

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, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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Multiple Accidents Kept Dooly County First Responders Busy



Photo By Don Williford
Fiery semi crash closed all lanes of I-75 in Dooly County last Wednesday.

By EMS Director Don Williford

Homicide 0, Forcible Rape 0, Dooly County Emergency Services had a busy week during the period Feb. 9-15 with multiple accidents involving lane closures, fires and injuries on the Interstate.

There was also a tragic accident that occurred outside of Lilly, Ga. EMS along with fire and law enforcement personnel with the Dooly County Sheriff's Department and Georgia State Patrol responded to a motor vehicle accident last Wednesday at mile marker 112 where a tractor-trailer blew a tire and crossed over the guardrail into the southbound side of I-75 stalling traffic blocking all three lanes for over three hours.

The tractor-trailer did catch on fire and was extinguished by Vienna Fire and Pinehurst Fire Departments. The Georgia Department of Transportation was also called to the scene in reference to a large fuel spill and wrecker services were able to get the vehicle moved off the roadway allowing for the roadway to be reopened. This closure



Photo By Don Williford
The second accident involving a car and a semi.

caused significant traffic throughout the county with people attempting to avoid the interstate. In that traffic flow, we did have several incidents involving that high traffic flow.

A second incident occurred at the 117 mile marker around four hours later when a tractor-trailer

MULTI ACCIDENTS CONTINUED PG 2A

Raising Awareness of Mental Health-Suicide Prevention and Addiction Recovery on 600-Mile-Walk



Photo By Tim Franzén
Raymond Hill of Ashland City, Tennessee

By Raymond Hill

Right now, I'm on a 600-mile walk from Ashland City, Tennessee to Jacksonville, Fla. raising awareness of mental health-suicide prevention and addiction recovery. One of the questions that's often asked is why am I doing this journey with God in the sense of where I know when he's moving and watching his provisions in my life. So, I was a heroin addict for about 20-years.

November 6, 2019, I was in a motel room in Nashville, Tennessee and it was one of the darkest days of my life. I couldn't see anything, it was 1:00 in the afternoon and I'd never seen anything as dark. So, I decided it was just for me to get out of this life. I loaded up a syringe with as much heroin as I could put into it and I injected it.

The last thing I remember was the blood running down my arm. When I came to, I was hooked up to machines keeping me alive. The rest of this was told to me through a nurse that was involved. I was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Nothing was working, they couldn't bring me back to life and had already covered me up with a sheet.

For whatever reason, the nurse stuck her hand under that sheet and she went to hollering, 'this one's got a pulse, he's alive.' They went to work

on me and saved me. I was so emotionally shattered as a human being that I just couldn't even look at anybody.

So, for the next eight days, this nurse came into my room everyday and would talk to me about God and the doctor assigned to take care of me would come in, in the afternoon and talk to me about recovery. I had been exposed to recovery and had tried it a few times. This is where everything changed for me, because for so many years, I desperately tried to change myself and I never could. I felt like I was one of those that there was just no hope.

After about eight days in that hospital, they sent me to rehab and I never paid a penny for any of this and that's where the journey really begins. I'm the founder of a non-profit organization that once was and is no more called 'Recovery Warriors.'

What I do is I help people that are struggling in recovery, they can't find themselves or there's broken pieces of them. I do that in kind of an unorthodox way. I do skydiving events, so I have one coming up in October, 2026 and right now, in this country we statistically have 44 million who suffer from substance abuse disorders. Twenty-two million of them are in some form of recovery.

600-MILE-WALK CONTINUED PG 5A

City of Vienna Looking for New Administrator-Attorney

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Mayor Eddie Daniels made a recommendation that Mr. Michael Bowens be appointed as the city administrator for the remainder of this calendar year. On a vote of three no (Tabatha Carter, Babette Lewis and John Mathis, Jr.) and one in favor Albert King, Sr.), the mayor's recommendation was denied. Also, on a vote of three no (Tabatha Carter, Babette Lewis and John Mathis, Jr.) and one in favor (Albert King, Sr.), the mayor's recommendation to retain Verlin L. Jones, Jr. as city attorney was also denied.

The mayor addressed citizens and the council about another concern voiced by residents and that was, "What is going on now in public safety. We've got a full-time-man and-a-part-time man to deal with about



1,900 residents. The part-time man is supposed to be working 29-hours-a-week. You've been calling; accident reports, burglaries, several people have been shot and there has not been the first arrest. You call and say, why don't you get why officers don't come? How can they come with a man-and-a-half? I appeal to the citizens, I'm asking you all to talk to your council people. I have preached this

for years. I've fired a bunch of police chiefs and I told them that I was not firing another one, but I'm also not hiring another one. I ask you all to talk with your city council member and tell them the best things that we need to do. I talked with the sheriff and one of the commissioners a couple of weeks ago. He can have five or six men

VIENNA CONTINUED PG 5A

February is CTAE Month

Contributed

Career, Technical, Agricultural Education month is in full swing during February, 2025 and the Dooly College and Career Academy hosted Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels and Unadilla Mayor Myron Mixon for our CTAE Proclamation Signing Day.



Georgia Career and Technical Student Organizations are influential in contributing to students' heightened involvement

and successful progression in Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs statewide.

Georgia CTSOs promote leadership and excellence in CTAE-related fields by preparing students and future members of

the state's workforce for today's business environment.

Mayor Declares Emergency Due to, “Extreme Likelihood of Danger or Destruction of Life or Property Due to Unusual Conditions”

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels signed an executive order declaration of a local emergency at a called meeting held last Friday. The gathering was attended in the council chamber by a large group of citizens who expressed concerns ranging from public safety and the lack of manpower in the local police department to numerous other negative issues and alleged ‘dysfunction’ at city hall.

Also, the group questioned lack of a plan following the council’s failure, “To vote in favor of the mayor’s recommendations for the reappointment of City Attorney Verlin Jones and City Administrator Michael Bowens.”

The mayor talked about some of the chronological events leading up to the executive order, “After Monday night, we were left without a city administrator and a city attorney. Tuesday, Feb. 9, I called Mr. Dustin Land out of Ashburn, Ga. that covers a lot of cities and municipalities and he agreed to step in temporarily and take this and work

with me on our next steps. Tuesday, I had Ms. Margaret Shelley, our city clerk to contact all council members to inform them of a called meeting Feb. 13 at 11:00 a.m., she contacted everyone, they knew about the importance of the meeting, so Mr. Land and I got together.

I knew to keep this city open and keep it going, that I could do a declaration of emergency that covers 72-hours at a time. We didn’t have a quorum, could not go into executive session like it was called for on the agenda. That’s when ‘City Attorney’ Dustin Land and I got together and we knew that this was a power that he, the mayor, could execute in order to keep our employees covered, that’s one of the things required in our budget. We have to have law enforcement. After the chief of police came in on Thursday, Feb. 12 and resigned, he said, “Mayor, I want to thank you for the opportunity.”

The declaration of emergency executive order was in effect at 12:00 p.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 a.m. Monday, Feb.

16, 2026.

It reads in part that, “A quorum was not formed February 13, at city hall by the members of the council. The mayor was informed by city employees that a mass exodus of the city’s work force would occur due to the council’s actions and inactions, thus leaving city utilities, the prosecution of crimes and offenses, police protection and other necessary services in jeopardy and without proper oversight by qualified persons.”

The mayor finds that an emergency exists or will exist if city employees abandon their respective jobs and the reappointments are not made on an emergency basis. That there exists an actual or threatened occurrence of an emergency, which may result in a loss of life, injury, property damage or destruction in the City of Vienna.

The mayor declares and orders, “In the absence of a chief law enforcement officer for the city, the Sheriff (Craig Peavy) of Dooly County, Ga. automatically is in charge of the county and city



Mayor Eddie Daniels and Councilman Albert King, Sr.

Photo by Tim Franzén

and appointed as the chief law enforcement officer for the City of Vienna, Ga. and shall remain thereto until this order expires or the council appoints a person to said position, whichever occurs first.”

The mayor did comment that following the resignation of the police chief last Thursday, that the remaining police officer agreed to stay on and work on a part-time basis on the night shift. He had received his ‘schooling’ earlier with the support of the City of Vienna.

Also in the declaration it also clarified that, “For the protection of the citizens

of Vienna, Ga. and the city council, the persons acting as City Administrator (Michael Bowens) and City Attorney (Verlin Jones), municipal court solicitor shall be reappointed on an emergency basis.”

He concluded by saying that if the council does not come together for a called meeting by the end of the first 72-hour period ending at 11:59 a.m. Monday Feb. 16, 2026, “I’m prepared to sign another executive order and it will be in effect from Feb. 16, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.-11:59 a.m. on Feb. 19, 2026.”

Cordele Police-GBI Investigating Valentine’s Night Shooting

By CPD

Officers with the Cordele Police Department responded to a reported shooting February 14 around 8:00 p.m. in the 600 block of West 11th Avenue. Upon arrival, officers located a 15-year-old male juvenile who had sustained a single gunshot wound. Firefighters with the Cordele Fire Department and Crisp County EMS arrived, and the victim was transported to Crisp Regional Hospital.

The victim was later taken to another area hospital, where he remains in critical condition. The Criminal Investigations Division responded and began processing the scene. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation also responded to assist with the investigation into this shooting.

At this time, no additional information will be released as the investigation remains active. The Cordele Police Department would like to thank the Crisp County Sheriff’s Of-

fice, Cordele Fire Department, Crisp County EMS, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for their assistance.

We also extend our sincerest thoughts and prayers to the victim’s family during this difficult time. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921 or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation tipline at 1-800-597-8477.

NOMADS Arrive on 7th Volunteer Trip to Dooly Campground



Photo Contributed

Bunk Beds

By Bert Gregory

The NOMADS have arrived at Dooly Campground. Bill and Kathy Waters began volunteering with the NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service) with their first project here back in February, 2013. They are assembling 100 bunk beds to increase camp sleeping capacity from 150-200 to make way for our largest youth camp in the history of Dooly Campground. We are grateful for their labor on this, their seventh trip to the campground.

All in all, they have spent 21 weeks of their lives at Dooly. Cumulatively, they have volunteered the equivalent of one full time staff person for one year. Their love for the Lord makes it even sweeter as they serve with joy, quietly without fanfare behind the scenes. Bill has been through two rounds of chemo and graciously lives day to day in gratitude.



Photo Contributed

Bill and Kathy Waters

NOMADS is a Methodist based Christian service organization of retired individuals who travel throughout the U.S. to perform volunteer work for churches and disaster relief in three week periods each year.

MULTI ACCIDENTS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

struck a stalled vehicle in the roadway and that also ignited into a fire and was extinguished by Pinehurst and Unadilla Fire Departments.

The Ga. State Patrol and Dooly County Sheriff’s Department also responded to the scene. That slowed traffic as well around an hour later. A second incident involving four tractor-trailers occurred at the 118 mile marker southbound and GDOT

was also contacted in regards to an oil and fuel spill at the scene of the accident. One subject was transported non-critical to Crisp Regional with no updates on his condition at this time.

Late last week, we did have an agriculture incident to occur in the Lilly area where two subjects were working on a tractor and it engaged in gear running over the two victims causing injuries to both of them who were

transported to Macon Medical Center in critical condition and at the time of the report, no additional information is available at this time. Byromville Fire Department along with Dooly County Sheriff’s Department responded to the scene to provide additional aid to those individuals.

If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call: 229-947-0705.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF UNADILLA

The City of Unadilla has been awarded funds through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) funds are available to provide housing rehabilitation assistance in conjunction with a 5/10 year forgivable deferred payment loan to Low and Moderate income homeowners throughout the city limits. Eligible persons may receive financial assistance for housing repairs such as roof replacement, electrical repairs, window replacement, HVAC, handicap accessibility, flooring and other repairs as needed. Detailed information and guidelines on HOME program requirements, or information on receiving an application to request HOME funds can be obtained by contacting **Ian Perry** (Planning Specialist, RVRC) at 706-660-5270 during regular business hours.



UNADILLA HOUSING AUTHORITY INVITATION TO BID

THE UNADILLA HOUSING AUTHORITY is accepting seal bids on **REMODELING 40 BATHROOMS.**

Bids will be accepted from February 9, 2026, until 8:00am on March 6, 2026.

Contact us for the full Scope of Work.

Please send seal bids to the

Unadilla Housing Authority

P.O. Box 447,

Unadilla, Ga 31091,

or drop them off at 717 Second St., Unadilla, Ga.

THE UNADILLA HOUSING AUTHORITY
RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT
ANY AND ALL BIDS.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on March 09, 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 – Tony Turner has submitted a Variance application for parcel #46-16 currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The Variance is to allow 2 - 30-foot easement access to a home and rear property. Property is located at 236 Turner Rd Vienna GA 31069.

Request #2 – Dusty Greer has submitted a Variance application for parcel #97-21E currently zoned R-2 (Multifamily Residential). The Variance is to allow reduced road access from 150 foot to 30-foot, to access a future home on the rear property. Property is located at 205 Third District Rd Unadilla GA 31091.

Request #3 – Richard Tyndal has submitted a Variance application for parcel #39-20C currently zoned AG (Agricultural). The Variance is to allow a second mobile home to be placed of the property. Property is located at 955 Oakland Cemetery Rd Byromville GA 31007.

Request #4 – The Planning Commission will be considering a revision for the setbacks for Agricultural confinement buildings and fees associated with these buildings. A recommendation will be presented to the Dooly County Commissioners.

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.



Vienna Public Works Superintendent Passes Away



The News Observer learned Monday morning of the passing of longtime Vienna Public Works Superintendent Nathan (J J) Jordan. He was 70-years-old. JW Williams Funeral Home in Cordele, Ga. has charge of arrangements. The staff of the Vienna News and Unadilla Observer extend our deepest condolences to his family and will have more details on his life and career in next week's publication.

HELP WANTED

Employer – Queen Nails Vienna, LLC

Title – Nail Technician

Duties – Provide nail services including acrylic nails, basic manicures and pedicures, and nail art.

Work Location – 117 E Union Street, Vienna, GA 31092

Requirements – must have a Nail Technician License and at least six months training and experience providing nail technician services.

Resumes To – klal2.kids@gmail.com

(2/12, 2/19, 2026)

2026 BBC Men's Banquet

Contributed

The 2026 Men's Banquet at Byromville Baptist Church will be held Thursday, Feb. 26. Guest speaker is Brad Harris, who lives in Neosho, Missouri, invented the first commercially made deer grunt call to hit the market. Featured in Outdoor Life, Turkey all, Petersen's

Hunting, Bowhunter and many other magazines.

Mr. Harris is a pro staff member for Realtree Camo for over 35 years. He also worked closely with many outdoor legends like Bill Jordan and Michahel Waddell. The meal begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program to follow.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com



CCU February Food Pantries

Christ Chapel Unadilla will have two food pantries scheduled during February at the church located at 400 Jeannette Street in Unadilla.

No food drive is scheduled for this month.

Pantry hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon Saturdays, February 14 and February 21.

Volunteer Check-In is 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. For more information call CCU at 478-627-9352.

Christ Chapel 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. (MS)

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. (MS)

Vienna Garden Club February Meeting

By Janet Joiner and Marsha Mulderig

The Vienna Garden Club met Wednesday, February 11 and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Fruits of Vienna B and B with Gloria Ledford and Charlotte Vestal serving as hostesses. Mr. Bill Starr, Dooly County's Extension Agent was welcomed to the meeting with a very informative and interesting presentation on dragonflies.

After the program, a business session was held. President Marsha Mulderig announced the Vienna Club had once again received the Club of Excellence status for 2025. Application forms for the Sayra Ambrose Scholarship have been delivered to both Dooly County High

School and Fullington Academy.

In person interviews with candidates will be made the week of April 13 and a winner will then be selected. The Welcome to Vienna sign off East Union Street has been cleaned and weeded and is ready for fresh pine straw. The club will begin holding a birthday celebration each month at High Cotton Personal Care Home for clients having birthdays during that month.

The Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Downtown Courthouse Square. Club members are now taking pre-sell orders for ferns and geraniums.

The next club meeting will



Claire Stevens with Dooly County Extension Agent Bill Starr

be held Wednesday, March 11 at Fruits of Vienna B and B at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to attend, please call Marsha at 229-322-5468 or any club member.

Dooly County Veterans Museum Open Dates

Contributed

The Dooly County Veterans Museum on South Third Street is open for tours on military holidays the following dates during the year: March 29-National Vietnam Veterans

Day, May 25- Memorial Day, June 6-D Day, June 12- Women's Veterans Day, June 14- Army Birthday and Flag Day, July 4-American Independence Day, September 18- Air Force Day, October 13-Navy Birthday, Nov. 10-Marine Corps Birthday, November 11-Veterans Day and December 7-Pearl Harbor Day. The museum is also open by special appointments. A private tour can be arranged by calling 229-347-0834.

Lyndsey Walters Announces Candidacy for District Attorney of Cordele Judicial Circuit

Contributed

Fitzgerald, GA – January 26, 2026 – Attorney Lyndsey Walters recently announced her candidacy for District Attorney of the Cordele Judicial Circuit, which serves Ben Hill, Crisp, Dooly, and Wilcox counties. A native of the region and longtime public servant, Walters enters the race with a clear mission: to bring efficiency, accountability, and stronger collaboration with law enforcement to a circuit burdened by overwhelming case backlogs and delayed justice.

The Cordele Judicial Circuit is currently facing a crisis in the administration of justice, with over 1,700 cases backlogged and nearly 4,000 warrants waiting to be indicted or accused. Walters believes that the community deserves more timely justice and that the current system is unsustainable.

"We are in a situation where justice delayed is truly justice denied, with many being lost to the statute of limitations," Walters said. "With only four terms of court a year and one to two weeks of trials per term and the fact that it takes, on average, one week to try a felony case makes it impossible to meaningfully address the backlog under current practices. This is unacceptable for victims, for defendants, and for the community. I will pursue all options to bring our circuit to a smoother operating



Photo Contributed
Lyndsey Walters

structure."

Walters brings a unique combination of legal expertise, organizational discipline, and a business-minded approach to problem-solving. Before becoming an attorney, she worked in banking, where she developed knowledge of process improvement and leadership. After attending law school, where she was elected by her peers to represent them in the Student Bar Association, she returned home to practice law and serve her community.

"I understand how to assess complex systems, identify inefficiencies, and implement solutions that get results," said Walters. "The District Attorney's office should not be operating in crisis mode. It should be a professional, well-managed agency that ensures cases move

efficiently through the system while upholding justice and fairness."

One of the cornerstones of Walters' campaign is her commitment to building and maintaining solid, professional relationships with law enforcement agencies.

"I believe deeply in collaboration. Law enforcement officers are our front line in public safety, and the District Attorney's office must work closely with them to build strong cases and move them forward in a timely way," Walters said. "It's not just about arrests; it's about ensuring those arrests lead to prosecutions where warranted and that the rights of all parties are respected. A respectful, cooperative relationship is in the best interest of the entire community."

Walters views the role of District Attorney not only as a legal responsibility but as a moral and civic one. She believes the office must be grounded in both professional excellence and public trust.

In addition to her legal and administrative qualifications, Walters is known for her active involvement in community service. She grew up as a member of Ocilla Baptist Church and continues to attend with family. Now a resident of Fitzgerald, she attends Fellowship Baptist Church. Her volunteer work includes serving at events or-

ganized by local Chambers of Commerce such as "Pull for the Chamber" and "RealityU," as well as supporting Jackie's Helping Hands, a community-focused nonprofit. Her commitment to public service also extends nationally—she volunteered with the nonprofit Carry The Load, traveling for over 30 days on a cross-country tour from West Point, NY, to Dallas, TX, raising awareness and support for first responders, military members, and veterans. "My vision for this circuit is one where we are known for being tough on violent offenders and repeat criminals, and equally known for being fair, transparent, and efficient," she said. "The people of Ben Hill, Crisp, Dooly, and Wilcox counties deserve a system they can have confidence in."

She continued saying, "We cannot keep doing things the same way and expect different results. My legal training, coupled with my ability to manage people and processes, makes me well-prepared to lead from day one - and to lead with purpose."

The election for District Attorney of the Cordele Judicial Circuit will be held on May 19, 2026. Walters encourages all residents to become informed and engaged in the process.

For more information about Lyndsey Walters, her background, and campaign updates, please visit Votel.lyndsey.com.

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

Akin Insurance Agency, Inc.
Local People. Local Service. For a Lifetime.
Proudly Serving Dooly County for more than 10 years!
Corner of Union & 3rd
229-268-4751 • Vienna

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

Chad Weesner INSURANCE AGENCY
Vienna, GA

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

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 COLE CROPS PART ONE

Early spring is beckoning and that means it is time to plant the early spring garden. There are several crops which can be successfully grown now. Many of these fall within the family of plants known as Brassicas. Today I would like to share with you some of the characteristics of this clan.

Known collectively as cole crops, these tasty garden favorites include cabbage, kale, collards, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts. Cole crops probably originated in the Mediterranean area, with kale probably the first type to be cultivated some 2,000 years ago. By the fifteenth century, Europeans were reportedly already growing kohlrabi and cauliflower. Broccoli came along later and was raised almost exclusively in Italy, while Brussels sprouts were developed in Belgium in the mid-eighteenth century.

As a group, cole crops tend to be high in vitamins and very low in calories. For example, one stalk of cooked broccoli will provide more than your daily vitamin A allowance, nearly four times your vitamin C requirement, one third of the

required riboflavin, and 15 percent of your necessary vitamin B-6, all for only 47 calories! All cole crops are loaded with vitamin C, especially when eaten raw.

How cole crops grow is worthy of our attention. All of them start out as seedlings with a pair of heart-shaped leaves (cotyledons), and at this early stage, look identical. Later, as the true leaves appear, some differences, mainly in leaf color and shape, can be detected.

Fairly early in the growth of a cole crop (think cabbage and cauliflower), the outer leaves develop into nutrient storage areas. During this stage, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium from the soil are stored within the outer leaves. It is very important to grow cole crops in a fertile soil and feed them well, especially with nitrogen, from the very beginning, or the crops will likely be very puny. Even a dose of fast-acting nitrogen given at the time the final crop is developing won't help. It will be too late.

Another cole crop basic involves transplanting the young plants. When it comes time to

transplant the seedlings don't be alarmed if their long, thin taproots are slightly damaged. While most tap-rooted plants are set back considerably if the root is injured during transplanting, this is not true of cole crops because their taproot eventually becomes a fibrous root system. And while cabbage roots can extend several feet deep, 70 to 80 percent of them are concentrated in the top 8 to 12 inches of the soil. For best results, plant seedlings deeply up to the cotyledons.

The roots of cole crops are not as efficient as the roots of crops such as tomatoes or squash and thus need evenly moist soil to function at their best. In the same garden, the tomatoes, squash, and potatoes may be thriving while the cole crops appear to be dying of thirst. Keep this in mind, and watch them so that they never become water-stressed.

While each cole crop has its own particular issues, most pests and diseases are shared by the whole group. I suppose the most persistent problem you will encounter is the barrage of various species of caterpillars, cabbage loopers being the most common of these. These pesky invaders love to try to get a taste of the young, tender foliage well before you do.

Fortunately, there are some very effective measures that can aid in controlling caterpillars. We will explore these next time.

sees of old. Shakespeare said a man may walk with bowed head and reverent steps and folded hands in the posture of humility, and at the same time be looking down in cold contempt on those he regards as sinners.

Jesus tells the parable of two men who went into the temple to pray: a Pharisee and a publican. The Pharisee stood up and prayed, "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are... or even as this publican. I fast twice a week. I give titles of all that I possess." The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up his eyes unto heaven but smote his chest, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus said, "I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased, and him that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

This story illustrates that Jesus did not judge men by their outer behavior, but by the inner disposition of their minds. Insincere men may fool others but not God, for I Samuel 16: 7 states: "The Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

deliver even greater tax relief." Georgia consistently ranks as the number one state to do business, supported by a competitive tax climate, strong workforce development, reliable infrastructure and conservative fiscal management. Senate Republicans believe maintaining that advantage requires continued tax relief and reducing the size of the government.

While debate between chambers is part of the legislative process, Sen. Walker emphasized that the Senate's focus remains clear.

"We believe families, not bureaucrats, are best positioned to decide how to spend their money," Walker said. "That's the difference in philosophy, and it's why Georgia continues to lead. We are delivering real relief for working families and strengthening Georgia's long-term competitiveness. The Georgia Senate will continue leading the fight to put families first."



NEIL JOINER
Columnist

Joiner's Corner DYING EXPRESSIONS

Several months ago a younger relative of mine, Wiley Kimbrough, was sore after returning from a hiking adventure that lasted several days. His mother, LeSan, said he was "all stoved up." That phrase is one of the dying expressions which are fading from conversation.

Being stoved up probably has no connection to stove pipes, but it reminds me of a story my cousin, Rooney Bowen, told me long ago. He got the first-hand account from Mr. Buford Carr, who owned Vienna Hardware Company.

Mr. Buford said a stranger came into the store and asked to buy a half joint of stove pipe. Despite the unusual request, he walked to a workbench in the back and began sawing through the short pipe with a hacksaw. An employee's bewildered look caused Mr. Buford to vent his frustration. "Some s.o.b. up front wants to buy a half joint of stove pipe!" he said, before noticing the man was standing behind him. "And this fine

gentleman," he added, "wants to buy the other half."

Another dying expression is, "till the cows come home." It was a popular saying in the days when the countryside was dotted with small farms and most of them had a few cows.

Daddy called our small herd to the barn with a word that sounded like 'Ho-ick.' He'd emphasize the first syllable as in "Hoooooo-ick." After a few beckoning shouts, Star, his beloved milk cow, would lead the others up the lane.

I don't know if hoick was a common term or not. A Valdosta friend, Eddie Hightower, said his aunt called their cows with a similar sounding "Ho-ey." If anyone is familiar with the origin of cow-calling words I'd like to know more. Such mysteries sometime keep me awake at night.

"There's more than one way to skin a cat," used to be in the regular lineup of expressions. I've never understood why anyone would want to skin a cat.

Maybe it refers to catfish.

I skinned a few catfish growing up, first nailing their head to a fence post like Daddy taught me. He'd cut the skin just below the head and pull it off with pliers. That process is not patented so you're welcome to use it.

"He'd rather climb a tree and tell a lie than stand on the ground and tell the truth." A family friend made that comment to me years ago about a young fellow who was working for him. That expression was mostly grounded when kids stopped climbing trees.

During my childhood we climbed trees for entertainment, but also for economic benefits. Jimmy and I would scale the pecan trees in our yard then kick the limbs so the nuts would fall. It's not as efficient as a mechanical shaker but the price was right and the thrill was free.

Once upon a time I could climb trees till the cows came home. Now it would leave me all stoved up. And I guess kicking those pecan limbs to shake the nuts loose proves at least one dying expression is true. There's more than one way to skin a cat.

joinerscorner.com
neiljoiner@gmail.com



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder DOCKERS, OLD COAT, AND HARLEY- DAVIDSON CAP

I have found out that I am treated better when dressed up than when wearing ordinary clothes. Recently I went into McDonald's to order a cup of coffee. Since several carloads of teenagers had entered the store ahead of me, I found myself in the back of a long line. I was dressed in a suit. After standing in line for only about 5-minutes of what I had anticipated would be a long wait, the manager noticed me and walked over to ask what I wanted. She quickly served up my take-out coffee and I was gone. I venture to say that had I been dressed in regular street clothes, I would have waited my turn in line.

On another occasion I learned that dressing down has the opposite effect. It happened while vacationing in the north Georgia mountains at a Holiday Inn. I was eating breakfast. Dressed in Dockers, an old coat, with a Harley-

Davidson cap on my head, I was reading the morning paper and sipping coffee. The waitress walked over and asked if I were the maintenance man. Apparently she needed something repaired. I replied that I wasn't the maintenance man but was just a guest staying at her inn. She came unglued at her faux pas and apologized profusely.

Man's outer appearance can be deceiving. Jesus criticized the Scribes and Pharisees for their pretension of righteousness: "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees. For you are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Pharisees were not restricted to Jesus' day. They exist today and are as equally deceptive as the Phari-

President Pro Tempore Larry Walker III Applauds Senate Passage of Historic Income Tax Relief Package

By GA Senate Press Office
ATLANTA (February 16, 2025) — Last week, Senate President Pro Tempore Larry Walker (R-Perry) joined his Senate Republican colleagues in advancing the largest income tax reduction in Georgia history, reaffirming the Senate's commitment to putting hardworking Georgians first.

As families across the state continue to feel the pressure of rising costs, the Georgia Senate has made income tax relief a top priority.

"For years, Senate Republicans have worked to responsibly lower Georgia's income tax rate and return money to the people who earned it," said President Pro Tempore Walker. "The rising cost of living is the number one issue I hear about in middle Georgia. Families are stretching every dollar to cover groceries, childcare, rent and fuel. This week, the Senate acted to provide meaningful, permanent relief."

When Republicans first took control of state government in 2002, Georgia's income tax rate stood at six percent, where it had remained for more than three decades under Democratic leadership. Through disciplined budgeting and conservative fiscal stewardship, Senate Republicans have steadily reduced that rate while maintaining one of the nation's strongest economies.

Today, Georgia's income tax rate stands at 5.19 percent, saving taxpayers billions annually. The Senate's action reinforces its long-term commitment to continuing that downward trajectory in a responsible, sustainable way.

"This didn't happen by accident," Sen. Walker continued. "It happened because we made tough decisions, prioritized taxpayers and kept our state on solid financial footing, even during COVID and historic inflation. Because of that discipline, Georgia is now in a position to

Writings From The Heart I REMEMBER WHEN:



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

1). I remember when Yes Sir and Yes Ma'am and No Sir and No Ma'am were standard respect when answering older people. How I see and hear how some parents are rearing today's children grieves my heart. The answer is in the Bible how to raise our children: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

2). I remember when I bought a brand-spanking new 1967 Chevelle S.S. 396 fully loaded for (thereabout) \$2,800.00, and that was out-the-door price. Try buying the equivalent car today. You had better take a Brink's truck with you!

3). I remember when I was playing basketball, I could run and jump and bump the inside of my elbow on the rim. Today? Give me a 10-foot ladder and some soul brave enough to hold it!

4). I remember when I was crazy enough to drive that 1967 S.S. 396 Chevelle 120

miles per hour on dirt roads, and later my 1969 Dodge Charger S.E. 440 at 144 mph, on regular paved roads, with almost slick tires. Today? I'm about ready to get out of somebody's vehicle if they get up to 75 or 80 mph!

5). I remember when my Mom would almost threaten to beat-me-to-death to get me to eat turnips, rutabaga's and cabbage! Today? I love them almost as much as a good ole' Hershey Bar. BUT, I must have some good ole' plain white meal cornbread to go with them.

6). I remember when when we didn't have to worry our elections being stolen, except in 1960 in Cook County Chicago. Today? Well, you all see what is going on, and it is not pretty!

7). I remember when I almost bought quite-a-bit of Face Book stock when it was \$17.00 per share. I know, I know, I know and I am still kicking myself. The same story

with Google when it went IPO. BUT, I did seize the opportunity when Jesus bought me with a price on the cross to save me from my sins. I DID that in 1975, and am so happy I made that investment in ETERNAL LIFE in heaven. That beats ANY stock purchases a million times over!

8). I remember when I turned down a scholarship to play basketball because I did not understand the details. I found out later the financial benefits were much more lucrative than I had understood. Oh well. I'm happy with the degrees I have with a lot of my hard work and a little bit of help from the G.I. Bill. Thank You, Jesus

Let me leave you all with a Holy Bible scripture: "Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and His law does he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in the season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3

God speed to you all. I pray you a blessed week. Until next time. Bye.

Message From the State Rep. Patty-Marie Stinson

Dear Local Government Officials, I offer this message in the spirit of unity and shared responsibility for the communities we serve. With HB 1116 and HR 1114 now under discussion, this is not the moment for division among local leaders in House District 150.

The proposal to eliminate ad valorem taxes on homesteaded properties by 2032—and replace that revenue with local sales tax—will have major implications for every city, coun-

ty, and school system budget in our area.

Property taxes make up a significant share of municipal revenue, and your unified, informed voice is essential as we evaluate how this shift could affect services and long-term planning.

Public disagreements at a time like this can create uncertainty for potential developers and investors who are assessing whether our communities are stable, coordinated, and ready

for growth.

I encourage each of you to review the proposal closely and share any operational or budgetary concerns so they can be clearly communicated as this legislation moves forward. Our residents—and our economic future—benefit when local leadership speaks with clarity and steadiness.

Respectfully yours, Patty-Marie Stinson

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I attended the meeting Monday night, Feb. 9 to support the idea of getting more law support for Vienna. I fully agree with the idea of turning over the department to the Dooly

County Sheriff's Office. It really disturbs me that we have little to No law presence in our town, except for a long row of empty police cars lined up down at the station day after day. The safety of your constituents should be the MAIN

focus, but the financial savings to our budget would be astronomical for our community's needs. This can be a Win Win for Dooly and that's what really matters.

Concerned Citizen, Beverly Dail, Vienna, Ga.

The News Observer
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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.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 26-0002 IN RE: ESTATE OF Edward Frank Cannon, Jr., DECEASED NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of LINDA CHAPPEL CANNON, for a year's support from the estate of EDWARD FRANK CANNON, JR., deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before March 2, 2026, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objection, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party.

By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 304 Vienna, GA 31092 (229)268-4217 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2026 0775-VNO

NOTICE TO DERTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOOLY IN RE: GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III, deceased

DONNA ATHIELA GRIFFIN, having been granted Letters Testamentary and being named Executor of the estate of a deceased, GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III, in the Dooly County Probate Court, does hereby notify all persons having a claim against an estate to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to an estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

DONNA ATHIELA GRIFFIN EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III 255 Pine Avenue Pinehurst, Georgia 31070 Denal W. Sherrer, Jr. Attorney for the Estate at P.O. Box 77 Vienna, Georgia 31092 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2026 0773-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Robert Buron Lamb, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-0004 NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR

YEAR'S SUPPORT THE PETITION OF ELIZABETH B. LAMB, for a year's support from the estate of ROBERT BURON LAMB, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested parties are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before March 9, 2026, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objection, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party.

By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court 104 South Second Street Vienna, GA 31092 (229)268-4217 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/05, 2026 0777-VNO

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: CASE NUMBER: 046-26J-0005 J. S., a child. DOB: 10/11/2017 SEX: M

TO: RAQUAN BROOKS, putative father of the above-named child. Any other person(s) claiming a parental interest who appear to the court to be proper or necessary parties to the proceeding and to the above-named child.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE On January 15, 2026, a petition was filed in this court under the above-captioned case to terminate the parental rights of the parents of the above-named child.

THIS IS A SUMMONS REQUIRING YOU TO BE IN COURT. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished by imprisonment for up to twenty (20) days and/or a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Now therefore, you, the party(s) named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as a judge may be continued, and until discharged by the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Dooly County, Georgia, located at The Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015 on the 8th day of April, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to answer the allegations of the petition. The parent(s), guardian(s), legal

representative or any other person having physical custody or control of the above-named child(ren) are hereby commanded to bring the above-named child(ren) to the aforementioned hearing at the aforesaid time and place.

If you are served with this summons by publication as provided by law, you are likewise required to appear before this court at the above-stated date, time, and place to answer the allegations of the petition. A copy of the petition seeking termination of the parental rights of the parents of the above-named child(ren) may be obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Dooly County, Georgia, located at 104 Second Street, Vienna, Georgia 31092.

TO ANY BIOLOGICAL FATHER REQUIRED TO BE SERVED PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §15-11-283: Please be advised that any biological father who is not the legal father of the above-named child(ren) may lose all rights to the child(ren) named in the petition brought in the above-captioned matter and will not be entitled to object to the termination of his rights to the child(ren) unless, within 30 days of receipt of this notice, he files a petition to legitimate the child(ren), AND a notice of the filing of the petition to legitimate with this court.

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT TO THE MOTHER, BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND LEGAL FATHER OF THE CHILD(REN) (IF ANY):

Georgia law provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A copy of the petition to terminate parental rights is attached to this notice. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the 8th day of April 2026, at the Juvenile Court of Dooly County, Georgia, located at The Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015.

If you fail to appear, the court will terminate your rights in your absence. If the court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the petition to terminate parental rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your child, the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your child. If the judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child or your child's earnings or property. Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else. Even if your parental rights are terminated: (1) You will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child's care unless and until your child is adopted; and (2) Your child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted. This is a very serious matter. You

could not attend an attorney immediately that you are prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and to have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney if the court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you. If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone number of the clerk's office which is 229-268-4234 Dooly.

WITNESS the Kristen W. Pack, Judge of said Court, this the 15th day of January, 2026. /s/ PATSY BRIDGES PATSY BRIDGES, Deputy Clerk Juvenile Court of DOOLY County, Georgia 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2026 0772-VNO

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 26-0006 IN RE: ESTATE OF FRANCES FOWLER, DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JASON A FOWLER AND ANGIE F CAWTHON has petitioned for ANGIE F CAWTHON AND A SON A FOWLER to be appointed Administrator of the estate of FRANCES FOWLER, deceased, of a Dooly County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why a petition should not be granted.

All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MARCH 16, 2026. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing. Rooney Bowen, III, Judge of the Probate Court By Denal Fluellen, Clerk of the Probate Court Dooly County Probate Court 104 South Second Street Vienna, GA 31092 229-268-4217 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 2026 0779-VNO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA CIVIL ACTION NO. 25DV-0117 CRAIG COOPER, PLAINTIFF VS. MEGHAN HANNAH COOPER, DEFENDANT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

By order for review of publication dated the 31st day of December, 2025, you are hereby notified that on the 3rd day of November, 2025, Craig Cooper, filed suit against you for divorce.

You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, and serve upon Plaintiff an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for publication. WITNESS, the Honorable Amy B. Brant, Judge Superior Court. This the 22nd day of January, 2026. P.B. Clerk Dooly County Superior Court 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2026 0771-VNO

NOTICE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY RE: PETITION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR LEAVE TO LEASE REAL PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE OF DEDRICK FUDGE ESTATE NO. 13-044 TO: ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST

The County Administrator, Denal W. Sherrer, Jr., has filed a petition for leave to lease real property of the estate of Dedrick Fudge. This is to notify you that objections to the petition, if any, must be filed by March 9, 2026. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and all pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled for a later date in the Probate Court of Dooly County, courtroom 11, located at Second Street, Vienna, Dooly County, Georgia. If no objection is filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Rooney Bowen, III, Probate Judge By Denal Fluellen, Probate Clerk/Deputy Clerk PO BOX 304, Vienna, GA 31092 229-268-4217 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2026 0778-VNO

SEALED BIDS The Georgia Forestry Commission will be accepting sealed bids on March 2, 2026 for a timber sale located on the Georgia Forestry Commission's Flint River Nursery in Dooly County.

Timber being sold is located on 54.56 acres with approximately 1,882 tons of forest products. Bids will be opened at 11:00 am at the Flint River Nursery Office. The contract length to remove the timber is 4 months. For information on this timber sale, contact: Ben Hammond, Georgia Forestry Commission, at 706-612-3729.

2/12, 2/19, 2026 0776-VNO

STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS February 24, 2026

Frank Griffin to Host State Board of Education Second District Public Hearing

The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Second Congressional District on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Sumter County Schools 100 Learning Lane, Americus, GA 31719.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival.

The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Prie at gprie@doe.k2.ga.us no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event. 2/12, 2/19, 2026 0774-VNO (GNS 54344 - 26023GG0)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA Civil Action File No.: 26DV-0011 IN RE: ANN B. LAWSON, Petitioner NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Georgia, CRISP COUNTY Notice is hereby given that ANN B. LAWSON filed her Petition to the Superior Court of Dooly County, Georgia, on the 13th day of February, 2026, praying for a change of the name of Petitioner from ANN B. LAWSON to ANNIE SANDRA BRYANT. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to said name change.

Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said Petition. This 13th day of February, 2026. BENJAMIN L. WRIGHT, JR. Attorney for Petitioner 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 2026 0780-VNO

DOOLY COUNTY S.O. ABANDONED PROPERTY NOTICE

held for a period in excess of ninety (90) days from the date of seizure shall be forfeited to the Dooly County Sheriff's Office unless claim is made to the Dooly County Sheriff's Office, (229)645-0920, 576 Pinehurst Hawkinsville Road, Pinehurst, GA 31070 within fourteen (14) days from the date of the final publication of this notice: Juan Serna; Andres Vallejo – U.S. Currency. 2/19/2026, 2/26/2026 0781-VNO

VIENNA CONTINUED FROM 1A

down here tomorrow, detectives, investigators.

Vienna was low on crime at one time, we didn't have this. But, the gun store got burglarized three different times and there hasn't been the first arrest made. The sheriff's department knew everyone that went in out there, but he couldn't go past the police chief. I ask you all before my grandchildren get killed. There's a lot of guns out here. You all are the ones in control, you are the ones that can fight us, or high up, this mayor and council.

There's a lot of stuff that shouldn't be going on, but I ask the people. I've held it long enough and I'll be (expletive) if I'm going to hold it anymore. Ms. (Jaime) West asked that the numbers be published because we have some here that have not looked at a charter. Don't know what the-- is going on. Ms. Lewis just came along, and has already asked for a charter. So I ask you all to appeal to your council. We have a man and a 'piece' and they can't do it. Just like I would do, when I have a problem, or I need some help, I am and I encourage you to call the Dooly County Sheriff's Department.

We can get five or six men down at one given time. The police department is overworked, they're certainly underpaid, but we're competitive. I ask you all to start 'dipping' in and if I need to be held accountable, hold me accountable. We have a lot of crime going on and I've held it back to work with what we're supposed to have a police department. I'm not going to hold it anymore, it's not happening. No arrests are being made on these crimes, assault rifles, illegal assault rifles, they're spread-

ing throughout our town. No one has been arrested."

During citizen input, Ms. West stated, "The lack of police and Ga. Power presence is a concern. We seldom see police out patrolling and I know we are short of staff, but it is a safety concern. We never see any Ga. Power in town. There are many lines that are overgrown and sagging and about to fall down and Delieesseline Drive is still dark." She also suggested that contact numbers of the council members and staff be provided, "I feel like they're elected officials and we have a right to contact them."

Shea Daniels expressed concern about, "Allegedly secret meetings amongst the council and others taking place on how you want to get back at one another, council or mayor to include discussions on who needs to be fired. Not once did those discussions include resolutions or replacements that could prevent a disruption in the day-to-day operations of city business. We're good with change, but we have a problem with plotting and scheming at the hands of taxpayers dollars. If you make a decision to terminate an administrator, etc., it doesn't matter. Do you have someone who is qualified and ready to step into those positions without causing a disruption to the business of this city? Can you stand for what is right, not for what you want? Can you use your seat of power to help think of ways to help the city budget? We come for you to represent the people."

Mrs. Beth English shared, "I agree that volunteers are a key and I would encourage you to have the people who are coming to these meetings to be a part of these commissions and commit-

tees. The biggest concern that I hear is public safety. We just don't have enough. Vienna is a small city and we cannot always afford to pay a competitive rate and good, effective law enforcement officers are hard to keep.

I would encourage you to do something that we tried to do some time ago and that is to have a serious discussion with our sheriff and take a look at that and have some serious discussions about what it would save, how many people could they keep here in Vienna for that? We have got to have a strong police protection and presence and that helps a lot. Some preliminary figures I've looked at, it's close to \$500,000 in savings to the city for the sheriff's office to take over the operations."

The mayor recommended that Nathan Jordan continue to serve as public works director, Margaret Shelley to continue in her role as the city clerk and Mark Turner as fire chief. During the council reports, Council member Tabatha Carter said, "We have to work together and all we can do is what we can do. It's time for us to stand together in Vienna."

Councilman Albert King, Jr. stated, "If we want Vienna to grow, all the citizens have got to make it grow. If we put our money together, then we can enjoy the kind of businesses we want here in this town to make it grow." Mayor Pro-tem John Mathis replied, "We've got heavy equipment, but they're busting up the sidewalks and the curbs, especially on Highway 41 and on Union Street. Walking around looking at public works and the police department, the upkeep, they could do a whole lot better."

600-MILE-WALK CONTINUED FROM 1A

In our country, we're losing about 149,000 people a year to suicide. About 50% of them are suffering from substance abuse disorders. When it comes to Vets who are suffering from substance abuse disorders and other people that have been through trauma, my mission out here is to raise awareness because we are in a serious mental health crisis in this country. What's devastating in these rural communities where there's no resources, there's just no information. My purpose was to find myself on a healing journey.

The reason that came about is because Sept. 29, 2025, I was in a massive house fire and I almost died. My feet suffered third degree burns, my arms suf-

fered second degree burns and it was so surreal and my surgeon ended up skydiving in my place because I had an event going on two weeks after this fire.

I asked the doctor to perform the jump because I couldn't, I mean who does that? When people begin to be kind to one another and reach out and help others, we start overcoming a lot of the barriers in mental health. We start crossing the divides, so the purpose of walking this far is to raise awareness of mental health to tell people that there's hope.

Do not give up on yourself and it's okay not to be okay sometimes and just do it one day at a time. There's another guy that's doing the same thing, he's al-

ready walked 9,600 miles, he's in Key West and coming up the East Coast, all the way up to the tip of Maine to be the very first person to ever hit all four points of the lower 48 in the country.

He's doing it for recovery and mental health. I am on my way to Jacksonville, Fla. to meet up with him to let him know how much he's inspired me and to inspire him. We're crossing bridges. It's not just a community, but it's a country that is suffering. We've got to join together to do something about it.

For more information, email at: whatwasismore8305@gmail.com or visit: https://www.facebook.com/p/Recovery-Warriors-Inc-61551105724663/.

FA Second Annual Blue and Gold Gala

Contributed

If you missed last year's Fullington Academy PTO Second Annual Blue and Gold Gala, you will not want to miss this year's. The event will be held Saturday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. in Muse Theatre, Perry, Ga. with cocktail attire. Tickets are on sale now and seating is limited, so don't wait to secure your spot. Purchase your tickets at https://gofan.co/event/5991652?schoolId=GA19136_1.



Subscribe Today! 478-825-2432

Lady Trojans Win Third Straight Region Championship



Fullington Academy Lady Trojans, region champs for the third straight year.

Photos Contributed

By Head Coach Van Bailey

We had an exciting week of basketball for the Lady Trojans going into the region tournament ranked number two. We opened up last Tuesday at ABAC playing the three seed Westwood who we had defeated two times previously in the season. It was our goal to keep doing what we've been doing and get to that region championship. Our girls came out and did exactly that, jumping out to an early lead 18-9, extending that every quarter and ending up winning this game 57-28.

A big game from Carli Gibson with 17-points, also Claire and Evelyn Fletcher chipped in 10-a-piece and a good night on the boards from Claire and Evelyn as well with seven rebounds each. Just a good game overall and did not look ahead and took care of the op-

ponent in front of us. It was exciting to move ahead to Friday night where for the fourth year in a row we played the region championship against our big rival Crisp Academy.

We had set our goal to get to this game this year and try to three-peat the region championship and that had not happened in a while at Fullington Academy. So just getting there was huge. Even though we had a little bit of youth, we jumped out to an early lead and let them back into it and finished the first quarter with an 8-8 game. Our youth kind-a showed up in the second quarter, panicked a little and turned the ball over and allowed Crisp to get some easy baskets.

We got down 21-17 at halftime and two minutes into the third quarter, we were struggling and got down 28-18,

called a timeout just to settle the girls down and made a few changes and I was so proud of our girls, we came out of that timeout and the game just flipped. We started doing the little things and creating easy buckets, getting to the free throw line by attacking the basket and CA went a little bit cold and we made a nice run. At the end of the third quarter, we closed at 34-33, then I felt like if we could make it to the fourth quarter, with our depth, it was going to pay off and it did. Just an amazing fourth quarter for our girls, probably the best they've played all year.

They did not look like a young team, they looked like an experienced squad of girls and we ended up winning this game 55-48 to win our third straight Region Three A Championship and a

tremendous game from all of our girls and I can't say enough about how hard they played and left it on the floor. Claire Shugart was key in this game and led all scorers with 20-points including eight of nine from the free throw line, some crucial at the end to lock the game up.

We had a big defensive game from all of our girls and Evelyn Fletcher had a huge game for us on the boards, handling some of their inside game that they had and Rylee Reed the same.

Claire Fletcher had to step up and be our primary point guard and scored eight points. Kade Vaughan had nine and a key basket by another eighth grader, Caroline Akin down the stretch who hit a big three-pointer in the fourth quarter. Olivia Cawthon played her best game, just a full team effort.

We set this goal early in the year and came to play that night and did everything I asked. I can't say enough about these girls and what they've done and the work that they've put in to win this region championship. This allowed us to go into the state playoffs with an 18-6 record, ranked fifth in the state.

Congratulations and thanks to all the fans and a tip of the hat to Crisp Academy who played an amazing game and one for the ages and one people will talk about for years to come.

We hosted Westwood, a common opponent Tuesday night in the first round of state. We hopefully will be advancing on to Macon to play Friday at 1:30 p.m. at Stratford Academy against St. George's, the number four ranked team in the state.

Fullington Loses Round One Region Basketball Tournament Game

Contributed

The Trojan's boy basketball squad lost Monday, Feb. 9th's playoff game to rival Crisp Academy 56-28. This marked

the end of the 2025-2026 season for Fullington Academy giving the team an overall record of 7-19 and 0-8 in region or in fifth place in GIAA A region three.

Bobcats Take a Loss in Region Tournament



Photo Contributed

Ja'Kayla Hooks who was the key component in the victory with a double-double 30-point performance and 20-rebounds.

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Dooly County lost in the first round of the region tournament last Tuesday to the Hawkinsville High School Red Devils 65-46. The Red Devils led at the half 30-18 but despite the Bobcats offensive surge in the fourth quarter, Dooly County fell short being outscored 35-28. The boys do not have any more games scheduled as of now with a record at press-time

of 5-15 overall and 3-9 in the region.

The Lady Bobcats meanwhile won its region tournament game last Wednesday defeating Treutlen 49-35 behind Ja'Kayla Hooks' double-double 30-point performance and 20-rebounds, while Cor'Leiyah Stewart and Cherish Sutton also contributed with six-points-a-piece. Dooly's win moved their record to 10-11 overall and 6-6 in the region.

FA FFA President Attends Agricultural Education LDE

Contributed

Fullington Academy FFA President Keira Musselwhite traveled to Camp John Hope recently to participate in the Agricultural Education Leadership Development Event. Keira prepared a detailed lesson plan over honeybees, delivered a four-six minute lesson to a group of students, and finished it off with a 25 question multiple choice test. We are so proud of Keira for all of her dedication preparing for this contest.



Bobcat Men's Soccer Team 2026 Eagle Cup Champions

Contributed

The Dooly County boys varsity soccer team secured a 3-1 over Crawford County High School and back to back Eagle Cup championships. Jesus Vega, Dodany Mendez and Francisco Rodríguez each had one goal. There's still several mistakes we need to fix, but we're extremely proud of our boys. Our girls dropped game four of the Eagle Cup with a score of 1-0. They fought hard until the end. Our girls also dropped game

one to Central High School with a score of 3-0, our girls played hard and fought until the end.

The Bobcat boys secured a 4-2 win in Penalty Kicks against Central High School last Wednesday. We had a rough first half and picked up the slack with several players out, but we rallied together and fought our way back to win it in PKs.

Goalkeeper Michael Hyatt had one save and Jesus Vega, Grayson Hurtado, Dodany Mendez and Alex Mendez each scored

their Penalty Kicks. Next up, we played Chattahoochee County last Thursday in game two of the Eagle Cup and traveled back to Roberta, Ga and lost to the Lady Panthers 6-0, however the boys rallied in support of the girls defeating Chattahoochee County 7-0. Friday, Feb. 13, the Middle School Bobcats secured a 4-0 victory over Crisp County on the road winning 4-0.

Cole Gaultney had a hat trick (three goals) and Josue Morales had one on the night. Next up,

the Bobcat varsity girls and boys traveled to Bleckley County Tuesday, while the Lady Bobcats visit Berrien Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 5:00 p.m. Dooly's boys will be hosting the Kendrick Cherokees Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:00 p.m.

The Middle school team traveled to Hawkinsville Wednesday, Feb. 18 to take on Pulaski County Middle School.

Black History Month-Honoring Local Legacy

By Dooly County Health Department Nurse Manager-RN Cyndi Mercer

We honor Mr. Harry Bernard Ward, a devoted educator, veteran, faith leader, and public servant whose life was defined by service to others and deep love for his community.

Mr. Ward spent decades shaping young minds as an educator and coach, instilling discipline, confidence, and the belief that anything is possible. His influence extended far beyond the classroom, touching generations of students throughout Dooly County and surrounding communities.

A proud United States Air Force veteran, Mr. Ward continued his service at home by giving his time and leadership

to the people of Dooly County. He served on the Dooly County Board of Health, as a County Commissioner, and in numerous civic and community organizations, always working to make his community stronger, healthier, and more united. Above all, Mr. Ward was known for his integrity, faith, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to uplifting others.

His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the lessons he taught, and the community he helped build. We honor Mr. Harry Ward, not only for what he did, but for who he was. I called him my friend.

Please share your local heroes and people who poured into your history so we may honor our local black history.



DCSS STAR Student-State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member Recognized

Contributed

The Dooly County School System proudly recognized our STAR Student, STAR Teacher, and our State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Member three individuals who represent academic excellence, leadership, and dedication. Javis Bennett, our STAR Student reflects hard work and commitment to learning. Mrs. Kylie Garrard, our STAR Teacher, exemplifies



impactful teaching and mentorship, and Elvis Gonzalez, our state superintendent's council member, serves as a strong

voice for students at the state level.

We are extremely proud of these honorees and grateful for

the positive impact they continue to make in our school community. Congratulations on these outstanding achievements.