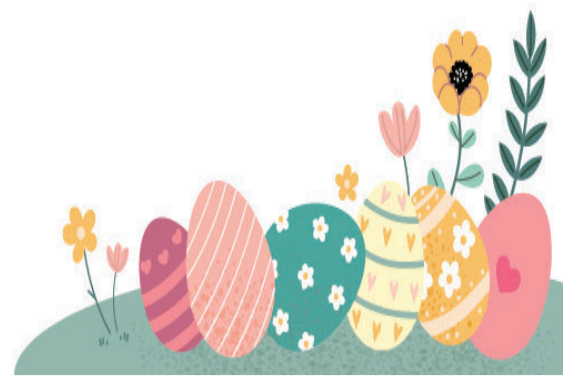




HAPPY Easter



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THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2026

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Splash Pad Takes Another Step Towards Completion

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Unadilla Mayor Myron Mixon provided an update on the Splash Pad, "They've graded the foundation and footings and the restrooms will be inside the compound of the Splash Pad itself. Also, Burger King and Taco Bell signs have been put up at the truck stop." He also commented about a recent visit by Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms officials investigating underaged individuals selling guns, etc. Councilman Tyrone Adkinson discussed progress being made at the gym with flooring projected to have been placed in the lobby by Monday,

March 30. Work is close to completion in the bathrooms.

Public Works Director Leon Lester reported to the council that, "We're still doing water leaks and performing gas repairs and we're also still doing sewer calls."

The council had requested quotes to replace the tractor with a blown motor and he discussed two quotes, one a 115 horsepower tractor from Tidewater in Pinehurst, an International dealer for \$67,000 and Lasseter Equipment with a 100 horsepower John Deere tractor for \$75,000.

The council tabled a final decision until

the next meeting. Unadilla FireRescue had responded to four calls so far during March including to a vehicle accident on I-75 at Exit 122 south Thursday, March 12 as well as 'checked out' storm damage that same day on Rocky Ford Road. Monday, March 23, units responded to a structure fire assist in Houston County, a canceled call enroute to Railroad Street and a false alarm Tuesday, March 24 on West Railroad Street. Also, March 25 units responded to a lawn mower-wildland fire on Borum Street. March 27, units responded to a wildland fire on Highway 230 in Pulaski County for a total of 35 calls in 2026. Spokesperson

Kenny Mercer also reported, "We've got a new fireman, his name is Brett Davis, manager of Trico Gin and Peanut Co. He lives in Crisp County, but he helps during the day and we received the fireworks tax grant." The chamber award luncheon was held Wednesday, March 18 at the community center and the City of Unadilla received an award for its outstanding support as well as the Champion Award given to Mayor Myron Mixon for his, "Commitment and service to the community."

He also thanked, "The Dooly County

**SPLASH PAD
CONTINUED PG 2A**

Monday Morning Accident Results in Minor Injuries



By EMS Director
Don Williford

There was a motor vehicle accident that occurred on Gilbert Road around 10:00 Monday morning involving a county pilot vehicle that was chauffeuring a county road side bush hog that was cleaning the side of the road. Luckily there were just minor injuries to the individuals involved in the wreck.

One of those individuals had to be extricated and he was taken to Crisp Regional Hospital for treatment. Vienna Fire Department, Dooly County Sheriff's Office, Dooly County Road Department, Dooly County EMS and Georgia State Patrol responded to the scene.

We want to encourage everybody to be cautious and pay attention due to the fact that at this time of year, there are a lot of slow moving vehicles, tractors and other farm implements

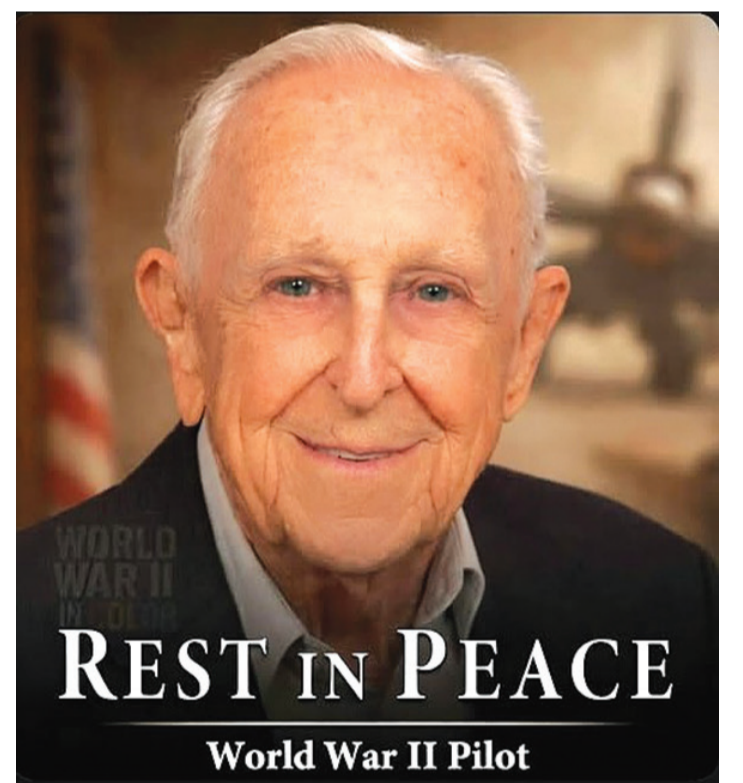


on the roadway. There is also an increased number of bicycle riders that are on area streets as well as motorcycle riders.

We want to make sure everybody is alert when driving and

not distracted. Make sure you put your phone down and no distractions. If you have any questions, give us a call 229-947-0705.

Unadilla's Hometown Hero Remembered



Contributed

Mr. Charles Speight is missed here in town. Our very own Hero. Continue to Rest In Peace. We're honoring the life of Charles G. Speight, one of the last surviving U.S. Navy fighter pilots of World War II—who took his final flight at the age of 103. Charles grew up like so many boys of his time: working hard, dreaming big, and loving his family and country. He spent two years at the University of Georgia before the war pulled him away.

In January 1943, he answered the call, joining the Naval Air Corps. Just months later, he was strapped into the cockpit of a thunderous F6F Hellcat fighter, launching off the deck of the USS Lexington with almost no practice; his very first real carrier takeoff sent him straight into the fire of the Pacific Theater.

Over the next two years, Lieutenant Speight flew 72 heart-pounding combat missions over Japan. He dodged enemy fire, hunted down Japanese planes, and stared death in the face when kamikaze pilots came screaming straight at the fleet.

In one legendary dogfight, he shot down two kamikazes in a single day earning his first

of two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He later transferred to the USS Yorktown after the Lexington was battered in battle, but he never slowed down. He earned five Air Medals and two Presidential Unit Citations for bravery that saved countless lives.

Yet Charles, humble to the end, would later say with a quiet shrug, "I did what I had to do." Back home after the war, he married his sweetheart Patsy Holliman on a whirlwind July day in 1944. Their love lasted 67 beautiful years until her passing in 2011. He built a life in the same streets he knew as a boy, raising a family, serving his community, and quietly carrying the weight of what he had seen. His own brother, Amory Jr., never made it home from the war in Europe. At 103, Charles G. Speight has finally set his wings down for good.

He leaves behind a legacy of courage, duty, and quiet strength that reminds us what real heroes look like—not in movies, but in the determined eyes of a Georgia boy who climbed into a fighter plane and helped win a war. Rest in peace, sir. Your final flight is clear and your place in history is forever secure. America will never forget you.

Dooly State Prison the Scene of 'Gang Related' Fight

Contributed

Five inmates were treated for injuries suffered during a 'fight' at the Dooly State Prison near Unadilla, Ga. According to the Ga. Dept. of Corrections. Of-

ficials confirmed that the incident occurred in a dormitory at the prison Monday, March 23 resulting in non-life threatening injuries to some of the inmates, in what was described as 'gang related' according to the GDC.

The five inmates injured during the fight were transported to the facility for treatment. The incident is currently under investigation by the Georgia Dept. of Corrections.

Cordele Police Investigate Shooting

By CPD

Officers responded to a reported shooting in the Flint Drive area of Cordele last Thursday,

March 26 around 11:00 p.m. Preliminary investigation indicates that two vehicles occupied by multiple individuals

exchanged gunfire.

**SHOOTING
CONTINUED PG 2A**

City of Vienna Council March 23 Meeting

Contributed

The City of Vienna Council met March 23 in the council chambers with Council member John Mathis Jr. who made the motion to Amend the Agenda to add Item 4a. Executive Session for Personnel and Potential Litigation, 4b. Appointment of Interim Police Chief and 4c. Appointment of Interim City Administrator. Council member Tabatha Carter seconded.

Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, Babette Lewis, Albert King) and 0 no. Council member Carter made the motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Council member Mathis seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Council member King made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 Meeting. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no.

Mayor Daniels attempted to recognize Al Willis who had requested to address the Mayor and Council concerning his appreciation for the resurfacing of Old Americus Road, but he was not in attendance. City Clerk Shelley presented the Financial Report along with an addendum showing the status of the three cash accounts

with gas and water/sewer accounts reflecting negative balances through March. Council member Mathis made the motion to enter into Executive Session for Personnel and Potential Litigation.

Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Mayor, Council, City Attorney, Attorneys Dustin Land and Edward Shipp entered into Executive Session at 6:12 pm. Council member Mathis made the motion to return to Regular Session. Councilmember Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no.

Mayor and Council returned to Open Session at 6:53 pm. Without a written resolution presented, Council member Mathis made the motion to approve the resolution to appoint Joel Mathis as Interim Police Chief effective March 24, 2026. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved three yes (Mathis, Carter, Lewis) and one no (King).

Mayor Eddie Daniels reiterated that this was without his recommendation. Without a written resolution presented, Council member Mathis made the motion to appoint Kadiadra Powell as interim city administrator. Council member Carter seconded. Mayor Dan-

iels refused to carry the motion as this was without his recommendation. Council member John Mathis, Jr. carried the motion.

Motion approved three yes (Mathis, Carter, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member John Mathis, Jr. then attempted to make a motion to approve a resolution to terminate the current city administrator effective immediately.

City Attorney by Executive Order Verlin Jones, interjected, stating there was not an item on the amended agenda for such action making it out of order. The Mayor and Council report included a statement from Sheriff Peavy noting he would have additional law enforcement officials in town during Easter Weekend due to anticipated large crowd gatherings. With no further business, Mayor Daniels adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Members Present: Mayor Eddie Daniels; Council members Tabatha Carter, Babette Lewis, John Mathis, and Albert King. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Clerk Margaret Shelley, Youth Mayor Kaleb Green, City Attorney Verlin Jones by Executive Order, Attorney Dustin Land, Attorney Edward Shipp and City Administrator Michael Bowns by Executive Order.

Former DCHS Principal Named Sumter Co. Interim School Superintendent



By State Representative
Patty Marie Stinson

Macon County, give it up for Mr. Jerry Sanders. He is getting off to a great start as the Interim

School Superintendent in Sumter County. It was great seeing Sumter County represented at the State Capitol last Wednesday. He's a living testimony of

trusting the process and being patient. What the devil means for your bad, God will turn it around for your good.

Local Club Honors Vietnam Vets



Contributed

Vienna Woman's Club members welcomed the community allowing residents to visit the Dooly County Veterans Museum Sunday March 29 in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day. There are many pieces on display from the Vietnam War. One of the new displays is signs and orna-

ments representing five branches of the military, the US Flag that flew over the US Capitol on April 1, 2025, and a newspaper article from WWII.

Ensignia ornaments for five branches of the military now decorate the military tree. These were purchased from the generous donation of Café 41 who

designated 10% of their sales to the museum on Veterans Day last year. T

he Dooly County Veterans Museum (Vienna, GA) is open for special occasions and military holidays. To schedule a tour, you can Contact Mrs. Beth English at 229-347-0834.

Ag. in the Classroom at Dooly County Library

By Library Manager Jill
Kloberdanz

A big thanks to Sylandi Brown with Middle Georgia EMC and Angie Burton with Dooly County Farm Bureau for the "I Love Blueberries!" book. For more information, visit the library at 200 East Union Street in Vienna, visit lbrls.org/dooly-county or call 229-268-4687.



Unadilla Library Celebrates Book Donations

By Elizabeth Harris Library
Manager Rhonda W Bartlett

Wonderful visit last week with Angie Burton and Sylandi Brown. Thanks for the book, "I Love Blueberries!" by Shannon Anderson donated by the Georgia Foundation For Agriculture in partnership with Georgia's EMC and Dooly County Farm Bureau. We also received,

"Uncle John's City Garden" by Bernette G. Ford for our Ag in the Classroom book from Dooly County Farm Bureau.

Katie Mason won First place in the Dooly County Farm Bureau high school art



contest. Congratulations Katie.

SPLASH PAD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Chamber, especially Rhonda for all that she does." The council Ok'd a resolution recognizing Ga. Cities Week April 20-25, 2026, "Encouraging all residents to support the celebration and corresponding activities." There will be tours of city hall and a display by the fire department and also that Friday, April 24 there will be spring clean up day among other activities.

In other news:
• The mayor, members of the

council Tyrone Adkinson and Willie Young, along with Commissioner Tony Lester were in attendance for the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Unadilla Meat Market. Mayor Mixon said, "I spoke a little about how excited we are to have the meat market here and how we wish them much health, wealth and happiness. We welcome them to the community as they are using some of our older buildings downtown. Anytime you've

got a business that wants to use these buildings, that's nice."

• The City of Unadilla will observe Good Friday, April 3. As Easter week approaches, the annual Yard of the Month competition will begin. Please submit any nominations to city hall at 478-627-3022 or by email to sabrinasinyard@cityofunadilla.com. Submissions will remain anonymous.

SHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

During the incident, an adult bystander who was seated in her vehicle sustained minor injuries as a result of a bullet passing through her windshield. She was fortunately not struck by the bullet and was only struck by glass debris.

A Cordele Police Officer in the area of 15th Street observed one of the involved vehicles

traveling northbound and initiated a traffic stop. Once the vehicle stopped, multiple subjects fled on foot. Three individuals were arrested on scene and later transported to the Crisp County Sheriff's Office. Officers recovered three firearms from the vehicle, one of which was confirmed stolen. Marijuana was also recovered from the vehicle.

This incident remains under active investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Cordele Police Department at 229-276-2921. The Cordele Police Department would like to thank the Crisp County Sheriff's Office and the Georgia State Patrol for their assistance.

DCK8 Farm Day 2026 – A Day to Remember

Contributed

Last Thursday was truly one of the highlights of our year at Dooly K-8 Academy. Our students had an incredible opportunity to experience hands-on learning rooted in what makes our community so special, agriculture.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Phillip Gentry for his outstanding work in planning and organizing this amazing event. Because of his efforts, our students were able to engage in meaningful, real-world learning experiences that they will not forget.

From seeing cattle up close to learning about animal breeding, our students gained valuable insight into the agricultural in-



dustry. They also enjoyed interactive experiences with Little Georgia AMC, explored hands-on activities on our STEM Bus, and had a blast participating in fun experiences like the hayride and more.

A special thank you to our dedicated FFA team members from the high school who came out

to support and assist throughout the day. Your leadership and service made a lasting impact on our students.

Days like today remind us how fortunate we are to be part of a community where agriculture plays such a vital role. Today was truly a great day to be a Bobcat.

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FA's Eighth Grade Goes to Court, Shows Off Skills



April is Child Abuse Prevention-Advocates for Children Month

Contributed

Vienna Woman's Club members are collecting new girls or boys underwear in sizes medium, large or extra-large. These items will be donated to the Gateway Center in Cordele. If you'd like to contribute, send a message via our dedicated email address: join@gfvcviennaga.com. The Gateway Center, Inc. in Cordele, Ga. Is a non-profit

organization that provides 24-hour services for victims of child abuse and sexual assault in the Cordele Judicial circuit including Dooly County. If you are in immediate danger, please call 911. If you would like to contact Gateway Center for help getting out of an abusive situation or to seek advice, please call Gateway at Center at 229-273-0600.

Unearth a story summer read club at Elizabeth Harris Library



Contributed

The Unearth a story 2026 library summer reading programs will begin June 3 at 4:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Harris Library in Unadilla with Jerry G. White, June 10: Modern Dinosaurs, Thursday, June 18: Animal Tales (Fossils Alive! Dinosaurs

among us, and June 24: Wildlife Wonders. Registration for Summer Reading Club begins April 7th. Come "Unearth a Story" and meet some scaly friends. Call Rhonda Bartlett with any questions 478-827-9303. Visit Elizabeth Harris Library 312 Harman Street in Unadilla.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

Sun	Mon
5	6
12	13
19	20
26	27

April 3 Community Good Friday Service
Come joins us for Community Good Friday Service this April 3, 2026, at 12/noon
Location: Walter F. George Park (Across from the US Post Office), 107 Cotton St, Vienna GA 31092
Hosting Church's: Vienna Methodist, Vienna First Baptist Evangelistic Tabernacle

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

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

Dooly County Library

1200 East Union St., Vienna Mon. - Thurs. 9AM-6PM Fri. 9:30A.M. - 4P.M. Closed Saturday.
Thursdays - COLOR & CHAT. Color books and colored pencils will be provided or you can bring your own. For more information contact Jill Kloberdanz, library manager library at 229-268-4687.

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

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

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

By Robin Dorman
Dr. Sandra Ferguson's Eighth grade class had their day in court after extensively studying Georgia's laws and court procedures. Hard work paid off when they were allowed to hold a mock trial at the Dooly County Courthouse. Each witness was escorted and sworn-in by the bailiff for questioning by the team of

prosecuting attorneys. Evidence was submitted to the court clerk. The defendant's council carefully cross examined each witness. The defendant was called to testify as well. The impartial jury included FA Sophomores from Ms. Robin Dorman's US Government class. The presiding judge oversaw the trial and ruled when necessary. Parents, teachers, and a Dooly County

Court official were present to support the event. After seven hours, the trial was over and the jury deliberated while everyone in the courtroom waited for the jury to return. After only 10 minutes, the verdict was in and the foreman read it to the court. The accused was found guilty. The court thanked Paige Reed and the Dooly County officials for their support and a wonderful day of experiential learning.

Maundy Thursday Drop in Communion at St. Paul Chapel



By St. Paul Chapel Pastor Katie Griffis

St. Paul Chapel at the Dooly Campground will be participating in the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Easter Egg Hunt and day of fun this year. The event is Saturday, April 4 from 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. St. Paul Chapel will be borrowing the corn hole games from the campground and setting up a booth for the children. If you are interested in helping with that, please see Beth English for more details. This week will culminate with our celebration of Easter and the

resurrection. We hope you will join us for our worship and celebration of this holy season. April 2-Maundy Thursday will be held from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Gratitude for the example of humility of Jesus in his washing of feet. April 3-Good Friday- gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus' life and our salvation. April 4, Holy Saturday - gratitude for knowing that the burial of the body of Jesus was not the end. Easter Sunday service of word and table will be Sunday, April 5 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Chapel United Methodist Church.

Trojans Enter Spring Break With a Three-Game Winning Streak

By Head Coach Mike Ashley

We started off at home last Monday versus Scintilla Charter Academy out of Valdosta, Ga. It's a newer program and we've never played them before, so we didn't know what to expect. They had a pretty good squad, a younger team, but we started off fast taking a 3-0 lead on 'em with Eli Ashley, Brantley Ross and Cash Greene doing what they do. They got on base and we got 'em in. Then we hit a lull and didn't hit the ball well, but the defense and pitching was doing well. John Wilson Floyd was really big for us throwing a lot of strikes and letting the defense work behind you. The defense kind-a lit up with Cash Greene and Brantley Ross, Eli Ashley getting on base like he always does. Then the back half of the order did a great job and J.W. Floyd has had a turn around year. It's his senior year and he's put a lot of work into what he does and in my opinion, he's the best first baseman in the state, as far as defensively. But to see his bat come along was really enjoy-

able to watch. Augie Harris, Chase Hughes and everybody in the order started to put the bat on the ball in that game, so due to the run rule, we won 11-1. That worked out because I needed to get ready for two games against Westwood to finish out the week. In the first game, we traveled to Camilla, Ga. last Tuesday and Brantley Ross pitched an absolute gem of a game shutting them down with 16 strikeouts and doing anything he wanted to on the mound. Eli Ashley, Brantley Ross, Cash Greene, Tucker Sorrow, Augie Harris, Fletcher Faircloth all had huge hits, the whole lineup. We hit the ball, ran bases pretty well and Brantley had a double and triple, actually there were a couple of doubles that game. We put it on 'em 13-4 and the run rule was implemented again. We faced their ace, he had done really well in the first game beating us 7-5, but coming back, we knew we had to have that one to stay in competition for region. Brantley Ross, a freshman having 16 strikeouts is huge and somebody to watch out for going forward. We finished out

with them back at our place last Thursday and Eli started the game off with an eight pitch at bat and that gives your team a chance to watch every pitch that he has. Brantley came up behind him and we started scoring runs. Cash Greene pitched for us and had his best outing of the year with nine strikeouts on the day. They had two base runners on and we'd make the play and shut them out until the last inning. We had to take Cash Greene out due to pitch count and we put in Tucker Sorrow and they started getting some bloop hits along with base runners and ended up scoring three runs in the last inning. We won 7-3 and everytime we needed it, we got that push from our guys with Augie Harris with a huge hit down the line, Brantley Ross was on fire with his bat and Cash Greene hitting the ball deep and an opposite field hit to score a couple of runs. J.W. and Chase Hughes as seniors, we had an emphasis on hitting with Woody Greene who does a lot of the hitting instruction with my guys. He's done a lot for them this year and I think they have at

least one hit per game and J.W. had another double that game. All the guys are starting to buy into my philosophy. We did have one or two base running errors, got thrown out stealing third with no outs and the next pitch we grounded out and we went from a good to a negative situation. I think we learned from it, so going into spring break I'm very excited to see what we do when we come back against Southland out of Americus, Ga. Monday, April 6 at home with the first pitch at 4:00 p.m. Then again Tuesday, April 7 against Southland in Americus and then we'll go into our series with Grace Academy and we need to close that series out and that way, we are in control of the region. We have one game that has to be rescheduled against Crisp Academy and depending on what they do and what we do, that's going to decide who wins the region. I feel very confident in our guys and to see them gel together. I'm really excited to see where we finish up in the region.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>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</p>	<p>NAPA Brooks Auto Parts 229-268-2700 313 W. Union St., Vienna Open Through Lunch Eddie Conner, Manager</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 Tippett 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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>THE CITIZENS AGENCY "Dependable Insurance" 121 N. 3rd Street P.O. Box 486 Vienna, GA 31092 229-268-2800</p>	<p>IF YOU NEED TO ADVERTISE EMAIL Phyllis Keaton phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com (229)938-6253</p>	<p>Church Vienna, GA Mt. Olive Baptist Church Byromville, GA Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Unadilla, GA Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Vienna, GA Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Vienna, GA New Bethel Baptist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-3775 Mt. Zion CME Vienna, GA 229-268-6013 Northside Missionary Baptist Church Vienna, GA New Bethel CME Pinehurst, GA Pinehurst Baptist Church Pinehurst, GA Pinehurst Methodist Church Pinehurst, GA Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-8746</p>



TIM LEWIS
Columnist

In The Garden With MARIGOLDS PART ONE

Marigolds are popular flowering annuals grown in America today. Natives of Mexico, South America, and the southwestern United States, the marigold (genus *Tagetes*) is heat and drought tolerant as well as floriferous.

Tradition has it that marigolds repel insects, rabbits, and other pests. Not really. However, there is research to indicate that marigolds have the ability to repel nematodes, those microscopic, worm-like pests that inhabit the soil and feed on the roots of many plants. There are several types of nematodes, but the type which is the most troublesome to gardeners and farmers is the root-knot nematode. French marigolds, a small-flowering type of marigolds, are somewhat effective against them.

There are basically four types of marigolds—signet, French, African/American,

and triploids. Let's look at one type today.

Tagetes erecta are generally tall marigolds with one flower per stem. Traditionally called African marigolds, some seed catalogs refer to them as American types, due to the 1959 campaign by W. Atlee Burpee Co. president, David Burpee, to change the name. Some tall varieties reach as high as three feet, displaying their single flower well above the foliage. These may need staking, and you may want to hide their long stems with other flowers. Other varieties are not so tall, reaching only 12 to 18 inches in height, and some grow to only 8 to 10 inches.

Blossoms of all *T. erecta* varieties are double, and make excellent cut flowers if you remove the foliage, which easily rots in water. Blossoms range from two to five inches

in diameter, and in color, from white to yellow to gold to orange.

African/American marigolds have all been, until recently, relatively late bloomers. Classified as short day plants, if they received more than nine hours of light per day during their first four weeks of life, they put their energy into growing vegetatively rather than in producing flowers. To get them to bloom earlier, gardeners and commercial growers had to expose them to dark periods, which was troublesome and costly. Plants treated this way bloom in 10 weeks after germination; without it, they wouldn't oblige the grower until late summer.

The fairly recent development of day-length neutral marigolds negates this late-blooming phenomenon. Such varieties are easier to bring into bloom and will flower in 10 weeks even if exposed to long days. We gardeners in the South will be able to plant them in August for October bloom.

Next: More on marigolds. *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 SCRIBBLED NOTES 3 - BEECH ISLAND

Among my scribbled notes was a mention of the Beech Island Agricultural Club. Bud Trulock, a first cousin to my wife, told me long ago about a meeting he attended as a guest. I'm not sure what brought that conversation to mind more recently. I normally refrain from impolite language, as did Bud, but today I'm making an exception.

Organized in 1856 in South Carolina, the club's agenda for meetings includes electing a chairman for the next month and reading the minutes from 100 years earlier. Bud went because a retiring federal judge was being honored.

When the seasoned jurist was asked to share what he had learned from his long tenure on the bench, an attentive crowd expected to hear eloquent pearls of wisdom. Instead he gave concise advice on flatulence and full bladders. "Never trust a @\$&," he said, "and never pass up a chance to @\$." Laughter and applause lasted longer than his talk.

A letter dated November 8, 2022, from the Georgia FFA Foundation was stashed among my scribbled notes. It was an acknowledgement of a memo-

rial gift for my fellow Unadilla FFA String Band member Charles Jones. I kept the letter because of the inspiring signature at the bottom, Miracle Daley. I intended to ask about the story behind her name, but my intentions got buried under more scribbled notes.

I hastily recorded a tidbit of family history in 2022. My mother had just recounted details of her mother winning the Silver Cow Evaporated Milk jingle contest. It was in the late 1950s, I think. I remember the prizes but didn't know how she won them.

Grandmama was awarded coupons and a catalog for her first-place entry. The chrome dinette set she selected included a formica-top table plus six chairs with vinyl seats and backs. The other big item she chose was a clothes dryer, which worked great once they got electricity.

I'm kidding about the current. The dryer was, however, an oddity at the time, the first in our community that I know of. Her clothes line was left in place, but used only slightly more than the iron dinner bell mounted near it.

Our home also had a double clothes line, almost identical

to Grandmama's. Three galvanized pipes, with shorter pipes welded across the top to form a T, supported two strands of coated wire. A fond childhood memory is the wrinkled texture of line-dried muslin sheets. Their slight roughness made them feel cooler for a few seconds, a welcome sensation on hot summer nights.

A March 18, 2022, scribbled note described a newscast that day which showed Vladimir Putin addressing a large crowd in a Russian stadium. As he rallied support for his unwarranted invasion of Ukraine, he commended Russia's military by quoting John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man known than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

It was disturbing to hear a murderous tyrant citing scripture to promote an unholy cause, but it shouldn't have surprised me. Satan quoted scripture and his helpers still do. Other news that same day showed a Ukrainian city with a line of 110 empty strollers. Four years later the lines are much longer and still growing.

Sobering situations can feel overwhelming. Sometimes I take a frivolous detour and think about lighter moments, like Bud telling me about that old judge at Beech Island. At other times a name on a letter reminds me there's always hope for tomorrow. If we look for it, we can find a miracle daily.

*joinerscorner.com
gnejljoiner@gmail.com*



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder LACK OF COW PASTURE PREVENTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Former Macon County coach Jimmy Maffett, a good friend of mine, was a star basketball player at Montezuma High School during the World War II years. When Maffett was a sophomore, his coach was Elliott Roberts. At season's end, Coach Roberts joined the service. That left Montezuma without a basketball coach to begin the 1942-43 season.

Since most young coaches were serving in the war, it became increasingly difficult to recruit a coach. The high school principal at Montezuma was Mr. Bert Rumble. Unable to find a suitable coach, Mr. Rumble—being an educator and not a coach—reluctantly took over the reigns as basketball coach.

That same year, a new coach, Bob Eddleman, came to Byron High School. During his first season, 1942-43, Eddleman coached Byron to the state championship game, losing in a squeaker to Barney High School near Valdosta by only two points—a game that could

have gone either way. Seeing great promise in Eddleman to rescue their basketball fortunes, Montezuma school officials decided to lure Eddleman away from Byron. A formal offer was made. Eddleman seriously considered it for several days, but finally decided to remain at Byron. When asked why he declined Montezuma's offer, Eddleman stated, "I have a milk cow. Montezuma didn't have any place for me to keep my cow, so I stayed at Byron."

Jimmy Maffett feels that had Eddleman transferred, Montezuma, which came within a whisker of advancing to the state playoffs in 1944, would have had an excellent chance of winning the state championship. Ed Howard, an all-state basketball player from Byron who played against Maffett, agreed: "Yes, Montezuma had a strong team that year and Jimmy Maffett was their leader." Howard continued, "Had Montezuma gotten Coach Eddleman, their 1943-44 team would have been a formidable

force in Georgia basketball." Bobby Joe Clark, Byron star player and Howard's teammate added, "Eddleman was indeed a great basketball coach who would have made a difference at any school." Maffett remarked, "Had the townspeople known that the only thing keeping Coach Eddleman from accepting the position was a place to graze his milk cow, surely someone would have volunteered a small pasture." Since principal Rumble was not a seasoned coach, it is evident that Eddleman could have improved Montezuma's basketball fortunes. If Montezuma officials couldn't pasture Eddleman's cow, they at least should have promised him a quart of milk delivered fresh to his house every day.

In conclusion, Montezuma officials didn't pay the price for a great coach and possibly missed a golden opportunity to win a state championship. The same is true of salvation. A price must be paid in personal commitment. To accept Jesus as Savior is not enough. We must make Him the Lord of our lives. When we accept His Lordship, we not only must feel remorse for our sins, but we must turn from our wicked ways and become new creatures in Christ Jesus.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart A LOCAL PAPER IS SO VALUABLE AND NEEDED

A local newspaper is so valuable and needed. First of all, you have all the legals which are a must. And how can we not know what's going on in the county's cities, and the county itself.

What the sheriff's office is doing is always interesting, and the cities that have police departments report their activities each monthly meeting which is always a must read.

The county commissioners are busy at work, and we need

to know what's going on there and who's up for election or reelection.

Sometimes there are articles informing us what's going on among the citizenry of our cities and county, which is a blessing and brings us closer together as human beings. Local papers are a must and I pray they NEVER become a dying breed!

Take, for example, THE NEWS OBSERVER, what in the world would we do if we

didn't have that as a weekly paper. I look forward to receiving mine on Thursdays of each week. I think it is a good idea for us supporting it more often than we do.

We should talk it up among ourselves and maybe give an annual subscription as a birthday gift, Christmas gift, or even a "get to know it" gift.

No, no, no, I haven't been paid or anything else to mention this, I just think we should support our local newspapers whether it be in Dooly, Crisp, or any other county. A LOCAL NEWSPAPER IS SO VALUABLE AND NEEDED.

I must inform you all once again: Jesus loves you very much and there is NOTHING you can do about that. He loves you! Until next time.

Attention House District 150

By State Representative
Patty Marie Stinson

My only official response at this time regarding the residence challenge brought forth. Dear family, friends, supporters, and constituents.

At no time have I misrepresented my legal physical address or my eligibility to serve you in the Georgia House of Representatives since 2013. Following a credible threat made against me in 2014, I took responsible and necessary steps to protect my personal safety.

Those precautions should not be distorted or weaponized for political purposes. There have been many elected officials

brutally beaten and even killed in their homes across this country. You never know what type of hate a person might be carrying in their hearts.

That's why I pray for protection daily. I proudly voted for Senate Bill 215: Passed the Senate (53-0) in 2023 to protect law enforcement and elected officials by redacting personal information from state records.

This was a matter of personal safety for me, not concealment, and not a violation of any law. Any attempt to characterize these precautions as wrongdoing is both inaccurate and irresponsible.



Letter to the Editor is from Dooly County School System Superintendent Dr. Sherrod D. Willaford, Ed.D. is in response to an updated report filed March 13, 2026 on WALB in Albany

(From DCSS Superintendent Dr. Sherrod D. Willaford, Ed, Ed.D.)

The Dooly County School System takes any concern involving our students seriously and responds promptly when issues are brought to our attention. Still, because this situation involves a student and personnel considerations, the district must also be mindful of privacy and confidentiality requirements.

The Dooly County School System was first made aware of concerns involving this employee on January 7, 2026. Upon receiving the information, the district initiated an investigation of the situation. The employee was relieved of duties and resigned on January 9, 2026, following hearing the findings of the review. The SRO/Sheriff's Department conducted their own separate investigation of the situation as school officials completed their review.

Regarding reporting requirements, incidents involving certified educators are typically reported to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC). In this situation, the individual involved was not a certificated employee and was contracted through a third-party vendor that provides classified personnel, therefore GaPSC reporting requirements do not

apply in the same manner. The paraprofessional had been assigned to the district for approximately six months, and there were no previous complaints or disciplinary concerns involving the employee prior to this situation.

The Dooly County School System maintains clear expectations for professional conduct and appropriate communication between employees and students. District guidelines regarding employee-student relations and social media emphasize that all communications must remain professional in nature and appropriate to the educational environment. Employees are advised not to communicate with students through personal text messaging or personal social media accounts except in limited circumstances related directly to school activities and the educational process.

These guidelines are intended to protect both students and staff and ensure transparency in communications. During the review of this situation, the district determined that the former employee's decision to contact the student after school hours reflected poor professional judgment and conduct that did not align with district expectations. The district's review focused on

whether the conduct met professional standards. The former employee denied that certain text messages were valid; however, the district determined that the overall circumstances did not meet the professional expectations required of district personnel.

To help prevent situations like this from occurring, the district provides annual training for all employees on professional conduct and the Code of Ethics, and employees are required to review and acknowledge the district employee handbook each year, which includes expectations related to employee-student relationships, communication, and appropriate use of technology and social media.

The safety and well-being of our students remain our highest priority. When concerns are brought to our attention, the district acts promptly to review the matter, ensure student safety, and take appropriate action. Because this matter involves a student and personnel considerations, the district will not provide additional details regarding the individuals involved.

(DCSS Superintendent Dr. Sherrod D. Willaford, Ed, Ed.D. is in response to an updated report filed March 13, 2026 on WALB in Albany)

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

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

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Email word document to legals@gtn.org

LEGALS

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

NO26-014
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY H. TAYLOR, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0013
NOTICE

The petition of **AMELIA T. HAYWARD**, for an order declaring no administration is necessary in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition, in this Court on or before April 13, 2026.

BE FURTHER NOTIFIED: 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.
This 25th Day of March, 2026
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
April 2, 2026

NO26-008
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWIN KEITH LINDSEY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0010
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

TERESA L POOLE has petitioned for **TERESA L POOLE** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **EDWIN KEITH LINDSEY** 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 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
March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 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

NO26-015
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:

J. W., a child
CASE NUMBER: 046-26J-0013
DOB: 08/31/2015
SEX: F
TO: TRENTAVIOUS PRITCHETT, putative father of the above-named child.
Any other person(s) claiming a parental interest who appear to the court to be proper or necessary parties to the proceeding and to the above-named child.
SUMMONS AND NOTICE

On March 12, 2026, a petition was filed in this court under the above style, seeking to terminate the parental rights of the parents of the above-named children.

THIS IS A SUMMONS REQUIRING YOU TO BE IN COURT. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished by imprisonment for up to twenty (20) days and/or a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
Now therefore, you, the party(s) named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as said case may be continued, and until discharged by the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Crisp County, Georgia, located at The Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015 on the 3rd day of June, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to answer the allegations of the petition. The parent(s), guardian(s), legal custodian(s) or any other person(s) having physical custody or control of the above-named child(ren) are hereby commanded to bring the above-named child(ren) to the aforementioned hearing at the aforesaid time and place.

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

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

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

NO26-006
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DENAJAH L ASKEW, 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 L ASKEW** 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 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
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2026

Georgia law provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A copy of the petition to terminate parental rights is attached to this notice. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd day of June, 2026, at the Juvenile Court of Dooly County, Georgia, located at The Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015.

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

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

WITNESS the Kristen W. Pack, Judge of said Court, this 12th day of March 2026.
/s/PATSY BRIDGES
PATSY BRIDGES, Deputy Clerk
Juvenile Court of DOOLY County, Georgia
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

NO26-011
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Undersigned, Carol Holt Davis and David Ernest Holt, Co-Executors of the Estate of Ernestine Holt, 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 2270 Dooly High Road, Vienna, GA 31092, and 1590 Truluck Road, Vienna, GA 31092, respectively.
Carol Holt Davis and David Ernest Holt
Co-Executors
LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC
Attorney for Co-Executors
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026

NO26-010
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES LEE BURCHIN, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0009
NOTICE

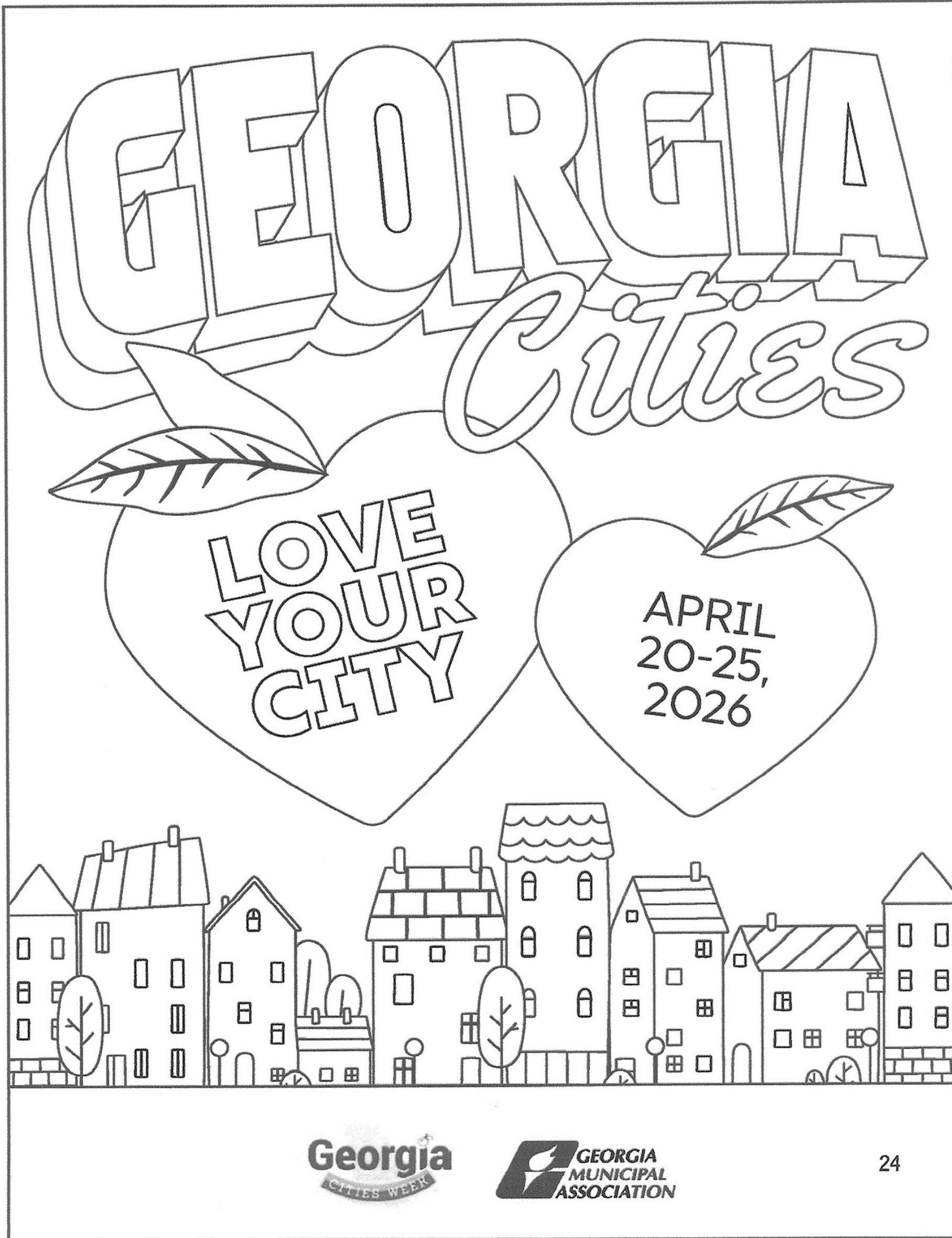
IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.
TO: Brandon Hittle, Blake Burtchin, Virginia Gross, Matthew Burtchin, Joseph Money Jr., Steven Hittle
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before April 20, 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
104 2nd Street S
Vienna Ga 31092
229-268-4217
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2026

NO26-013
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
DOOLY COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF CALVIN LESTER
All creditors of the estate of said deceased, late of said county, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.
This 23rd day of March, 2026.
Martha J Lester-Harris
501 Callandale Lane
Durham, NC 27703
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

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 **LOLAN 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**.

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
Dwayne Forehand, 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



Unadilla Officials Celebrate Georgia Cities Week

Contributed by
City of Unadilla

Unadilla-March 27, 2026-Officials announced the city of Unadilla will be celebrating "Georgia Cities Week" April 20-25. The city will hold a variety of events throughout the week, including offering city hall tours, a coloring contest, equipment display day, tire day, and ending with a clean-up day. The city will continue to accept items to include in a time capsule scheduled to be buried later this year. The theme of this year's Georgia Cities Week is "Love Your City."

"We are so proud of the direction our town is headed, and we want to maintain that momentum," stated Mayor Myron Mixon. Cities provide the services and infrastructure to help businesses grow and set the stage for events where families and individuals can gather as a community.

Cities across Georgia will be celebrating Georgia Cities Week, sponsored by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), to showcase and celebrate cities and the many services they provide. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, nonprofit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to its 537 member cities.

CONTACT: SABRINA SIN-YARD-HOLMES (478)627-3022

FA Track Standout Enjoys, "Big Day"



Contributed

Carson Stevens had a big day at the Dick Frame Track Invitational at First Presbyterian Day in Macon. He cleared 14'3" in the pole vault to take the win and set a new outdoor personal record. He was also present-

ed his medal by Coach Dick Frame's widow, which made the moment even more meaningful. The meet was held in honor of Coach Frame and the impact he had on so many. Fullington Academy is proud of his hard work, growth, and a huge personal best.

Prescribed Burns Reduce Dry Vegetation

By Ga. Forestry Commission

We know many Georgians are noticing smoke in the air this week and we understand it can be frustrating. The good news? A large number of prescribed burns are being safely conducted across the state. These burns are carefully planned and carried out by experienced natural resource professionals to reduce the dry vegetation that fuels dangerous wildfires.

Unusual weather earlier this season put us about a week behind our normal peak burn win-

dow. Favorable weather now means more prescribed burning is taking place — and that will likely continue into next week. We appreciate your patience as this important prevention work continues.

You can view active prescribed burns and wildfires anytime through our Public Viewer: <https://georgiafc.fire-sponse.com/public/>. A little temporary smoke now helps reduce the risk of devastating wildfire later. <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaForestryCommission/>.

Dooly County Students Participate in Area 11 Special Olympics



Contributed

What a powerful morning of inclusion, learning, and celebration last Friday at Georgia Southwestern in Americus who proudly welcomed over 400 students from local schools for the Area 11 Special Olympics. We are especially proud that Dooly County Schools participated in this incredible event.

Hosted by dedicated special education teacher candidates in the college of education, this experience provided a meaningful, hands-on opportunity to learn how to better support stu-

dents with disabilities in our community. Our athletes had the chance to shine while developing their athletic skills through a variety of engaging activities. The energy was unmatched as GSW student-athletes, coaches, and members of multiple



student organizations cheered them on every step of the way. We are so proud of our students for representing Dooly County so well and showing determi-

nation, joy, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Moments like these remind us of the power of inclusion, teamwork, and community.

Bobcats Soccer Teams Hoping to Pick Up Wins Vs. Worth County

Contributed

Dooly's Lady Bobcats were defeated in an area third round consolation match in Soperton to the Treutlen High School Lady Vikings last Friday 2-0. The Bobcat boys also had a rough go of it, losing to the Ga. Military College Prep Bulldogs in a game also played Friday by a score of 2-0.

The girls also lost last Wednesday's area semifinal match to GMC with a score of 3-1. Yaneli

Velasquez scored for us. They fought hard until the end and we're proud of our girls.

The Bobcat boys secured its Wednesday semifinal match with a score of 10-0 over Treutlen High School. Jesus Vega, Dodany Mendez, Grayson Hurtado each had a hat trick (three goals) and Alex Mendez had one. We're proud of our boys for their efforts on tonight's win.

The Dooly County Middle

School MS girls secured a 10-0 win over Furlow Charter last Monday. Yakelin Pérez had a double hat trick (six goals), Daniela Divas had a hat trick (three goals) and Yulisa Gomez had 1. The middle school girls finished their season 7-1.

We're proud of each of our girls for their efforts on making this a great season. The Dooly Middle School boys secured a 1-0 win over Furlow to finish the season with Cole Gaultney

scoring the goal for us. Our boys finished the season with a record of 8-2. Earlier, the varsity Lady Bobcats had secured a 2-1 win over Hawkinsville in overtime and with that, earned their spot in the state playoffs.

Sophia Gracia and Emily Garcia scored for us. We're proud of our girls for being relentless to earn that win. Both of Dooly's varsity teams played host to the Worth County Rams Tuesday, March 31.

HOMETOWN HEROES: CELEBRATING MILITARY KIDS FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP



APRIL 16, 2026
6:00 - 9:00 PM



PERKINS FIELD
105 MULBERRY ST.

