

The News Observer

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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, APRIL 09, 2026

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UFR Report for March

By Kenny Mercer

Unadilla FireRescue responded to seven calls during the month of March including a structure fire, one vehicle accident, one vehicle fire, two Wildland fires and two false alarms.

Commissioners Approve Dooly County Seal

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Economic Development Council Director Scotty Mashburn spoke to commissioners requesting approval that was granted, the Dooly Branding Project recommendation as

the county seal. 'The Southern Heartland Dooly County Ga. Established in 1821.' It will be available in different colors on sweatshirts and patches, etc. and each city can adapt it or keep the same theme. Mr. Mashburn is hoping, "To start (speaking to) all the cities and I hope that

they'll adopt each one of theirs and use 'em." Dooly County Recreation Department Director Joe Willis brought, "A group of young men who I've known since they were four or five

DOOLY COUNTY SEAL CONTINUED PG 6A



Firefighters Kept Busy with Ignited Load of Pinestraw



Photo submitted by Don Williford

By EMS Director Don Williford

The evening of Tuesday, March 31, a fire call was dispatched involving a trailer hauling a large load of pine straw that was ignited due to a suspected mechanical issue. Units from the Unadilla Fire Department and Houston County responded to the call on I-75 at mile marker 123 Northbound. Upon arrival, the pine straw was burning.

Law enforcement was then contacted including the Dooly County Sheriff's Department responding to offer assistance with traffic control, safety and protection of the firefighters on scene. The remainder of the pine straw was removed from the trailer onto the roadway and extinguished.

Unadilla FireRescue Senior Firefighter Kenny Mercer added, "It was fully engulfed when units arrived. Houston County responded with three engines, two brush trucks and two Com-



Photo submitted by Kenny Mercer

mand Vehicles. Peach County Fire arrived with two tankers for water supply. Unadilla Knocker 32, Engine 31 Brush 1 and Tanker 34 responded. Unadilla FireRescue spent a little over three hours at the scene. No

one was injured. Warner Robins Towing arrived with wreckers and skid steer to remove the pine straw from the trailer."

Local Club Welcomed Community to Honor Vietnam Veterans



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 ornaments 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. The 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.



Hand of Hope-Vienna Church of God Participate in 2026 CrossWalk



By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Pastors Scott and Amy Bryant have been the Lead Pastors of Vienna Church of God Since 2020 and he along with his wife as well as other area churches observed Good Friday in a special way. Different denominations participated in bringing, 'A Light of Hope' Good Friday, April 3.

Pastor Bryant said, "Jesus tells us in Matthew Chapter 16 to take up our cross daily. Good Friday, we were representing what he has done for us and how he walked his journey and carried his cross. We are taking up our cross and putting our faith in action walking with people

from Crisp, Dooly and Wilcox Counties joining in. Different people carried the cross and passed off to other community members.

The walk started at Hand of Hope, 1205 South Seventh Street in Cordele April 18 and traveled approximately three miles along Sixteenth Avenue out to Georgia Home Center at 2417 16th Avenue East on the left before you get to Sunbelt Ford in Cordele. "It took approximately two and half hours with a police escort. It was just a great time with the community and a way for us to silently share the Gospel and remember the act of Christ and what he did on Good Friday for us."

Hand of Hope Inc. in Cordele hosts and coordinates this annual event that has been an annual event for ten years. A spokesperson for Hand of Hope said, "We are very honored to be doing this for the year in a row, we plan to keep on doing it. We're the city on the hill letting everybody know why Jesus is so important and the most important person you'll ever introduce your children to."

The event again was hosted by Hand of Hope, Inc. For more information locally, you can visit Vienna Church of God's facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ViennaCOG93/> for upcoming community events.

Water Main Break Repaired in Unadilla

Contributed

The Unadilla Water Department identified and completed repairing the water main break on West Railroad Street last Tuesday. Wells have been turned on, and all water services are being restored. Thank you to our citizens for your patience and thank you to the hard-working men who continue to maintain our infrastructure. Once again, there was a water main break near the corner of Borum Street and West Railroad Street Monday, March 30 and repairs were completed Tuesday, March 31. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Young Author Karter Jane Smith Featured at Local Club's Meet and Greet

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

First grader Karter Jane Smith from Crisp Academy was the featured author at the Vienna Woman's Club Meet and Greet-book signing last Monday at the Dooly County Library. She was honored back on February 11th, 2026, with an official proclamation from the Georgia Senate. Mrs. Beth English, spokesperson for the Vienna Woman's Club introduced Miss Karter Jane Smith at the event, "It's not very often that we have such a young author." Her Father, Mr. Kenny Smith who spoke about meeting up with someone in the homeless community in Savannah. The family has kept up with him over the years. The story in the book follows a stuffed animal named Slosh belonging to a young girl named Karter Jane who during a trip to Savannah, she lost her favorite toy. Two homeless men found

Slosh and returned him to her Father Kenny Smith and have maintained a relationship with one of them since then.

"Inspired by this experience, Karter Jane wrote Sloth Goes to Savannah to share her journey and raise awareness for those facing homelessness. Since then, she and her family have continued returning to Savannah to deliver supplies, encouragement, and hope one person at a time."

All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the homeless population and Mr. Smith noted she recently, "Broke 500 books sold. Someone reached out from Cordele that their family member had been at the Mission Rescue in Macon, a nearly 200 acre facility for homeless men, battered women and children, any type of wife abuse, drugs and things of that nature. There are two clothing stores on premises, and ('Shaggy', one of the homeless men

that found the toy) has been doing well and we go and visit periodically. He's got free room and board and is doing really well and working hard. We go and visit about once-a-month. We've never given him a bunch of money, we gave him an opportunity and he's never asked for anything. We're currently updating the book to get it long enough to sell it at Amazon, it has to be 24 pages."

Her Mother, Kristen Smith replied, "We're not changing the story, we're just going to have to add about the author or something. It grew faster than we ever anticipated, but it was kind of a 'whole of what happened to all of us as a family while we were there.'" Kenny Smith continued, "It will be more biographical about her and the lady that did the illustrations-art work in it. Maybe some coloring pages in there. It's a good thing to show her compassion and something good could come out of that



Photo By Tim Franzén

Mrs. Beth English with Karter Jane Smith signing a copy of the book while her Father Kenny Smith looks on.

situation." Karter Jane has had the toy since she was eight-months-old. Library Manager Jill Kloberdanz added, "We had a wonderful time with Karter

Jane Smith.

All proceeds from the sale of her book benefit the homeless population in Savannah." Refreshments were provided fol-

lowing the book signing by the sponsor of the event, members of the Vienna woman's club.

NOTICE OF SEALED BID SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Town of Byromville, Georgia

The Town of Byromville is soliciting sealed bids for the purchase of the surplus real property located at 448 Main Street, Byromville, Georgia 31007(also identified as Former Town Hall Building)

Property Details:

- **Location:** 448 Main Street, Byromville, Georgia 31007
- **Legal Description:** BLDG L 11 BLK 7 N Main St 88-501
- **Square Footage:** 1750
- **Condition:** Property is sold "as-is, where-is". Interested parties may inspect the property prior to bidding. To schedule an inspection, contact Town Hall at 478-433-2002.

Bid Requirements:

Sealed bids will be accepted until April 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM EST, at Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 489 Central Ave, Byromville, GA 31007. Bids received after the time and date indicated will be returned unopened. The Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 3:00pm except during lunch 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Bids may be placed in drop box if no one is at City Hall.

Minimum Bid of \$5,000.00 is required.

Bid Opening:

Bids will be publicly opened on April 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM EST, at Byromville Town Hall, 489 Central Ave, Byromville, GA 31007, during the regular monthly meeting of the Town Council.

The Town of Byromville reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities, or to negotiate the final sale.

Splash Pad to Open Soon



By Mayor Myron Mixon - Citizens of Unadilla, the new Splash Pad restrooms are coming along. The walls are complete on the restrooms. We are getting closer and closer to opening. I know the kids can't wait to get wet this summer.

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Structure Fire Near Campers Haven Contained Before Reaching Primary Residence



By EMS Director Don Williford

Dooly County Emergency crews faced an unusually demanding stretch last week as firefighters. Deputies and EMS personnel responded to a series of significant incidents. Tuesday afternoon, March 31, the Dooly County Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire on Drayton Woods Road near Campers Haven.

Upon arriving on the scene, units found a boat dock and an attached building fully engulfed in flames. The residents were attempting to keep the fire from reaching their structure. The property owners reported that several boats, lawnmowers and other outdoor

equipment were completely destroyed. No other structures or areas were damaged.

Thanks to the fast acting coordinated actions by the firefighters, the blaze was contained before it could reach the primary residence. Fire crews and apparatus were dispatched from Drayton FD, Byromville FD, Vienna FD as well as mutual aid from Crisp County and Sumter County Fire Departments.

Dooly County Sheriff's Department along with Dooly County EMS also responded to the scene. Early indications suggest that the fire was caused by an electrical short, but the fire is still under investigation at this time.

CALLING ALL GEORGIA FARM DOGS Georgia Farm Bureau accepting entries for farm dog contest

Contributed Homicide 0, Forcible MA-CON, Ga. - Farm dogs play a special role on the farm. They

may herd livestock or guard livestock and property. They also provide companionship and joy to their families.

That's why Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) is looking to recognize a furry farm hero through its 2026 Georgia Farm Dog Contest. GFB is accepting entries for the contest until 10:59 p.m. on May 1 or until 200 entries are received, whichever comes first.

The contest is open to GFB members ages 18 and over. For complete contest rules and the criteria entered dogs will be judged by, visit <https://gfb.ag/26farmdogcontest>. Judging for the contest will take place in May.

The winning dog and its human will be recognized in October at the 2026 Sunbelt Ag Expo. The grand prize winner will receive a \$500 gift card. Georgia farm dogs have some pretty amazing stories to tell and GFB wants to tell them.

GFB is known for its love of dogs as Lucky, an Australian Shepherd, has served as the organization's mascot since 2021.

The 2025 winner of GFB's second Georgia Farm Dog Con-



Photo courtesy of GFB Georgia Farm Bureau's mascot, Lucky, encourages farm families to enter their furry friends in the 2026 Georgia Farm Dog Contest.

test was Rooster, an Australian Shepherd from Eatonton, Ga. Rooster works beef and dairy cattle for his owner, Shawn Ruff. You can read more about Rooster at <https://gfb.ag/roost-ergfbfarmdog>.

Georgia Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting the future of Georgia's family farms and our access to locally grown food and fiber. Membership is open to everyone.

National Victims' Rights Week to be Observed

By District Attorney Brad Rigby

National Victims' Rights Week 2026 will be observed April 19-25. This year's theme is Listen-Act-Advocate-Protect Victims. Serve Communities. As we celebrate National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Cordele Judicial Circuit Victim-Witness Assistance Program encourages members of the communities to unite and join us as we honor victims of crime and those who bring honor to victims on a daily basis.

2026 Victims' Rights Week activities include: Ribbon Campaign April 19-25, Proclamation Ceremony April 17 at 10:00 a.m. (front door steps) Crisp County Courthouse 510 North Seventh Street in Cordele and a candlelight vigil April 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cordele Community Clubhouse 108 East 15th Avenue. For more information about National Crime Victims' Week 2026, please contact Tiffany Jones VWAP Coordinator at 229-426-5156 or Lawanda Mathis, VWAP Advocate at 229-271-4735.

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INSPECTION DATE FOR AUCTION 1 & 2 IS APRIL 1ST FROM 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. FOR AUCTION # 3 TUESDAY APRIL 21ST FROM 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. AT 1216 DAWSON RD. ALBANY, GA. 31707

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GA#1120

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

Sun	Mon
5	6
12	13
19	20
26	27

CCU Food Drive-Pantry Dates in April

Christ Chapel Unadilla will be holding a Food Drive Friday, April 10 at the Unadilla Community Center from 11:00 a.m.-until. The Food Pantry date is Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Volunteer check-in is 9:30 a.m.- 9:45 a.m. For more information, contact CCU at 400 Jeannette Street in Unadilla at 478-627-9352.

Christ Chapel Bingo Night in Byromville

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

Town of Dooling Meeting

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

Dooly County

Library

1200 East Union St., Vienna Mon. - Thurs. 9AM-6PM Fri. 9:30A.M. - 4P.M.

Closed Saturday.

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

The Elizabeth Harris Library

Unadilla Location:

Tues-Thurs 8:30AM-6PM Friday 9AM-4PM

Saturday 9AM-12PM Noon

Byromville Location:

Tues-Thurs 2:30PM-5:30PM

"An Hour of Encouragement"

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

Bethlehem Baptist Church

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

Diane Dunaway Lake

Diane Dunaway Lake passed away peacefully on February 24th, 2026 at the age of 75.

She was born on April 8th, 1950 in Hawkinsville, Georgia to Berner and Elizabeth Dunaway. She was a graduate of Unadilla High School and the University of Georgia where she majored in Sociology.

Diane married Rob in 1976 and they were married for nearly 50 years. They lived in a number of locations while Rob was a church pastor, ultimately settling in the Phoenix area in 1998.

Diane is survived by her beloved husband, Rob Lake, her children, children Elizabeth and Ryan (Melissa) Lake, her grandchildren, Hayden and Ashley Lake, and her sister, Linda Dunaway Collins (Leon) of Ailey, Georgia. Diane's



brother, Andy Dunaway, preceded her in death.

A Celebration of Life was held on March 9, 2026, at Phoenix Bible Church, 6060 N 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

A.L. Moore-Grimshaw Mortuaries Bethany Chapel was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Lillian Peavey

Lillian Joyce Anglin Peavey, age 93, of Sky Valley, Georgia, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2026. She was born on May 28, 1932.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rufus Carlton Anglin and Lillian Doris Pollette Anglin; her beloved husband, James Kinney Peavey Jr; and three siblings.

Joyce was a truly gracious lady who lived a life full of grace, kindness, and purpose. She earned her bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville and went on to teach in Douglas County, Georgia.

Joyce established a home in Sky Valley in 1999 and in 2021 she made it her full-time residence. She was an active member of the Chapel of Sky Valley and the Sky Valley Garden Club, always finding joy in fellowship and service. She never met a stranger and had a remarkable gift for making friends wherever she went.

In the early 2000's, Joyce discovered a passion for fused glass art, studying with John Phillips at Fire and Light in Otto, North Carolina. Her creativity and love for learning continued to flourish throughout her life.

Above all, Joyce cherished her role as a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was a devoted and involved mother who deeply loved her family. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandsons in Sky Valley, creating cherished memories.

She is survived by her three daughters, Joy Peavey-Akin (Roy), Nan Anders (Ken), and Helen Dunn (Chris); her grandchildren, Brad



Anders (Kendra), Daniel Anders (Lauren), and Patrick Anders (Anna); and her great-grandchildren, Nora Anders and Archie Anders.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service on April 8, 2026, at Sky Valley Chapel. The Funeral Service will begin at 2:00 PM. A Graveside Service will be held on April 9, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Walnut Cemetery in Unadilla, Georgia.

Family and friends are invited to attend and celebrate the beautiful life of Lillian Joyce Anglin Peavey. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Tom McClure Memorial Chapel, 817 Sky Valley Way #8, Sky Valley Ga 30537 in memory of Joyce Peavey.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements and is honored to serve the family of Lillian Joyce Anglin Peavey. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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

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- 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

IF YOU NEED TO ADVERTISE EMAIL
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- Church Vienna, GA
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church Byromville, GA
- Mt. Moriah Baptist Church Unadilla, GA
- Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Vienna, GA
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Vienna, GA
- New Bethel Baptist Church Unadilla, GA 478-627-3775
- Mt. Zion CME Vienna, GA 229-268-6013
- Northside Missionary Baptist Church Vienna, GA
- New Bethel CME Pinehurst, GA
- Pinehurst Baptist Church Pinehurst, GA
- Pinehurst Methodist Church Pinehurst, GA
- Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church Vienna, GA 229-268-8746



TIM LEWIS
Columnist

In The Garden With MARIGOLDS PART TWO

Last week the marigold was the subject of this space. We said that the ever-popular annual bedding plant comes in many different varieties and in four basic types—African (American), French, triploid, and signet. Today we will look closer at the latter three and at general marigold culture.

The French marigold, or *Tagetes patula*, is a short marigold with small flowers. Plants range in height from 5 to 14 inches. Flowers may be single, semi-double, or double, with colors ranging from yellow to orange to bronze and mahogany. Most flower heads are crested, with the center petals standing above the outer petals. The single forms are sometimes called anemones, and are becoming more popular.

Some fine French varieties are Disco Flame, yellow with a mahogany center; Aurora Light Yellow, a semi-double; Janie Primrose Yellow, a double-flowered variety; Bonanza, Safari, Sophia Queen, and many others.

Triploid marigolds (*Tagetes erecta* x *patula*) have the traits of both African and French types—large flowers and a neat growth habit. These hybrids are called triploids because each plant cell has three sets of chromosomes instead of the usual two. Having three sets makes them sterile, like mules. Even though they bloom they can't produce any seeds, so they direct their energy into flowering—from early in the season until fall. One problem, however, with triploids has been their seed's low viability, which was, until recently, only about 35 percent. Recently, though, breeders have succeeded in developing varieties with germination rates as high as 90%.

Triploid marigolds range from 7 to 14 inches tall. Colors range from yellow to gold to orange, plus combinations of these. Flowers may be semi-double or double.

Least known of the four marigold types is the signet marigold (*Tagetes tenuifolia*). It has very small, single, yellow or gold-colored blossoms

about the size of a penny. The foliage is fine-textured and takes on somewhat of a lemony aroma. Plants are dwarf, growing only 8 to 10 inches tall. They are profuse bloomers and are good choices for borders. They, like the French and triploids, are day-neutral plants (not sensitive to day length), so they start blooming early in the season and continue blooming to frost.

Signets are creepers, forming low, spreading mats, and look good in hanging baskets. Some good varieties are Lemon Gem, Tangerine Gem, and Paprika.

Marigolds, during the early stages of growth, generally prefer warm days and cool nights (55 degrees), not-too-rich and not-too-wet soils, and a soil pH of about 6.0 to 7.0. Rich soils encourage lush vegetative growth at the expense of flower production, and wet soils make the plant susceptible to the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, which causes rotting and discoloring of the petals. The infamous slug also does his best work in wet soils, and can severely damage an otherwise promising marigold crop.

Marigolds are a fine choice for the home gardener. I recommend them highly. Try some!

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.

State Representative Patty Marie Stinson Responds to Challenge and Qualifications of Candidacy

Contributed

State Representative from House District 150 Patty Marie Stinson responded to a letter sent to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger by a registered voter in Georgia House District 150. Mr. Michael Mixon of 291 Morning Glory Road in Vienna is challenging the qualifications of candidate Patty Marie Stinson.

He stated in the letter, "The reason why I believe Rep. Stinson is not qualified to see and hold public office for which she is offering is that her voter registration address and listed residency of 133 Railroad St. Butler, Ga. 31006 is a commercial property for business use and not for residential living. She domiciles in a property outside of House District 150. Upon information and belief, Rep. Stinson does not reside at the address where she is registered to vote and legally resides outside of House District 150. Because Rep. Stinson has not been a legal resident of the territory embraced within the district for at least one year, she is ineligible to run for that position in the 2026 elections. I

request that you refer this matter for a hearing before an administrative law judge pursuant to the statute and determine if Rep. Stinson is qualified to be a candidate for the House District 150 election."

Representative Patty Marie Stinson responded, "The core issue raised in the challenge was that I listed 133 Railroad Street, Butler as my address when I qualified for re-election, an address I have used consistently for several years. Mr. Mixon argued that 133 Railroad Street is the address of a funeral home and therefore not a "traditional" place for someone to live.

My response is simple: traditional or not, it is not a crime to live on the property of a funeral home if one chooses to do so. I have never stated that I reside inside the funeral home itself. However, I do spend a significant amount of time there serving families in their moments of grief, working alongside my funeral directors and staff.

All of my official documents reflect 133 Railroad Street, Butler as my legal address, my

driver's license, my vehicle registration, my voter registration, and my utilities. The property at 133 Railroad Street includes multiple structures, each with its own parcel number.

In 2021, after the passing of my husband, Darryl K. Bentley, I demolished the brick house on the property and renovated the small trailer, converting it into my tiny home. Like many South Georgia legislators, I maintain a place in Atlanta to stay while the General Assembly is in session. For years, I checked in and out of hotels during the 40-day session.

After my cancer diagnosis, that constant moving became too difficult, so I secured a stable place to stay while working at the Capitol.

Even outside the 40-day session, legislative work continues year-round through committee meetings and other responsibilities. Now that the Judge has ruled that I may remain on the ballot, my focus is exactly where it has always been, working on behalf of all the people of Georgia House District 150."

Georgia passes bill to round cash purchases to the nearest nickel

By Mark Nisse, Staff Writer

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — You could soon leave pennies at home when you go shopping in Georgia.

The Georgia House gave final approval to a bill Thursday that rounds in-person cash transactions to the nearest nickel.

The change is a response to the Trump administration's decision last year to stop making new pennies, which will lead to their gradual disappearance from circulation.

The legislation calls for Georgia businesses to round down transactions that end in a 1, 2, 6, or 7. Prices that end in a 3, 4, 8, or 9 would be rounded up. And items with costs that end exactly in a 0 or 5 would stay the same.

The rounding requirement applies to in-person purchases made with cash. Transactions with credit cards wouldn't need to be rounded.

The House voted 163-4 to approve House Bill 1112 on Thursday, sending it to Gov. Brian Kemp for his approval or veto.

Parables To Ponder DOES GOD GRADE ON THE CURVE?



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

My high school teachers at Perry—Ms. Florence Harrison, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Caroline Smith, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Earl Marshall—didn't grade on the curve, but my college teachers did so on rare occasions, particularly when a high percentage of the class failed to make a passing mark. When the teacher announced that the distribution of grades would conform to the statistical bell-shaped curve, the class breathed a sign of relief because a majority of those with low scores would make a passing grade. For example, by grading on the curve, a student who answered only 60-percent of the questions correctly -- normally a D grade—would be elevated to a "C" grade or possibly a "B minus". Those scoring 80 to 89—a B grade—might wind up with an "A". Of course those scoring very low, say in the 20s to 40s, still received failing grades. In ef-

fect, when normal distribution patterns are applied to class test scores skewed to the low end, poorly performing students are unduly rewarded.

Does God grade on a curve, and if He did, how would He? Well, let's estimate that each person averages one decision every hour to do either the right thing or the wrong thing. That estimate produces 24-decisions a day. Of course the right thing could be a smile and not a frown or the wrong thing could be failing to help someone in need. We are talking about sins of commission as well as omission. To make a passing score of 70-percent or a "C" grade based on 24 daily decisions, a total of 17 decisions must result in actions that produce righteous behavior in keeping with God's moral laws. By grading on the curve, a majority of those making less than 70-percent of their decisions righteously

might wind up with passing grades.

Although this grading system might sound good and compensate for our sinful nature, God's word does not allow this option. James 2:10 stipulates "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Romans 3:22 confirms that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Consequently, the scriptural ground rules disallow any tolerance of sin. Therefore, we are all "F" students in God's eyes and no one, regardless of how saintly, can hope to please God. No wonder the Apostle Paul exclaimed, "What a wretched man am I. Who will deliver me from this body of sin and death?" Then Paul supplied the answer, "Thanks be to God, Jesus Christ our Lord will." God's wrath does not await those who walk with Christ Jesus in faith for He has already paid the penalty for our sins. Therefore, when we stand before the final judgment, God will not view us as the sinful creatures we really are, but will see us clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

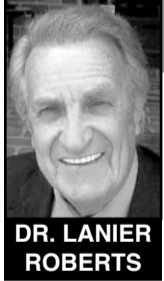
it while hanging out in our peanut hay huts we had made in the hay loft. I mean, we lit and smoked rabbit tobacco cigarettes in a hay barn inside hay huts! If Dad had known, I would not have been here to write this!

5). We rode a race-horse-fast horse wide open without a saddle. If fact, that was the ONLY way I would ride it. I rode bare-back so much, I would not dare put a saddle on my horse. I would have fallen off and broken my neck! NO saddle for me.

6). We would dig dirt huts inside gully banks. Now, this made great huts, BUT at any moment they could have caved in and smothered us to death. We only thought about this scenario years after we had grown up! YOUTH, WHAT CRAZY THINGS!!

Jesus loves you all. May your lives be blessed. Until next time.

Writings From The Heart YOUTH AND CRAZY THINGS



DR. LANIER ROBERTS
Columnist

I've done a few crazy things as an adult, but a lot more serious crazy things as a youth. I'm sure a LOT of you would fit in the same boat as me. Here goes:

1). When I was around 10 or so we had an old wagon with rubber tires (not the iron type wheels). We would take the body off that wagon and other things so all that was left on it was the steering mechanism, which we operated with our feet. We lived on a hill, and we would get on that skeleton of a wagon and let it go hazardously flying down that hill with NO brakes. At times we would hit a ditch and bang up our bodies. I promise you if I

cut off my hair one could still see some scars on my head! It was fun, though.

2). We had a real tall barn as it was shaped like an A-frame house. we would get to the apex and jump off and it felt like a flying bird—until we hit the landing zone. It's amazing we never broke a bone (at least none that we knew about).

3). We would go to our woods and find a tall and slender tree, (at least in the top) grab hold of it and go swinging down to the ground. That was exhilarating! We just knew Tarzan would eat his heart out if only he could see us.

4). We would roll rabbit tobacco and light and smoke

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOOLY

NOTICE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 21-2-379.6(C), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING AND PREPARATION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 AM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026.

TESTING WILL CONTINUE FROM DAY TO DAY UNTIL COMPLETE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT DURING TESTING. SAID TESTING AND PREPARATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT DOOLY COUNTY ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GEORGIA.

Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration

Betty Bryant, Chairperson
Dooly County, Georgia

NOTICE OF COMPUTATION AND CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §21-2-492, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMPUTATION AND CANVASSING OF THE RETURNS OF VOTES CAST IN THE MAY 19, 2026, GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DOOLY COUNTY ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION OFFICE AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD, VIENNA, GA ON THURSDAY MAY 19, 2026, BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM.

EARLY VOTING WILL START ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, THRU FRIDAY MAY 15, 2026, FROM 8AM TO 5PM AT THE DOOLY COUNTY ELECTION BUILDING AT 402 HAWKINSVILLE ROAD IN VIENNA, GEORGIA FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS. EARLY VOTING WILL ONLY BE HELD AT VIENNA VOTING PRECINCT.

ONLY VOTERS REGISTERED BY APRIL 20, 2026, DEADLINE WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE. SATURDAY VOTING DAYS ARE MAY 2ND AND MAY 9TH FROM 8AM TO 5PM. DEADLINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION IS FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026.

ELECTION DAY WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026. PLEASE VOTE AT YOUR REGISTERED PRECINCT. ALL PRECINCTS WILL BE OPEN ON ELECTION DAY FROM 7AM TO 7PM.

THIS 6TH, DAY OF APRIL 2026

Dooly County Board of Elections and Registration

Betty Bryant, Chairperson
Dooly County, Georgia

The News Observer

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

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

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

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

NO26-011 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

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

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 legitimize the child(ren), AND a notice of the filing of the petition to legitimize with this court. NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT TO THE MOTHER, BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND LEGAL FATHER OF THE CHILD(REN) (IF ANY): Georgia law provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A copy of the petition to terminate parental rights is attached to this notice. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the 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

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 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. 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

NO26-010 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES LEE BURTCHEIN, 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

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

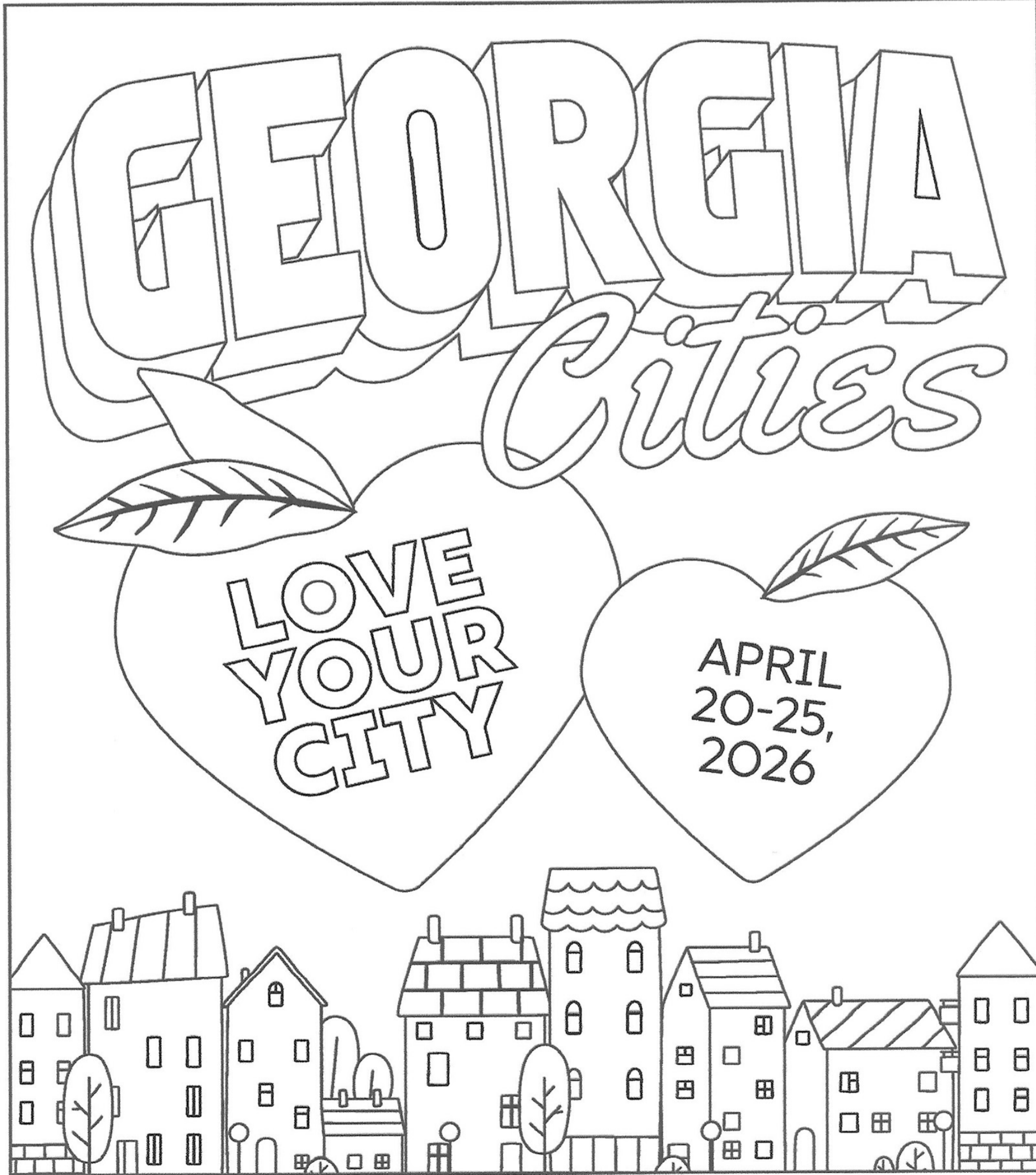
NO26-015 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: J. W., a child CASE NUMBER: 046-26J-0013 DOB: 08/31/2015

NO26-008



DCK8 Spelling Bee Success

What an incredible day at Dooly K-8 Academy last Friday. Our students truly spelled their way to success and showcased outstanding preparation, confidence, and academic excellence. We are so proud of every participant who competed. Thank you to our judges, Ms. Danette Perry, Ms. Melissa Tumblin, and Mrs. Kylie Garrard. Also thank you to Mrs. Laurie Lowery and Mrs. Crystal Williams and Ms. Shawna Smith for organizing and putting together a wonderful bee. Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners: First and Second grade competition: Champion: Daniel G. Roblero, Second Place: Dayelin Ramirez Domingo, Third Place: Macie Lester. Third, Fourth and Fifth grade Competition: Champion: Sadoc Jackson, Second Place: Reagan Whitehead, Third Place: Quincee Taylor, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade competition: Champion: Bailynn King, Second Place: JaMirriah Hightower, Third Place: Jaydah Colson. A special thank you to our staff and supporters who helped make today a success. Events like this highlight the power of literacy and the brilliance of our Bobcats.



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

DCHS Students Win Prizes During PBIS March Madness Celebration



Contributed

The Friday before spring break, our Dooly County High School students enjoyed a well-deserved Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support March Madness Celebration. Students who earned the required PBIS points and maintained zero discipline referrals were rewarded with an afternoon full of fun, including an exciting 1200 count Easter Egg

Hunt, great food, and a special Golden Egg Drawing. Events like this remind our students that positive behavior, responsibility, and respect truly pay off. It was wonderful to see so many of our Bobcats outside enjoying the hunt, getting exercise, cheering one another on, and celebrating their success together. The Golden Egg Grand Prizes made the day even more excit-

ing, featuring two Easter baskets and a pair of Beats Solo four headphones. We are incredibly proud of our students for showing what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, and Be Safe each and every day. Celebrations like this are a great reflection of the positive culture we are continuing to build at Dooly County High School.

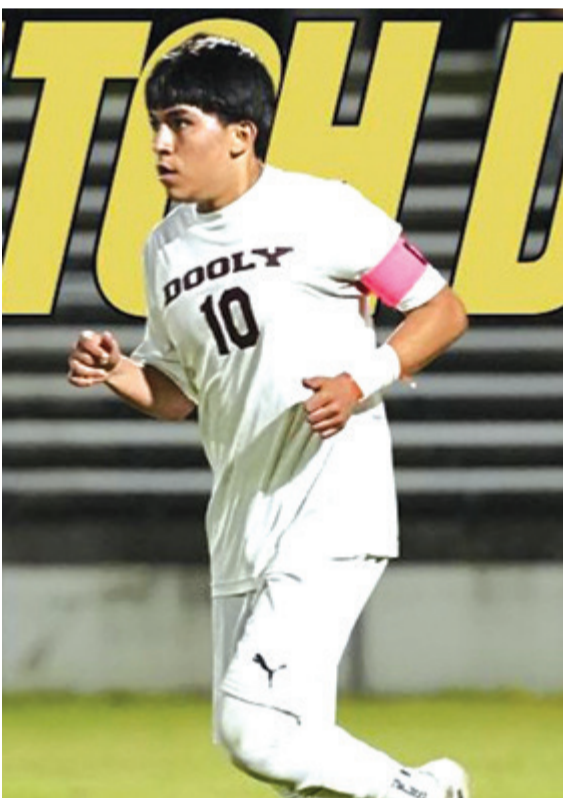
Bobcats Soccer Teams to Play Host to Macon County Next Thursday



Photos Contributed (photo top) #5 Katerin Garcia Guarcha and #23 Sophia Gracia. (photo right) #10 Jesus Vega.

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County boys defeated Worth County last Tuesday in a home non-region soccer match by a score of 4-1. The Bobcats who are second in 1A Division II area two with a 4-1 record are also 14-3 overall and scored two goals in each of halves, while the Rams scored one goal in the second half of the game. Meanwhile, the Lady Bobcats were shut-out in their match with Lady Rams 9-0. The girls who have a 4-14 record overall will be hosting Macon County in 'The Grove' Thursday, April 16 at 5:00 p.m. with the boys game to follow at 7:00 p.m.



Dooly County Sheriff's Office Hosts Free Car Seat Safety Check



By DCSO Captain Chase McNeese

Vienna, Ga.-April 3- The Dooly County Sheriff's Office hosted a free car seat safety check event Friday at Dooly County High School to help families ensure their children are traveling safely on the road. The event, held in the school parking lot, gave parents and caregivers the opportunity to have their child safety seats inspected by trained personnel. Deputies and volunteers checked seats for proper installation, correct positioning, and compliance with manufacturer guidelines. They also provided hands-on instruction to help

parents understand how to properly secure their children in their vehicles. Officials said the goal of the event was to educate the community and reduce the risk of injury to children in the event of a crash. According to safety experts, a large percentage of car seats are installed incorrectly, which can reduce their effectiveness during an accident. "We want to make sure every child in Dooly County is as safe as possible while riding in a vehicle," a representative from the sheriff's office said. "Something as simple as a quick inspection and adjustment can make a big difference."

Several families stopped by throughout the event to take advantage of the free service. In addition to inspections, deputies answered questions about car seat types, installation techniques, and when children should transition to booster seats. The sheriff's office encouraged parents who were unable to attend to reach out for assistance if they have concerns about their child's car seat installation. Community outreach events like this are part of the department's ongoing commitment to public safety and education across the county.

Dooly State Prison-Scene of More Unrest



By EMS Director Don Williford

Dooly County EMS was dispatched Wednesday, April 1 to Dooly State Prison near Unadilla, Ga. Following a major altercation that left multiple inmates injured and due to the number and the severity of the injuries, EMS requested assistance from Air Evac helicopters. Two individuals were airlifted to Atrium Health Medicine, a Level one trauma center in Macon, Ga. Three additional prisoners were transported by Dooly County EMS ambulances to local hospitals. Another injured inmate was taken to a local

hospital by prison staff and one inmate that was injured refused transport and remained at the prison. Because of this incident requiring both of the county's primary ambulances, additional EMS personnel were called in to staff a third unit to ensure continued emergency coverage for the rest of the county. There is no additional information at this time on the welfare of the inmates. As of Friday, April 3, Dooly State Prison was in lockdown along with numerous other prisons throughout the state which had been a coordinated attack against inmates.

Crisp County Sheriff's Office Make Drug Related Arrest

By CCSO

A Crisp County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic stop last Thursday April 2 on a silver Toyota near mile marker 104 on I-75, traveling 92 mph in a 70-mph zone. Upon making contact with the driver, identified as Kingston Smith,

the deputy detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle, a probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted. The search resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of marijuana packaged in multiple small vacuum-sealed bags consistent with distribution. Drug-

related items were also located inside the vehicle along with juveniles. Kingston Smith was transported to the Crisp County Sheriff's Office and charged with: Possession of Marijuana (Felony) and Speeding in Excess of Maximum Limits.

DOOLY COUNTY SEAL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

years old and have added on to our trophy case. Over the years, they had eight opportunities to win district in basketball and they have won it seven times. With three state championships, they closed out this year with a state championship in the 14 and under age group. Coach Antwan Clayton and Coach Andravious Smith, they were big in this. A.J. came to me before the season started and said I want to coach the 14 and U team. I'm going to win a state championship and he did it. Our district three is really tough and had big wins with Macon and Turner County. Went to state and beat Meriwether in the state championship winning three ball games all in the same day, it's a lot to ask, especially at that level. When you're playing the best teams in the state, but they came through to win against Meriwether in Meriwether for the state championship was a huge accomplishment. These young men have a big future

in front of them, some are AB honor roll and just a great group of young men." Players are Zayden Bell, Marcus Bryant Jr., Makel Coleman, Eric Ford Jr., ZaMari Furlow, Kaeden Hall, Ayden Jackson, Kyshun Jones, Amare Kelly and Jaiden Sanders. County officials agreed to Local Maintenance Improvement grant funding to complete phase two of Franklin Road and Ok'd work on paving Bowen Road as well. The board agreed to begin the process to amend the zoning ordinance to include a recommendation by the planning commission that would affect Site plans of all large scale animal production operations, including feedlots, shall submit a clearly legible drawn site plan at a scale not smaller than two hundred fee to one inch represented both graphically and numerically. The site plan must include the following information: vicinity map at a scale no smaller than six hundred feet to one inch. North arrow, total acreage, location of all structures related to the operation,

access roads, right-of-way and ingress-egress driveways and locations of exhaust fans and compost areas." Current County Administrator Steve Sanders who will be retiring effective May 1, recommended and it was approved unanimously to remove his name as an authorized signer and authorize the county's bank accounts who can sign to the Chairman David Barron, Vice-Chairman Eugene Cason, the Incoming County Administrator Danielle Jefferson and County Clerk Linda Woodson. Citizen Al Willis thanked the board for finishing the paving of Old Americus Road, "That road had gotten in such bad shape. The bridge went out, it created more truck traffic." Commissioners were informed of two items that will come before the planning commission at its April meeting including submissions by David Burk of Pinehurst, Ga. on a rezoning and conditional use request and Fred Hall, Jr. on a rezoning and variance application on property in Unadilla, Ga.



Photo by Tim Franzén

The DCRD 14 and under state basketball champions Zayden Bell, Marcus Bryant Jr., Makel Coleman, Eric Ford Jr., ZaMari Furlow, Kaeden Hall, Ayden Jackson, Kyshun Jones, Amare Kelly and Jaiden Sanders. Pictured along with their Coaches Antwan Clayton and Andravious Smith, Commissioners Tony Lester, Eugene Cason, DCRD Director Joe Willis, Chairman David Barron and Commissioner Timothy Robinson.