met 45 years ago. He sold credit life insurance to banks all over Georgia and would stop by Bank of Dooly several times each year. I knew Cooper for a decade or so before meeting his lovely wife at a bank convention.

"This is my first wife, Lib," he said to Jane and me with a big grin and no explanation. Several conventions passed with similar greetings. "You all remember my first wife, Lib," he would cheerfully say. We finally learned that Lib was his one and only, which is proof of her exceptional patience.

A few months ago Cooper and I did some catching up over the phone. When I asked how his first wife is doing, he said, "Lib's doing great! The only problem Lib has is who she's married to."

It's easy to lose touch with old friends, but good lines they've shared come to mind now and then. Lines first heard in early spring are treasured more in winter, warm reminders of friends not seen since Moby Dick was just a minnow.

joinerscorner.com

neiljoiner@gmail.com



BILLY POWELL  
Columnist

## Parables To Ponder A THANKSGIVING STORY

On Thanksgiving morning many years ago, I was a young teenager riding my bicycle through Perry's streets. Traveling down the road that leaves downtown and heads towards Hawkinsville, I noticed a middle-aged man hitchhiking. He was shabbily dressed, had a thick beard, and appeared to be a vagrant passing through town. I felt sorry for the man and stopped to talk with him. He told me he was down on his luck and had hitchhiked all the way from Tennessee. He was heading to his sister's home in Florida where he hoped to find work. Since I knew mother was preparing a scrumptious Thanksgiving dinner, I asked him if he wanted something to eat, to which he replied affirmatively.

I raced home and asked mother if she would put together some turkey, dressing, vegetables, dessert and tea for me to carry to the man. Mother obliged and I carried the food back to the man, waiting for me at roadside. He took the food and sat down on the curb-

ing to eat. He removed his hat and asked me if I would say the blessing. I said a short one to which he responded "Amen." I sat there and watched him eat. He obviously hadn't eaten well in several days as he literally devoured the food.

When he finished and handed me the picnic basket to take back home, he said something that I will never forget. He remarked, "Young man, I once was married and had a family. We looked forward to spending Thanksgiving together. I had a successful job and was doing well, but something happened in my life. My wife started running around with another man behind my back and took the kids away from me. I started to hit the bottle and before too long, I had lost my job. I have been in jail several times, and my life has gone to pot. Although my wife left me, I should have pulled my life together and begun counting my blessings instead of my troubles. I am going to my sister's to stay with her for a while, and I hope I can get back on my

feet." As he walked away to resume hitchhiking, he turned and said with a pointed finger, "Don't let this happen to you. Stay positive about life and don't let bad turns in the road get you down." I rode away on my bike. He waved goodbye and I reciprocated.

Indeed, we should count our blessings and not our problems...our gains and not our losses...our joys instead of our woes...our friends instead of our foes...our smiles and not our tears...our courage and not our fears...our full years and not our lean years...our kind deeds and not our misdeeds...our health and not our wealth. And finally, count on God instead of ourselves.

I close with the familiar verses of the 100th Psalm, which is so fitting for the Thanksgiving season: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

## Georgia economy suffers from lack of financial aid for low-income students, advocates argue

By Ty Tagami, Bureau Chief  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Nearly every state in the country gives college students financial aid based on financial need.

Georgia is among the two that do not.

Advocates who want to see that changed contend the policy is harming the economy by reducing the number of college students who earn a degree after suffering academic setbacks, and by driving high school graduates to attend college in other states, forever forsaking Georgia.

Georgia has a lottery-funded

scholarship, but HOPE is distributed based on academic performance in high school rather than financial need, and students lose the scholarship if their college grade point average drops too far.

That is what happened to Jordan Winfrey, a Kennesaw State University student who testified at a legislative hearing Thursday about the affordability of higher education.

Winfrey wants to be a nurse, in a state that needs more of them, but she struggled with chemistry. Her grade point average fell, she lost HOPE and now, a junior, she works 30 hours a week to cover the loss.

She has been trying to improve her grades and recover HOPE but has found that difficult while holding a job.

"If I were able to work fewer hours, I'd be able to focus more on my classes and see my grades improve," said Winfrey, a native Georgian and the first in her family to attend college.

She said all her friends are struggling too, with some dropping out to work.

Taylor Ramsey, executive director of One Goal, which helps students like Winfrey, said fewer than half of high school students qualify for HOPE, and more than 40% who do wind up losing it in



DR. LANIER  
ROBERTS  
Columnist

## Writings From The Heart A MAN WITH AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT

Boy could the world use many more people now-a-days just like the person I'm writing about today. In the book of Daniel chapter 6 is an excellent account of a man with an excellent spirit. Who was that man? Would y'all like to know? His name is DANIEL. There was a new king named Darius over a kingdom with 120 provinces and he had 120 satraps and 3 governors (Daniel was one of

those governors) helping to rule his kingdom. He thought highly of Daniel because he had proven himself to be very honest and faithful and had an EXCELLENT spirit so the king was thinking about promoting Daniel top governor over the whole kingdom so the king would be the only one above Daniel. Of course, the jealous and evil other leaders, who didn't have excellent spirits,

heard what the king planned to do concerning Daniel, they went to plotting their evil plan. Long story short. They had Daniel thrown into a den of lions (what had y'all rather have happen to you if you had to make a choice, thrown into a Lion's Den or into a Den of Lions? Give me the lion's den, it's possible it could be empty, but a den of lions is full of lions!), but the Lord, who Daniel served faithfully and continually, closed the mouths of the lions and Daniel lived happily the rest of his life because he had an excellent. Do we have one? It's possible. Let's live like Daniel. Okay.

May the good Lord bless you and keep you all the rest of your lives. Until next time.

## Dear Deputy Tyser, (Matt Tyser is the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the Ga. Secretary of State's Office.)

By Patty-Marie Stinson  
Georgia State  
Representative HD 150

I am writing to formally request action to ensure fairness and transparency in the upcoming Run-Off Election in Dooly County. Following the recent General Election, my office was contacted by several constituents who expressed concerns about the election process. One issue in particular is deeply troubling: under the direction of the Elections Supervisor, the Election Board has not been present during the opening of absentee ballots. Constituents report that the Elections Supervisor has been handling these ballots without oversight, raising serious questions about accountability and compliance with election law.

college, falling into a downward spiral like Winfrey, "when we pull the rug from under them and take away that financial aid."

It affects everyone, said Ray Li, a lawyer with Legal Defense Fund, a racial justice group. It drives up student debt, creating a drag on the economy when graduates must pay back loans instead of, say, buying a house. Georgia has one of the highest average college loan debt rates in the country, he said.

And the lack of financial aid for low-income families is driving a "brain drain," he said, as talented students choose college in other states that will give them "needs-based" financial aid "because it

In advance of the run-off, I attempted multiple times to meet with the Dooly County Board of Elections to discuss these concerns. Unfortunately, each request was declined, with the Board indicating they would only meet after the run-off election. This approach denies the opportunity to address accountability before ballots are cast and counted, and undermines public confidence in the integrity of the election.

Fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. Every voter must have confidence that their ballot is handled properly, securely, and in accordance with the law. Oversight during the absentee ballot process is not optional — it is essential to maintaining trust in the electoral system.

Therefore, I respectfully re-

quest that the Georgia Secretary of State Elections Division assign a representative to be present during the handling of absentee ballots in Dooly County or otherwise intervene to ensure the Board of Elections understands the seriousness of these complaints. Immediate action is necessary to safeguard the integrity of the upcoming run-off election and to reassure voters that their voices will be heard fairly.

Sincerely,

Patty-Marie Stinson  
Georgia State Representative  
HD 150

*In response: Thank you for your email Representative. I will address this immediately with our team. Thanks, Matthew Tyser, Deputy Secretary of State.*

of the committee studying college affordability. He suggested another course: consider making it easier for students to recover HOPE after their grades drop too far.

"Good students have challenges especially in that first year or that second year," said Burns, chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee and a former President of Gordon State College in Barnesville.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, a Republican running for governor, authorized the study committee. Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who leads it, said her panel will write formal recommendations after its next and final hearing Dec. 2.

The News Observer

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# School Board Recognizes DCMS Region Championship Football Team

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Middle School football team won this year's 2025 region championship in the South Georgia Athletic Conference this with a record of 5-1. Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford said, "I watched our student athletes in their sportsmanship throughout the season, fight and their growth. I want to commend the coaches, the parents for supporting them and not giving up. On behalf of the board of education, we just want to recognize our students. This group that won the region championship middle worked together and stayed together and we're going see some championships on the other side."

The board approved a contract between the school system and ABM Janitorial Services at Dooly County K-8 Academy, Dooly County High School and Dooly County Prep Academy with funding provided by the general fund. Head Coach Marcus Bryant and his assis-



The Dooly County Middle School football team was recognized by the Dooly County Board of Education for winning the 2025 region championship in the South Georgia Athletic Conference.



Five-year-old Anthony Lowe, a kindergarten student from Ms. Trejo's who called the school board meeting to order. Also pictured is School board Chair Sherri Taylor.

tant coaches were all recognized as well as Dooly County K-8 Academy Athletic Director Chanin Hamilton.

Officials announced the retirement of Mrs. Holly Black as school system Chief Academic Officer effective November 30 and also accepted the resignation of Eighth Grade Science Teacher Bruce Foster effective immediately. The school board also approved the trans-

fers of Jabria Collier from high school U.S. History Teacher to middle school eighth grade science teacher. Keshia Douglas who was the Federal Programs Director will be moving to her new position as Interim Chief Academic Officer.

Josephine Pate who was student service director will be the Interim Executive Director of Teaching and Learning with these transfers and reorgani-

zations effective December 1, 2025. The board adopted the regulations for field trips and excursions with an update to, "Insure fair and specific procedures across the district as it relates to field trips and excursions with considerations for instructional time, transportation and supervision, etc."

Chief Financial Officer Mr. Christopher Stephens reported on the first collection of the

SPLIST VI for the month of October the school system received \$147,177. Officials OK'd the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Calendar which is the first step in the annual budget development process. The school board meeting was called to order by five-year-old Anthony Lowe, a kindergarten student from Ms. Trejo's class. He enjoys both reading and math and

aspires to become a firefighter when he grows up.

Photo by Conshelloah Clayton The Dooly County Middle School football team was recognized by the Dooly County Board of Education for winning the 2025 region championship in the South Georgia Athletic Conference.

## Trojans Start Season 1-2, "But Looking to Just Develop More Each Game."

By Head Coach

James Martin

This past week, we played three games and first traveled to Jeffersonville, Ga. to take on Twiggs Academy last Tuesday and it was our first road contest of the season we ended up winning by 23, 55-32. We didn't play incredibly well and shot pretty bad, but we did make the plays we needed to make.

It was our first game, so we'll have to work out some kinks, it's going to take a few weeks because we haven't practiced very much because of football, but we ended up with the victory which was good and started off the season with a win.

Then we hosted the Wonder Five Tournament here at Fullington Academy and a bunch of teams came out for that. There was Citizens Christian, Trinity, Rock Springs, TiftArea, so it was a small tournament, but a good one. We played two games, playing Rock Springs out of Milner, Ga. last Thursday.

We were missing our big post player and main scorer Garlan Godfrey who participated in an All-Star football game for GIAA and it showed. He's kind of our leader, our calming player and keeps them going and we got behind early and we just never came back and we ended up losing by 49-points, 68-19, so that wasn't very enjoyable. We did learn a lot from that game and what we needed to work on,



Photo by Bonnie Hoesler

Fullington Academy Senior Garlan Godfrey, who according to Coach Martin is, "Our leader, our calming player."

so the fact that we had not been able to practice very much was a contributing factor.

We played Friday against Trinity Christian who is a fast paced team, good guards and really a pretty good team. We were back and forth at first and then they ended up pulling away and we ended up losing by 19, 52-33, but this game was much more beneficial for us. We played well, played hard and in the end, they just had a little more talent than we did because they've played together for so many

years. We came out of that game with a very positive outlook though and excited to play more games. We played Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 24 and Nov. 25, first against Terrell Academy Monday and then we played Tuesday against Lakeside School, a team out of Alabama.

So, we're pretty excited where we are and we are looking to just develop more each game and get more practice in and look forward to the rest of the season.

## Lady Trojans Head into Thanksgiving Break with Victory over TiftArea

By Head Coach Van Bailey

I was excited to get the season started with a bang last week playing three games. We traveled last Tuesday up to Jeffersonville, Ga. and Twiggs Academy to take on their Lady Trojans and came out playing very well. The team was looking for the open girl and taking good shots. I thought we were very disciplined on defense, we disrupted them a good bit. We were able to get to the 'rack' on their defense and run the floor really well. In the first and second quarters, we outscored them 11-5 and 22-12 to take a 32-17 lead. Came back out in the second half and we got a little undisciplined on defense and the fouls mounted up on us in the hurry.

The second half, the foul count was 18-2 before they started intentionally fouling us. The fouls allowed them to get back in the game a little bit. We stayed up about 10-points with a minute to go and just didn't knock down a couple of free throws down at the end and they hit a couple of late three-pointers to close the game within four points, but we held on to win 54-50. We were led in scoring by Claire Shugart with 19-points. Also, Kade Vaughan got her career high of 11. I thought we did well on the boards out rebounding them 51-42.

Olivia Cawthon had nine rebounds, Claire Shugart had 12 to get her a double-double to go with her 19-points. Kade Vaughan had eight rebounds as well. Thursday night, we had a



Photo by Bonnie Hoesler #15 Fullington Academy Sophomore Claire Shugart

lot of work cut out for us with Trinity Christian Academy who is one of the odds on favorites to win AA for our Centennial Wonder Five Tournament that we hosted at Fullington.

They beat us last year by 15 in their place. They only graduated one girl, so we knew it was a tough one and we were missing a couple of our major players that were 'cheering' in the All-Star football game. We came out on our heels and Trinity knew we were young and had new people in place and did a great job on defense completely taking us out of our game. They jumped out 25-5 in the first quarter, extending that to 45-9 at halftime with excellent shooting. They hit a stretch where their first 12 shots, they made 11 from the field, four of those being three-pointers, executing their defense and took us out of our offense completely.

Second half, we settled down a little bit and we played much

better, but we ended up losing this one 71-16, but it was a great experience for our young girls to see the kind of basketball that we're striving to be. We were led in scoring by Carli Gibson and Evelyn Fletcher. Friday night, we hosted AAA TiftArea and much like us, they've got a younger team learning their way. We came out a little sluggish from the night before, got behind early 10-8 in the first quarter, settled down in the second quarter and started playing our basketball. You could see us growing on the floor and good to have our full force back.

We went into half with a 18-14 lead, came out the second half extending the lead in both quarters pulling ahead at one point by 12. The fourth quarter was the best quarters we've played so far outscoring them 18-13 and the most impressive part, we had an eight point lead with a minute-and-a-half left in the game and we ran the shot clock down everytime, taking shots under 10 seconds and taking what we learned at Twiggs and implemented it on the floor and held on to win this game 43-35.

We were led by Carli Gibson with her career high 16-points and on the boards, we were led by Evelyn Fletcher had seven and Rylee Reed and six rebounds and it was good to have Rylee and McKinley Causey back and played our best ball this week and looking for improvement every game, grow up so fast and take care of the basketball and run the clock with the lead.

After the holiday, we'll host the Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School Tuesday, Dec. 2 and then we host John Hancock Academy Friday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and we're looking forward to getting back out on the floor and seeing these young girls grow.

## Lady Bobcats Fall Short Versus Peach County



By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Dooly County's girls were locked in a defensive battle with Peach County on the road last Tuesday, but lost a region tournament flag football game 13-7 to the Lady Trojans. During the season, Cherish Sutton had been averaging around 25-yards rushing and 44 yards

passing each contest.

Ja'Kayla Hooks also was integral to the success of Dooly County averaging 44 receiving yards offensively and on defense, had been contributing with three tackles per game. The Lady Bobcats at press-time had a record of 6-9 overall and 2-5 or sixth in Division III-Area III flag football.

## Dooly County Opens Basketball Season on the Road

Contributed

Both Dooly County teams will be on the road to open the season against the Webster County Bobcats Tuesday, Dec. 2 with the girls game to tip-off at 6:00 p.m. and the boys game to follow as these four teams battle it out.

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# Happy Thanksgiving Dooly County

## Grateful Hearts, Helping Hands



**Contributed**

We're so proud of our Dooly County K-8 Academy students who collected nearly 200 canned goods this Thanksgiving season. These donations

will help local families in need through First Baptist Church of Vienna.

A huge thank you to Ms. Freda Small and Mrs. Kay Gilmore for guiding our students through this meaningful project. Our

students learned that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our community. Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Dooly County K-8 Academy.

## Pumpkin Pie Is The Classic Holiday Dessert

*Pumpkin Pie: Serves 8 for one 9-inch pie*

**For the crust:**

1 cup butter, cold and cubed  
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra as needed

1 1/2 tablespoons maple sugar  
1 pinch salt  
1 medium egg, lightly beaten  
2 teaspoons white vinegar  
2 to 3 tablespoons iced water

**For the filling:**

1 small pumpkin, halved, seeded and cored  
2 large eggs  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup maple sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1 pinch ground nutmeg  
1 pinch ground cloves  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
1 cup heavy cream

1. For the crust: Combine the butter, flour, maple sugar, and salt in a food processor. Pulse until the mixture resembles rough breadcrumbs.

2. Add the egg, vinegar and 1 tablespoon iced water. Pulse until the dough starts to form around the blades; add more water as needed if too dry, or a little more flour if too wet.

3. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and shape into a disc. Wrap in parchment paper and chill for at least 1 hour.

4. For the filling: Preheat the oven to 400 F. Place the pumpkin halves flesh-side down on a large baking sheet.

5. Roast for 30 to 40 minutes until the flesh is tender to the tip of a knife. Remove from the oven and let cool to one side.

6. Once the pumpkin is cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh into a bowl and mash well until smooth.

7. Beat the eggs with the flour, maple sugar and ground spices in a large mixing bowl until pale and thick, about 3 minutes.

8. Gradually beat in 1 1/2 cups of the pumpkin mash followed by the maple syrup and cream

until fully incorporated.  
9. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface into a large round approximately 1/3-inch thick.

10. Drape into a 9-inch pie dish, pressing well into the base and sides. Cut away any excess pastry before crimping the edges with your fingers.

11. Gently prick the base all over with a fork before slowly pouring the filling into the lined pastry.

12. Bake for 20 minutes before reducing the oven to 350 F. Bake for a further 40 to 50 minutes until the filling is set and starting to come away from the edges of the pastry; a knife should come out clean from the center.

13. When ready, remove from the oven to a cooling rack. Let cool completely before serving.

Tip: If preparing in advance before serving, let the pie cool completely before wrapping in plastic wrap and chilling.

**happy THANKSGIVING**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for our businesses, friends, colleagues and community. May this festive season be full of laughter and celebrations, feasts and festivities for you and your loved ones.

**Dooly County Chamber**  
P.O. Box 308 - Vienna, GA 31092  
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We are blessed and thankful for our citizens and businesses in Vienna. May you all have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

from our community

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**Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours**

Reminding everyone to drive safe this holiday as we travel to see family & friends.

**Thankful GRATEFUL Blessed**

What a great time to let our residents know how thankful we are for you and hope this Thanksgiving is blessed for all.

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# Happy Thanksgiving

## From Our Family to Yours

### Vienna Church of God Reaching Out to the Community to Feed the Hungry



By Pastor Scott Bryant

Help feed those who are hungry and meet the urgent needs of hunger in our local community. We may not be able to reach everyone but reach those you can. Let's all feed one. There are many people that are hungry as many people are looking for their next meal and are in need, while we're planning our holidays.

In years past at our local church, we had put together food boxes for families and a Thanksgiving meal and that's great. However, I wanted to do something different this year and reach our community and help those who are in need and not just for the holidays, but maybe a need for their next meal.

When I spoke to the local food pantry, I asked them what they were in need of. They specifically asked for canned meat because a lot of the people who are hungry and looking for their next meal sometimes are homeless, or they have a home and do not have appliances that work.

Maybe they're not able to afford electricity, but they have a home. So, the local food pantry gave me several ideas like canned ham, chicken breast in a can, a three-pack of tuna, and canned salmon. Chunky soups and the food pantry specifically asked for those because they contain meat and the vegetables and that's a full meal in a can for people that might be able to warm it up, or heat it up like we would.

Their goal is that each person that arrives at the food pantry would leave with at least three complete meals that they can fix and they have even given them instructions on how to make an easy pot pie, or how to make some other simple things.

So this year, in lieu of us coming together with 12 boxes to give away to 12 families, what if we were to come together and we would fill the food pantry, so they can 'fill' many families? I'm going to be doing this up until Christmas and even after Christmas if you would like to, because Christmas Time



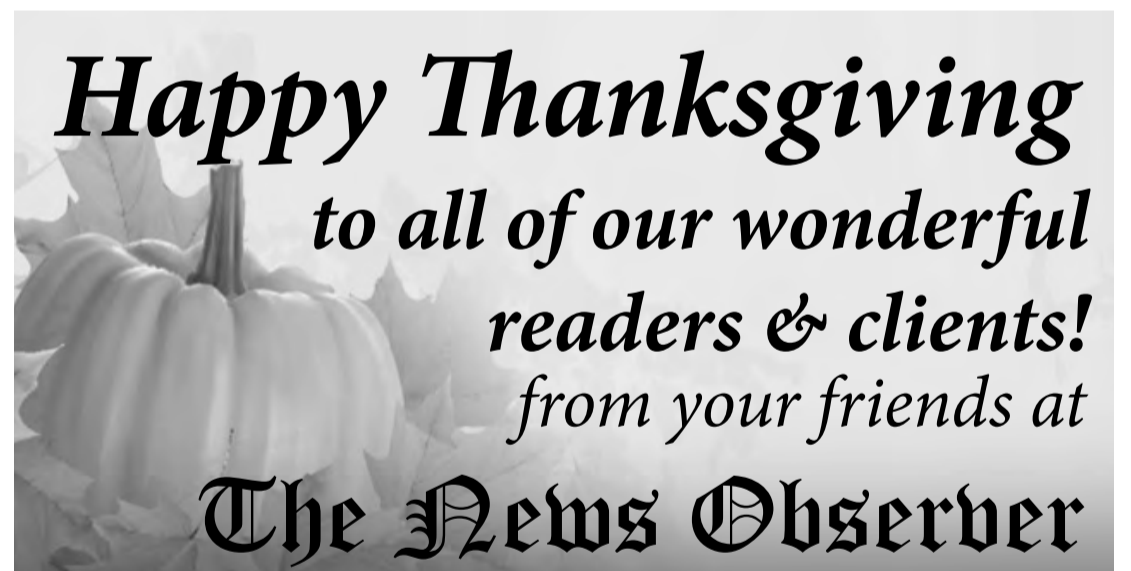
comes doesn't mean that the need is over with.

If we really want to affect our community and do something to help people in need, why not do what the community resources are asking us to do and not just what makes us feel good. If you would like to do this, please get in touch with us.

You can drop it off at Vienna Church of God, at the Hand of Hope so if you get in touch with me, or bring them with you, we

will get them in the appropriate places. I want to meet the need and I want people's bellies to be full and not be hungry if I can do that. Jesus said, "If we even give a cup of water in his name we'll be blessed." I want the blessings of God, but more so, I want to share the love of God. God bless you.

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ViennaCOG93/>, email: [viennacog@gmail.com](mailto:viennacog@gmail.com), or go by Vienna Church of God at 420 Sixth Street in Vienna, Ga.



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C	S	N	A	I	D	N	I	I	I	U	S	L	U
Y	N	O	L	O	C	R	T	E	A	A	O	L	F
F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S	S	E	R	B	A	F
Z	S	Y	C	H	A	D	H	F	T	E	T	F	I
A	L	K	T	V	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	N
M	G	A	E	I	L	I	P	B	R	A	H	E	G
E	G	L	I	I	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	N	F
R	Z	I	D	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	S	N	M
I	N	A	M	A	I	Z	E	R	V	K	I	I	D
C	Y	R	E	W	O	L	F	Y	A	M	G	D	R
A	A	T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
S	Z	T	U	R	K	E	Y	Y	L	I	M	A	F

HOLIDAY  
BERRY  
AMERICA  
TURKEY  
NOVEMBER  
FEATHERS  
FEAST  
GATHERING

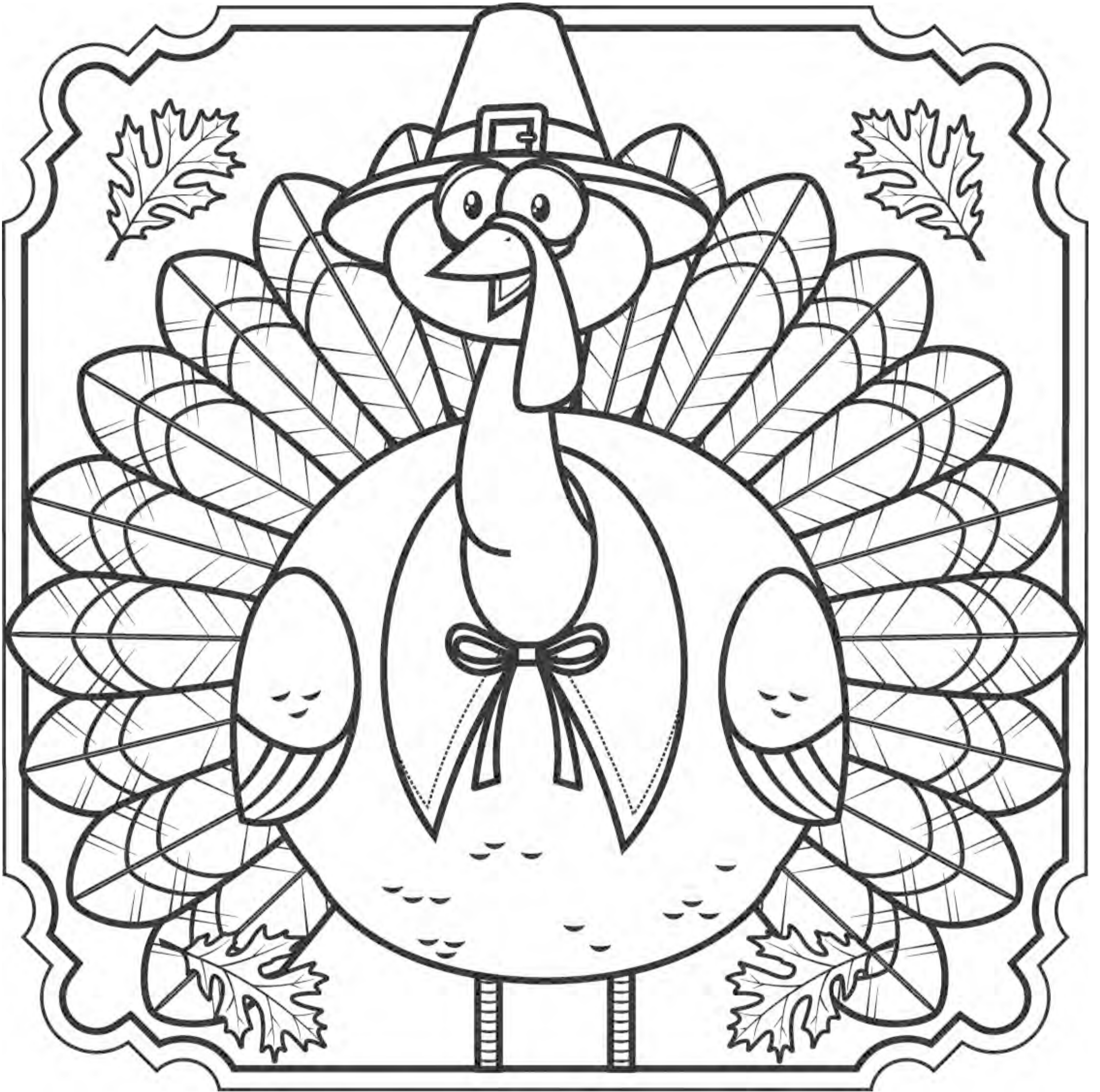
THANKSGIVING  
STUFFING  
GRATITUDE  
MAIZE  
PIES  
FAMILY  
MAYFLOWER  
FRIENDS

DINNER  
PUMPKIN  
INDIANS  
SQUASH  
TRAVEL  
PILGRIMS  
COLONY  
FALL



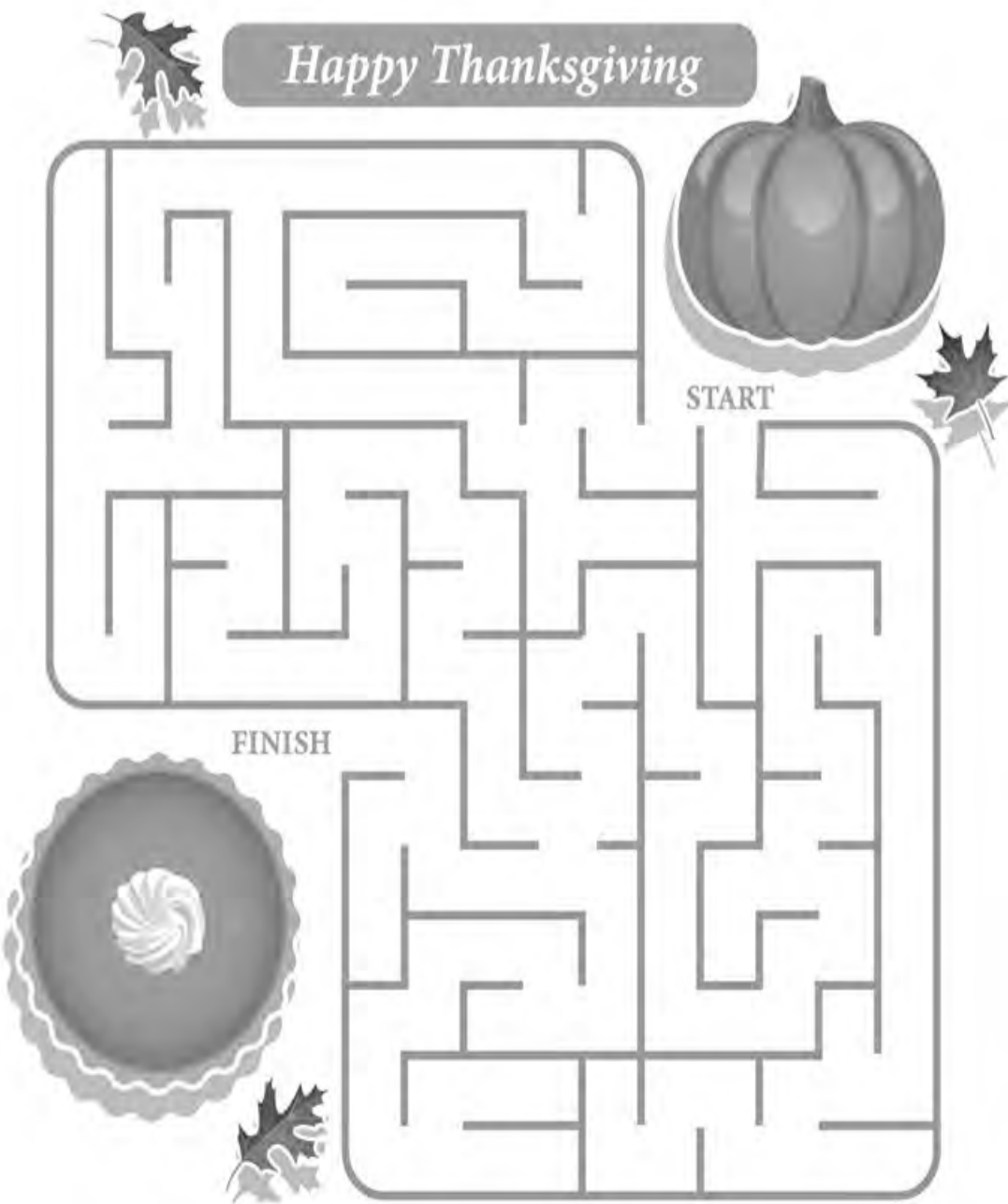
# Happy Thanksgiving

## From Our Family to Yours



Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy a moment of coloring and puzzle working.

Happy Thanksgiving



L \_ \_ \_



B \_ \_ \_



R \_ \_ \_



A \_ \_ \_



C \_ \_ \_



P \_ \_



**BN**

**BRANNEN-NE SMITH**  
FUNERAL HOMES

**THANKSGIVING**  
*is a time to remember our blessings and make good cheer with all those who are so dear!*

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229-268-2311

1121 Borum St.  
Unadilla, GA 31091  
478-627-3094

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*Thank you for wrapping Café 41 in such warm community support since day one.*

*May your holiday season be joyful, heartwarming, and delicious—because there's no better time to espresso your holiday spirit with cookies that are snow-good!*

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Wishing Everyone A Blessed

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*happy Thanksgiving*

Wishing you and your family many blessings.  
Happy Thanksgiving Day!

*Have a Blessed*

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Vienna / Cordele

**Abundant Thanks** *from the*

**DOOLY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

At Thanksgiving, our hearts are filled with gratitude for friends and family like you!  
We are thankful for our staff and officers who keep our communities safe.

Sheriff  
Craig Peavy

576 Pinehurst Hawkinsville Road  
Pinehurst, GA 31070  
(229) 645-0920  
[www.doolycountysheriff.org](http://www.doolycountysheriff.org)