



Official Grand Opening in Vienna!

March 5th at 4:10 p.m.

After a year of planning, we invite the community to join us for our official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

We are located at 107 S 3rd Street in Vienna, GA



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.

VOLUME 124 • NUMBER 09 • Price \$1.00 tax included

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Honoring Excellence in the DCSS 2

Pinehurst Global Methodist Church Joins Partnership to Bring God's Word to Tuzweyo Twake People in Uganda 2

Dooly County Lady Bobcats in State Basketball Playoffs 6

Lady Bobcats Seeking First Win of Soccer Season 6

Community Calendar 3
Legals 5

Commissioners Agree, Not Unanimously to Abandon Groves Landing Road

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Following a public hearing, commissioners agreed, but not unanimously, to officially abandon Groves Landing Road. Letters were mailed to all three individuals who own land on this section of the road. The commissioners determined on a vote of 3-1 if the road has ceased to be used by the public to the extent that it has no substantial public purpose, the board can then declare this section of the county road system abandoned and that it no longer be a part of the county road system. The rights of the public in and to this section as a public road shall cease.

Commissioners were informed that the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is currently experiencing a severe budget deficit that is impacting DFCS funded services. The Association County Commissioners of Georgia is concerned that the state might shift significant costs to the counties in the future. Letters about delinquent garbage fees will be sent out by the end of February. After Janu-

ary 1, 2025, Waste Management took over the responsibilities of billing customers.

The county however is still collecting delinquent garbage fees that were due as of Dec. 31, 2024. The board agreed at the first meeting in February that the county with collecting those fund and that anything over \$200, letter would be sent to those residents with 60-days to pay those delinquent fees. If not collected, it would be turned over to a collection agency with \$250 added to the bill.

The board also discussed the 2026 Ga. General Assembly's 'growing momentum' consideration of property tax reform legislation or, 'divide property tax relief.'

According to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia it would, "Significantly reduce property taxes on homestead properties." Dooly County has been approved for a \$26,188 grant to assist with the required update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This makes the county eligible for federally

declared emergency situations.

The board continued its discussion of how to update zoning ordinances and zoning setbacks in the county, however County Administrator Steve Sanders stressed, "But we need to decide what we want it to look like before we start the process. We have to advertise the variance request in the newspaper, so it's just delaying the process and costing our citizens extra money. The planning commission will talk about this at their next meeting Monday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. Then out of that meeting, come back with some recommendations to the board of commissioners."

In other news:

- A credit card for Deputy County Administrator Danielle Jefferson was approved by the board.

- The next payment on the Series 2015 A bonds to refinance jail bond is due February 27 in the amount of \$308,060

- The next payment on the Series 2016 B Bond for improvements to the courthouse and other building improvements is also due February 27 in the amount of \$25,425

Homegoing Services for Trustee Nathan J. Jordan



Nathan J. Jordan

Photo Contributed

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

United States Air Force Veteran, Trustee Nathan Jerome Jordan of 210 Ninth Street Vienna, Ga. died Monday, February 16 at his residence. The funeral service and celebration of life was held Sunday, February 22 in the sanctuary of the Bethel Baptist Church in Vienna, Ga. According to his obituary, Jerome's sense of duty led him to serve the U.S. with honor and distinction in the Air Force.

Following his military career, Nathan continued his dedication to public service by working for the City of Vienna as a superintendent of public works department.

He was happily married to Betty Jean King Jordan who preceded him in death Dec. 28, 2022. He is lovingly remembered by his sons Christopher D. Jordan (Tamika) and Jason B. Jordan (Shamonda) of Vienna. He was a family man at heart, a dedicated fan of Dooly County Football, where his vibrant spirit made him known as the loudest fan in the stadium. Mayor Eddie Daniels spoke at the funeral and shared that, "JJ was a role model for the City of Vienna. He gave part of his life to the military and then he came back and helped make Vienna what it is today."

He also shared, "The only thing we ever had a problem out of JJ was a cut-off time. JJ will be missed y'all. I've got a lot of decisions to make this week, y'all pray for me, but all is well." JJ had been employed with the City of Vienna Public Works Department for 26 years, according to Mayor Daniels. City Administrator Michael Bowens commented about his relationship with Nathan Jordan, "Working with JJ these last 11 years allowed us to reflect on childhood memories as

we were childhood best friends through high school. I served as Best Man at his and his wife, Betty's wedding. We shared a lot of the same interests and were keenly interested in improving the quality of life in the city we grew up in."

He was remembered for how, "He took care of people his whole life, that's what he did. I just wish I had one more day with him. But, he's no longer suffering and was truly a man of God." Rev. Bobby G. West, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, reflected on his relationship with Jerome Jordan, "He was a trustee and that's not just a name and I would call Jerome anytime. If I needed something, I'd call and the next thing I knew he was right here. He loved the City of Vienna, but one thing I know about Betty and Jerome, they loved the church; they gave love."

His cousin, Rev. James Jordan presented the eulogy and said in part, "We are reminded of St. Paul's words, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. We say those words with gratitude for Jerome. He fought a good fight, he finished the race. He showed up, he loved, he endured. He gave of himself in ways big and small, seen and unseen. We do not say goodbye without hope. We release Jerome into the hands of the one he trusts. His race is finished and his fight has ended."

Reverend Dr. Bobby G. West, pastor, Reverend Sherona Towns, officiant also spoke during the service. Minister Ava Jordan read the Old Testament and Reverend Sherona Towns the New Testament lesson. The burial, with military honors, followed at the Vienna City Cemetery. J.W. Williams Funeral Home of Cordele, Ga. was in charge of arrangements.

School Board OK's Resolution Calling for District III Special Election



Photo By Tim Franzén

Kindergarten student Karter Bennett who called the meeting to order. Also pictured is board member Minnie Harper.

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Board of Education gave a green-light to a resolution calling for a special election for the District III seat currently held by Minnie Harper during the General Election November 3, 2026.

"The called election must be approved by the Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration at its next meeting, The school board is requesting that the called election be among the items up for discussion." Superintendent Dr. Sherrod Willaford clarified the dates for qualifying would be, "The second of June through the fourth of June and the times would be 9:00 a.m. starting on the second of June-12:00 p.m. on June fourth."

Qualifying by law must be for two-and-a-half days. The board also approved the revised Fiscal Year 2026 school nutrition sala-

ry schedule. The superintendent announced that Tazzariah King, a student at DCHS was named the winner of the 2025 GLET Cybersecurity Poster Contest, hosted by the Ga. Dept. of Education. She was recognized at the GSBA meeting last Thursday in Atlanta.

The school board will be recognizing her at the school board meeting in March. National School Counseling Week was also observed recently and Dr. Willaford thanked the school counselors, "Who work tirelessly to support our students' academic success, personal growth, and social-emotional well-being. From helping students navigate challenges to planning for their futures, our counselors make a lasting difference every single day."

He also encouraged his teachers and staff, "To encourage one another. That's what I would like to see. Just taking action.

The Black History month commemorates this year, its 100th anniversary. We are trying to get funding to, I'm going to say, restore as much as possible with the 100th year of the Vienna Industrial School. We do conduct business out there, but we can get some money to support it by upgrading the roof, porch and some other areas."

The school board among other personnel decisions last Tuesday, announced the termination of DCES Fifth Grade Teacher Bruce Davis effective immediately.

Chief Financial Officer Christopher Stephens reported that at the end of January, 2026, "SPLOST VI had received \$144,381." Fundraisers were also approved by the school board. Kindergarten student Karter Bennett from Mrs. Taylor's class called the February board of education meeting to order.

Honoring Excellence in the DCSS

Contributed

We are excited to share that the Dooly County School System has been recognized as a Vision Award Winner at the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) Winter Conference. The GAEL Vision Award highlights districts that exemplify excellence in professional learning, leadership development, and advocacy for public education. This recognition reflects the commitment, teamwork, and dedication demonstrated across our entire school system.

This achievement represents the collective efforts of our educators, leaders, staff, students, families, and community partners who continue to work together to strengthen opportunities and outcomes for all students in Dooly County. Congratulations to everyone who contributes to making Dooly County Schools a place where excellence thrives.



Photo contributed

Pictured (left to right): Dr. Sherrod Willaford, Superintendent of Dooly County Schools; Ms. Jody Pate, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; Dr. Hollie Walters, Principal of Dooly K-8 Academy; Ms. Felicia Madison, Chief Operations Officer; and Mr. Alvin Williams, Principal of Dooly County High School.

'This is Your Health Department 2026' -not just a slogan



By Health Department Nurse Manager-RN Cyndi Mercer

I wrapped up my Lean Six Sigma Green Belt for Healthcare. This wasn't part of my degree program. Totally separate track. Different focus. Different expectations. I just chose to take it on in the middle of everything else because apparently that's how I roll. I won't pretend it wasn't a lot. Balancing a full degree, a six-week certification, and a full time job (plus life) at the same time stretched me.

But it also sharpened me. And at the end of the day, everything I learn has one destination, Dooly

County. We are doing big things here. And I want our community to walk into this clinic and feel confident in what they're walking into. Organized. Intentional. Thought through. Built to serve them well.

"This Is Your Health Department 2026" is not just a slogan to me. It is about breaking stereotypes. It is about bringing people through the doors for preventive services. It is about increasing traffic and it is about shifting how people see us. I am investing in myself so our community gets the experience and knowledge they deserve when they walk into our clinic. Not outdated thinking. Not low expectations. Not the bare minimum. Now for the biggie: Graduation is in plain view for Dhyesha and myself. And we are not slowing down. We are just getting started, friends.

For more information, contact the health department at 204 West Union Street in Vienna or call 229-268-4725.

Pinehurst Global Methodist Church Joins Partnership to Bring God's Word to Tuzweyo Twake People in Uganda

Contributed

Pinehurst Global Methodist Church has been given the opportunity to join with South Georgia Global Methodist Church in offering the Gospel to a people that currently does not have any printed version of the Bible in their own language.

The South Georgia Global Methodist Church is partnering with Wycliffe Associates to bring God's Word to the Tuzweyo Twake people in Uganda. Our Church will be sponsoring the translation of John Chapter 1 through John Chapter 2 verse 7 (a total of 58 verses with more available if needed).

The Adopt-a-Verse program is happening at our Church, and if anyone is interested in contributing, please contact Gary Fowler at 229-938-9967 or Mike Bowden at 478-244-2447.

The cost to translate each verse is Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35).



The deadline for this will be during the month of April; however, March 31, 2026 will be

the date for our Church. Donating for this translation will have an eternal reward, not only for

you, but for the Tuzweyo Twake people of Uganda. Be safe and may God Bless.

CCSO Hosts GOHS Middle Ga. Traffic Enforcement Meeting



Story and photo by CCSO The Crisp County Sheriff's

Office hosted the recent Governor's Office of Highway Safety

(GOHS) Middle Georgia Traffic Enforcement Network meet-

ing. That was followed by a coordinated road check operation. These joint efforts bring together agencies from across the region to strengthen partnerships, share resources, and enhance proactive enforcement strategies aimed at keeping our communities safe.

Crisp County Sheriff's Office issued 24 tickets making a total of four arrests: one possession of Methamphetamine, one possession of marijuana (felony), one possession of ecstasy, six seat belt violations, four child restraint tickets, two expired licenses, two suspended licenses, five no license on person, one suspended registration, one distracted driving. Georgia State Patrol: one DUI arrest and three other citations.

Other agencies participating included Dooly County Sheriff's Office, Turner, Crawford, Bibb, Twiggs, Pulaski, Bleckley, Macon County SO, War-

ner Robins PD, Ashburn PD, Sycamore PD, Centerville PD, Montezuma PD, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Motor Carrier Compliance Division and Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

We are proud of our agency and these teams for their continued dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public safety. Working together with our neighboring agencies allows us to stay proactive and united in protecting the citizens we serve.

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.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Vienna is considering applying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$1,000,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low-and moderate-income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of public housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at the Vienna City Hall, 203 West Cotton Street St, on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application and to review progress on the previous CDBG grants. The City of Vienna is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. People with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Michael Bowens at (229)268-4744 prior to Friday, March 13, 2026. This person can be located at Vienna City Hall, 203 W Cotton St, Vienna, GA 31902, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities may use the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.



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.

Dilly Dally in Dooly Brunswick Stew Challenge

By Chamber President CEO Rhonda Lamb

This is your opportunity to participate in the Dilly Dally in Dooly Brunswick Stew Challenge, an open ancillary competition welcoming local businesses, community members, and BBQ teams alike.

This fun and competitive event is open to everyone and you do not have to be cooking in the competition BBQ to enter. The event date is Saturday, Feb. 28 at 350 Pig Jig Boulevard, Vienna, Ga. and the entry fee is \$50 with a deadline of Friday,

Feb. 27 by 5:00pm. Turn in and blind judging is 12:45 p.m.-1:00 p.m. at the judging area. Brunswick Stew does not have to be prepared on site — stew may be cooked at home and reheated for judging.

Multiple entries are allowed (each entry requires a separate \$50 fee). Entries will be blind judged on: appearance, consistency, flavor and overall impression. Winner will receive 60% of the total Brunswick Stew entry fees and an award plaque. Competition entries and vendor fees can be paid online

via the official website, www.bigpigjig.com, using the “Red Pay Online” link through Xpress-pay.

If you have questions or need assistance: Contest Organizer: Rhonda – (229) 322-1596 (text or call) or Payment Assistance: Tiffany – (478) 778-1745. We invite you to showcase your favorite Brunswick Stew recipe, support a great local event, and compete for bragging rights in this exciting community challenge. We look forward to your participation.

‘A Century of Black History Commemorations’

Contributed

A celebration of excellence, culture, and legacy and you’re invited as the Dooly County K-8 Academy proudly presents our Annual Black History Program. It will be a powerful tribute honoring the rich contributions, achievements, and impact

of Black history across generations and will be held Friday, February 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the DCMS Gymnasium.

Our scholars have been working hard to prepare an inspiring program filled with performances, presentations, and moments that will make you proud to be

part of Bobcat Nation. We invite parents, families, and community members to join us as we celebrate history, heritage, and the future leaders of tomorrow. Let’s pack the gym and show our students how much we support their brilliance.

Dooly County Celebrates Black History Month

By Health Department Nurse Manager-RN Cyndi Mercer

We recognize Onesimus, an enslaved African man whose knowledge helped introduce smallpox inoculation to colonial America in 1721. At a time when smallpox was devastating communities, Onesimus shared a prevention method practiced in West Africa. Those who were inoculated had significantly lower death rates during Boston’s outbreak.

Modern public health owes part of its foundation to African medical knowledge, long before vaccines were widely understood. The Vienna County Training School, built in 1926, was one of Georgia’s early Rosenwald Schools—part of a nationwide effort to improve educational access for African American children during segregation.

Rosenwald Schools were funded through a unique partnership that included the Julius Rosenwald Fund, local public funds, and significant contributions from Black communities themselves.

This school later became known as Vienna High and Industrial School and served as the primary public school for Black students in Dooly County,



offering education through the high school level until school integration in 1970. Beyond academics, it provided vocational training, community space, and stability during a time when educational resources were deeply unequal.

Today, the building continues to serve the community as the Dooly County Family Resource Center, preserving its original purpose, uplifting families through access, opportunity, and support.

Education has always been a powerful tool for change, and this legacy lives on right here at home. Send us more local history so that we can learn together, share and celebrate.

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. (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)

2026 Vienna Fire Department Benefit Raffle

Contributed

A great opportunity for a chance at some awesome prizes including a \$100 ticket with only 120 available. If you’d like to purchase a ticket, get in touch with one of the Vienna Fire Department members.

Drawing date is March 19 with three prizes and three winners including a two day, two night all inclusive guided turkey hunt with meals and lodging provided at Providence Plantation in Sumter County-one bird limit.

A half day guided crappie fishing trip for two on Lake Blackshear with C and S Guide Service and a 12 gauge 26” Retay

Gordion Shotgun. For more information, contact the VFD at: viennafire1902@gmail.com.

STEM NIGHT is Coming to Dooly County

Contributed

Get ready for an evening full of discovery, creativity, and hands-on fun! Dooly County Schools is excited to invite all families to our Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Night on Tuesday, March 3 at the Dooly County K-8 Gym.

Title I Input Session at 5:00 p.m. STEM Activities: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Students and families will explore engaging science, technology, engineering, and math activities designed to spark curiosity and inspire future innovators!

This is a great opportunity to learn together, connect with our

school community, and experiencing the power of STEM learning in action.

All families (K-12) are invited. Come out and join us for an evening of learning, laughter, and lots of fun, because at Dooly, we are building a foundation of excellence.

Gain the Skills that Save Lives

The Intervene Challenge - presented by Dooly County Sheriff's Office, Byromville Baptist Church, and Vienna FBC Men's Ministry

STOP SUICIDE U.S.A.

Hosted by Byromville Baptist Church
Saturday February 28th - 9:00 to 2:00 – Lunch provided at no charge

Open to all community members and providing POST credit for law enforcement and CEUs for mental health professionals.

The Intervene Challenge features the world class Listen Learn Lead model of intervention, a three-step process to intervention grounded in five core values that empowers the helper to guide the individual at risk back to a place of safety and hope.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP A NUMBER FOR LUNCH, PLEASE CALL REED BENSON AT 404-886-6898

What Others Are Saying...

“Two hours after the training it was as if you were standing there whispering in our ears. We used the same words we learned in the class to de-escalate a 23-year-old female. In my 18 years of service this is the best training I have ever had.” Eric Furey, FF/EMT1

“The L3 model works and now hundreds of Police Chiefs and thousands of officers have honed the skills that are essential to helping those in crisis.” Police Chief Janet Moon, Past President Georgia Chiefs Assoc.

Meet your instructor...

Former US Army Chaplain, LTC Kenneth Lou Koon, DMin. is the founder of Stop Suicide USA and author of Listen Learn Lead. He has conducted more than 2,000 suicide interventions and trained more than 500 First Responder agencies with a passion that inspires listeners to answer the call to be a beacon of hope guiding those at risk back to safe harbor. More than 31,000 caring individuals have taken the Intervene Challenge. He serves as the crisis chaplain for Fayetteville FD, Fayette County SO and PTC PD.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>Athens Hill Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-4883</p> <p>AOH Church of God Vienna, GA 229-268-1903</p> <p>Bakersfield Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Bay Point CME Byromville, GA</p> <p>Bethel Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-2848</p> <p>Bethlehem Baptist Church Byromville, GA 229-433-2102</p> <p>Big Poplar Baptist Church Unadilla, GA</p> <p>Brown Chapel Baptist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-9466</p> <p>Byromville Baptist Church Byromville, GA 229-433-2505</p> <p>Byromville Methodist Church Byromville, GA 229-321-9292</p> <p>Camp Creek Baptist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-3929</p> <p>Vienna Church of Christ Vienna, GA 229-268-1994</p> <p>Vienna Church of God Vienna, GA 229-268-1404</p> <p>County Line Baptist Church Unadilla, GA</p> <p>Destiny Worship Center International Ministries Vienna, GA (478) 273-8112</p> <p>Dooling Baptist Church Byromville, GA</p> <p>Double Branch Freewill Baptist Church Unadilla, GA</p> <p>Drayton Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-8456</p> <p>Drayton Wesleyan Church Vienna, GA 229-321-9292</p> <p>Ebenezer Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-2964</p> <p>Evangelistic Tabernacle Church</p>	<p>NAPA Brooks Auto Parts 229-268-2700</p> <p>313 W. Union St., Vienna Open Through Lunch Eddie Conner, Manager</p>	<p>Akin Insurance Agency, Inc. Local People. Local Service. For a Lifetime.</p> <p>Proudly Serving Dooly County for more than 10 years! Corner of Union & 3rd 229-268-4751 • Vienna</p>	<p>Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Byromville, GA</p> <p>Richwood Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3713</p> <p>Reedy Branch Baptist Church 740 Church Avenue Byromville, GA</p> <p>Riverview Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Shady Grove CME Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Shiloh Methodist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Smyrna Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-6852</p> <p>Snow Methodist Church Unadilla, GA</p> <p>St. John Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Springhill Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>St. Luke CME Lilly, GA</p> <p>St. Mark's Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Tippettville Baptist Church Vienna, GA</p> <p>Trails of Faith Deliverance Holiness Church Vienna, GA 229-268-4377</p> <p>Turkey Creek Baptist Church Lilly, GA</p> <p>Unadilla First Baptist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-3615</p> <p>Unadilla United Methodist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-3330</p> <p>Vienna Congregation Vienna, GA</p> <p>Vienna First Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-4386</p> <p>Vienna Methodist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-4207</p>
---	--	--	--

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

Legislation Recap

Courtesy of Chamber President CEO Rhonda Lamb

We have officially moved beyond the halfway mark of the 2026 legislative session, and the pace under the Gold Dome is accelerating. Lawmakers completed legislative days 19-22 this week as committees worked through priority legislation and budget discussions intensified ahead of Crossover Day. With fewer than three weeks remaining before bills must clear their chamber of origin, the focus is narrowing around several key themes shaping this session.

Tax policy and economic development tools remain at the forefront, including continued debate over data center tax incentives and broader conversations about Georgia's income tax and property tax structures. Workforce and education policy continue to gain momentum, with legislation aimed at expanding pathways for retired teachers to return to the classroom, strengthening advanced math instruction, and advancing the House's early literacy initiative.

Business climate issues are also advancing, including portable benefits, tax-deductible healthcare stipends for small employers, and continued refinement of Georgia's business court system.

As Crossover Day approaches, longer floor debates and shorter tempers are expected. The Chamber remains actively engaged on these measures as they move through the legislative process.

The Georgia Chamber takes legislative positions through a member-driven process through the Government Affairs Council (GAC). The GAC is made up of over 500 government affairs professionals representing companies throughout our state, with the overarching goal of achieving the policy objectives of the Georgia Chamber.

Legislative positions taken by the GAC are communicated to members of the general assembly through written correspondence on an ongoing basis during Session. With hundreds of bills debated each legislative session, it can be difficult to understand what happened – and more importantly how it

impacts your business. That is why the Chamber produces a biennial legislative report, the Chamber Scorecard, which provides a concise, final summary of the disposition of the bills most important to the business community.

GAC leadership directs what becomes a "scorecard issue" and prior to floor votes being taken, the Georgia Chamber staff will communicate a bill's scorecard status to legislators. While the Georgia Chamber takes support and opposes positions on many pieces of legislation, the "scorecard" designation is reserved for bills that are of utmost importance to the business community.

The scorecard not only explains the details of each major legislative initiative the organization tracks, but it also shows how each legislator voted on these issues and how supportive your elected official was in the process.

To receive a scorecard grade, a legislator must be present to vote for 50% of the total scorecard votes in a biennium. If the legislator is not present for 50% of the votes, the legislator will receive a non-applicable (N/A). Certain actions may be considered that can positively or negatively impact scores which include, but are not limited to, sponsoring bills, speaking for or against bills, committee votes, and offering amendments. The "Chamber Champion" designation is reserved for sponsors of significant Chamber-supported legislation.

The Georgia Chamber is currently monitoring two outstanding pieces of scorecard legislation. Senate Bill 207 (Sen. Brian Strickland, R-McDonough), Second chance hiring/occupational licensing (Eligible for House special motion). House Bill 1193 (Rep. Chris Erwin, R-Homer), Literacy (House Rules eligible).

Artificial intelligence continues to dominate technology discussions at the Capitol this session, with lawmakers introducing a wide range of proposals aimed at balancing innovation with consumer protection.

A significant cluster of bills focuses on AI-generated content and digital likeness protections. Several measures would

criminalize the creation of obscene AI-generated images of adults or minors, while others would prohibit the unauthorized use of an individual's voice or image.

Additional proposals would require AI-generated content to include clear disclosure labels.

Another set of legislation centers on youth safety and platform accountability. Proposals include age verification requirements for app stores, parental consent provisions for minors, and measures aimed at limiting the addictive features of social media platforms. Beyond artificial intelligence, lawmakers are also revisiting automatic renewal practices for subscription contracts.

The Chamber has taken an opposition position on House Bill 529 and continues to engage with legislators to ensure consumer protections do not unintentionally create burdens for Georgia businesses. As technology policy evolves rapidly, the Chamber remains actively engaged with stakeholders to support thoughtful, balanced approaches that protect consumers while preserving Georgia's innovation ecosystem.

State Senate District 18 filled its vacancy this week following Tuesday's runoff election between Republican Steven McNeel and Democrat LeMario Nicholas Brown. McNeel retained Republican control of the central Georgia seat with approximately 59 percent of the vote. The race followed former Sen. John F. Kennedy's resignation to pursue a campaign for lieutenant governor.

Attention now turns to several special elections scheduled for March 10. Georgia's 14th Congressional District will select a successor to Marjorie Taylor Greene, with a large field of candidates making a runoff likely if no contender secures a majority. State Senate District 53 will also be on the ballot following Sen. Colton Moore's resignation to run for Congress.

House Districts 94 and 130 will hold elections the same day. Should no candidate reach 50 percent in any of these contests, runoffs are scheduled for April 7.

Early voting is underway in the affected districts.



TIM LEWIS
Columnist

In The Garden With COLE CROPS PART TWO

Last week's article featured some basic aspects of the vegetables in the cabbage family, better known as cole crops. These include cabbage, kale, collards, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts. We discovered that, as a group, these crops tend to be high in vitamins and low in calories—a dieter's dream. We also learned the importance of growing these crops in nitrogen-rich soil from the very beginning to encourage fast-growing, healthy plants.

While each cole crop has its own particular issues, most pests and diseases are shared by the whole group. The most persistent problem you will encounter is the barrage of various species of caterpillars, cabbage loopers being the most common of these. Cabbage loopers arise from the eggs laid on the undersides of cabbage leaves by small white butterflies. These pesky invaders work to get a taste of the young, tender foliage well

before you do.

Fortunately, there are some effective measures that can aid in controlling caterpillars. If you are so inclined, you can handpick the worms. Or, you can get the Trichogramma wasp to do the work for you. These wasps are parasites which lay their eggs on the caterpillar, and upon hatching, the wasp larvae kill the caterpillar by feeding on it until it dies. You can procure these wasps through mail order gardening magazines.

Perhaps the surest and most familiar way to control the cabbage looper and his clan is by a preparation made from the naturally occurring bacterium, Bacillus thuringiensis, also known as BT. Sprayed on the foliage and ingested by the caterpillars, it causes them to stop feeding and they die, turning into mushy dark brown blobs in a matter of days. BT is sold under several names, including Biotrol, Dipel, and Thuricide. For best

results, this bacterial insecticide should be applied before the worms reach one quarter inch in length. Carbaryl (Sevin) and other chemicals are also effective against cole crop caterpillars.

Another problem of cole crops is clubroot. This is a fungal disease that attacks roots of all cole crops, rendering them unable to take up water and nutrients. It deforms the roots so that they appear enlarged and club-shaped. The best controls are to keep the pH of your soil above 6.5 and to refrain from planting any cole crops in an affected area for at least two years.

Watch also for aphids attempting to feast on the foliage of young cole crops. They can be fairly easily controlled with applications of Orthene, Sevin, or insecticidal soaps.

Flea beetles, about one-eighth of an inch long, can also do serious damage to young cole crops, and can do it all season long in most areas. They thrive in hot weather. The best controls we have are insecticides such as rotenone, pyrethrum, and Sevin.

I hope these pointers will help you in your quest for healthy cole crops.

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.



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder FUNERAL HEARSE PULLING A U-HAUL TRUCK

A funeral procession was passing through a small town. The wealthiest man in the community had died. Two bystanders were watching on the street corner. Speculating on the size of the rich man's estate, one man asked the other, "How much do you think he left behind?" "He left it all," came the answer. "He didn't carry a single dime with him...Have you ever seen a funeral hearse pulling a U-Haul truck?" This story accentuates the folly of those who spend a lifetime amassing huge fortunes at the expense of neglecting their spiritual growth. The richest man in the world will take none of his possessions with him, not even the clothes on his back. Since "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," he won't even take his body. His only possession that will depart this world is his soul.

Jesus cautions against undue emphasis on worldly possessions:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The Master's words reveal the existence of two storehouses: an earthly one and a heavenly one. Riches in earth's storehouse consist of property, land, money, power, prestige, and influence. The heavenly storehouse is an invisible kingdom that is built through faith, obedience to God, and the love of God and fellowman. A rich man had a mansion on earth but only a tiny hut when he reached heaven. In contrast, the poor but righteous man who lived in a shack on earth found to his surprise that he had a mansion in heaven; he had forwarded

all the necessary materials in advance: faith, obedience, and love.

The Jews tell the famous story of King Monobaz who distributed all his treasures to the poor in the year of famine. His brothers complained to him that their forefathers gathered treasures and held them within the family, but that Monobaz had given his away. Monobaz replied, "Thy fathers gathered treasures from below. I have gathered treasures from above. They stored treasures in a place over which the hand of man can rule, but I have stored treasures in a place over which the hand of man cannot rule. My fathers collected treasures which bear no interest. I have gathered treasures which bear interest. My fathers gathered treasures of money. I have gathered treasures in souls. My fathers gathered treasures for others. I gathered treasures for myself. My fathers gathered treasures in this world. I gathered treasures for the world to come."

In summary, there are two worlds in which we must live: the present with death being the door to the one beyond. It is foolish to prepare for this life only with no provision for the next.

Lawmakers seek restraints on corporate home ownership

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers are again targeting corporate landlords in a bid to address housing costs during an election year when voters are concerned about affordability.

"I have a grave fear that we are becoming a nation of renters and not homeowners," said Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, who is running for lieutenant governor.

Regular home buyers do not have the deep pockets to compete with institutional investors when trying to buy a home, he said. His solution is Senate Bill 463, which would cap corporate ownership at 500 single-family rental homes.

A Senate committee passed his measure Tuesday despite industry opposition.

SB 463 would allow tenants and other aggrieved parties to sue if they found that a corporation was in violation of the ownership limit. Dolezal said that

would skirt constitutional challenges against state overreach with direct enforcement.

But Austin Hackney, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of Georgia, still questioned whether that would pass legal muster.

The use of lawsuits rather than state enforcement is "walking a constitutional tightrope" rarely seen in legislation, Hackney said, adding it "is a strong indicator that that the right to private property is on the chopping block here."

A critic representing Realtors said they oppose the bill because it would affect "mom and pop" Georgia landlords who had amassed "generational wealth" through real estate.

Current owners of more than 500 homes would be held harmless by the legislation.

The bill also targets foreign owners because, Dolezal said, "we are trying to prevent foreign entities from buying American homes that we believe should be for American families to own."

The measure now moves to the

full Senate. The House already has similar legislation.

House Bill 555 sought to limit companies from having an ownership interest in more than 2,000 single-family residences or 10 multifamily residences in Georgia. A House committee approved it last March despite constitutional concerns. It has not had another hearing.

The issue has become bipartisan.

Lawmakers passed a more limited measure into law last year that was led by a Democrat. House Bill 399, by Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver, D-Decatur, required out-of-state investors, such as hedge funds, to have a local broker and property manager for their Georgia rental properties.

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, a Democrat who is fending off a Republican challenge for his seat, launched a public inquiry last spring into the way corporate landlords treat tenants.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart I'M GOING TO DISCUSS A FEW THINGS THIS WEEK

Before I get started on my points, I ask y'all to read Acts 12:1-17, then my 5 points will make sense to y'all. The title to these 5 points is:

BELIEVE AND EXPECT TO HAPPEN WHAT WE ARE PRAYING FOR

1). Verse 5 Constant Prayer Without Interruption. This scripture goes with it: I Thesalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

2). Verse 6 It Shouldn't Matter How Many Things We Are Bound By: II Cor. 4:8 thru ... We are troubled on every side, but not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed.

3). Verse 7 We Always Have

an Angel Standing Beside Us. "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." (Jesus is better than an angel.)

4). Verse 10 First Automated Gate Opener in History (my words) and it was operated by an angel! (God will open doors we need to go through and that is because "He loves us to heaven and back").

5). Verse 15-17 Believe and Expect to Happen What We Are

Subscribe Today!
478-825-2432

The News Observer
115 East Union Street, P.O. Box 186 • Vienna, GA 31092 • 229-268-2096 • Fax 478-825-4130
Send all submissions to: editor@ganewsobserver.com

Publisher Emeritus: DuBose Porter
General Manager: Pam Burney
Interim Executive Director: Danyale Starley
News Reporter: Tim Franzén
Sales Rep.: Phyllis Keaton
Design Manger: Andrea Banker

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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: P.O. Box 186 Vienna, GA, 31092

The News Observer is a periodical, mailed (USPS 659-140) at Vienna and is published Thursdays for A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

Your one-stop site to search for your community's public notices as well as other notices from across the state.

- Public Hearings
- Foreclosures
- Election Notices
- Construction Bids

These notices and more are now available right at your fingertips.

GEORGIA PUBLIC NOTICE.COM

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.

Deadline for legals submission is Friday by Noon prior to First publication. Email word document to legals@gtn.org

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. 21-0076 IN RE: ESTATE OF TERESA LYNN WARD, DECEASED NOTICE
IN RE: PETITION FOR DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO: All Interested Parties

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition in this Court on or before March 9, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such 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 for the Probate Court

Dooly County Probate Court
 104 South Second Street, Vienna, GA 31092
 229-268-4217
 2/26/2026
 0782-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 style, seeking to terminate the parental rights of the parents of the above-named children.

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 said case 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 custodian(s) or other person(s) 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-styled 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 can 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 should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be 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 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 such objections, 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. 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
 104 South Second Street
 Vienna, GA 31092
 (229)268-4217
 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/05, 2026
 0777-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, John 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 such objections and all pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled for a later date in the Probate Court of Dooly County, court-room 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/
 Debuty Clerk
 PO BOX 304, Vienna, GA 31092
 229-268-4217
 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 2026
 0778-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 JASON A FOWLER to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of FRANCES FOWLER, deceased, of said 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 said 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 such 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

Dooly County S.O. Abandoned Property Notice

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-5-54, notice is hereby submitted that personal property having been 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

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 such objections, 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. 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
 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 GEORGI COUNTY OF DOOLY IN RE: GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III, deceased

DONNAATHIELA GRIFFIN, having been granted Letters Testamentary and being named Executor of the estate of said deceased, GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III, 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.

DONNAATHIELA GRIFFIN EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF GEORGE LUCAS GRIFFIN, III
 255 Pine Avenue
 Pinehurst, Georgia 31070
 John W. Sherrer, Jr.
 Attorney for the Executor
 P.O. Box 277
 Vienna, Georgia 31092
 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 2026
 0773-VNO

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

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE SPILL

CITY OF VIENNA LAS Permit # GAJ020167

Date of Spill: February 12, 2026

Spill Location: Vienna North Water Pollution Control Plant
 100 Plant Road, Vienna, Georgia 30192

Cause: SBR3 waste pump left on by mistake causing an overflow
 Estimated flow to waters of the State: 131,872

Corrective Action Taken: Sandy dams placed at drainage ditch to arrest some of the spill reaching an unnamed tributary and the Pennahachee Creek. Sludge being pumped from the tributary and transported back to the North WPCP for reentry. To date, 171,000 gallons have been pumped from waters of the State. Cleanup efforts are under way to vacuum up visible signs of the spill where possible. Lime will be spread where warranted. Georgia EPD and local Health Department have been notified as required by the LAS Permit. Upstream and Downstream monitoring is being performed.

This publication provides meaningful public notice within the jurisdiction served by the City of Vienna North WPCP.

Contact City of Vienna at 229-268-4744 with any questions.

FFA Proficiency Application Results Are In



Photos Contributed

Top Photo - Chase Hughes
 Middle Photo - Keira Musselwhite
 Bottom Photo - Landon Cobb

Contributed

Just weeks ago, Fullington Academy FFA Seniors Keira, Landon, and Chase submitted their proficiency applications to Central Region FFA for judging.

A proficiency application highlights the specialized skills that these students have learned through their Supervised Agricultural Experience.

They are no easy task, the application itself is tedious.

This year we have two State Finalists and an Area winner.

Keira Musselwhite: Specialty Animal Production and Chase Hughes: Grain Production, State Finalists.

Landon Cobb: Diversified Crop Production, Area three winner.

We are so proud of all their hard work over the past few months preparing their applications and we can't wait to see Keira and Chase shine at the State Convention.



Dooly County Bobcats Sports Schedule

Contributed

Dooly County Bobcats baseball schedule March 2 versus Macon Co. doubleheader at home, March 4 versus Central Talbot 4:00 p.m. at home, March 9 versus Dougherty 4:00 p.m. at home, March 10 vs. Telfair at Dooly-5:30 p.m., March 13 5:30 p.m. at Telfair, March 25 and April 2 Furlow Charter 5:00 p.m. first pitch at home, April 7 vs. Red Devils at Hawkinsville and April 10 ver-

sus Hawkinsville at home.

Dooly County High School track schedule March 4 Turner County, March 18-Wilcox County, March 24-Dooly Bobcats home meet, April 9 Peach County and April 20-21-Class A Division II Region Four meet at Montgomery County.

Dooly County High School Tennis Schedule- March 14 versus Wilcox County at Cordele, March 17 versus Telfair County at Telfair and March 26 versus Telfair County at Telfair.

DCRD Youth Baseball and Softball Registration

Contributed

Sign up now for the upcoming season of youth baseball eight and under coach pitch, 10 and under live arm, 12 and under live arm and softball 10 and under live arm.

Tee ball: ages three and four and ages five and six Registration deadline is Feb. 27 and the fee is \$30-per-player.

Age control date: June 30, 2026. call the office for additional information 229-268-9176 or register online at doolycountyga.com/recreation-signup-forms/.

Lady Bobcats Seeking First Win of Soccer Season



Contributed

The Dooly County Bobcat boys secured a 10-0 win over Kendrick High School as Jerry Rodriguez had a hat trick (three goals), Dodany Mendez had a brace (two goals) while Christopher Velásquez, Jose Caxaj, Francisco Rodriguez, Jairo García and Matthew Hyatt had one goal-a-piece. The Dooly County Middle School girls secured a 2-1 win over Pulaski County last Wednesday, Feb. 18 with Yakelin Pérez scoring both goals.

The middle school boys were also victorious 10-0 over Pulaski County. Cole Gaultney had a hat trick (three goals) while Bradley Morales, Edwin Ortiz, and Josue Morales each had a brace (two goals) and Jonathan Reyes had one goal. Next up, we hosted Pulaski County Wednesday, Feb.25 at the Grove. Our varsity girls

dropped its Tuesday, Feb. 17 match to Bleckley County High School with a score of 6-0.

They fought hard until the end and we're extremely proud of our girls. The boys secured a 3-1 over Bleckley County as Christopher Velásquez had a brace (two goals) and Dodany Mendez had one. Definitely not our best game and there are still several mistakes we need to fix, but we're extremely proud of our boys.

Both teams traveled to Berrien Tuesday with the girls soccer game kicking off at 5:00 p.m. with the boys match to follow.

Dooly County will then host Georgia Military College this Friday, Feb. 27 beginning with the girls soccer game at 5:30 p.m. At press-time, the Dooly County boys were 6-0 overall, while the girls are still looking for their first victory of the season.

Fullington Academy Baseball Begins and, "I feel like we should have a shot at winning the region."

By Head Coach Mike Ashley

This is my first year taking over as head coach of varsity baseball. I've been coaching middle school since I got there three or four years ago. We did a really good job of building that program and ended up 15-0 at the middle school last season. I've got a lot of good freshmen in the program right now and looking forward to seeing what these young guys had and had some varsity experience last season.

I've got four main freshmen that I really expect to lead us this year. One is Eli Ashley who played middle infield last season and pitched for us and some really good innings against AAA varsity opponents. He hit .700 and led off and of 15 games, he only made three outs at the lead-off position. On base percentage is in the high 800's. Fielding percentage was right at 1,000. We have another big freshman, and

one of the best blocking catchers I've been around in a long time, Cash Greene and he does a little pitching for us. He's got a strong arm this year and has hit a couple of home runs during live at-bats during practice. That is very unusual, so I'm excited to see what he does. Brantley Ross is another freshman and probably our number one on the mound. He does well locating his pitches and off to a great start and is also another middle infielder depending on our pitching rotation.

We have a new freshman to our school who played football for me, Tucker Sorrow, he plays third base for us and fills in, in the middle infield and pitches. He has really impressed me at the plate with the power that he's got and the gap shots that he hit.

Don't have a lot of upperclassmen this year-Senior John Wilson Floyd

Dooly County Lady Bobcats in State Basketball Playoffs

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Lady Bobcats basketball team played the Class A DII Region 4 Consolation Game against Wheeler County last Thursday, February 19 at Wheeler County High School in Alamo, Ga. However, despite battling hard, Dooly County lost to the Lady Bulldogs 54-23.

The Lady Bobcats will be participating in the state playoffs this week.

The team and fans traveled to Bowdon, Ga. Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the first round of state to take on the Lady Red Devils who are 19-7 on the season and in first place in Region 7A Division II.

Dooly County entered the game with a record of 10-13 overall and 6-7 in Region 4A



Division II in fourth place. Earlier last week, the girls had battled rival Wilcox County in the second round of the Region A Division II tournament and came out on the short end of a 49-24 score to the Lady Patri-

ots.

Ja'Kayla Hooks led the Lady Bobcats in scoring with 16 points including four three pointers. She also was tough on the boards with six offensive and eight defensive rebounds.

Cor'Leiyah Stewart and Cherish Sutton both contributed with three-points-a-piece with Zeriyah Serrano going one for four in field goals with two-points on the night.

Lady Trojans Lose in Heartbreaker but, "Our future is bright and looking forward to June and getting back to work."



#12 Claire Shugart, Rylee Reed and #22 Carli Gibson

Photos by Bonnie Hoesler

By Head Coach Van Bailey

We opened up last week with our first round of state hosting Westwood, our fourth match against them. We beat them the previous three. We had a few girls that were injured, so we took this opportunity to let them rest and try to recover from their injuries and just take care of business at home and I'm proud of our girls, we did. We jumped out to a 20-5 lead at halftime and rolled in this one winning 41-20 to get our state playoffs started in a good way.

We had a big night from Evelyn Fletcher who had 11-points and five rebounds. Kade Vaughan chipped in nine points and had a really good night with eight rebounds. All the girls played well giving most a chance to get a little playing experience in the state playoffs. We found out our opponent would be St. George, the number four seed and traveled up to Stratford to play on Friday being number five seed.

St. George had a really good year and knew it was going to be a tough challenge. They have two really good ball players, one averaging 24-points-a-game,

the other averaging 21-points-a game.

So, the challenge was going to be there. We worked on defending them and slowing those two down and to be honest, I thought we did a good job with our game plan and we came out and our girls played very well. It was literally a one-point game throughout and at the end of the first quarter, we were down 13-12 and went into half down 24-23.

At the end of the third quarter, they were still down just 37-36 and then in the fourth quarter, unfortunately got outscored 18-17 to lose it 55-53. I thought it was a terrific game and I thought our girls played some of the best defense they played all year.

We played a multitude of defenses against them trying to keep them off balance for the most part we did. Kade Vaughan, Claire Shugart and Carli Gibson all played some tough defense against their two main scorers to slow them down some. Unfortunately at the end, we did give up a big three. We had a lead with 18-seconds to go and called them to take a

tough shot, the ball rolled out of bounds and it was tied at 50-50 unfortunately the ball went back to them and with 12-seconds to go and they drew up good plan, we had a hand in the face of their shooter and their girl hit a three in the corner to put them up two with four seconds to go.

We were able to advance the ball in four seconds and get it down to get a shot off, but unfortunately it fell short. There was some heavy contact, but that was a tough spot in the game to get a clean shot off, but we were unsuccessful in getting it off.

Overall, I thought we played terrific, this was a good match-up and I knew it was going to be a close game and neither team disappointed. I can't say enough about these girls and how hard they played. We controlled the boards all night out rebounding them 50-28 led by Rylee Reed with a career high 17-rebounds.

Also Claire Shugart had 13-points to lead all scorers, Evelyn Fletcher chipped in a double-double with 10 rebounds and an 11-point night. Kade Vaughan had 11.

Just a tremendous effort by our girls, but unfortunately, we came up a little bit short, but I don't want to take away from the season these girls had. I've been coaching boys or girls off and on for 20 years and I can say, this is the most improved and enjoyable team I think I've ever coached.

These girls worked together and worked hard and continued to improve. We're losing four seniors, it's going to be hard to replace them, but I think they've left the blueprint for what it takes to be a good leader to get the team to come around. Our two seniors that will be there next year are going to take that and run with it with similar leadership and just really looking forward to the future.

I can't complain about the year, a 19-7 record with our third region championship in a row and up and coming, we've got a middle school region championship this year, so our future is bright and looking forward to June and getting back to work.

who does a really good job for us over at first base has been a good leader and has really improved. He's had struggles at the plate over the last couple of years, but I think he's putting it together and has looked good so far.

Chase Hughes has been hitting the ball real well and I think as a team will have a break-out season. Those guys are looking real good. Augie Harris, our center fielder and does a little bit of pitching for us has looked really good coming off of basketball who has gotten a week of work in so far and is up to speed. Fletcher Faircloth, another freshman for us, can go get it in the outfield.

The only 10th grader I have is Clay Sangster who caught the last couple of seasons starting as an eighth grader for Benji Brown. But, I think we've moved him into a position where he's going to be a little more successful

playing right field and has a strong arm and has been hitting the ball well so far. I've been stressing the hitting and throwing mechanics and these guys are ready to win. Hopefully the coaching staff we have together now will stay there for a while and give these kids a little continuity.

We've put together a good schedule and I feel like we should have a shot at winning the region. Crisp Academy is going to be in that discussion and Westwood always has a good team and they're coached well. I think Grace is down, so it would be an opportunity for us to bring home the region championship with this crew. What I've got coming from middle school right now, this freshman class is going to be successful for several years to come.

They're already in the low 80's-high 70's off the mound, so with the weight room and everything we do, there's no

reason why these can't be in the upper 80's-lower 90's come junior-senior year. Four of those kids have a really good shot of going to the next level if that's what they desire to do. I'm going to do everything I can to help them get there. We've done a lot of improvements to the facilities and new uniform combinations we're going to come out with on opening day.

We faced John Hancock March 2 to open the season, I think our first three games are at home. We've got a new headmaster Russell Lawley and he's all about sports along with academics and disciplines. We've always had the support of Athletic Director Van Bailey. These kids are pretty level headed and don't get too high or too low, so it's going to be something that I'm going to be excited to watch.