

The News Observer

"Local news means the world to us."

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

The Legal Organ of Dooly County; serving Byromville, Dooling, Lilly, Pinehurst, Unadilla and Vienna.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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DCRD 14 and Under Basketball Team State Champions



Contributed

The Dooly County Recreation Department 14 and under boys basketball team coached by A. J. Smith won the Georgia Recreation and Park Association State Championship this past weekend in Woodbury, Ga. This accomplishment follows on the heels of the team's

earlier victory in the district championship.

Dooly County K-8 Academy Principal Dr. Hollie Walters commented, "Congratulations to our Dooly County 14 and under recreation basketball Team for bringing home the GRPA State Championship with a victory over Washington County. What an incredible accom-

plishment for these Dooly County Middle and High School young athletes who represented Dooly County with pride, teamwork, and determination."

This accomplishment now gives the DCRD a total of three state championships, seven district championships and one middle school championship. Congratulations!

City of Pinehurst Submitting Grant Application for Downtown Mural in 2026

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

City of Pinehurst Council member Michelle Harrell provided an update on the mural. She stated that the rendering of the mural is being modified and that cost would be included in the grant application. The mural will also include the zip code and the year that the City of Pinehurst was established. She also said, "If you know friends and family that would like to donate to our beautification of

downtown, it's tax deductible."

Following discussion, the council agreed to accept the rendering and to proceed with applying for the grant again in 2026.

According to officials, "The mural will have a positive impact on the esthetic marketability and perception of Downtown Pinehurst. We expect that this mural and other planned improvements will contribute to protecting the value of existing

DOWNTOWN MURAL CONTINUED PG 5A



Photo by Tim Franzén

Pictured left to right: City Clerk Jackie Chaney, Mayor Connie Christmas, Councilman Mark Peavy and Council members Michelle Harrell and Jan Peavy.

Commissioners Agree to Resurface Portion of Old Americus Road

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The City of Vienna resurfaced a portion of Old Americus Road that is in the city limits using Griffin Grading and Concrete LLC. Following discussion, the board agreed to resurface the remaining seven tenths of a mile outside the city limits totaling approximately \$113,201 using LRA funding. Dooly County EMA Director Don Williford presented a report to the commissioners on the latest developments at the Middle Flint Regional E911, "At the last meeting, the (MFRE911) board voted to change the current billable rate for the GAP coverage from a population percentage to percentage usage for all counties. Dooly County is currently paying 13% of the GAP funding with our usage of the 911 center being around 6%. This will not take effect until the next fiscal budget for the Center. We are currently waiting for the attorney to review this change before final approval."

Mr. Williford also noted, "The



Photo by Cathy Jones

Beth English and Sharon Wilkins, members of the Vienna Woman's Club who presented the organization's annual report on the Dooly County Veterans Museum to the board of commissioners last Thursday.

other seven counties are ready to change the operating cost ratio back to the method based on service rendered versus population. Funding ratio changes can be made by a majority vote of the Board's Directors as outlined in the IGA. (Termination of a county's participation can be made with the approval of just two thirds of the counties.)

"The board also agreed to contract with Motorola to update the current radio system, which is a requirement to meet the new demands of the Next Generation 911 system. This is

going to be an expensive endeavor to be paid over several years. As a result, there will be an increase in financial responsibility for each of the counties for the next several upcoming years. The board has agreed to open up an account for this funding that will be outside of the general budget."

The Middle Flint Regional E911 Authority met on January 27, 2026 for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. During the meeting (A Sumter County Board of Commissioners) requested to discontinue "non-emer-

gency dispatch services" to Sumter County municipalities was discussed. After receiving your letter and the many other discussions we have had since this issue arose in January 2025, we feel there are several points that need to be clarified. Middle Flint Regional E911 Authority can stop providing what you define as non-emergency services to the municipalities.

However, if a call is received by us via radio or phone (911 line or administrative line) we are going to work it. Our dispatchers will not be put in a

position to determine if the call is emergent or non-emergent. (In our view, every call our dispatchers receive is an emergency.) That is a training/policy issue that falls on you and the municipalities. Any letters or directives concerning changes in our support to the municipalities will have to be issued by Sumter County to those cities since we have no direct agreements with the municipalities. As you know, we do not agree with your definition of emergent

RESURFACE CONTINUED PG 5A

My Vote on House Bill 1116



By State Representative
Patty Marie Stinson

As your State Representative, I take every vote seriously, especially when it directly impacts the families and communities I serve. I voted NO on the proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes because while I strongly support meaningful and immediate property tax relief, HB 1116 does not provide that relief. Instead of eliminating the burden, this proposal shifts it.

The legislation would allow local governments to increase sales taxes, potentially up to 10% over a period of up to 10 years. That is not immediate relief. That is a long-term shift in how taxes are collected.

For small and rural communities like ours, replacing property taxes with higher sales taxes simply does not work. Rural areas often do not have the commercial base or retail traffic to generate sufficient sales tax revenue.

This could place an unfair burden on working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small businesses, while creating uncertainty for local governments trying to fund essential services like public safety, schools, and infrastructure.

I remain committed to real, responsible property tax relief that protects homeowners without shifting the burden in a way that harms our rural communities. I will continue fighting for solutions that are fair, sustainable, and beneficial to the people of Georgia.

March is National Nutrition Month



By Dooly County FACS
Destiny Phillips

Take control of your health by trying out these small changes to improve your diet. Small changes to create a healthier version of your favorite recipes can include swapping or removing an ingredient or adding additional nutritious ingredients. You can reduce saturated fats in your diet by replacing butter as an ingredient in your recipes with canola oil or olive oil.

You can also decrease the amount of oil used when preparing your dish. Utilizing measuring spoons/cups can help us control the amount of fat in our recipes.

Additionally, using low-fat/nonfat products in your recipes in place of full-fat ingredients can be a small healthy change to your meals.

To reduce carbohydrates in your meals, you can decrease the amount of sugar added or use low-calorie sweeteners instead. Consider swapping half of your rice or pasta for vegetables, such as broccoli.

Including foods from multiple food groups is a great way to maintain a balanced diet. Ad-

ditionally, nuts can be used as a topping on dishes in place of breadcrumbs. Increase your fiber intake by adding fresh vegetables to your recipes. Some examples include adding broccoli to mac and cheese, spinach to an omelette, carrots to stews, and nuts to salads. Using whole-grain versions of your bread and pasta is a great way to increase your fiber intake.

Fresh fruits can also be a good source of fiber. Instead of turning your fruit into sauces or purees, consider chopping it as a topping to maintain its fiber content. Also, incorporate fresh fruit into your cereal, yogurt, and baked goods to increase fiber intake.

Reduce sodium in your diet by selecting low-sodium or no-salt-added ingredients, such as canned vegetables or low-sodium broths. If these options are unavailable, rinse your canned vegetables before adding them to your meal.

This will reduce the sodium content by up to 50%. Fresh produce can replace high-sodium canned vegetables to help reduce sodium in your meals. Get creative with your seasonings. Instead of adding salt Making many big changes to our diets at one time can be overwhelming and hard to keep up with. Start by making one small change at a time.

These small changes add up and can produce big results, positively impacting our health. For more information, visit fieldreport.caes.uga.edu or contact Destiny Phillips, Dooly County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent at destiny.phillips@uga.edu.

City of Vienna Announces Paving Project



Contributed - The Vienna Public Works Department announced early last week that progress was being made on the Old Americus Road paving project.

Café 41 Grand Opening Official With Celebration-Dedication and Ribbon Cutting

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Café 41 has already made its mark on the community under the leadership of both Cyndi Garrison and Joel de Neuf. A nearly standing room-only crowd gathered at the beginning of the ceremony inside for the dedication and prayer delivered by Father Paulinus Okpala from St. Theresa Catholic Church in Cordele. Dooly County Chamber Chair Amanda O'Neal-Neisnet welcomed everyone to the event with the assistance of Tiffany Sinyard and Phyllis Keaton.

Mr. Joel deNeuf said to the gathering, "As many of you know, we have actually been open for a little over a year now and it has been quite a learning experience. I think we might finally be on our feet now and start working toward walking as we continue to follow our philosophy of crawl, walk, run. We've been fortunate to have some wonderful people join us along the way. Our baker, Brandon McCard not only makes some of the best cinnamon buns around, but he's also the voice behind our Facebook page.

If you're not already following us, please check us out and follow Café 41-Vienna to see our daily goodies. We have also been lucky to bring on Samuel Lewis, who is stepping into a growing role with the company



helping us refine our processes and procedure for staff and planning and we look forward to his guidance as we continue to grow.

One of our main visions was to create a meeting place, somewhere people could come together, talk and share a meal. A social place for the whole community, where friends can meet, newcomers welcomed and travelers passing through Vienna can feel the friendliness of the home town that is offered here. Looking forward, we plan to host events that are open to the community, "Community Care and Conversations at Café 41.

These events will include speakers sharing information on topics such as healthy eating, support for loved ones or different health options. We hope to work with local organizations, such as the department of public health and UGA Extension to help share valuable resources

and information with the community.

Another hosting event will be Café 41-After Hours. It takes place after our regular retail hours so guests can fully enjoy the experience hosted for clubs, service groups or other organizations. Our next focus is catering and as spring and summer arrive, we hope to offer more dinner options. One of our goals is to partner with local farms to create farm-to-table meals, sometimes featuring guest chefs. These evenings might also include entertainment or presentations to create a unique kind of 'date night'.

These special dinners will be reservation events with pre-orders and again more details will be posted on our Facebook page. We want to see Vienna grow and thrive, become a place where people can walk the streets, visit shops and support local businesses. A place where

people come to Vienna Eat, Shop and Play. We truly hope you continue to support us and the other local businesses that are opening here. Your support helps bring renewed growth and energy to this city."

Some of the dignitaries in attendance included Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels, Larry Wittingham, Chaplain at House of Raeford, Councilman Albert King, Sr., DCSS CTAE Director and DCCA CEO Dr. Monica Kears, Els Rombaut with Fruits of Vienna Bed and Breakfast and Commissioner David Mixon among others.

Celebrants also enjoyed samples of pizza and delicious sweet treats following the ceremony. Visit Café 41's Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Cafe-41-Vienna/61573789153645/>

Connection as Medicine: During Macon stop, former U.S. surgeon general talks loneliness crisis, points to solutions

By Joshua Wilson, Executive Editor of The Macon Melody

When Dr. Vivek Murthy talks about loneliness, he does not describe it as a fleeting emotion or a private struggle. He describes it as a public health crisis hiding in plain sight — one with consequences as severe as smoking or obesity.

Murthy, who served as the 19th and 21st surgeon general of the United States, was in Macon this week to discuss his work addressing what he has called a national loneliness epidemic. His visit included an exclusive interview with The Macon Melody, conversations with community members and a question-and-answer session about his work with Georgia Supreme Court Justice Verda M. Colvin of Macon.

The visit was organized around The Together Project, an initiative Murthy launched to strengthen social connection and rebuild community. The project is supported in part by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which has designated Macon as a Knight City — one of 26 communities nationwide where the Knight brothers once owned newspapers.

Murthy said what he has seen locally reinforces his belief that solutions to loneliness do not begin in Washington, but in communities willing to take responsibility for one another.

"I love the time I've had in Macon," Murthy said. "It's partly because people are incredibly nice and hospitable, but it's also actually because this incredible innovation that I'm seeing here in Macon when it comes to building community."

What the loneliness epidemic is

Loneliness, Murthy said, is often misunderstood.

"Loneliness is a subjective term," he said. "It's when the connections we need in our life are greater than the connections we actually have, and in that gap, we experience loneliness."

That definition is distinct from isolation, he said, which measures how many people someone is physically around. Many people who feel lonely are surrounded by others — students on college campuses, workers in busy offices or parents embedded in school communities — yet still lack meaningful connection.

"If you don't feel like the people around you know you, that you can be yourself around

them, that they understand you, that they might show up for you in a crisis, then you can feel lonely, even though you're surrounded by lots of people," Murthy said.

The health consequences are no longer theoretical. Murthy pointed to research showing the mortality impact of social disconnection.

"That means the life-shortening impact of social disconnection is on par with smoking and obesity," he said.

Loneliness is associated with a doubling of the risk of depression, increased anxiety and suicide risk, and elevated rates of physical illness, Murthy said. People experiencing loneliness face nearly a 30% increased risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke, and a 50% increased risk of dementia among older adults.

"The more we understand about the consequences of loneliness, we realize it's telling us that social connection is a fundamental human need," Murthy said.

How the country got here Murthy said there is no single moment that caused the crisis, but rather decades of social change that have slowly pulled people apart.

"We move around a lot more," he said. "We move for school, move for work. That's great in some ways, but the consequence we haven't quite mitigated for is the fact that that means we leave communities behind."

Participation in institutions that once anchored social life — faith organizations, service groups, recreational leagues — has declined, Murthy said, weakening the informal networks that once sustained connection.

Technology has also reshaped daily life in ways that were not fully anticipated.

"I don't think we recognized just how profound the unintended consequences of technology would be, and specifically to our connection with each other," he said.

Social media, in particular, has shifted people's focus from the quality of relationships to the quantity of them, Murthy said, replacing in-person connections with online interactions that often lack depth.

"What it has ultimately ended up doing for too many people is it has replaced their in-person connections with online connections, and the quality of those connections is not the same," he said.



Jason Vorhees for The Macon Melody
Vivek Murthy, who served as U.S. surgeon general under three presidents, was in Macon this week to discuss the national loneliness epidemic, which he has described as a public health crisis. He pointed to Macon as an example of how local communities can work to rebuild social connection.

For young people, Murthy said, constant exposure to curated images online has fueled comparison and eroded self-esteem, making real-world connection harder.

"I feel good about my life until I check out my feed on social media, and then I realize my life isn't so good," he said, describing a refrain he heard repeatedly while traveling the country.

What can be done Murthy said communities like Macon are demonstrating that addressing loneliness does not require sweeping legislation or large institutions.

"Community is a place where we know each other, where we help each other and where we find purpose in lifting each other up," he said.

During his visit, Murthy said he met residents organizing mental health programs, men's groups, interchurch partnerships and informal parent networks — often without pay or formal recognition.

"They're doing it because they have an interest in figuring out how to make their community stronger," he said.

The Together Project, Murthy said, aims to elevate that work, direct more resources to grassroots efforts and help community builders learn from one another nationwide.

"We want to make sure that investing in and building community has to be one of our top priorities," he said. "It affects our health, our economy, our educational outcomes and ultimately our sense of social cohesion."

He praised Macon's use of small grants to support neigh-

borhood-level ideas, noting that many effective solutions begin with modest investments.

"A lot of people have a lot of good ideas for how to help their neighborhood," Murthy said. "If you can give them a small grant and enable them to get started, that can make a really big difference."

The underestimated antidote

Asked what people most underestimate in their ability to reduce loneliness, Murthy did not point to technology, therapy or formal programs.

"We underestimate how powerful service is as an antidote to loneliness," he said.

Small acts — checking on a co-worker, helping a neighbor, calling a grieving friend — help forge connections while restoring a sense of personal worth, Murthy said.

"One of the great dangers of loneliness is that it can erode our sense of self-worth," he said. "Service helps us understand our worth and helps us build a connection to other people."

Even something as simple as smiling, Murthy said, can make a difference.

"Smiling quite literally changes our mood, and it also has a positive impact on the people that we smile at," he said.

At a time when many feel overwhelmed by the scale of national problems, Murthy said the path forward begins locally — and immediately.

"All of us have the power to start building the community that we seek," he said. "That means we can start today."

With Sympathy
Obituaries

Freeman C. Wingard

Freeman C. Wingard was born September 16, 1941 in Thomas, Oklahoma to Clarence and Malinda (Yoder) Wingard and went to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at the age of 84 years, 5 months and 13 days.

Visitations will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 2p.m. to 4p.m. and 6p.m. to 8p.m. at the Montezuma Mennonite Church. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:30a.m. Pallbearers will be Benny Overholt, Lonnie Wingard, Myron Overholt, Dustin Wingard, LaVern Wingard, Austin Wagler, Karlin Wingard and Josh Wingard.

He was baptized in his youth and moved with his family to Montezuma, Georgia at the age of 18. He was a member of Montezuma Mennonite Church until his death. On October 24, 1963, he married Verna Mae Yoder of Montezuma, Georgia and enjoyed 62 years together.

He was an avid row crop farmer along with a hog operation in earlier years transitioning to cattle buying and later a cattle operation on the farm which was his favorite until his health no longer permitted it. Many friends were made over the years with these

different occupations. He was a man of few words in a crowd but loved to talk and share things he grew in the garden or bought to share with friends one on one. In later years his lung condition confined him to limited activities. During his illness, his highlights included being surrounded by his family, visitors and especially small children. He was preceded in death by his brother, Earl Wingard; 2 sisters, Mary Ellen Wingard and Beulah (Wingard) Yoder; 2 daughter in laws, Twila (Plank) Wingard, Jill (Shrock) Wingard and one great granddaughter, Kenna Jade Schrock.

He is survived by his wife, Verna Mae (Yoder) Wingard of Montezuma; 7 children, Lamar Wingard of Montezuma, Loren Wingard of Washington, Indiana, Faron Wingard of Montezuma, Lyle Wingard, Don Wingard of Delta, Colorado, Kaylene Wingard Overholt of Montezuma and Heidi Wingard Wagler of Washington, Indiana. He is also survived by one sister, Emma Wingard Yoder of Montezuma, Georgia, 40 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Watson-Matthews Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Cordele Authorities Investigating Friday Shooting

By CPD

The Cordele Police Department is currently investigating a shooting that occurred early Friday, March 6 just before 3:00 a.m. in the 1500 block of East 16th Avenue. Officers responded to the scene and located a forty-four-year-old male who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

Officers immediately rendered emergency first aid until EMS arrived. The victim was then transported to Crisp Regional Hospital for further medical treatment. At this time, no other individuals were injured during the incident. Detectives responded to the scene and have

begun an active investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Evidence is being collected and leads are being pursued as investigators work toward identifying and apprehending those responsible.

The Cordele Police Department would like to thank the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, Crisp County EMS, and the Cordele Fire Department for their assistance and coordinated response. No other information will be released at this time as this investigation remains active. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921.

Congratulations to FA FFA Officer Bella Grace

Contributed

Last Thursday, March 5, Bella Grace competed in the sub-area Leadership Development Event contest and delivered an outstanding speech about the importance of horses in agriculture. Her hard work and passion truly showed. We're excited to share that she has advanced to the next round of competition this week.

Please join us in sending Bella lots of positive wishes and congratulations as she prepares for the next round. We're so proud of you and can't wait to see what you accomplish next.



DCHS Presents: Enchanted Garden Prom 2025

By Chiquita Granville

Step into a night of elegance, magic, and unforgettable memories as Dooly County High School proudly presents our Enchanted Garden Prom. Join us for an evening of music, laughter and magical moments beneath the stars.

This special night Saturday, April 18 is designed to cele-

brate our students, their accomplishments, and the memories that make high school unforgettable.

Get ready to dress your best and experience a magical evening in the garden. It will be held at DCHS with a prom walk through at 6:30 p.m. and the prom begins at 7:00 p.m.

STEM Night at Dooly K-8 Academy



Contributed

What an exciting night of learning, exploration, and fun at Dooly Co School System's STEM Night. Our students and families experienced hands-on activities that brought science, technology, engineering, and math to life.

From slithery snakes that sparked curiosity, to students designing and launching paper airplanes, to the crowd favorite

and ice cream made with liquid nitrogen.

There was excitement and discovery around every corner. It was truly a night filled with innovation, laughter, and learning as our Bobcats explored the wonders of STEM together.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students and help make this event such an awesome and tremendous success.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR
email: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com



Friday the 13th Movie Night at Lilly Schoolhouse.

March 13, 2026
7:00 pm
182 Church Street
Lilly GA
www.lillyschoolhouse.com

Christ Chapel Unadilla Food Pantry - MARCH

CCU has two food pantry dates scheduled this month on **Saturdays March 14 and March 21** at the church. Pantry hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with volunteer check-in from 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Christ Chapel Unadilla 400 Jeannette Street in Unadilla, Ga. 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. - 4PM.
Closed Saturday.

Thursdays - COLOR & CHAT. Color books and colored pencils will be provided or you can bring your own. For more information contact Jill Kloberdanz, library manager library at 229-268-4687.

The Elizabeth Harris Library

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

"An Hour of Encouragement"

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

Bethlehem Baptist Church

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY
Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

- Athens Hill Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-4883
- AOH Church of God** Vienna, GA 229-268-1903
- Bakersfield Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Bay Point CME** Byromville, GA
- Bethel Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-2848
- Bethlehem Baptist Church** Byromville, GA 229-433-2102
- Big Poplar Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Brown Chapel Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-627-9466
- Byromville Baptist Church** Byromville, GA 229-433-2505
- Byromville Methodist Church** Byromville, GA 229-321-9292
- Camp Creek Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-627-3929
- Vienna Church of Christ** Vienna, GA 229-268-1994
- Vienna Church of God** Vienna, GA 229-268-1404
- County Line Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Destiny Worship Center** International Ministries Vienna, GA (478) 273-8112
- Dooling Baptist Church** Byromville, GA
- Double Branch Freewill Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Drayton Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-8456
- Drayton Wesleyan Church** Vienna, GA, 229-321-9292
- Ebenezer Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-2964
- Evangelistic Tabernacle Church**

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts
229-268-2700
313 W. Union St., Vienna
Open Through Lunch
Eddie Conner, Manager

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

- Vienna, GA
- Evergreen Baptist Church** Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3476
- Faith Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-2798
- Forest Chapel Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-645-3476
- Harmony Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Healing and Deliverance Church** Unadilla, GA
- Liberty Baptist Church** Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3584
- Lilly Baptist Church** Lilly, GA
- Macedonia Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-1582
- Little Poplar Baptist Church** Byromville, GA
- Living Water Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Mars Hill Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-6795
- Midway Independent Methodist**

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phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com
(229)938-6253

- 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

- 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

YARD SALES
This Week!

Yard/Partial Estate Sale

2420 US Hwy 341
(Just inside Houston Co. Line)

March 13th & 14th
7:30am - Until

5 Families - Men, Ladies and Kids, kitchen items, some furniture

Café 41 Hosting Community Care and Conversations

Contributed

Community Care and Conversations at Café 41 Thursday, March 19 with Cyndi Mercer at 4:30 p.m. We are looking for people who need or want information about kidney, diabetes or colon. This is for ages 26 and over. It doesn't matter if you have insurance, it's just for more information and time to ask questions.

Local Club Seeking New Members

Contributed

The Vienna Junior Woman's Club was chartered by the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs in 1955 and became the Vienna Woman's Club in 1999. For over 70 years, members have volunteered, sponsoring a variety of projects to make a difference in the community

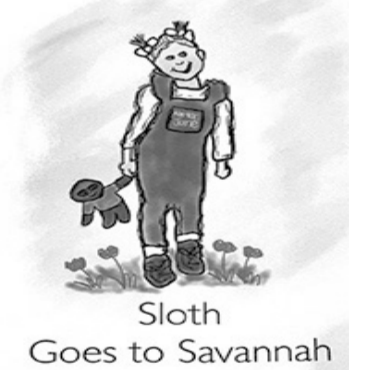
and this month are celebrating Women's History Month in the community.

If you are interested in giving back to our town, please contact a member of the club, write to P.O. Box 66 Vienna, Ga. 31092 or visit: gfwcgeorgia.org for further information.

Meet and Greet Karter Jane Smith

Contributed

Save the Date Monday, March 30 at 4:00 p.m. at Dooly County Library for a Meet and Greet with Author Karter Jane Smith. She is a talented young author who recently published her very own book, 'Sloth Goes to Savannah.'





TIM LEWIS
Columnist

In The Garden With SOME EARLY SPRING BLOOMERS

Nothing signals the end of the winter like early spring-blooming flowers, shrubs, and trees. Size doesn't matter—low-growing spring bulbs such as crocuses have the same ability to delight us out of our winter gloom as a stately magnolia. Here are a few of these early spring bloomers and some interesting facts from Southern Living magazine regarding each one.

Saucer magnolias and star magnolias are two deciduous magnolias that bloom very early—so early that in some years, frost may damage the flowers. The flowers appear in late winter to early spring, before the leathery leaves appear on these small accent trees or shrubs. The flowers of star magnolias are strappy and whitish, and the flowers of saucer magnolias are cup-shaped and pink on the outside and white on the inside. Both can be grown in Zones 4-9.

Hellebores are one of the first flowers to bloom, even through a dusting of fresh snow. The Christmas rose (*H. niger*) blooms first in December, but most of the hellebores, also called Lenten roses, bloom in late winter into spring. Hellebores are hardy and require little sunlight, making them a superb addition to shady locations. Once established, hellebores

will drop many of their seeds and small sprouts will appear in the spring. These will turn into new plants on their own if given enough light.

Creeping phlox have little flowers that look like a pastel carpet painted by nature. This native, ground-hugging phlox grows in the Appalachian mountains from Canada down into Georgia in Zones 3-9. The small, delicate blooms of creeping phlox appear around March or April in the South. Also known as moss phlox, it prefers moist, well-drained, organically rich soils and lots of light. Plant it in rock gardens, along walls, and around garden edges.

Winter jasmine is a fountain-like shrub grown for the profuse, early-blooming flowers that provide a sunny splash of yellow during cold weather. The shrubs start to bloom mid-winter and continue until April. Once established in your yard, it is an easy-to-care-for plant according to Gordon.

Winter jasmine is suitable for Zones 6-10. Plant it as a ground cover on slopes, to disguise walls and fences, or to create a hedge border. The plant flourishes in full sun and well-drained soil.

Jasmine isn't the only plant to provide a burst of sunshine in late winter. Often reaching giant proportions, flowering

forsythia shrubs bear stems that grow upright as opposed to in an arch like winter jasmine. Forsythia is suitable for Zones 5-8. In the South, forsythia blooms as early as February, or in early- to mid-April in Zone 6. Forsythia is easy to grow but prefers loose, moist, well-drained soils in full sun.

Don't let their dark leaves fool you. Once viburnums begin to blossom in spring, the flowers are as lovely as they are fragrant. The bloom time varies from species to species. Arrow-wood viburnum (*V. dentatum*), Korean viburnum (*V. carlesii*), and Burkwood viburnum (*V. x burkwoodii*) bear flowers earlier in the season.

Many viburnums do well in Zones 4-8 and tolerate various levels of light, depending on the variety. The three species mentioned here bloom best in full to partial sun. Upon planting viburnums, top off the soil with mulch. Water weekly during the summer months to keep this shrub looking sharp.

Showy flowering quince is another shrub that typically bursts into bloom before it leafs out. The blooms are rose-like and come in many different colors, including yellow, apricot, orange, pink, red, and white. Flowering quince is hardy in Zones 4-8. These arching shrubs sometimes have thorns and are commonly planted along foundations or as a "fence" at the edge of a property. The beautiful flowers appear in late winter or early spring.

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



NEIL JOINER
Columnist

Joiner's Corner THE CHARM OF RED BERRIES

I'm not sure when I first noticed a patch of nandinas in the woods near my mother's childhood home. It may have been decades ago, or could have been more recently. Either way, I was seduced by the charm of red berries. The misplaced shrubs seemed a welcome novelty, their splashes of color brightening a rather bland landscape. They have, however, grown into a problem which is not easily resolved.

After I retired from banking, Jane and I began walking in the woods quite often. Leisurely hikes are not as physically beneficial as rigorous workouts but are a lot more fun. We're not inclined toward structured exercise, and are better suited for woodland walks.

Perhaps I lack motivation for gym routines because of a sketchy track record. A notable example is when I took weight-lifting at Valdosta State College under Coach Arnold. In the 1970s we were required to have six credits of Physical Education. I decided to use one quarter to develop a Charles Atlas physique.

As the sessions began I was

five feet seventeen inches tall and weighed 165 pounds. After three months of rigorous training I was six feet five and weighed the same. My pencil shape remained unchanged.

Some P.E. classes were fun, such as tennis and bowling. The one I found most physically challenging was Life Saving. Colonel Veatch had a military background and carried herself in an authoritative manner. When she said jump in the pool we cleared the deck.

We had to tread water for fifteen minutes, which took a lot of paddling to keep my skinny frame afloat. I felt sorry for a guy whose ship was sinking and whose girlfriend swam like a fish. When he waded toward the harbor, obviously embarrassed, she went ashore with him. I don't know if they stayed together, but her kind gesture impressed me.

The next step toward life-guard certification was to rescue a fellow student from the deep end of the pool. A big guy named Rick Hastings was my assignment. With my elbow under his chin, I belaboredly pulled him to safety. I had no

idea his head was submerged.

Col. Veatch called me to the side of the pool. "Joiner," she said, "if I promise to give you a C will you promise to never come back to my class?"

"I'm out of here, Colonel," I replied with a smile and a salute. It was a good deal for both of us, plus I knew Rick would soon get a chance to rescue me.

That's all just bonus information to explain why I prefer nature walks over gym routines. Now let's get back to the berries.

My knowledge of nandinas was quite limited when I first noticed them in the woods. I had no idea they would become too dense to walk through and would keep claiming more territory. Untamed bushes are now taller than me and still expanding their reach along a stream.

I've cut them to ground level and treated some with chemicals, but they don't give up easily. I hope to eventually get rid of them, even if it means buying Jane a bigger shovel.

The nandinas could have been easily dealt with when they first came on the scene, but bright colors enhanced the woods which I thought were rather plain. Acres of shrubs now remind me that seductive things are not always as harmless as they seem. The charm of red berries sometimes comes with a cost.

joinerscorner.com
neiljoiner@gmail.com

Dooly-Crisp Reps. Travel to Washington D.C. to Advocate for Rural Priorities

Contributed

DOOLY COUNTY, Ga.— March 5 Representatives from Dooly County traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation and advocate for issues important to rural communities. Representing Dooly County were Rhonda Lamb, President & CEO of the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce; Shea Daniels, City of Vienna, Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Chair; and Rosie Dean, Advocate Coordinator with SOWEGA CASA serving 17 counties over three judicial circuits to include Dooly, Crisp, Wilcox, and Ben Hill counties.

During their visit, the group participated in several meetings and events with federal leaders to discuss priorities impacting Dooly County and the broader South Central Georgia region. The delegation attended a Town Hall Q and A with Senator Jon Ossoff, where constituents had the opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from the Senator on issues affecting Georgia. The group also had the opportunity to meet with Senator Ossoff and speak at length with members of his legislative staff on issues affecting our rural communities.

They also attended a constituent coffee with Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock, where the Senator provided updates on current national affairs and bipartisan legislation under consideration in the U.S. Senate. The delegation met one-on-one with Congressman Sanford Bishop, who has long represented Southwest and Central Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives. During the meeting, they also engaged with several members of Congressman Bishop's legislative team who specialize in housing, grant funding, infrastructure, and community development.

"Our communities in rural Georgia face unique challenges but also tremendous opportunities," said Rhonda Lamb, President and CEO of the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce. "We were honored to meet

with our federal leaders to share the priorities of Dooly County and advocate for policies that help rural communities grow, remain competitive, and continue contributing to Georgia's economy."

Federal Priorities Discussed: Surface Transportation Reauthorization Support a timely, multi-year reauthorization before September 30 that protects rural formula funding essential for maintaining farm-to-market roads, freight access, and workforce connectivity.

Trade & Tariff Predictability Encourage clear and consistent federal trade policy and congressional oversight with a predictable tariff policy, including the use of authorities under Sections 232 and 301, to reduce uncertainty and cost volatility impacting agriculture, construction, equipment/auto dealers, and small businesses.

Workforce and Legal Labor Solutions Advanced practical workforce solutions for agriculture and rural industries, including improvements to agricultural labor programs such as H-2A and targeted reforms to the H-1B program that support skilled professionals in agriculture, healthcare, engineering, food processing, and technical roles.

Rural Healthcare Access and Public Safety Support Improve access to affordable healthcare in rural communities through workforce support, expanded coverage options, and transportation access to care for counties without a local hospital. Continued support and funding for Public Safety.

Permitting Reform Advance meaningful federal permitting reform, including improvements to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and agency review timelines to ensure infrastructure, broadband, utilities, and economic development projects authorized by Congress are delivered efficiently and without unnecessary delays.

Responsible Artificial Intelligence Policy Promote responsible, common-sense federal artificial intelligence policy that

encourages innovation while protecting citizens, privacy, and national security without unnecessarily restricting emerging technology. Federal Research Maintain strong federal investment in medical research through the National Cancer Institute, and support programs that strengthen public safety in rural communities.

Community and Housing Priorities Advocated by Shea Daniels, City of Vienna GICH Committee Chair: Continued support for federal and state housing resources that strengthen local housing initiatives in rural communities. Programs that assist communities in expanding housing availability, improving housing conditions, and supporting workforce housing development. As Chairman of the Crisp-Dooly Fuller Center for Housing, Rhonda Lamb also advocated for federal housing resources to support the construction and repair of homes for low-income households, at-risk families, and veterans. Together, these efforts highlight the importance of coordinated housing solutions that strengthen communities and expand opportunities for homeownership in rural Georgia.

Community Programs Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance (SOWEGA CASA) Rosie Dean, Advocate Coordinator advocated for stabilization of VOCA funding (H.R. 909) to support victim services and FY27 Community Directed Spending (Byrne JAG) for a one-time systems investment supporting community safety programs. Dooly County Family Connection, Rhonda Lamb, Chairman: advocated for continued support for literacy grant funding to strengthen educational outcomes for children and families in rural communities.

The delegation emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between local communities and federal leaders to ensure rural Georgia remains strong, competitive, and positioned for future growth.



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder HEDGE OF PROTECTION FOR LOVED ONES

The minister at a church I attended announced to the congregation one Sunday that his oldest son, now 30-years old, had a drug addiction. Everyone had seen the two other younger sons from time to time but didn't know a third son existed. Both younger sons were serving in the Iraqi war at the time. The son's drug problem had been a source of heartache for the entire family. For years the wayward son seldom called home and his whereabouts were not known. Not knowing his condition or what he was doing, the family resorted to their only alternative—prayer that God would intercede in the life of their son and brother.

The next week I saw the minister walking down the street and drove over to the curb to speak with him. I expressed my deep concern about his son and told him of a biblical principal that might rescue his

son from the clutches of drugs. It is a principal that another minister conveyed to me years ago. Just as there are constant physical laws such as the law of gravity, there also are untapped spiritual laws that will produce predictable results. This spiritual law involves building a hedge of protection around a loved one who needs providential protection. The ground rules require that you pray every day that God will build a wall of protection so high, so thick, and so impenetrable that evil cannot get to your loved one. It may take 6-months or it may take a year or longer, but I am told this spiritual law always works. Every day you pray, another brick is added to the wall's foundation. After months of prayer, the wall becomes higher, thicker, and stronger. The minister thought it was such a good idea that he decided to preach on the concept at an

upcoming sermon. When he did preach the sermon, he suggested to the congregation that they should pray for concrete blocks and not bricks to construct the wall faster.

The basis for this spiritual law is found in the book of Hosea, chapter 2. The prophet had a wife name Gomer. She was flirting with adultery, and Hosea was very perplexed as to what he could do. Hosea decided to pray that the Lord would build a hedge around Gomer so that evil could not get to her and her evil suitors could no longer tempt her.

Without God's intervention, drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes can have an unbreakable hold on individuals. Also, parents are at wits end in knowing how to deal with children who have left the nest and are living in sin. A friend lamented that his daughter was living out of wedlock with other men and constantly getting into trouble. I suggested he pray the prayer of Hosea. Six months later he told me the prayer was producing results as his daughter was beginning to straighten up her life. Praying daily for a hedge of protection is worth trying.

and thought

Of the wealth he had in store.

And how to keep what he had earned

From the lazy, shiftless poor. The black man's face bespoke revenge

As the fire passed from sight, For all he saw in his stick of wood

Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group

Did naught except for gain Giving only to those who gave

Was the way he played the game.

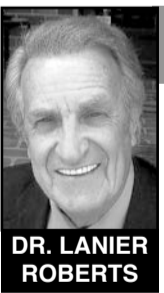
The logs held tight in death's still hands

Was proof of human sin.

They didn't die from the cold without,

They died from... THE COLD WITHIN.

God speed. Until next time.



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart THE COLD WITHIN

About every three to four years, I like to use the poem THE COLD WITHIN by James Patrick Kinney to keep us humans on an even keel path. If this doesn't make us think again, then something could be wrong with us. Here goes: Six humans trapped by hap-

stance In dark and bitter cold Each one possessed a stick of wood,

Or so the story's told. Their dying fire in need of logs,

The first woman held hers

back.

For on the faces around the fire,

She noticed one was black.

The next man looking cross the way,

Saw one not of his church, And couldn't bring himself to give

The fire his stick of birch. The third one sat in tattered clothes,

He gave his coat a hitch Why should his log be put to use,

To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back

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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.

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LEGALS

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 26-0006 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

NO26-005 NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Date of Publication: March 12th, 2026 Georgia Housing and Finance Authority 60 Executive Park South, NE Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 (404) 679-4840

On or after at least one day after the public comment period has ended, the City of Unadilla will submit a request to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the release of HOME Investment Program funds under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Title II of Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: City of Unadilla, CHIP 2026-117 **Purpose:** To provide single family, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. **Location:** Scattered sites in Unadilla, Georgia **Project/Program Description:** The City of Unadilla will rehabilitate up to 8, or others if funds allow, single-family, owner-occupied homes in the city limits of Unadilla, Georgia. Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known. **Level of Environmental Review Citation:** Rehabilitations of buildings and improvements are categorically excluded per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i) and subject to laws and authorities at 58.35(3)(i) when the following conditions are met: In the case of a building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, and the land use is not changed. **Tier 2 Site Specific Review:** The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C (Explosive and Flammable Hazards) and Subpart D (Airport Hazards); Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]; Clean Air Act, as amended, and 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93; 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2) (Contamination and Toxic Substances); Endangered Species Act of 1973 and 50 CFR Part 402; Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 and 7 CFR Part 658; Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR Part 55; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 800; Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 and 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B; Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968; and Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Compliance with various laws, authorities and written strategies will be documented and listed in the Tier 2 Site Specific Review project file and if required mitigation measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts and/or permits, development agreements, and other relevant documents will be obtained from the issuing governmental agency. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measure should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan. **Estimated Project Cost:** Total HUD funding: \$500,000. Total anticipated project cost: \$500,000.

NO26-000 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, Bryornville, 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

NO26-002 NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT TO REDEEM The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Unadilla certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of City of Unadilla; (b) City of Unadilla has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the DCA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at chip@dca.ga.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period. **Myron Mixon, Mayor, City of Unadilla** Certifying Officer March 12, 2026

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at DCA located at 60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 and is available for public review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to **Myron Mixon, Mayor**. All comments received by one day after the 7-10 days of publication will be considered by the City of Unadilla prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION The City of Unadilla certifies to DCA that **Myron Mixon**, in their capacity as **Mayor**, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The approval of DCA certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Unadilla to use HUD HOME funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Unadilla certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of City of Unadilla; (b) City of Unadilla has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the DCA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at chip@dca.ga.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period. **Myron Mixon, Mayor, City of Unadilla** Certifying Officer March 12, 2026

NO26-000 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, Bryornville, 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

NO26-003 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS Undersigned, John C. Scott and Jerry Thomas Scott, Co-Executors of the Estate of Janet B. Scott, 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 2014 Laurel Drive, Perry, GA 31069, and P. O. Box 81, Unadilla, GA 31091, respectively. John C. Scott and Jerry Thomas Scott Co-Executors LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC Attorney for Co-Executors March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026

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

NO26-004 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF LORAN GLENWILL HARRIS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-0005 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern: CHRISTY INEZ HALL has petitioned for CHRISTY INEZ HALL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of LORAN GLENWILL HARRIS 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 persons 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 30, 2026**.

NO26-004 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DENAJAH LASKEW, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-0008 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern: MONYIA ASKEW AND DOROTHY BRYANT has petitioned for MONYIA ASKEW AND DOROTHY BRYANT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of DENAJAH LASKEW 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 persons 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 April 6, 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 later. 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 March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026

NO26-006 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DENAJAH LASKEW, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-0008 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern: MONYIA ASKEW AND DOROTHY BRYANT has petitioned for MONYIA ASKEW AND DOROTHY BRYANT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of DENAJAH LASKEW 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 persons 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 April 6, 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 later. 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 March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026

NO26-006 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF DENAJAH LASKEW, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-0008 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

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Trojans Battle Region Foe CA on the Diamond This Week

By Head Coach
Mike Ashley

We started off our season Monday, March 2 at Fullington with John Hancock out of Sparta, Ga., upperclassman, heavy team and well coached by Ricky Worsham, a long-time coach I've known for ever, a good guy. Leading off was Eli Ashley and his first at-bat was a 10 pitch walk and hit around .500., stolen bases. Brantley Ross, he advanced runners and he pitched fantastic and still maintained a zero ERA and Tucker Sorrow who had been struggling with control was also on the mound, but when it came to game time, he just locked in and did a good job for us.

The young guys did really well in the beginning of the game, but we ended up leaving alot of players on base which always kills you. We had a couple of errors in the outfield that ended up costing us. But we're working on things, we're figuring out positions, but the attitude in the dugout was phenomenal, but the effort on the field was there, so I got a lot of positive things out of that game. So we ended up los-

ing 3-1.

The guys were well at practice the next day. We ended up playing Covenant last Thursday and once again they've got a little more upperclassmen than we do, but we started off with a three-run first inning and it went back and forth. I started Cash Greene on the mound and did really well. They hit the ball when they needed to and we came up with a lot of big hits as well. Clay Sangster had a really good day and Cash Greene had another good day at the plate. We had several people hitting: Eli Ashley, Brantley Ross, but we had the bases loaded twice and we stranded the runners.

We had second and third twice and left 'em on. But the guys never let it get them down, they kept battling. We came back to 7-5 in the seventh inning with two runners on and one out and we just ran out of light. I mean, we don't have lights at our parks at FA, so that really hurt us. I know a lot of single A schools don't have lights, but we've got to do something about that because when those guys fight like that, you've got to finish the



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler
Assistant Coach Chuck Hester

game. Both teams, very respectful young men, that's the greatest thing I saw out of those two games.

These guys were nothing but respectful, the coaches were great, our kids were great. I'm really excited about where we are going. Eli Ashley pitched a little bit in the second game, had a little bit of trouble, but got us out of a big inning. Tucker Sorrow threw again because he didn't throw very many pitches in the game before and he and Cash Greene combined and did a really good job.

If we can shore up the outfield, I think we're going to be really good. All the young guys are



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

Standing-Fisher Neal, Chase Hughes, Fletcher Faircloth, Augie Harris, John Wilson Floyd, Clay Sangster and Eli Ashley. Kneeling-Luke Campbell, Mason Scarborough, Tucker Sorrow, Cash Greene and Brantley Ross.

responding, the older guys are starting to respond even better because of that. We start our region play this week versus Crisp Academy this Tuesday (at home) and Thursday (at CA with the first pitch at 4:00 p.m.) who had a rough start playing some bigger teams. They won their two games against Grace who is a region opponent.

So, it's going to turn out to be a pretty good little matchup. They've got two pitchers who are upperclassmen and they're young just like we are. I think the bats are going to wake up this week, a lot of practice last Friday in the cages and hopefully we'll have some things figured out and I'm just looking forward to it. When you've got a

lead off batter that gets on eight out of 10 times, we're going to do some things behind that. Brantley, Cash, Tucker and Clay Sangster are doing a really good job, so we're going to pick it up. I'm looking forward to seeing what these guys do this season.

Dooly's Boys Soccer Team Hoping to Pick Up Region Victories

Contributed

The Lady Bobcats fought hard until the end, but dropped its area match last Friday against Treutlen High School by a score of 2-1. Sophia Gracia scored for us. Dooly's boys shut out the Vikings 10-0. Jesus Vega had a poker (four goals). Both Dodany Mendez and Grayson Hurtado had a brace (two goals), Hugo Reyes and Alex Mendez had one goal-a-piece.

Also, the Lady Bobcats lost to Crisp County in 'The Grove' last Tuesday by a score of 2-0. They fought hard until the end and we're proud of our girls for their efforts. Our boys also lost a closely contested game with a score of 1-0 to the Cougars. We have things to fix collectively, but we learn from this and we will keep working.

This week, both teams traveled to Montgomery County Tuesday, March 10 to take on a region opponent before finishing out the week against region foe Wheeler County on

the road with the girls game kicking off at 5:00 p.m. in Alamo, Ga. and the boys match to follow. The varsity boys have a record of 8-2 overall and 1-1 in the region, while the girls are seeking their first victory.

The Dooly County Middle school girls secured a win in last Wednesday's game with a score of 9-2 against Sumter County. Yake-lin Pérez had seven, Daniela Divas scored an olimpico and Jariyah Harrington had one goal. We're extremely proud of our girls for their efforts.

The Dooly County Middle School boys lost their game last Wednesday 2-1 to Sumter County. Bradley Morales scored the lone goal for the Bobcats. Dooly County's JV team dropped their Monday, March 2 match to Georgia Military College prep by a score of 2-0. We made several mistakes and we didn't capitalize on some opportunities we had, but we learn and build from this. We're extremely proud of our boys for their efforts.



Lady Bobcat Shortin Woodard and Bobcat Dodany Mendez .

Photos Contributed

THE CITY OF WARNER ROBINS egg hunt

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!

