

"Local news means the world to us."

# The News Observer

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, MARCH 05, 2026

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**FR February Report**

By *Kenny Mercer*

Unadilla FireRescue responded to 10 calls during the month of February including one structure fire, two accidents, three wildland fires, three vehicle fires and as well as responding to one EMS assist support call.

## Council OK's Bid for Renovations at Unadilla Gym

By **Tim Franzén**  
 News Observer Reporter

Unadilla Mayor Myron Mixon informed the council that, "The gym floor, we've been working on since the storm three or four years ago, has been completed. A bid to do the front lobby, bathrooms and everything in the concession stand area and price for a flooring system that goes into the gym entrance and hallway is \$5,900."

Councilman Tyrone Adkinson stated, "The gym is a money maker and the funding goes back into recreation so we can continue to upgrade the gym."

It was also announced that the Splash Pad has a potential target date to be opening by the first of Spring. Following discussion, the council approved the bid to complete the gym renovations. The Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) application process is underway. Citizens are urged to contact Ian Perry at River Valley Regional Commission to determine if they are eligible to apply. No city council or employees can assist. You must contact Ian Perry at 706-660-



'Unearth A Story' will be the theme for this year's Summer Reading Program in Dooly.

5270.

Last Tuesday, the Public Service Commission came down for a natural gas comp inspection. I am proud to announce that the City of Unadilla's natural gas program passed the inspection with flying colors. The natural gas program has come a long way and I'd like to thank those who are involved, Salaythein Franklin, Uncle Clifford Taylor and Sabrina Sinyard Holmes. The next COMP inspection will be in five years."

The council agreed to a recommenda-

tion presented by the planning and zoning commission on a rezoning request at 865 Third Street to be changed to R-2 to meet the zoning requirements necessary to place a trailer on the property. The planning and zoning board took no action regarding a request on property located at 481 Bogan Street.

Also, a business license was granted for the Unadilla Meat Company. Unadilla FireRescue presented both the January and February reports including a January 1 Dumpster Fire and Unadilla City

Shop (Pine street), January 4 False Fire Alarm at Unadilla Drug Company, January 5 two fire alarm at Unadilla Drug Company, a January 9 and January 10 alarm at Josh Road Packing shed, January 10 Smoke Scare on Duncan Ave., January 13 Natural Gas Leak on Cherry Street, January 14 EMS assist-support call on Arena Rd. January 18 Trouble Unknown call on Hwy 230 East, January 19 to a Structure Fire on Sugar Hill Road, January 19 EMS assist Support on Plunkett Road, January 22 -Wildland Fire Assist Houston County Klondike Road, January 26 False Alarm-Ford Road, January 28- Wildland Fire Assist Houston County on Henson Road, and a January 28 Structure Fire Assist Houston County FD on Henson Rd, January 29- Wires Down on Collins Road, January 29 to a Wildland Fire Hwy 230 and Dillard-Moore Road and January 31 to an alarm at Lineage Logistics on Pine Street.

During February, UFR responded to a **UNDAILLA GYM**  
**CONTINUED PG 5A**

## Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels Speaks Out

By **Tim Franzén**  
 News Observer Reporter

The City of Vienna Council met in a called meeting Friday, Feb.27 and Mayor Eddie Daniels agreed to address citizens concerns and the situation in this municipality, "As of this time, at least three of the council members because they've got the majority vote, seem to think that things just move on kind-a swiftly. However, progress really stops and we are trying to work through this. I've been trying to explain that where we had a city attorney working for \$200-an-hour, this city attorney has got to come all the way down from Buford, Ga., he's going to be \$1,000 for a meeting.

Verlin Jones is only \$200 a meeting. We are not going to hire anybody well above Atlanta to come down and represent us. We are working through it, our city administrator is the same way, the people are asking for those positions to be advertised. Michael Bowens is a key aspect, business licenses can't go out, especially alcohol licenses.

Mr. Bowens is the only one designed to go in that portal to do alcohol licenses. He's certified to go in it and our council is wanting our city clerk to be the interim city manager and we don't need an interim right now, we need a city administrator, which is Mr. Bowens job. I've been talking with Verlin because I've been doing executive orders every 72-hours to keep this city going.

Also, the council doesn't understand, they just want to get rid of somebody. They haven't got a valid reason to get rid of anybody. I understand they (allegedly) had back door meetings back-to-back and it's illegal for three council members to meet. Now you've got the citizens involved and the citizens are asking for those positions to

be advertised, put Mr. Bowens back in his position and to advertise for the city attorney job. Because we are not budgeted for \$1,000-a-meeting even if it lasts one hour.

We were budgeted \$200-an-hour. So, they don't understand, they just think money flows like milk and honey and it doesn't. But, we are working through it. I discussed with them Friday night what the procedure needs to be, what the citizens are asking for because lawsuits could pop up out of this thing.

Mr. Bowens doesn't have anything in his personnel or HR file and I asked each of the three out of four council members Friday night to give me one reason why we should not reappoint Mr. Bowens.They (allegedly) said they didn't want to put it on paper. They (allegedly) don't want to put it on paper, because they don't have anything. You've got an (alleged) irresponsible council, you've got one man that because year's ago, this was dealing with the school board. When the governor removed the school board, he put Mr. Bowens and Mr. Tommy Mason in those positions, then it was the superintendent at that time who explained to the board that we don't need resource officers.

These resource officers are not doing their job. One of the resource officers was the chief of police officers at the school. He was one of them that the superintendent recommended that they 'let go.' He was 'let go, plus his assistant was let go and we're thinking that's the reason for the action against Mr. Bowens and that's what's leading to this chaos. They're bringing problems in from the board of education and want to tie them in with the city."

At the council meeting held Monday, Feb.23, the council approved a resolution to apply for

**VIENNA**  
**CONTINUED PG 2A**

## Dilly Dally in Dooly 2026 Celebrates Championship Barbecue and Community Spirit

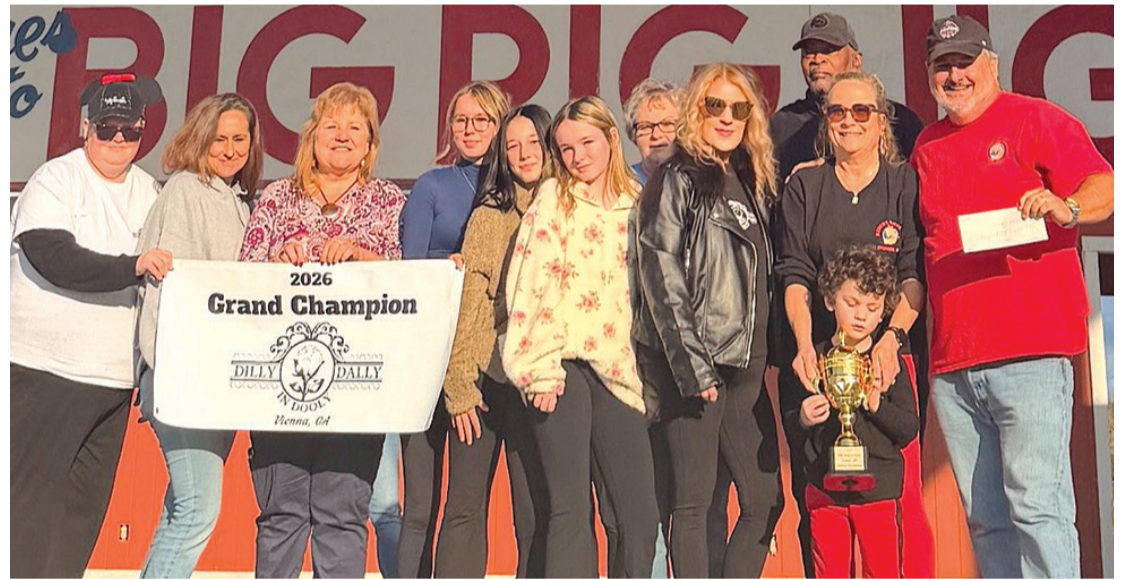


Photo contributed

By **Tim Franzén**  
 News Observer Reporter

Dooly County, Ga. — The smoke has cleared and another successful year is in the books as the 2026 Georgia Barbecue Association (GBA) contest, Dilly Dally in Dooly, officially wrapped up at the BIG PIG JIG® venue in Vienna. Rescue Smokers earned the coveted Grand Champion title, securing impressive back-to-back wins. Off the Chain BBQ claimed the Reserve Grand Champion honors following an outstanding

**Grand Champion Rescue Smokers**

overall performance. The 2026 event featured an exceptional lineup of teams from across the region, showcasing competitive excellence, sportsmanship, and a true passion for barbecue. Category finalists included Loin: Jack's Old South, Grills Gone Wild and Big Butts BBQ. Pork Finalists: Pogo's Porkers, Rescue Smokers and Shark Bite BBQ.

Rib Finalists: Off the Chain BBQ, Union Street BBQ and Vienna Volunteer Fire Department The Top 10 Overall Teams

for Dilly Dally in Dooly 2026 were: 1. Off the Chain BBQ, 2. Jack's Old South, 3. Flying B BBQ, 4. Big Baer's BBQ, 5. The Look and The Cook BBQ, 6. Big Butts BBQ, 7. Big Daddy's Meat House, 8. B-Rads BBQ, 9. 319 Q, and 10. Shark Bite BBQ.

A heartfelt thank you was extended to all who made the event possible. On behalf of the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce, I want to sincerely

**DILLY DALLY IN DOOLY**  
**CONTINUED PG 5A**



Photo contributed

**Reserve Champion, Off the Chain**

# Dooly County Career Fair

By DCSS

Dear Community Partners,  
The Second Annual Dooly County School System Career Fair will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, and we invite you to be a part of this exciting opportunity.  
This event is designed to connect talented, motivated candidates with career opportunities that directly impact students and schools within our district. We are currently seeking outstanding individuals who are passionate about education and committed to making a difference.  
Attached is our official flyer, which outlines current vacan-

cies within the Dooly County School System. Please note that positions are subject to change as hiring needs evolve.  
We kindly ask for your support in spreading the word by sharing the attached flyer with graduating students, friends, family members, and professional networks who may be interested in pursuing a career in education or school-based support services.  
Your partnership and outreach are essential to helping us attract high-quality candidates who will positively serve our students and school community.  
Event Details:  
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2026  
Location: Dooly County High

School Cafeteria, 715 Third St., Vienna, GA 31092  
Time: 9AM - 12PM  
We look forward to welcoming aspiring educators and professionals who are ready to begin or advance their careers with Dooly County School System.  
For additional information, please contact:  
Courtney McGriff  
HR/Business Service Specialist  
Dooly County School System  
229-268-4761  
Courtney.McGriff@dooly.k12.ga.us  
Thank you for helping us build a strong future for our students.  
Sincerely,  
Dooly County School System

# Local Club Sponsors First Meet and Greet of 2026



Contributed

The Vienna Woman's Club sponsored its first event of 2026 in our Meet and Greet Author series last Monday. The featured author for February was Dooly County native Melanie Sangster Akin. Melanie may be remembered for her column entitled Mellie's Musings.  
She's ventured out and has published three books, 'Rolling in Clover Life Lessons from the Farm', 'Country Moments Poems from the Farm' and 'Gran's Table: A Collection of Gran's Recipes and Family Memories.' Dooly County Library Manager Jill Kloberdanz commented, "Such a great turnout for our first Meet and Greet

this year.  
Melanie Sangster Akin was so entertaining." A spokesperson for the Vienna Woman's Club commented, "Thank you to everyone who attended the meet and greet author Melanie Sangster Akin at the Dooly County Library." Melanie responded by saying, "Thank you for having me, we enjoyed it so much."  
She read excerpts from her books and signed copies of her publications and the participants enjoyed light refreshments. To purchase a copy of her books, visit: [https://www.amazon.com/stores/Melanie-Sangster-Akin/author/BOGCNFT4ZL?ref=ap\\_rdr&shoppingPortalEnabled=true](https://www.amazon.com/stores/Melanie-Sangster-Akin/author/BOGCNFT4ZL?ref=ap_rdr&shoppingPortalEnabled=true).

# Dooly County 4-Hers Shine at 2026 Junior-Senior District Project Achievement



Photo Contributed

Pictured left to right: Quad Hardy, Kaleb Green, Javis Bennett, Kaleena Cotton and Kimora Odom

Contributed

Dooly County 4-H proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of Kimora Odom, Kaleena Cotton, Kaleb Green, and Javis Bennett, who represented the county at the 2026 Junior-Senior District Project Achievement (DPA) held February 21-23 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Throughout the weekend, these remarkable youth demonstrated leadership, dedication, and excellence across multiple project areas.  
Their accomplishments reflect the strong 4-H spirit and commitment to personal growth,

leadership, and service. We are especially proud of Kimora Odom, Southwest District Senior Board Member, and Javis Bennett, Southwest District Senior Board President, whose leadership and service continue to make Dooly County 4-H shine across the district.  
Top Awards and Recognitions: Kaleb Green – First Place, Public Speaking Project – Qualified for Georgia 4-H State Congress. Javis Bennett – First Place, Computer Information Project – Qualified for Georgia 4-H State Congress and Kaleena Cotton – Second Place,

Sports Project.  
In addition, our graduating seniors were honored with their graduation cords, recognizing years of commitment, leadership, and dedication to the 4-H program.  
We are extremely proud of their achievements and the positive impact they have made in our community. Dooly County 4-H congratulates all participants on a successful weekend and looks forward to cheering them on at Georgia 4-H State Congress this summer. These young leaders truly represent the best of what 4-H has to offer.

# Dooly County Sheriff's Office Hosts Car Seat Safety Check at FA

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Pinehurst, Ga. — In an effort to promote child passenger safety and strengthen community outreach, the Dooly County Sheriff's Office conducted a car seat safety check Wednesday, Feb. 25 at Fullington Academy. Deputies and safety personnel worked with parents and guardians throughout the morning to ensure that child safety seats were properly installed and appropriate for each child's age, height, and weight.  
The event provided hands-on assistance, education on Georgia's car seat laws, and guidance on best practices for keeping young passengers safe on the road. Sheriff's officials said the checkpoint was part of an ongoing commitment to public safety and community engagement in Dooly County.  
"Making sure our children are properly secured in vehicles is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent serious injuries in a crash," a representative of the sheriff's office said. "Events like this allow us to connect directly with families and help give them peace of mind."  
During the event, deputies



Photo contributed

Inspecting the child seats proper connections.

demonstrated correct installation techniques, checked for common issues such as loose straps and improperly anchored bases, and answered questions from parents. Several car seats were adjusted on-site to meet safety recommendations.  
Faculty and staff at Fullington Academy partnered with the sheriff's office to host the safety check, providing a convenient location for families

during school hours. Community members who were unable to attend are encouraged to contact the Dooly County Sheriff's Office to schedule a future car seat inspection or to receive additional safety information.  
Officials say they plan to continue similar outreach programs throughout the year as part of their mission to protect and serve Dooly County residents.

# Cordele Police Investigating Saturday Shooting

By CPD

The Cordele Police Department is actively investigating a shooting incident that occurred Saturday, Feb. 28 at approximately 11:00 a.m. near the area of Joe Wright Drive and 24th Avenue in Cordele.  
Through a coordinated and professional effort between the Cordele Police Department and deputies with the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, a twenty-nine-year-old male suspect was lo-

cated and taken into custody at a residence a short distance from the incident location. The suspect was cooperative during the arrest. He has been charged with two counts of Aggravated Assault. A firearm believed to be connected to the incident was recovered.  
The victims of this incident were not injured. Detectives with the Cordele Police Department responded to the scene and are continuing to investigate

the circumstances surrounding this case. Currently, there is no ongoing threat to the public. We would like to thank our responding officers and Crisp County deputies for their swift teamwork, professionalism, and commitment to the safety of our community.  
Anyone with additional information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921.

## VIENNA CONTINUED FROM 1A

a 2026 Community Development Block Grant of up to \$1,000,000 and authorized the mayor to sign all appropriate documents. This resolution is to the Department of Community Affairs for stormwater drainage and street improvements in

the Braxton Subdivision. Officials also gave a green-light to a grant match to commit \$47,500 in match and leverage towards that CDBG application and also authorized a letter of agreement to be sent to River Valley Regional Commission

to apply for the CDBG 2026. City leaders also OK'd the selection of SOWEGA Engineering to provide services on that project and recommended by the evaluation committee if the CDBG 2026 is approved.

## 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 NOTICE

The City of Byromville 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 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 City Hall, 489 Central Avenue, Byromville, GA 31007 on **March 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**  
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 grant (if applicable). The City of Byromville 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. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Tan Mathis, prior to March 16, 2026. This person can be located at 489 Central Ave, Byromville, GA 31007 or by calling (478) 433-2002 between the hours of 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.]



# Corporal Lori Benjamin Passes Away in Byromville



By CCSO

The Crisp County Sheriff's Office mourns the loss of Corporal Lori Benjamin, who passed away at her mother's home in Byromville, Ga. Sunday, March 1 after a courageous year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Lori began her career with the Sheriff's Office in July of 2021. In August of 2022-just one year after joining the agency-she was promoted to Corporal, a testament to her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to her fellow officers and the citizens she served. Earlier this year, Lori was nominated for the Michael Sangster's Warrior Award, a fitting recognition of the strength and perseverance she displays every single day. Sheriff Billy Hancock shared that Corporal Benjamin always put her fellow employees first. Even while undergoing chemotherapy and facing the difficult battles that cancer brings, she

would walk through the doors wearing a bandana due to hair loss-with a smile on her face and a heart devoted to the job she was sworn to uphold. As the disease progressed, it became harder for Lori to report for duty physically, but she constantly stayed in contact with her Sheriff and coworkers. Every conversation ended the same way-talking about "when I come back." Her hope, her fight, and her love for this office never wavered. Cpl. Benjamin was more than a Jailer; she was family. She embodied courage, selflessness, and faithfulness to duty. Her legacy will live on in the halls of this office and in the hearts of those who had the honor to serve beside her. Please join us in praying for her family, friends, and the entire Sheriff's Office during this difficult time.

## GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS FEBRUARY TERM, 2026 DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT

To the Honorable Matthew Gill Braddy, Judge of the Superior Court for the Cordele Judicial Circuit:

The Grand Jury empaneled for the February Term, 2026, Dooly Superior Court, was sworn in on February 23, 2026 at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Grand Jury's organization consisted of Rhonda Woodward Bartlett, Foreperson, Melanie Marie Barnes, Clerk and Lyndon Childs as Bailiff.

The Grand Jury wishes to thank Judge Matthew Gill Braddy for his helpful and informative charge and District Attorney Bradford L. Rigby and Assistant District Attorney Heather Calhoun for their assistance.

We, the Grand Jury, considered 13 bills of indictments and returned 13 true bills.

The Grand Jury recommends that these presentments be published in the official newspaper of Dooly County, Georgia, and that such paper be paid the usual fee for publication.

Rhonda Woodward Bartlett, Foreperson  
Melanie Marie Barnes, Clerk

The above and foregoing general presentments having been returned and read in Open Court, it is Ordered that they be received, spread upon the minutes of this court and published as recommended. In Open Court, this 23 day of February, 2026.

Judge Matthew Gill Braddy, Judge Superior Courts Cordele Judicial Circuit Bradford L. Rigby, District Attorney

### Dooly County Community CALENDAR

Sun	Mon
5	6
12	13
19	20
26	27

### 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. - 4PM.  
Closed Saturday.  
Thursdays - COLOR & CHAT. Color books and colored pencils will be provided

or you can bring your own. For more information contact Jill Kloberdanz, library manager library at 229-268-4687.

### The Elizabeth Harris Library

**Unadilla Location:**  
Tues-Thurs 8:30AM-6PM  
Friday 9AM-4PM  
Saturday 9AM-12PM Noon  
**Byromville Location:**  
Tues-Thurs 2:30PM-5:30PM

### "An Hour of Encouragement"

Pastor Dean and the New Poplar Spring Baptist Church would like for you to join us every Wednesday night @7pm for "An Hour of Encouragement" on our Conference Call line. Please dial (253) 993-3761. (TNS)

### Bethlehem Baptist Church

Worship With Us Each & Every Sunday. Worship starts at 11:00am. Bible Study on each Sunday at 5:00pm. Jerry Jamal Sanders, Sr., Pastor. (TNS)

# Prayer for Uganda Mission



By St. Paul Chapel Pastor Katie Griffis

Approximately 7,800 miles away on the continent of Africa, in Lugazi, Uganda is the Buvunya United Methodist Church. In October 2025, St. Paul Chapel began a ministry partnership across the Atlantic with our brothers and sisters of Buvunya UMC.

We were honored to have Jinja District Superintendent Pastor Issac Kyambadde deliver the message at a recent service. He reminded us that even though we are separated by many, many miles, we are united

in glorifying God by taking what we have and offering the message of hope to people around us.

Both physically and spiritually, we are providing living water — not only water to drink, but also quenching the thirst for spiritual refreshment, the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The words of the Apostle Paul are fitting for us to pray for our Uganda Mission: "I thank my God in every remembrance of you, always offering every prayer of mine

with joy [and with specific requests] for all of you, [thanking God] for your participation and partnership [both your comforting fellowship and gracious contributions] in [advancing] the good news [regarding salvation] from the first day [you heard it] until now. I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]. (Philippians 1:3-6 AMP).

## Georgia Ag Week celebrates farmers

Contributed by Dooly County Farm Bureau

Vienna, Ga. - From March through June, Georgia farmers will harvest strawberries, Vidalia onions and blueberries. Many farmers are beginning to plant com, and in May and June, they will plant their peanut, cotton and soybean crops.

To celebrate, Georgia Farm Bureau and other ag organizations across the state will observe Georgia Ag Week March 23-29 and celebrate National Ag Day on March 24.

"During Georgia Ag Week, I encourage everyone to think about the contributions farmers make to our daily lives," said Teel Warbington Dooly County Farm Bureau president. "Farmers keep us fed, clothed and housed. They also provide habitat to wildlife on their farms while protecting soil and water resources using environmentally friendly methods to grow their crops and livestock."

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics show that Georgia farmers play a big role in feeding us. According to USDA statistics for 2024, Georgia farmers are the top peanut producers in the United States growing half the peanuts grown in our country, with most used to make peanut butter and snacks. Georgia farmers lead the nation in growing broilers, the chickens used to make our

favorite chicken sandwiches, tenders and wings. In 2024, Georgia pecan growers also ranked first in the U.S. in pecan production.

Georgia ranked second nationally in production of cotton, cottonseed and watermelons in 2024. Georgia ranked third in the U.S. for production of blueberries, peaches and bell peppers in 2024, and fifth for cucumber production, according to USDA data.

We can also thank Georgia farmers for growing timber to house us. Georgia consistently ranks as the top forestry state in the nation.

Most Georgians are multiple generations removed from the farm, so Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) offers a video that highlights Georgia agriculture. If you are interested in learning more about the crops and livestock grown in Georgia visit <https://gfb.org/gaagvideo>.

Visit [www.gfb.org/learn/about-georgia-ag](https://www.gfb.org/learn/about-georgia-ag) to download ag resources including coloring sheets, educational videos, no-bake recipes and more that explore other Georgia ag crops and livestock.

Georgia agriculture feeds and clothes us, but it also benefits our state economy. Agriculture and related industries contrib-

uted \$100.4 billion to Georgia's economy in 2024, according to the University of Georgia's 2024 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report (FGV).

The Top 10 commodities Georgia farmers produced in 2024 were: broilers (\$6.1 billion); beef (\$1.2 billion); eggs (\$1 billion); peanuts (\$877.9 million); greenhouse nurseries (\$863.2 million); cotton (\$770.4 million); timber (\$655.6 million); dairy (\$469.3 million); com (\$382.8 million) and blueberries (\$382.7 million), according to the 2024 FGV report compiled by UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental economists from data collected by UGA Extension agents.

Food and fiber production and the process of getting the raw materials to consumers contributed more than 370,400 jobs for Georgians in 2024, the UGA report shows. Agricultural careers include crop and livestock research, engineering, precision ag specialists, software and IT work, agribusiness management, marketing, food product

development and safety, processing, retailing, ag teachers, banking, bioenergy, livestock veterinarians and others.

Besides providing our basic needs and driving Georgia's economy, farmers also protect the environment. Farmers prevent soil erosion and water runoff by planting cover crops and using minimum tillage methods like no-till or strip-till to plant their crops. These conservation tillage methods reduce the amount of fuel farmers use and sequester carbon in the soil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Farmers use about 50% less fertilizer to produce a bushel of com, wheat or soybeans than they did in 1980, the USDA reports. Farmers can do this by using GPS, sensors, field mapping software and tractors equipped with precision ag technology. These practices allow farmers to apply only the fertilizer and crop protectants that they absolutely need to grow a healthy crop.

**NEED TO ADVERTISE?**  
Email our Sales Rep.,  
**Phyllis Keaton**  
[phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com)  
or call (229)938-6253

## 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

**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**  
Vienna, 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



## In The Garden With A GARDENING CHECKLIST FOR MARCH

TIM LEWIS  
Columnist

March is a busy month in the garden, with planting, pruning and fertilizing topping the list of chores. Prioritize your gardening tasks with these helpful tips from myself and HGTV.

Prune roses. Late winter/early spring is the ideal time to tackle rose pruning. Always remove dead, diseased or damaged stems (canes), cutting back to a bud on healthy wood. Remove canes that rub on each other when the wind blows. To choose which cane to remove, look at the canes closely. If the bark on one is already damaged, remove it. If one is growing more toward the center of the shrub, remove it. Also, shorten rose canes as needed to control plant size.

Spring clean birdhouses. Nesting is not far away, but there's still time to make sure birdhouses are clean and in good repair. Tighten loose screws, and consider if you need to add a predator guard to the entrance holes. To keep paper wasps from building nests in birdhouses, coat the inside roof and corners by rubbing a bar of soap across them. The waxy coating prevents wasps from being able to attach nests.

Test soil. Spring is a great time to do a soil test on garden beds. This is an important step with new planting areas but also with established ones and more so if you haven't taken a soil test in a while. The test measures soil pH and some nutrients, including phosphorus, potassium and calcium.

Results include recommendations of what you should add to soil — maybe lime and/or fertilizer.

Think raised beds. Before the mad rush of planting sweeps you under, give your raised beds the once-over. Repair any corners that need it, and decide if you're happy with the placement of your beds. Does your garden need another raised bed — or three? Would a permanent trellis make growing vining crops easier? Do you want to add hoops to a bed so you can experiment with floating row covers to exclude pests or extend the season?

Cut back clematis. Give deciduous clematis special attention in spring to ensure a spectacular flower show. After all danger of frost has passed, lightly prune large-flowered varieties, removing weak stems and shaping the plant. With small-flowered vines that bloom on new growth in summer and fall, cut plants back to 12" high. For all clematis, add compost or slow-release fertilizer to soil, gently scratching it in with a hand rake. Refresh the mulch around the base of the vines.

Add mulch. Get mulch on planting beds before plants leaf out completely. Mulch helps soil hang onto moisture, and when the weather warms up, it keeps soil cool. A 2" to 3" thick mulch layer (don't exceed 4") also helps prevent weed seeds from sprouting. In colder regions, wait until soil has warmed in spring before applying mulch, or you risk

slowing down the warm-up.

Bring on the color with creeping phlox. Creeping phlox blankets soil with living color in early spring. The flowers usually open in white, pink, lavender or red hues. Whether you're planting creeping phlox for the first time or adding to an existing display, the trick to getting the flower color you want is simple: Buy plants in bloom. This same strategy works for azaleas, rhododendrons, heather, daylilies and any other bloomer. If the flower color matters, choose a plant with an open blossom — don't trust the pot tag.

Turn compost. Use a pitchfork and try to turn the compost pile, adding any fresh material you have. This dislodges any critters that might have taken winter refuge in the pile (like voles). Grab some of the partially decomposed leaves you uncover to use as a perennial mulch. If you have finished compost stored somewhere, use it as a top dressing around clematis, roses, raspberries and blackberries. Finished compost also makes a nice addition to planting holes for new plants and containers used for edibles.

Stock bird feeders. Spring is a great time to spot unusual bird visitors in your yard. Migrating birds welcome a fresh meal after long flights from wintering grounds. Even if your warm-region garden has some blooms that beckon hummingbirds, it's still a good idea to hang and fill feeders. Also, shove sliced orange halves on shepherd's hook ends to attract orioles, tanagers and cedar waxwings.

Hopefully, these garden checklist items will help you start your spring 2026 garden with success.

*Tim Lewis is a Georgia Green Industry Association Certified Plant Professional, gardening writer, and former Perry High School horticulture instructor. He can be reached at (478)954-1507 or timlewis1@windstream.net.*



## Writings From The Heart

# I HATE WAR ...

DR. LANIER ROBERTS  
Columnist

- 1) I HATE WAR ...
- 2) BUT SOMETIMES IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! To see military patriots with missing limbs, burned bodies, and some deceased, is heart-breaking, but sometimes wars are necessary. Dear Lord Jesus, someday You will end ALL wars. Thank You.
- 3) I can't wait to see our red, white, and blue (and a gold stripe) Air Force One airplane when it is finished with its new paint job. In fact, there will

be more than one government plane painted that way. They are going to be a blessing for us to see flying and then sitting still on the tarmac. Yes, sirree!

4) Come on folks, let's support our farmers as they are being squeezed somewhat financially in the days in which we are living. Let me NEVER hear someone say something disparagingly against them with a mouthful of food! I will pray for them on the spot. Amen.

5) Does anyone know what

happens every Sunday morning during the church sermon when Rodney goes to sleep way back there in his "sleepers" cubbyhole"? Nothing, absolutely nothing! Brother Mark just keeps on allowing it to happen. Y'all let me know what your solution would be to this. LOL.

P.S. I suppose Rodney would spring this scripture on all of us. Psalm 127:2b ...for so He giveth His beloved sleep.

Well, one more week has passed in my writing for this great paper *THE NEWS OBSERVER*. I started in July of 2005 and am still enjoying it to this day. May the Lord bless each of you and always know Jesus loves y'all to heaven and back. Until next time.

# Legislative Update

Provided by Chamber President CEO Rhonda Lamb

Legislators convened for legislative days 23-25 this week before heading home Thursday afternoon to prepare for the busiest stretch of the session. Lawmakers will return Monday for a committee work day, with Legislative Day 28, Crossover Day slated for Friday. As a reminder, bills must pass out of their chamber of origin by the end of Crossover to remain eligible for further consideration this session. Of course, nothing under the Gold Dome is ever truly dead, it may simply find its way onto another unsuspecting piece of legislation. Stay tuned to Re:Cap next week to see which proposals earn a field trip across the hall.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 1085, the Keep Georgia Forested Act, by Chairman Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah). HB 1085 allows forestry manufacturers to transfer existing Jobs and Investment Tax Credits for a limited five-year period, enabling companies to monetize credits tied to new investments.

The bill also adds forestry manufacturing businesses to the statutory tax credit framework in an effort to attract new buyers for Georgia's forestry crop. The measure strengthens Georgia's competitiveness in the forest products sector and provides economic stability for communities impacted by recent mill closures. The legislation now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

On Thursday, House Bill 1302 by Floor Leader Matthew Gambill (R-Cartersville) passed the House Education Committee. The legislation represents the Governor's latest major workforce development initiative, adding to legislative victories from previous sessions.

HB 1302 proposes a comprehensive reorganization of Georgia's education and workforce governance structure, centralizing strategy coordination under a single office and expanding the state's apprenticeship infrastructure. These changes will better align education outcomes with industry needs and strengthen Georgia's competitiveness in emerging sectors.

The bill now awaits further action in the House and must clear the chamber before Crossover Day to remain eligible this session.

Qualifying for the 2026 election cycle begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2 and runs through noon on Friday, March 6 for both partisan and nonpartisan races.

Candidates for seats in the General Assembly or for statewide office must appear in person, sign an affidavit, and pay the required qualifying fee, all under the watchful eye of members, lobbyists, and political observers tracking who is officially taking the leap. With open contests for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and numerous State House and Senate seats, the Capitol is expected to see a steady stream of candidates formally entering the races.

The combination of statewide openings and legislative turnover makes this one of the more active qualifying periods in recent memory.



## Parables To Ponder ATHEISTS IN FOXHOLES

BILLY POWELL  
Columnist

"The heavens declared the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork," yet "the fool has said in his heart there is not God," wrote the Psalmist. The atheist concludes that the universe is simply an accident that happened—that its vastness, precision, order, and complexity do not suggest a governing Intelligence. There have been many avowed atheists in history—philosophers like Voltaire, Diderot, Feuerbach, Darwin, Freud, and even C.S. Lewis before he became a Christian.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, was an out-and-out unbeliever. He wrote that the "concept of God was a fairy tale of religion." He asserted the religions of mankind were mass delusions and that the scriptures "are full of

contradictions, revisions, and falsifications." He wondered if "Jesus Christ was not "a part of mythology" or merely "a deluded creature." Freud professed two arguments against the existence of God: (1) belief in God is a merely a projection of powerful wishes and inner needs for something beyond ourselves, and (2) a loving God would not allow us to suffer.

At the low end of creation is the unseen microcosmic world of the atom with its core of protons and neutrons and orbiting electrons. At the upper end is the macrocosmic world of the universe, its solar systems, galaxies, and black holes. Since man stands at the center of creation, he cannot comprehend its extremes; yet he can marvel at the majesty

of a flower, the mystery of a spider spinning a web, and the splendor of the mountains and oceans. It is ironic that those who contend there is no God begin praying once their lives are in jeopardy. As the saying goes, there are no atheists in foxholes.

For philosophers who say that a random collision of atoms produced matter in the universe and later gave life to one-celled organisms that evolved into humans, we must ask how they account for the "space" wherein the solar systems and galaxies swirl and the "time" that chronicles their movement? Did space and time materialize without origin? We must conclude that the universe is the work of Intelligent Design. The starry sky above and the moral law within are signposts of a Supreme Being. To believe contrary is to accept the premise that a tornado could pass through a junkyard and leave in its wake a fully equipped and functional Boeing 707 jetliner.

The Biblical account of creation begins with "God created the heavens and the earth." During the six days of creation, God created our earth, its seas, plant life, animal life and finally man. Into Adam's inert body God "breathed the breath of life" making him a living soul. Romans 1:20 clearly states that unbelievers are without excuse to deny the existence of God: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

## FA Observes FFA Week



Contributed

Fullington Academy's Future Farmers of America had an incredible time last Wednesday hearing from some outstanding leaders in the agriculture industry during our observance of FFA week. A huge thank you to Dr. J.W. Gentry with Baker Animal Hospital for sharing his experience as a veterinarian and giving students insight into animal health and care as well as his own personal experience in FFA.

Thank you to Mr. Jon Jon Averill, crop insurance agent and farmer, for speaking on risk management and what it truly takes to run a successful farming operation.

We also appreciate Mr. Bill



Starr with University of Georgia Extension for educating our students on the many resources and opportunities available through Extension in Dooly County. And thank you to T.E. Moye, cattle farmer and former federal inspection agency and farm bureau employee for shar-

ing his wealth of knowledge and years of experience in the agriculture industry.

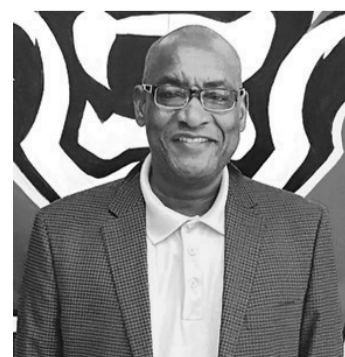
Our students gained so much valuable insight and we are beyond grateful for community leaders who pour into the next generation of agriculturalists.

## FVSU Senior Assoc. Dean of Academics CAFST Visits DCHS

By Alvin Williams

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim, Senior Associate Dean of Academics of the College of Agriculture, Family Sciences, and Technology (CAFST) at Fort Valley State University, recently visited DCHS to share information about FVSU's Agriculture

programs and discuss ways that they can support our students who are interested in pursuing degrees and careers in agriculture. FVSU has a long-standing commitment to preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders. We are excited about the collaboration.



## Local Pastor Attends SEJ Disaster Academy

Contributed

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Disaster Academy was held last week at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, Tn. Representing South Georgia at the academy were Rev. Dr. Mike Bankston, Rev. Garth Duke-Barton, and Rev. Katie Griffith from St. Paul Chapel at Dooly County Campground.

Thank you, UMCOR - United Methodist Committee On Relief for all the ways you lead



and equip us to be better prepared to serve our communities in times of disasters.

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

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

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

**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

Deadline for legal submission is Friday Noon prior to First publication. Email word document to editor@gnewsobserver.com

LEGALS

Please enter "LEGAL NOTICE" in the email subject headline. Please be sure to have your contact information listed. Most legal notices run \$15 per 100 words Per publication. Plus a \$10 affidavit fee.

NOTICE 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, 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

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

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT TO REDEEM

KEVIN SELPH, as Heir-at-law of WILLIAM WESLEY QUICK, Judge Sarah S. Harris, BIBB COUNTY PROBATE COURT, Judge Rooney L. Bowen, III DOOLY COUNTY PROBATE COURT, and Paula M. Smith, DOOLY COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER, their heirs and assigns, all residents/occupants/tenants, and any and all persons and entities holding any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the below described property TAKE NOTICE THAT: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel 10B-5, lying and being in Land Lot 48 of the 9th Land District, Dooly County, Georgia, being Lot 33, Sportsman Subdivision, shown in Plat Book 5, Page 184, described in Deed Book 305, Page 105, the description contained therein being incorporated herein by this reference, known as 676 Drayton Loop.

will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after April 27, 2026. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated November 5, 2024 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dooly County, Georgia, in Deed Book 694, Page 267. The property may be redeemed at any time before 5:00 PM on Monday, April 27, 2026, or thirty (30) days after legal service of this Notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-4-46, whichever is later, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: Balvinder Singh Johal c/o Hayden H. Hooks Arnold & Hooks, LLC PO Box 6540 Americus, Georgia 31709 (229) 389-2045 Please be governed accordingly. Haywood HAYDEN H. HOOKS Georgia Bar No. 786812 Arnold & Hooks, LLC PO Box 6540 Americus, Georgia 31709 (229) 389-2045 March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Undersigned, Rebecca Willingham Worley and Larry Taylor Willingham, Co-Executors of the Estate of Rebecca Taylor Willingham, hereby gives in terms of establishment comprising Section 53-7-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated notice to all creditors and claimants of the above named decedent's estate to render in an account of their demands, properly attested, to said Co-Executors and all persons owing to said estate are required to make prompt payment to said Co-Executors having postal addresses of 620 Bedgood Road, Arabi, GA 31712, and 3921 West Road, Byromville, GA 31007, respectively. Rebecca Willingham Worley and Larry Taylor Willingham Co-Executors

LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC Attorney for Co-Executors March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

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

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

DILLY DALLY IN DOOLY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

thank every team who competed, the judges who dedicated their time and expertise, the Georgia Barbecue Association, our GBA representatives, the phenomenal sponsors that continually step up, all the amazing vendors, our incredible volunteers, the Chamber Board, Special Events Committee and our hardworking Chamber staff.

Events like Dilly Dally in Dooly truly take a village. We are grateful for the commitment, professionalism, and community spirit shown by everyone involved, and we are proud of what we accomplished together.

The Chamber also expressed deep appreciation to its sponsors for their continued support, including: City of Unadilla; Albany Area Primary Health Care; City of Vienna; Georgia Power; Brannen Motors; Cadence Bank/Huntington Bank; Middle Georgia EMC; Wells Hardware and Wholesale Supply; Dooly County Sheriff's Office; Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Homes; Southern



Vienna Volunteer Fire Department

FiberWorx; Black Dog Spice Company; Perry Brothers Oil Company; Waste Management; Lasseter Equipment; Best Western; Jacobs; Just Right Construction; and Just Right Tires and More.

And a very special thank you to Vienna Public Works for all that they do.



Union Street BBQ

Looking ahead, the Dooly County Chamber is preparing for additional barbecue events in 2026 including Hogs for Housing, a Georgia Barbecue Association contest in late September, followed by the BIG PIG JIG®, a Memphis Barbecue Network contest held the first weekend in November. Plans are also underway for a GBA and Florida Barbecue Association dual contest in late 2027, the Ga.-Fl. Swine Bowl Dual BBQ Battle.



Jack's Old South

UNADILLA GYM

CONTINUED FROM 1A

vehicle accident February 3 on Pine Street, to a Wildland Fire Assist-Pinehurst FD at Fullington Place Road at the Pinehurst Wastewater plant. Also units responded to a Wildland Fire (was a Control Burn) Feb. 3 on Hwy 230 at Snow Springs Road. February 9 units responded to a Wildland Fire Hwy 329, February 11 to a Vehicle Fire Interstate 75 118 Southbound, February 11 to a Vehicle Accident Interstate 75 119 Southbound, February 14 to an EMS Assist Support -Arena Road and a February 14 Structure Fire on Mulberry Street.

Mayor Nixon also reported, "Tuesday, Feb. 10, Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels and myself went to DCHS for proclamation signing day for the Dooly College and Career Academy. This year's youth apprentice is Rhyanna West who is working in the city's administrative of-

vice. We look forward to working with the school system each year to ensure the kids in our community are ready to step out into the world."

Library Manager Rhonda Woodward Bartlett also announced the theme of this year's summer reading program, 'Unearth A Story'. The council agreed to a request to sponsor one of the programs at a cost of \$450. She stressed, "Julianne's show is the number one show because we get so many people (where she features turtles and reptiles). I'm just glad that they're not afraid of the animals. The main thing we try to do is teach kindness. Be kind to the animals, be kind to each other."

In other news: The chamber award luncheon will be held Wednesday, March 18 at the Unadilla Community Center.

Lady Bobcats Basketball Future Bright Despite Loss

By Tim Franzén, News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Lady Bobcats finished the season losing to the Bowdon Red Devils last Wednesday 50-26 in the first round of the State GHSA A Division II playoffs. Despite the loss, the girls program at DCHS is on upswing with Sophomore Ja'Kayla Hooks leading in all categories averaging 16 points and 16 rebounds a game as well as assists, steals and blocked shots.

Both Ja'Kayla and Junior Cherish Sutton were both selected to the Region Class A Division II first all-region team under the leadership of Head Coach Eliza Bryant. Dooly County finishes the season at 10-14 overall and 6-6 in sixth place in the region.

DCHS Bobcats- Lady Bobcats Celebrate 2025-26 All-Region Selections

Contributed

Dooly County, Ga. — The Dooly County High School Athletic Department proudly announces that multiple members of the Bobcats and Lady Bobcats Basketball Programs have been selected to the 2025-26 Class A DII Region 4 All-Region Teams.

Following a vote by the head coaches of Class A Division II Region 4, several Dooly County student-athletes were recognized for their outstanding performance, leader-



ship, and impact throughout the 2025-26 season. These honors reflect not only individual excellence on the court, but also the discipline, commitment, and competitive spirit that define Dooly County Basketball. Throughout the season, our Bobcats and Lady Bobcats represented our school and community with pride, resilience, and sportsmanship. To earn All-Region recognition in one of the state's competitive classifications is a tremendous accomplishment.

We commend these young men and women for their hard work in the classroom and on the hardwood. Dooly County High School extends its sincere congratulations to each All-Region honoree and their families. Your dedication and perseverance have brought distinction to our school and community. Class A DII Region 4 1st Team All-Region STEVEN SUTTON, JAMONTE TAYLOR, CHERISH SUTTON, JA'KAYLA HOOKS

School Board Announces Personnel Decisions for 2026-2027 Calendar Year

Contributed

The Dooly County Board of Education met Tuesday, Feb. 17 and laid the groundwork for its certified staff for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year effective July 1 including Kristen Anderson- DCMS Assistant Principal, Keshia Douglas-DCSS Interim Chief Academic, Chiquita Granville- DCHS Assistant Principal, Tywana Lester-DCSS Prep and Virtual Academy Director and Felicia Madison, DCSS Chief Operations Officer, Carla Mahone- DCES Assistant Principal, Jody Pate- DCSS Interim Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Ansley Scarborough-DCSS Special Education and Student Information Systems Director, Leeza Streetman-DCSS Director of Technology and Media Services, Hollie Walters- DC K-8 Principal and

Alvin Williams- DCHS Principal.

Certified staff: Shaneikia McClendon and Shanice Reddick- DCES Pre- K Teachers. Desiree Lowe, Kay Massey, Tomesia Taylor and Cristi Trejo as DCES Kindergarten Teachers. Earnestine Andrews, Kamilyah Henderson, Rutine Mathis and Sharekia McWilliams DCES First Grade Teachers.

Second Grade Teachers- Terrisa Buford and Patricia Foster. Third grade teachers-Jamia Bennett, Valencia Robinson, Carrie Waters and Maylaysia Woodson. Fourth Grade Teachers-Desi Lester, Shelia Sanders and Michael Warrens.

Fifth Grade Teachers-20. Garland, Nikianna Garland, Melissa Godfrey and Tekeria Neal and Linda Bowens-DCES Speech Language Pathologist .49 position. DCES SPED Teacher Moneka

Braswell, DCES Literacy Coach Danette Perry, DCES ESOL Teacher Mary Riddle, DCES SPED Teacher Rondalyn Starks, DCES Music Teacher-Johnathan Street, DCES PE Teacher-Rody Velasquez-Gonzalez, DCES School Counselor-Brianna James and DCES Media Specialist- Lowery, Lowery.

DCMS Sixth Grade Teachers- Felita Bryant, Deion Colson and Bobbi Lambert.

Seventh grade teachers- Jaliyah Carter, Cheryl Nelson and Angelica Thompson. Eighth grade teachers- Jabria Collier and Alvita Lewis, DCMS SPED teachers Keyona McClairan and Letitia Wetherington. DCMS Business Teacher-Tawanda Ellis, DCMS PE Teacher-Chanin Hamilton, DCMS Ag. Teacher-Brandy Wortham, DCMS

School Counselor-Eliza Bryant, REP Reading Teacher-Deatrice Smith and ESOL Teacher Nathan Nadeau. DCHS PE Teacher-Tony Alexander, DCHS Math Teacher- Amah, Philemon Amah, Marny Bowden-DCHS SPED Teacher, Valentina Bowens- DCHS CTAE/Healthcare Teacher, Analice Bufere-DCHS Science Teacher, Juone Brown-DCHS CTAE Teacher, Stephen Cordel-DCHS CTAE/ROTC Teacher, Brandon Dawkins-DCHS Teacher, Philip Gentry- DCHS CTAE Teacher, Troy Hope-DCHS CTAE/ROTC Teacher, Richard Mensah- DCHS Math Teacher, Pius Mbigha-DCHS Science Teacher, Jabbar Muhammad- DCHS Band Teacher, 14. Shannon Sallette- DCHS SPED Teacher, William Tagho-DCHS Spanish Teacher, Jacquelyn Taylor- Taylor- DCHS Media Specialist, Roger

Teple- DCHS CTAE Teacher, Marshall Thomas- DCHS ELA Teacher, Chanquesiha Wiggins-DCHS ELA Teacher and Consuela Woodson-DCHS SPED Teacher. Carlotta Brown-DCSS Math Instructional Specialist, Kim Floyd-DCSS Student Advocacy Specialist, Kylie Garrar-DCSS Family and Communication Engagement Specialist, Virginia Jackson-DCSS IT Specialist, Melissa Tumblin-DC K-8 ELA Instructional Specialist, Latorri West-DCSS Assessment and Accountability Specialist, Pam West-DCHS Instructional Specialist .49 Position. Non Renewals-Kawanna Edwards-DCHS School Counselor and Mona Shorter DCES Second Grade Teacher effective June 30, 2026.

# Bobcat Soccer Team's Battle Cougars Before Late Week Match Against Treutlen

Contributed

Dooly's girls were shut out in last Friday's match 3-0 against Georgia Military College. They fought hard until the end and we're extremely proud of our girls. The Bobcat boys were also on the short end of a 3-0 score against the GMC Prep Bulldogs. Not our best game. We had a few mistakes that

need fixing and we also missed a few opportunities, but we'll get back to the drawing board to fix our mistakes.

We're extremely proud of our boys for their efforts in tonight's match. The Lady Bobcats also dropped last Tuesday's match to Berrien High School by a score of 9-0. They fought hard until the end and we're extremely

proud of our girls. The Dooly boys secured a 2-0 over Berrien with Jesus Vega contributing both goals and picking up a brace.

Goalkeeper Michael Hyatt kept a clean sheet and kept us in the game with a phenomenal save in the first half. We're extremely proud of our boys.

The Dooly County Middle

School teams played last Wednesday with our Lady Bobcat girls dropping its game with a score of 4-2 against Pulaski County Middle School with Yakelin Pérez and Daniela Divas each picking up a goal. The Bobcat boys secured a 10-0 win over Pulaski County as Sammy Mendez and Josue Morales each had a hat trick (three goals), Cole Gaultney had a brace (two goals) and Bradley Morales and Jonathan Reyes each had one goal. We're extremely proud of our boys for their efforts on today's win.

Thursday of last week, our men's Junior Varsity boys secured a 3-0 win over Montgomery County High School's JV squad. Grayson Hurtado, Christopher Velásquez and Jose Caxaj had one goal each. We're extremely proud of our boys

for their efforts on tonight's win. Next up, the middle school soccer teams will be traveling to Americus, Ga. to take on Sumter County Middle School Wednesday, March 4.

Both teams hosted Crisp County Tuesday, March 3 and will be in the 'Grove' this Friday afternoon, March 6 against Treutlen with the girls match kicking off at 5:00 p.m. with the boys game to follow. The varsity boys record at presstime was 7-1 overall and 0-1 in



Photo Contributed

Sophia G.

Region 1A Division II Area two. The girls are still seeking their first win of the season.

## Dooly County Schools

# WE ARE HIRING

**OPEN POSITIONS :**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CTAE Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of College and Career Academy</li> <li>✓ High School - School Nurse</li> <li>✓ Elementary School Teacher</li> <li>✓ Middle School Teacher</li> <li>✓ Middle School REP Math Teacher</li> <li>✓ School Resource Officer/ Safety and Security Director</li> <li>✓ School Nutrition Program Manager</li> <li>✓ School Registrar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ K-12 Gifted Coordinator</li> <li>✓ Elementary EIP Math Teacher</li> <li>✓ Elementary EIP Reading Teacher</li> <li>✓ High School History Teacher</li> <li>✓ High School Counselor</li> </ul>
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## HOMETOWN SPRING FLING FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP

LIVE MUSIC | KIDS ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

6:00PM – 9:00PM

PERKINS FIELD,  
105 MULBERRY ST.

EGG HUNT: 7:00PM

SEVEN AGE-DIVIDED HUNT AREAS

ALL HUNTS BEGIN SIMULTANEOUSLY

## FREE EVENT!

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