

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, DECEMBER 18, 2025

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First Christmas Stroll in Vienna, Big Success

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Holiday Stroll in 2025 was sponsored by the Vienna Game Changers, "Who brought back the holiday stroll in town with booths and Christmas spirit." Participants started the holiday experience at the Ole Vienna Hardware where they could shop at a variety of, "Charming booths filled with seasonal goodies and a chance to win a door prize," and enjoy hot chocolate and cider. Other exciting activities included Big Bows for your Christmas tree or mailbox and baked goods by Chelsea. The Twisted Lemon.

Joy Eubanks delighted the children with holiday face painting along with children's ornaments by 2 Mamas and a Pallet. Els Rombaut featured Belgian and European Chocolates with combined gifts for the holidays.

She said, "The ole Vienna Hardware downtown was changed into a wonderful area where people could meet and shop for Christmas. The Game Changers who organized the



Photo By Tim Franzén
Fruits of Vienna.

event didn't expect that big of a crowd. All of the small businesses participated and some of the people attending received door prizes. Next year, the event will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 because of the success and friendly people that attended this year's spirit and the great ambiance."

Shat'arra Lundy provided beverages and baked goods and Deelish by Tish Key Sneed offered baked cakes along with

Kimberly Little. There were art booths by Chelsea Parson, Amy Leverett and Glass Art such as angels and birdbaths created by Betty Farmer.

Painted shells by Sandy Warbington and pocket books by Gloria Alexander with purses for events along with Annalee

CHRISTMAS STROLL CONTINUED PG 5A

Unadilla 2025 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Parade Brings Holiday Cheer to Community



Photo By Tim Franzén

City of Unadilla public works truck with snow machine.



Photo By Tim Franzén

Grand Marshal for the parade- Ms. Alice West as the community celebrates her 100-years of life.

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Unadilla traditionally is the only host for a Christmas parade in Dooly County and this year's was held at night to accentuate the holiday spirit through the use of festive lit floats and decorations on vehicles. Dooly County Sheriff Craig Peavy led off the event with an escort along with Captain Chase McNeese that was followed by the high school color guard from the JROTC program.

Alice West was the grand marshal for this year's parade. She is a life-long resident of Unadilla and the community this year is celebrating her 100 years of life and is a 'proud community member.' The Mayor Myron

Mixon and other members of the family were featured in his vintage car.

The Dooly County Community Booster Club who helps with fundraisers for the athletic program with Grinch waving to the crowd. Others who got into the holiday spirit were Hezzy's Construction, the Lamberth family with People's Propane in Byromville, Councilman Willie Young and the Al Sihah Shriners who always delight the crowd driving their mini-vehicles. Youth Mayor Kaleb Green represented unity of all the county's municipalities by representing the City of Vienna along with the traditional float entered by the City of Unadilla. The Dooly County High School Robot Cars, Mendoza Demo-



Photo By Tim Franzén

Mayor Myron Mixon, wife Faye and family in a vintage vehicle.



Photo By Tim Franzén

Unadilla First Baptist Church float

lition Group and as always, Rhonda and Julianne Bartlett with Elizabeth Harris Library were in attendance and are involved in the community.

Unadilla Baptist Church, who always participates in a host of community events, entered their traditional float as it was lit in the holiday spirit of the

season. A number of farm implements strung with holiday

UNADILLA PARADE CONTINUED PG 5A



Castonio Lucas Completes Chief Executive Training

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Vienna Council meeting last Monday featured an announcement made by City Administrator Michael Bowers of Police Chief, "Lucas' completion of 60 hours of the executive training program. We congratulate him on completing that step." Mayor Eddie Daniels also responded, "We would like to commend the chief for completing those hours of training and obtaining his certificate."

The council, following a recommendation by Councilman Albert King, Sr. will be considering the possibility of renaming the Oakdale Community Center on Suwannee Street in honor of Ms. Evelyn Smith who was at the center for over 30 years.

Also discussed was Georgia Power and improving the street lights in the city, but it was determined that there is no timetable for completion of that project.

Dooly County Library to Host, "Very Special Person"

By Library Manager Jill Klobberdanz

A very special person is going to be at the Dooly County Library Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 10:00 a.m. Can you guess who? Hint, he's very busy this time of year.

Cordele Resident Found Dead- No Indication of Foul Play

By Cordele PD

Officers with the Cordele Police Department responded to a call last Tuesday, Dec. 9 around 12 Noon to the 300 block of East Ninth Avenue, where an adult male was discovered deceased. At this time, the cause of death remains undetermined. However, based on the information currently available, there is no indication of foul

play. The investigation is ongoing, and we will provide updates as more information becomes available.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Cordele Fire Department, Crisp County EMS, Crisp County Coroner's Office, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Crisp County Sheriff's Office for their prompt assistance and coordinated efforts at the scene.

Vienna Game Changers December Business of the Month is The District Barber Shop



The District Barber Shop Owner Aaron Gracia.

Photo by Janet Joiner

By Owner Aaron Gracia
My barbering business has become more than just a place to cut hair, it's become a home where the people of Vienna, Georgia have helped me grow into the man and professional I am today. This community has welcomed me with open arms, and I'm grateful every day for

the trust they place in me. As a Christian and a barber, I believe in serving everyone who sits in my chair, no matter their color, background, or story because everyone deserves to feel seen, valued, and cared for. Vienna may be a small, old-school town, but it's filled with good people and a spirit worth building on.

My dream is to help this city grow, to bring new life and modern touches while still honoring the roots that make it special. Vienna has poured into me, and I want to pour right back into it, helping our community move forward together, one haircut and one connection at a time.

DCRD Thanks UGA for G-HOP Donation



Photo Contributed

Dexter Sutton, DCRD Director Joe Willis, Pam Collins and Cecil King, rec. department intern from DCHS.

By Director Joe Willis
We would like to give a huge thank you to University of Georgia G-High Obesity Program (G-HOP) for their generous in-kind donation of con-

cession stand equipment. This substantial gift will significantly enhance our department's capabilities and greatly contribute to our concession stand during our games for the kids, parents and

fans. G-HOP is a CDC-funded initiative run through UGA Extension, working with rural Ga. counties like Dooly to combat high obesity rates by increasing healthy food access and physical activity, focusing on community-led solutions for healthier living and playing with the current funding cycle running through 2028.

DCRD Grant Funding Making Measurable Improvements

By Tim Franzén, News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Recreation Department board recently and Director Joe Willis announced some of the grants that have been awarded, "The first two that came in were from the Atlanta Falcons (who funded new helmets) and Atlanta United and with those grants we were also able to get new soccer goals that are at the north end of the football field that are being used now. UGA G-HOP (High Obesity Program), \$2,000 worth of equipment that arrived Tuesday, Dec. 9 for the concession stand. It's an in-kind donation including a convection oven, ice maker, two warmers, coolers, shelving.

There was a multi-level grant process where the first step was by adding juice, lite power aide with less sugar, granola bars and sun chips. The next level now will be the physical part where they want the kids to be more active and that's when we're going to be looking towards getting playground sets.

The House of Raeford is going to make a big 'splash' and will be helping replace the lighting out at the baseball fields. They are looking to start that project at the beginning of 2026. During football season, we had a six and under an eight and under, 10 and under and 12 and under flag football team that competed in regular season games and Kiwanis Bowl in Fitzgerald and then to district.

The soccer season, we had the varsity team that has helped us for three years in a row. They coach, referee and run the scoreboard. Coach Cornejo has been amazing. It's a trade off as we allow them to use our football field in the off season and run some conditioning, so we are continuing that partnership. We started a new program, girls flag football, the most growing sport and it's catching on fast. It's a feeder program for the high school, so we had a 14 and under team competing in a couple of tournaments and qualified for state, the district III champion and traveled to Jackson, Ga. and we finished fifth in the state.

That program is going to be something there in the coming years we'll have the same age groups we do in football. We saw what the competition looks like and I think we can compete with that. Currently we are in basketball season and we have finished sign ups and all have started practicing and we're looking forward to a good season. We're playing a lot of in-house games and then start playing other counties in February.

The goal was to try and give them as many in-house games as possible because we have so many kids that we want all of them to get a lot of playing time. This will be our third year for the Special Education Dance with about 50 kids showing up, but we're still not reaching all of them. So the only way that we can guarantee that all of them



Photo Contributed

Cecil King was honored back in August as Week one Athlete of the Week and is now an Intern with the DCRD under the leadership of Director Joe Willis.

will be there is if we make it into a field trip and the school transports them. So the school system has agreed that we're going to move the dance from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 12 and it will move our number from 50-60 to over 100.

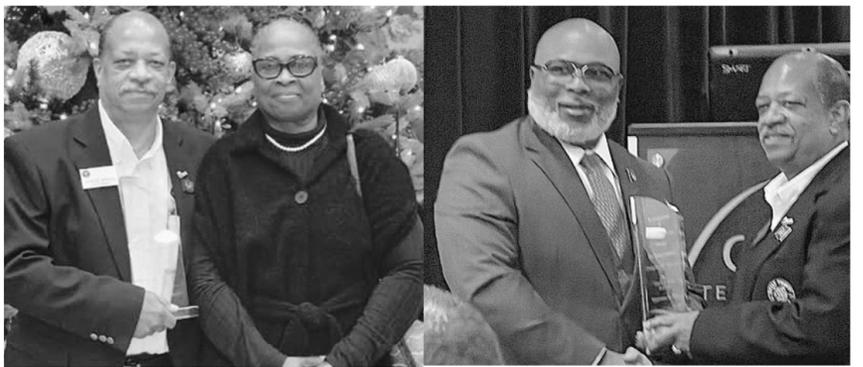
It's going to be a great thing and have more kids than we've ever had before. They'll still be a DJ, limo-ride, be able to dress nice, still have good food and it will be a special day for all of them. We were able to assist Christ Chapel, Unadilla with some chicken boxes and we will continue to help Christ Chapel anytime they call us because they do such good work, so if we can extend our reach and help them, we want to. They are one of the best in the county, period for helping people. They are amazing at what they do."

Joe Willis introduced the new Intern, Cecil King. "He is a senior at Dooly County High School and is doing work-based learning with us and has been a fantastic addition. He's helped us by working on a grant together and we've really enjoyed that. The REACH scholarship recipients must maintain a certain grade point average and I believe it's \$2,500-a-year, so I got asked to be on the panel and we brought in those kids individually and we did the interview process with them.

Some of the questions were laid out for us and we were able to ask them certain questions. Then grade them off of their interview skills. This year, Dooly County was able to scholarship five kids with it which is more than they've ever done before. Wednesday, Dec. 10 was the signing and they have to maintain that for four years. I was asked to be Santa Claus at the Dooly County Library on Wednesday, Dec. 23 and so I agreed as we help out the library system."

The next Rec. Board meeting will be scheduled after the conclusion of the basketball season.

2025 Champion for Education: Mr. Michael Bowens



By Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Williford

Vienna, Ga. — The Dooly County School System is proud to announce Mr. Michael Bowens as the district's 2025 Champion for Education, an honor presented through the Fourth Annual Chattahoochee-Flint RESA Champions for Education recognition program. Mr. Bowens was celebrated during the regional luncheon Tuesday, December 9 at the John M. Pope Technology Center at South Georgia Technical College in

Americus, Ga.

The regional program recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to support public education. Mr. Bowens, a life-long Dooly County resident, was selected for his decades of service to the school system and the broader community. He has served as Vienna's City Administrator for the past 11 years, following a 36-year career with Georgia Pacific and earlier work with Armstrong World Industries.

Mr. Bowens' connection to lo-

cal education spans more than three decades. He served on the Dooly County Board of Education from 1991-2002, and after an appointment by Governor Nathan Deal, rejoined the Board in 2017, where he continues to serve as Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Exemplary Board member. Known for his steady leadership and commonsense approach, he is Dooly County Board of Education's most experienced member.

His service also includes leadership roles with the Southwest Georgia Empowerment Zone, the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce, the Dooly County Industrial Development Authority, and the Upper Flint Regional Water Planning Council.

"Mr. Bowens is smart, thoughtful, humble, and an undeniable force for good in our community," said Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Williford.

"His service to our schools and to Dooly County as a whole reflects the true spirit of a Champion for Education. We are grateful for his leadership, his example, and his heart." The Dooly County School System congratulates Mr. Michael Bowens on being named the 2025 Champion for Education and thanks him for his continued dedication to students, families, and the community.

Part Time / Temporary Position Available

The Town of Byromville is accepting resumes for a **Public Works Maintenance Technician** position.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid Georgia driver's license, have some mechanical ability/knowledge, perform general maintenance and repairs on city buildings, parks and facilities and perform and/or assist with water system tasks.

Resumes may be mailed to P.O. Box 36, Byromville, GA 31007 or placed in drop box at City Hall located at 489 Central Ave., Byromville, GA. Town of Byromville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline to submit applications is 3:00p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a **Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on January 12, 2026**, 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 – Joe Kent has submitted a Variance application for parcel #35-10B currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The Variance is to reduce the front setback from 90 ft from the center of the road to 45 ft. This Variance is for a Building for Storage and sawmill. Property located at 3556 Nellieville 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.



Mission Moment: A Note from the St. Paul Chapel Mission Coordinators

Contributed
 "A third time he asked him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, 'Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Then feed my sheep.'" (John 21:17 NLT)

In this verse Jesus was saying to Peter and the disciples that to "love Him" was going to mean action on their part. Loving Jesus looked like "feeding His sheep." Several opportunities to do that physically and spiritually are happening in December. Volunteers have already put their love into action by packing bags of nutritious snacks for "Snack Attack" bags for

50 needy students at the Dooly County K-8 Academy in order to combat food insecurity over the Christmas break. St. Paul Chapel is partnering with Byromville United Methodist Church this Saturday, December 20 to serve at the Byromville Community Food Pantry. By providing breakfast, distributing food, and giving away children's Bibles and other books, the love of Jesus is being shared with our community. Jesus' call is to make disciples, not just provide social services and do charitable works. It is our prayer that these mission projects demonstrating love and compassion to all will lead to relationships that will lead people to grow in their faith



and connection to God. Jesus has entrusted us with the responsibility to continue His work of caring for God's people just as He did Peter and the dis-

ciples. Let us answer Jesus' call for action by making the most of the opportunities He has given us to serve.

**City of Pinehurst
 Change of January, 2026
 Council Meeting**

The City of Pinehurst's January, 2026 City Council meeting will be changed from January 1, 2026 to January 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM due to the Holidays.

**BREAKFAST
 With Santa
 in Byromville**

Contributed
 Anyone who would love to get a library card for themselves or their children but haven't been able to make it on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon at Byromville Public Library, we will be at the Breakfast with Santa event. Please come out and support our local food pantry here in Byromville, Ga. Hope to see you all there.

Bring your kids to eat breakfast with Santa. Byromville Community Food Pantry is partnering with Chattahoochee-Flint RESA, Let's Read Georgia, Byromville UMC, and St. Paul Chapel to bring a special holiday pantry to our neighbors Saturday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a festive morning as we share food, joy, and community spirit. Everyone is welcome.

DCHS Block Patient Care Students Earn 100% Pass Rate

By Chiquita Granville

We are beyond proud to announce that Ms. Valentina Bowens' fourth Block Patient Care students earned a 100% pass rate on their End of Program Assessment. This incredible achievement is a testament to the students' hard work and the exceptional teaching and leadership of our Teacher of the Year, Ms. BOWENS. Her dedication to preparing her students for success continues to shine brightly in Dooly County. Please help us congratulate these outstanding students and Ms. BOWENS on a job well done. Excellence lives here.

Local Club Installs Officers for 2026-2028

Contributed

The Vienna Woman's Club had a busy evening Thursday, Dec. 11 celebrating the Christmas season. Members brought finger foods for a festive feast of goodies. Wrapped Christmas books were donated to a first grade class while Sharon Wilkin and Charlotte Vestal tied ribbon and candy canes on the wrapped books. Warm, fuzzy Christmas socks were wrapped, labeled and gifted to the Easter Seals Day Hab program.

Officers for 2026-2028 were installed including President Lisa Ramsey using a wreath of ivy to symbolize new growth. Also installed were Vice President Beth English, Secretary Cathy Jones and Treasurer Brenda Gramm. Thaila St. Lewis, a Navy veteran, was also welcomed as a new member and everyone enjoyed playing a fun gift exchange game.

Pictured Left to Right: New officers for 2026-2028 President Lisa Ramsey, installing officer Sandy Hawkins, Vice-president Beth English, Secretary Cathy Jones. (Not pictured) Brenda Gramm Treasurer.



Byromville UMC Food Bank

Contributed

Our friends at Byromville United Methodist Church Food Bank are thrilled to be partnering again with us this month for their Christmas pantry date. As part of the Food Bank service this Saturday, December 20 at 8:30 a.m., they are also serving breakfast for the workers and clients. Below is a list of breakfast food items that are still needed for Saturday. Eggs -two dozen, Breakfast casserole already

baked (2), Frozen biscuits unbaked (four dozen), Breakfast sausage links (four dozen), Fruit both cut fruit and grapes and things like apples, mandarins and bananas, Muffins/doughnuts four dozen, two apple juice, two orange juice, one gallon milk and two large tubs of butter. If you are able to provide any of these items, please text Connie Christmas at 229-322-6096 or email her at cchristmas@hotmail.com.

Ga. Timber Tax Credit Deadline Approaching

By the Georgia Forestry Commission

The deadline to apply for Georgia's Timber Tax Credit is December 31, 2025. More information for this Department of Revenue (DOR) program can be found here: <https://gatrees.org/.../2025/09/2025-Timber-Tax-Credit.pdf>. Any additional questions should be directed to DOR at 404-724-7003 or dor.georgia.gov/local-government-services.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF UNADILLA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Unadilla, Georgia will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2026 at 5:00pm in the Council Chamber located at 563 West Railroad Street, Unadilla, Georgia 31091, to accept public comments on an application to rezone filed by Alexis Farmer for property located at 1045 Borum Street from R-1 (Residential- Single Family) to R-2 (Multi-Family) and an application filed by Robert Hughes III to rezone property located at 546 Industrial Park Drive from Ag (Agriculture) to R-1 (Residential-Single Family)

All interested parties may attend to voice their interest and/or objections.

The rezoning applications are on file with the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and may be viewed upon request during normal business hours.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com



Christ Chapel Unadilla Food Pantries in December

CCU has scheduled two food pantry dates in December (no Food Drive this month) on Saturday's December 13 and December 20 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon at the church. Volunteer check-in is 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Christ Chapel Unadilla, 400 Jeannette Street at 478-627-9352.

Bingo Night in Byromville

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

Town of Dooling Meeting

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

NEED TO ADVERTISE? Email our ad rep., Phyllis Keaton or call (229)938-6253 phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com

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)

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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 Vienna, GA 31092
 229-268-2800

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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

- 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 CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Here in the U.S., decorating a Christmas tree with colorful ornaments and glittering lights heralds the start of our festive season. But we Americans aren't the only ones inspired by the natural world when decking their halls for December. Let's take a stroll through the Christmas flowers and plants that hold a special place in the heart of other nations' traditions. Because from pomegranates to poinsettias, there's more to celebrate than our beloved bejeweled conifers. From appleyardflowers.com we learn about some favorite festive floral traditions from around the globe.

In Greece, no Noel is complete without a plentiful harvest of pomegranates; often depicted on Christmas cards and made out of clay, glass or metal for gifting and display, this festive fruit is a national seasonal symbol.

Traditionally symbolizing fertility, pomegranates were often dedicated to Hera, the goddess of motherhood. They now also represent prosperity, perhaps on account of the 'jewels' that spill forth once opened.

Modern Greeks hang a single pomegranate above their front door on Christmas Day, before smashing it on the doorstep just after midnight on New Year's Day to ensure a new year full of fortune for their family.

Poinsettias have become a decorative staple here in the U.S., with some 70 million plants sold every year, but these red-leaved beauties actually hail from Mexico, where they play a role in Christmas folklore. Legend has it that way back in the 16th century, a poor young girl couldn't afford a gift to take to the baby Jesus at a Christmas service. She was encouraged by an an-

gel to pluck a sprig of weeds from the roadside and place her humble offering at the altar. Upon doing so, it burst into a magnificent poinsettia, with the plants henceforth known as 'Flores de Noche Buena' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

Today, poinsettias are named after the first US ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, who brought them back to South Carolina in the early 1800s. They have retained their religious connotations; the red color is said to symbolize the blood of Christ, and the star shape, the Star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men to Mary, Joseph and the newborn baby Jesus in the Bible story.

The humble apple enjoys a starring role in China, where it is wrapped or stamped with a festive message and presented as a gift on Christmas Eve. Why? Because 'Christmas Eve' is known as the 'Night of Peace', which translates to 'Ping 'an Ye' in Mandarin and sounds like 'pingo', the word for 'apple'.

In Croatia, it is traditional to grow wheat in the run-up to Christmas for use as table decoration on the big day, tied with ribbon in the red, white and blue of the Croatian flag. Travel to this Slavic nation in early December and you'll find packets of grain in the shops; such is the importance of upholding this centuries-old custom.

Most families grow their 'božićna pšenica', or 'Christmas wheat' in small saucers, with the fresh green shoots bringing a touch of spring to bleak midwinter. The taller and lusher your crop grows, the better your luck in the coming year.

Let's return to Mexico, for an even quirkier Christmas tradition. The 'Noche

de Rábanos' or 'Night of the Radishes' is an event held every December 23rd in Oaxaca, during which oversized radishes (some are a foot long and weigh up to six pounds) are carved to create intricate sculptures in a bid to win prizes. Designs are often themed around Oaxacan history and culture but have included everything from snowmen to monsters.

So how on earth did this come about? Well, during the colonial period, when the Spanish introduced radishes, talented farmers began carving the vegetables into religious figures to attract shoppers at the city's annual Christmas market. They proved popular, with locals buying them to use as Christmas centerpieces.

In 1897, Oaxaca's mayor declared an official radish-carving competition and it remains a serious matter; government-owned land is dedicated to the growing of radishes used for the contest, which is attended by thousands of visitors and sparks hours-long queues. Sorry, pumpkins-it's not all about you.

The mistletoe also has an interesting history. The European-wide tradition of kissing under mistletoe harks back to Norse mythology, when it symbolized friendship and the healing of wounds. During the Christmas season of peace and goodwill to all men, enemies who met under those iconic sprigs of white berries would lay down their arms and exchange amicable, if far from romantic, greetings.

The kissing custom began in England in the early Georgian period, when mistletoe would be hung from a popular Christmas decoration called a Kissing Bough—essentially five wooden hoops shaped into a ball. Illustrations depicting kissing under the mistletoe were later published in Charles Dickens' 1843 novel, A Christmas Carol.

I hope you have enjoyed a glance at these festive floral traditions from around the globe!

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.

militia to kill all male children in the region who were two years old or less. Escape into Egypt with Mary, Joseph and Jesus to prevent the young child's death. Ride on a camel alongside Joseph, Mary, and the little child as they depart Egypt and return to Nazareth of Galilee.

Fast forward 30 years and observe Jesus approach the bank of the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. As Jesus comes up out of the water, listen to God say, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Fast forward three years to accompany Jesus to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Before departing, listen to Jesus say to His disciples: "In Jerusalem, the Son of man will be delivered to the high priests who will condemn him to death by crucifixion. On the third day, He will be raised from the dead." Jesus' resurrection from the dead means that He paid the penalty for our sins—the reason we should embrace the Christmas Spirit. Merry Christmas to all!

Attention Local Government Officials of HD150



By State Representative
Patty Marie Stinson

We constantly hear there's a

housing shortage in our state. Please read the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) newsletter regarding the recent committee hearing on House Bill 812. Get ready local officials and please be prepared to explain your process for ensuring contractors receive building permits in a timely manner, before calling or emailing me to vote no.

This is a good example of why I believe cross-training is essential with smaller local govern-

ments. Contractors and developers don't have time to wait for the only person in the office that is trained on the permitting process to return from lunch.

The contractor-developer returns after lunch, now they're told that person just left the office for a dental appointment and come back tomorrow. If anyone wants to read about HB 812, email me at Patty.stinson@house.ga.gov and I will forward it to your email.



NEIL JOINER
Columnist

Joiner's Corner

BANK LINES

I didn't plan a series about "A Few Good Lines," but the first two columns brought other sayings to mind. Today's musings are a few of my favorite bank lines gleaned from 35 years as a country banker.

Marcus Everidge had a mischievous nature and an easy laugh. More than once he said with mock sincerity, "I'm going to tell you what a man told me after I did a lot of backhoe work for him. When I told him how much he owed, he said, 'Marcus, even if I can't pay you, I'll still be your friend.'"

Another quip, the source long forgotten, added an interesting slant to an old jewel. A father had expressed concern to his daughter about her boyfriend having an ambition deficiency. "Money won't buy happiness," his daughter stated defensively. "You're right," he agreed, "but neither will poverty." I don't know how that story ended. Love is blind much of the time, which no doubt benefits men more than women.

Mr. John Short Williams, a fine gentleman and excellent

farmer, gets credit for a memorable quote during my banking days. He had a military background and was sturdily built. Even in his senior years he looked capable of riding the range with John Wayne.

As he was leaving the bank one Friday, I walked outside with him to visit a bit. A young fellow strolled past and mentioned, in a rather carefree manner, having an overdue loan he'd catch up later. Mr. John smiled, then told me about a man he made a personal loan to who began avoiding him.

He eventually went to the man's house and told him he wanted his money. When the fellow said he didn't have it, Mr. John said he wasn't leaving without it. The man smugly responded, "You can't get blood out of a turnip." Mr. John said, "No, but I can get the turnip." That jogged the fellow's memory about a stash of cash.

That story amused me because I wasn't good at collecting, especially when folks were having a tough time. When I first joined the bank, President

Luke Couch gave me a long list of past dues to work. I'd call them every week, then Luke and I would discuss them.

One day Luke politely suggested I might need to change my collection approach. A married couple had been dealing with health issues and kept falling further behind on their payments. It seemed to me they were doing the best they could, so I mostly listened. After several months the man came in to see Luke. Thankfully they worked out a plan, but I wished he hadn't told my boss how much his wife enjoyed my calls.

James Reuben Akin, a friend and fellow church member, had a keen sense of humor and multiple clever sayings. My favorite bank line of his was, "I came into this world with nothing and I've managed to hold on to most of it."

We'll wrap this column up by citing Wimpy, a lovable character in the Popeye cartoons. Wimpy's most-beloved quote is, "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." His intentions were clearly suspect, but the entertainment value of a good line is surely worth more than the price of a hamburger.

And when Tuesday came around and Wimpy couldn't be found, there's one thing I am certain could be said of him. Even if he didn't pay you, he'd still be your friend.



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart

CHRISTMAS MEANING (THE INCARNATION)

This Christmas writing is not based on the familiar accounts of Jesus' birth found in the Gospels by Matthew and Luke.

Affirming the accounts in those Gospels, this strongly doctrinal writing, based on the Gospel by John, is focused specifically on the Incarnation—the fact that the eternally begotten Son of God took on human flesh and form in person of Jesus the Messiah—John 1:1 thru 18 In the begging was the word, (Jesus) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2). The same was in the beginning with God.

3). All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

4). In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5). And the light shined in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6). There was a man sent from God, whose name was

John.

7). The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe.

8). He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9). That was the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world.

10). He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.

11). He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

12). But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

13). Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14). And the Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten

of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15). John bare witness of Him, and cried, saying, This was He of whom I spoke, He that comes after me is preferred before me: for He was before me.

16). And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17). For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18). No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.— A LIFE LINE TO CHRIST—If Jesus is who John says He is, (and He is), this requires our sincere attention.

The Incarnation of God the Son was the most momentous event in all of human history. God has "spoken to us by His Son...by whom also He made the worlds...How shall we escape(the judgement of God), if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 1:2; 2:3). I thank Daniel L. Black for part of this writing.

God speed to you all, and I pray each of you have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!! 'til next time.—Lanier



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder EMBRACE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Get in the Christmas Spirit by reading the gospel accounts of Jesus' birth. In Luke 2, read about the angel unexpectedly appearing to the shepherds to announce that a Savior had been born. The angel said: "Do not be afraid for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For born this day in the city of David is the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. You will find the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." (Notice the term Savior). Suddenly, a heavenly choir burst forth from the Judean hillside, singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Join the shepherds on their walk to Bethlehem. Peep inside the stable and see the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Then read Matthew 2 about the wise men (called magi) coming from a faraway land to honor the Christ Child. Gaze into the night sky from ancient Babylon to see a bright star rise and hover over the Holy Land-- an astrological sign a king had been born. Travel with the magi by camel on the 800 mile journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. Hear the magi ask King Herod where the child was born. Listen to Herod's advisors who respond that the child would be born in Bethlehem based on Micah 5; 2. Track the star with the wise men to the house where the child lived. Accompany the magi inside the house where they present the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Hear King Herod order his



Spreading Holiday Cheer in Unadilla

Contributed

The City of Vienna was proud to participate in the 2025 Unadilla Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 13 as we joined our neighboring community in celebrating the joy, unity, and spirit of the season. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the

Unadilla Mayor and City Council, Mrs. Sabrina Holmes and the extraordinary staff of the City of Unadilla for their hospitality and dedication in making this event a success. On behalf of Kaleb D. Green and the entire Community Development Department, along with Mayor Eddie Daniels,

City Council, and the dedicated staff of the City of Vienna, we express our deepest gratitude for the continued support and partnership and look forward to strengthening our collaboration in the years ahead. From our city family to yours, Happy Holidays.

The News Observer

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

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

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

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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 COUNTY OF DOOLY

All creditors of the estate of **JAMES KENDALL BORUM**, deceased, late of Dooly County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
JUDITH W. BORUM, Executor of the Estate of **JAMES KENDALL BORUM**
 316 Ransom Road
 Unadilla, GA 31091
 Michael G. Gray
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP
 Perry, GA 31069
 478-987-1415
 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 2025
 0754-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOOLY

IN RE: JEFF BUTLER, DECEASED
SUSIE L. BUTLER, having been granted Letters Testamentary and being named Executor of the estate of said deceased, **JEFF BUTLER**, in the Dooly County Probate Court does hereby notify all persons having a claim against said estate to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
SUSIE L. BUTLER
 EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JEFF BUTLER

1974 Indian Boundary Road
 Pinehurst, Georgia 31070
 John W. Sherrer, Jr.
 Attorney for the Executor
 P.O. Box 277
 Vienna, Georgia 31092
 12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2025 & 1/1/2026
 0756-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Undersigned, **Kathy Ann M. McCray, Marvelyn M. Smith and Leigh M. Thomas**, Co-Executors of the Estate of **Geraldine Ellis Morris**, hereby give in terms of establishment comprising Section 53-7-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated notice to all creditors and claimants of the above named decedent's estate to render in an account of their demands, properly attested, to said Co-Executors and all persons owing to said estate are required to make prompt payment to said Co-Executors having postal addresses of 8665 Hwy 41, Vienna, GA 31092, 1750 Findley Rd., Pinehurst, GA 31070, and 8172 Webb Rd., N, Hahira, GA 31632, respectively.
Kathy Ann M. McCray, Marvelyn M. Smith, and Leigh M. Thomas
 Co-Executors
LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC
 Attorney for Co-Executors
 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 2025
 0755-VNO

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed to secure debt dated February 21, 2014, executed by **Rosetta R. Hinds and Kenneth R. Hinds to John Lee Law**, recorded in Deed Book 514, at pages 107 to 109, in the Office of the Clerk

of the Superior Court of Crisp County, Georgia, the undersigned will sell at public outcry between the legal hours of sale before the doors of the courthouse of Dooly County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in January 2026, to the highest and best bidder for cash, the real estate described in said Deed to Secure Debt as follows:

That certain property situate in the City of Pinehurst, Georgia, comprising the whole of Lots Nos. 7 and 8, in and of Block No. 14, as the same is designated and marked and shown on the Plat of said City of Pinehurst, recorded in clerk's office, Dooly Superior Court, Deed Book 5, at pages 452 and 453.

The address is **724 Oak Avenue, Pinehurst, Dooly County, Georgia**.

The debt secured by said deed to secure debt has been declared to be due and payable because of the grantor's failure to comply with certain terms and conditions of said deed to secure debt and the obligations secured thereby. The debt remaining in default, the sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness. The proceeds of the said sale will be applied first to pay the expenses of said sale, including attorneys' fees, and then to pay all accrued and unpaid interest and the principal balance then owing secured by said deed to secure debt.

The property being in the possession of the Estate of **Rosetta R. Hinds**, will be sold as the property of **Rosetta R. Hinds and Kenneth R. Hinds**, subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments and all other restrictions, easements and all other restrictions of record, if any.
 THIS, 3rd day of December 2025.
John Lee Law
 As Attorney-in-fact
 for **Rosetta R. Hinds and Kenneth**

R. Hinds
 Law Office of **Nicholson C. Edwards, LLC**
 P.O. Box 456
 Vienna, Georgia 31092
 Attorney for **John Lee Law**
 12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2025 & 1/1/2026
 0758-VNO

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, DOOLY COUNTY
WHEREAS, Mandle Lee Johnson did heretofore on the 11th day of December, 2007, execute and deliver to Bank of Dooly, a certain Deed to Secure Debt conveying the following described property:
 See attached Exhibit "A"
 Which property is commonly known as 4935 West Rd., Byromville, GA 31007 to secure a Note of even date therewith, and all extensions and renewals of such note, all as shown and described in said Deed to Secure Debt recorded in Deed Book 403, Pages 128 et seq., in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dooly County, Georgia, time being of the essence thereof; and

WHEREAS, South Georgia Banking Company is the successor to Bank of Dooly by a merger; and
WHEREAS, that Note has become in default in principal and interest and the holder has elected to accelerate payment of the Note and demands payment at once; now

THEREFORE, according to the original terms of said security instrument, the power of sale contained therein, and the laws in such cases made and provided, the undersigned holder will, after proper advertisement, expose the above-described property, which to the best of holder's knowledge and belief is now in the possession

of **Mandle Lee Johnson, Jr.**, or his tenant, for sale to the highest bidder for cash on the first Tuesday in January, 2026 between the legal hours of sale before the Courthouse door in Dooly County, Georgia; said holder reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The sale may continue from day to day until said property is sold, and the purchaser shall pay real estate transfer tax, any ad valorem taxes due and accrued, and any other prior claims or liens.

The provisions of O.C.G.A. §44-14-162, et seq., regarding notice of foreclosure to borrower have been complied with by sending a copy of this Advertisement of Sale Under Power to **Mandle Lee Johnson**, at the last address which was given to the holder as debtor's correct address at least 30 days prior to the sale date described herein. The property will be sold as the property of **Mandle Lee Johnson, Jr.** (he receiving title by quit claim deed at Deed Book 656 Pages 46 et seq.). Proceeds from said sale will be used first for the payment of said Note, principal and interest, costs and expenses of sale, including attorney's fees, and the balance, if any, delivered to the person or persons legally entitled thereto.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and information obtained may be used for that purpose.
 This 25th day of November, 2025.
South Georgia Banking Company
 As attorney-in-fact for **Mandle Lee Johnson**
 c/o **Clifford W. Harpe, Jr., P. O. Box 545**
Cordele, GA 31010-0545
EXHIBIT "A"
 All that improved tract or parcel of land containing approximately 10.433 acres, lying and being in Lot of Land

No. 145 in the Ninth Land District of Dooly County, Georgia, and being the identical real estate described in survey plat for **Mary H. Smarr** prepared by **Earl D. Raines**, Georgia Register Land Surveyor No. 1512, bearing plat date of September 17, 1988, revised September 28, 1988, recorded in Clerk's office, Dooly Superior Court, Plat Book 8, Page 111, said plat being by reference thereto incorporated herein for a more complete description. Said tract being the same property described in and conveyed by deed from **Mary Hill Smarr et al.** to **Mandle Lee Johnson and Mae Lizzie P. Johnson** dated November 6, 1988, recorded in Clerk's office, Dooly Superior Court, Deed Book 172, Pages 491 to 493.
 12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2025 & 1/1/2026
 0757-VNO

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS OF

CHARLES G. SPEIGHT, SR.
 All creditors of the Estate of **Charles G. Speight, Sr.**, deceased, late of Dooly County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make payment to me.

This 9th day of December, 2025.
/s/ David Speight
 Executor of the Estate of **Charles G. Speight, Sr.**
Kim H. Stroup
 Attorney for the Estate of **Charles G. Speight, Sr.**
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP
 231 Riverside Drive, Suite 100
 PO Box 4283
 Macon, Georgia 31208-4283
 12/18/2025, 12/25/2025, 1/01/2026,
 1/8/2026
 0760-VNO (56221.0001)

CHRISTMAS STROLL CONTINUED FROM 1A

Christmas items. There were lots of stylish glasses by **Martha McClendon** and 'Scentsy' to make everything smell good for your holidays.

Area authors **Melanie Akin** and **Nancy Gibbs** had booths set up along with displays of yard art and Quilts made into shirts and jackets. **Keira Musselwhite** also

was selling delicious local honey inside the **Ole Vienna Hardware Store**.

Some of the downtown locations that residents could stroll through and stop in for goodies and discover more sights. Passersby enjoyed treats and activities at **The 50's Diner**, **The District Barber Co.**, **FYZICAL**,

Tienda Y Taqueria Mi Familia Mexican Restaurant, **The Dooly County Veterans Museum**, **Bobcat Zone**, **Café 41**, **The Medicine Shop** and **Dooly County Chamber of Commerce**.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa and the **Grinch** were making the rounds inside the old hardware store along with, "All their cheerful

helpers along with way, sure to bring a smile." **Vienna Game Changers** is excited about making this **Holiday Stroll**, a Christmas holiday tradition for years to come.

Vienna Game Changers is excited about making this **Holiday Stroll**, a Christmas holiday tradition for years to come.



(photo above) *The Bozwellz* (photo below) *Strange Bedfellows*.



By **Michael Mixon**

The **Hog Drop** is **New Years Eve**, Dec. 31 and for the ones who haven't made **New Year's Eve** plans we'd love to have y'all in downtown **Unadilla, Ga.** for the **Ninth annual Hog Drop**.

We'll have **BBQ Competition**, **Monster Truck Show**, **Dirt Bike Stunt Show**, **Fire Breather Performers**, the one and only **Strange Bedfellows**, **Fireworks Show**, **Live Music**, **Robinsons Racing Pigs**, **Food Trucks**, **Chainsaw Carving Artist**, **Mechanical Bull**, **Rock Wall Climb**, **Axe Throwing**, **Inflatables**, and so much more. I'm really excited about our newest addition to this year's **Hog Drop** entertainment.

The one and only **Strange Bedfellows** fire breathing who will be doing performances all **New Year's Eve** night in downtown **Unadilla, Ga.** Y'all don't want to miss this party at **457 West Railroad Street, Unadilla, Ga.** on **December 31**.

We always look forward to the **Bozwellz** jamming out while we drop the **Hog**. This band has been with us since the beginning of the **Hog Drop**. They are considered our house band and they represent our event so well. We have them back every year.

Make sure to be in downtown **Unadilla, Ga.** **New Years Eve**, **Dec. 31** at **6:00 p.m.** to witness the one and only **Bozwellz** at the **Hog Drop**.

UNADILLA PARADE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

lights including entries from **Nolan Dupree**, **Lasseter Tractor Co.**, **Patterson Farms**, **Layfield Bogging**, **Middle Ga. EMC** and **Green Farms**. The **Dooly County Homecoming Queen Emily Garcia** was in attendance, the **Dooly County Board of Education** and **DCSS STEM bus**.

Chris Johnson with **Dooly County EMS** added a cheery element to the event as well. **Camp Creek Baptist Church** along with representatives from the **Dooly County Chamber-Family Connection** including **Tiffany Sinyard**.

The **City of Unadilla** participated in a big way with fire rescue vehicles and the public

works department that included a snow machine to add a magical feeling to the festivities. **Brothers Commissioner David Mixon** and **Michael**, who organizes the **Hog Drop** along with **Commissioner Timothy Robinson**, were riding on golf carts as well.

Other participants were **Sweet T's food truck** who waved to onlookers. None of the holiday parades would be complete without someone on horseback from **Peter Manning** and **Son. Meredith's Elegant Event Center** also provided cookies and hot cocoa before, during and after the parade.



Photo By **Tim Franzén**

Pictured left to right: Assistant to Mayor and organizer of the annual Christmas parade **Sabrina Sinyard Holmes**, **Meredith** and **Tony Lester** with **Meredith's Elegant Event Center**.

Photo By **Tim Franzén** (photo left) **Unadilla Fire Rescue vehicle** decked out in Christmas lights. (photo right) **People's Propane and the Lamberth's**



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All Region Football Team Announced

Contributed

The Region 4 A Division Two All Region Football Team selections have been announced and the Player of the Year is Alvin Ricks from Wheeler County and Offensive Player of the Year is CJ McAdoo from Wilcox County.

The Defensive Players of the Year are Miles Davis, Wilcox and Justin Culver, Wheeler County. Offensive Lineman Player of the Year: Christon Zanders, Telfair and the Defensive Lineman Player of the Year, Charvis Givens from Treutlen. Special Teams Player of the Year is Treutlen's Leo Brinson and the Co-Athletes of the Year are Rico Wooten, Wheeler Co. and Zaniel Stokes, Treutlen.

First team selections: Quarterback Deacon McDuffie, Wilcox, Running Backs are Z'Kian Tobler, Treutlen and Martin McDonald, Hawkinsville. Offensive Line: Kowen DeLoach, Telfair along with Walker Fuller and Gage Knight from Wilcox County, Luke Smith, Wheeler, Trey Williams, Wheeler, Payton Rogers, Hawkinsville, Tyler Gillis, Treutlen and Jeric Peoples, Wheeler County.

Wide Receivers: Braylin Womack, Telfair, Jaquez Kelly, Montgomery, Tyler Tisdol, Wilcox and Jah Dinkins, Wheeler.

Tight Ends: Konnor Smith,

Wheeler and Talon McKinney, Wilcox. Half-Full Back selection is Sincere Marks, Wheeler County.

Defensive line: Sterlon Wilcox, Telfair, Charles Nance, Dooly County, Tanner Gibbs, Wilcox, Nate Wright, Wheeler and Jonathan Solomon, Hawkinsville. Linebacker: Ja'Quis Rowe, Telfair, Johnny Johnson, Treutlen, Elijah McEwen, Montgomery, Zay Jackson, Wilcox, Lane Connell, Wheeler and Nakivius Releford, Hawkinsville. Defensive backs: Peyton Miller, Treutlen, Monte Taylor, Dooly County, Jacobia Bolden, Wilcox, Zy'Quan Tarthe, Wilcox, KT Troupe, Wheeler, Naem Blair and Jaden Collins, both from Hawkinsville. Punter: Landon Johnson, Hawkinsville and Kicker: Felipe Taylor, Hawkinsville.

The Coach of the Year is Thomas Smith of Wheeler County. Second team selections from Dooly County are Offensive Lineman Ken Lucas, Wide Receiver: Jay'vion Sanders and Keveon McRae, Tight End: Zayden Bell, Defensive line: Scotty Freeman and Jay'Quan Burke.

Linebacker: Markevion Rigbins, Defensive Backs: Brexston Gaston and Cecil King. Congratulations to all the Dooly County Bobcats that were selected for this year's all region football team.

Dooly Teams Preparing for Rivalry Battles with Crisp County

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

The Bobcats traveled to Soperton last Tuesday to take on Treutlen. The Lady Bobcats are on a shot streak defeating the Lady Vikings 41-33. Ja'Kayla Hooks continues to lead the team in scoring, rebounds and steals while Aleesiah Taylor has been a standout with an average of three assists. The boys dropped the night cap to the Vikings 82-42. Jamonte Taylor has been averaging around 18 points and five steals per game, Lucas Kentavious' field goal percentage is 57 and Seven Sutton has been controlling the boards with an average of 12 rebounds each time out on the floor.

Charles Nance has also been effective blocking three shots per contest. The Bobcats were home Friday, Dec. 12 and Dooly County continued their dominance with a huge win over Webster County 72-30 in the home opener. It was also Dooly Educator Night where all active and retired educators were recognized. Saturday afternoon, both teams hosted Montgomery County. It was also Greek Night where all staff and fans who were members of Greek

organizations were welcome to wear letters or to represent their colors.

The Lady Bobcats tipped off their game at 3:00 p.m. against the Lady Eagles with Dooly County winning 48-36. Aleesiah Taylor led all scorers with 18 with five three pointers, while Ja'Kayla Hooks contributed with 11-points and 13 defensive rebounds. Jakaylah Fairfax was successful on two three point shots and Ja'Kayla Hooks and Cherish Sutton also had a three-point shot on the day.

At press-time, the Lady Bobcats were 4-1 overall and 2-0 or in first place in the region. Dooly's boy came out on the short end of a 52-47 score to Montgomery County. At press-time, the Bobcats were 2-2 overall and 0-2 or in fourth place in region action. Up next, both teams will travel to Cordele, Ga. in a rivalry match up with the Crisp County Cougars Friday, Dec. 19 beginning with the girls game at 6:00 p.m. with the boys contest to tip-off at around 7:30 p.m. The teams then travel to Mt. Vernon Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3:00 p.m. for another region battle with Montgomery County.

DCRD Girl's Flag Football Team GRPA District Three Champs

Contributed

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our Girl's Flag Football team who in their inaugural year, emerged as GRPA District Three champions and competed in the GRPA State competition. The team concluded the season with an impressive fifth-place finish in the state.

As we look to expand this program, we aim to provide a solid foundation for Dooly County High School's program. We eagerly anticipate the return of Girls' Flag Football next year with the ambition of claiming the state title.



Following Three Losses, Trojans Hoping for Better Results

By Head Coach James Martin- This past week, we had three games and on Monday, Dec. 8 we traveled to Milner, Ga. to play Rock Springs, which is a pretty good AA school who we had played earlier in the season. They beat us by 40, so we knew we'd have to play a perfect game to beat them. On defense, we started out okay but by the middle of the game, we started playing sluggish and ended up losing 75-58.

It was an improvement from the last time we played them. During the game, we had a couple of players, Garlan Godfrey for instance did what he normally does, I think it was 24-points and 15 rebounds as well. Aidan Hill, our other senior, had a decent game with 10-points and he always contributes on man-to-man defense. Then Thursday, Dec. 11 was the game that we

should have won, but we just didn't play well and we ended up losing that game 43-31. We played Covenant Academy out of Macon. We came out and only scored five points in the first half, so it's nearly impossible to win a game when you only score five points in a half, shooting 15% as a team and only shooting 3% from the three-point line.

With that type of shooting, we should have been blown out, but our guys never gave up and kept fighting. Losing by 12 was kind of an encouraging thing in the sense that we just had a bad shooting night and that's why we lost. We know we can beat them and will play them again. I would bet good money that we would win if I was a gambling man. In that game, Garlan Godfrey had a decent game, he had 17-points and eight rebounds, a

little over what he's been contributing. Brandon Bloodworth also had a good game with six points, 10 rebounds and two steals. Covenant has a guy that is six-eight or so.

It was nice to see Brandon get those rebounds over that tall kid. Friday night, we traveled to Macon to take on First Presbyterian Day, AAAA schools, so again it's one of those schools where we had to play a perfect game and we did not. It was probably the worst game of the week and a lot had to do with playing three games and being tired. In that game, some players scored two or three and a couple, Garlan and Brandon might have scored nine, but we just couldn't get it together and they were really good and they beat us 84-27. They are a big school. They got into foul trouble, but they've around 10

players on the bench that can play, the benefit of going to a big school. There were positives and negatives last week and all we can do is learn from them and move on to this week.

We started back up Monday, Dec. 15 playing STEM Charter, the school we'd already played once this season and beat them by one-point. We came back to beat them at the end on an 18-point run. Hopefully, we'll learn from that last game we played and then Friday, Dec. 19 we play Windsor Academy in Macon and should be a good match up, I think we're pretty even, so hopefully we'll have a better report, two wins as opposed to three losses and I'm looking forward to this week. Finally get a couple of practices in a row, so we'll see how it affects us, figure out our shooting woes and move on from there.

Lady Trojans Looking for More Victories Going into Christmas Break

By Head Coach Van Bailey

We opened up last Tuesday traveling to Rock Springs in Milner, Ga., the first time in a few years we traveled up there. We ended up facing a scrappy team and we knew it was going to be physical. Anytime you get into North Georgia, the games seem to get very physical. We started out sluggish, but the press started working and we started turning them over and that gets into the flow of our offense. We did really well early and hit some big key shots from Kade Vaughan and Carli Gibson to get us out to a lead. We went into halftime up 17-13. In the second half, we went back and forth in the third before pulling away in the fourth.

We ended up winning this game 43-29. We did let Rock Springs climb back in it in the third quarter, but our team responded really well. We buckled down and got our defense going again and created some turnovers and easy buckets on the other end and I was really

proud of the way they responded. When our shots wouldn't fall, they played hard defense until things turned around.

A game on the road and a long road trip and they responded very well. We had a big game from Rylee Reed on the boards with 11 rebounds and Kade Vaughan with nine rebounds and nine points. Carli Gibson was our leading scorer with 12 points and nine rebounds. We came back home Thursday night to play Covenant out of Macon at Fullington and we jumped out with the press working early to a 17-7 lead in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, we played 10 to 12 girls and rotated them out, outscoring them 22-1 in the second quarter to take a 34-8 lead into the half. Claire Shugart scored all 16 of her points in the first half and we set the tone early and just about every girl got on the floor to get some valuable time and continue to mature and get better.

They all responded well creating a lot of turnovers. Carli Gibson

chipped in 11 and McKinley Causey got nine. Our biggest challenge of the year came on Friday, Dec. 12.

This was a very strong First Presbyterian Day team, they are a AAAA school out of Macon and I thought we came out on our heels as this team continues to struggle to get going on offense. We did again and got down real quick 16-4 at one point. Then we were able to get in our press and when we got in our press, we turned 'em over and went on a big run. Unfortunately we had a tough call that would have been a three-point play and ended up being called a turnover ending our run. We were able to go back and forth in that first half although we did go into intermission trailing 26-13, it felt closer.

We came out in the second half and started out sluggish again, but we did have spark from our second group to come off the bench that did get on a little run, with two games earlier in the

week and a lot of sickness going on around Fullington, we ran out of gas and we ended up losing 61-32. I was expecting a closer game, but this is a team trying to find their way and I think they will. We had some good things that we did and some not so good things, but definitely some to take film on and learn from down the road. Senior Rylee Reed did have a big game and led us in scoring and all scorers with 13-points and 10-rebounds for a double-double and was a good leader on the floor as well as on the bench.

We hope to get well this week, but we did travel down to Shellman, Ga. Monday, Dec. 15 to play Southwest Ga. STEM Charter School then we wrap up the week heading into the holidays as we play at Windsor Academy in Macon Friday, Dec. 19. We appreciate all the support and are looking forward to what these girls do after our two-week Christmas break.

Baby Bobcats Finish as State Runner-up in Championship Game

Contributed

What a game as our Dooly County Boys Middle School Basketball Team came out strong and secured a 56-46 win over Clinch County in the first round of the playoffs. The journey continued as Dooly County defeated Atkinson County 43-34 on our home court late last week.

Congratulations on this big win. Our boys played with heart and determination, pushing us one step closer to the top. The middle school championship pitted Dooly County and the Scintilla Charter Academy Spartans Saturday, Dec. 13 in Valdosta, Ga. Unfortunately, the middle school boys came out on the losing end of a 55-32 score.

Congratulations in order as the Dooly County Middle School Boys had a strong season and a runner-up finish in the championship game. We are proud of your



hard work, determination, and teamwork throughout the season. You represented Dooly County with class and resilience.

Hold your heads high, Bobcats. We are incredibly proud of you and all that you have accomplished this season.

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