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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

- Extreme drought conditions persist over much of Georgia 2
- Easter Brought Joy and Light to Worship" 2
- Local Club Collects Clothing items for Gateway Center 3
- Dooly County Lady Bobcat Makes All-State History 6
- FA Hoping to Take Next Steps Toward Region Championship 6
- Classifieds ... 3
- Community Calendar 3
- Legals 5

Local Races to be decided in Georgia's 2026 Primary

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The following candidates have qualified for Dooly County Commissioner and School Board seats in Georgia's Primary Election May 19th in Dooly County. Commissioner – District four Incumbent Democrat Timothy R. Robinson and Commissioner District two Incumbent Republican David Mixon will be on the ballot. The Board of Education District four May 19 election will feature Democrat Eddie Clyde

Almond, Sr. who qualified to run for that seat.

The Board of Education District two election May 19 will have Democrat Sharal McShell Young and Republican Michael Fletcher facing off. That seat is currently being occupied by Norman Dexter, Sr.

Advance voting for the General Primary Election will be Monday, April 27-Friday, May 15. Georgia's 2026 Primary is May 19 and polls will be open at all of the local precincts from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. that day.

Council Receives Update on 'Homestead Option Sales Tax'

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Mayor Connie Christmas under old business discussed property tax HB 1116, "That was ultimately voted down. The one that dealt with eliminating property taxes which would have devastated a lot of smaller rural cities as well as other communities.

The did come up with a senate bill 33 and that allows counties and in some cases cities to pursue a new one percent local sales tax known as a local homestead option sales tax to help offset the homestead property taxes. The revenue generated would be used to fund homestead exemptions, or if collections exceed what's needed, reduce millage rates across

the jurisdiction. It also has some 'guardrails'.

Property tax growth including voter approval requirements for certain increases and enhanced taxpayer protections and notifications. So, that is awaiting the governor's signature. The Georgia Municipal Association said that it was one that they approved of and was not nearly as devastating for small communities."

It was announced that an anonymous \$200 donation had been received toward the city mural. Officials should be notified whether Pinehurst will be a recipient of the grant for that project by the end of April.

The mayor continued her report notifying the council that, "Respiratory masks are out

at the treatment plant. We've had new masks within the last year or two and someone from the fire department will make sure that they're filled up with oxygen, etc. that is required for those. Our millage rate vote will be coming up, so in June, we'll have our first meeting to discuss it and then vote on it in July. The district eight spring listening session is Monday, April 20. It's going to be in Plains, Ga. where they will inform us about the house and senate bills and how those would affect us.

The city hall lettering in the window was refurbished because it was beginning to peel and then there was a seasonal

**SALES TAX
CONTINUED PG 4A**

Join in the Celebration Reception as FA Honors Retiring Educator "Miss Jan" Peavy



Contributed

For the past 45 1/2 years, "Miss" Jan Peavy has been a true pillar of the Fullington Academy family. Her dedication, warmth, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact on generations of students and colleagues alike.

"Miss" Jan began her career as an educator in 1971, teaching 3rd grade at Fullington Academy. After her first year she stepped away from the classroom to focus on raising her growing family, spending the years until 1982 at home.

As fate would have it, her journey with Fullington Academy was far from over. When the opportunity arose to help launch the Fullington Academy Learn-

ing Center, "Miss" Jan's name came to mind. She eagerly reentered into education, embracing the role with the same passion and dedication that would define her career for decades to come.

Since that time, Miss Jan has faithfully served the students and families of Fullington Academy, becoming not just a teacher, but a mentor, role model, and a beloved presence in the school community. Fullington Academy would like to extend an invitation to all current and past students-coworkers-families to celebrate Miss Jan's retirement. A drop-in celebration will be held Friday, April 17 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the FA lunchroom.

Café 41 Hosts First Community Care Conversation on Health Issues



RN Cyndi Mercer and Dr. Alicia Register.

By Cyndi Garrison

Our first Community Care Conversation with Café 41 was held Thursday, March 19 at 4:30 p.m. The discussion focused on colon cancer, diabetes, and kidney health. The purpose of starting these conversations is to help people better understand the resources available through state and local agencies. As healthcare costs contin-

ue to rise, it's important to compare options such as the cost of blood tests, routine physicals, and vaccines through insurance versus local health centers.

Cyndi Mercer led the conversation alongside Dr. Alicia Register, a surgeon at Crisp Medical. The key takeaway was simple: be intentional about your health. Small changes like eating better, exercising regu-

larly, and staying hydrated can make a big difference. Prevention is possible. One of the most important things to come out of the discussion was to talk openly with your family about health history, not just with parents, but also with your children.

Regarding colon cancer, Dr.

**HEALTH ISSUES
CONTINUED PG 2A**

New Splash Pad in Unadilla Is, "Gonna be Amazing."



Photo Contributed

By Mayor Myron Mixon - This is what our new splash pad in Unadilla will look like. Gonna be amazing. Time to start building excitement for the summer.

Extreme drought conditions persist over much of Georgia

By Jay Stone and Jennifer Whittaker

While some parts of Georgia got rain over Easter weekend, according to UGA Extension Climatologist Pam Knox, any relief it provided will be short-lived.

“The wettest area will be in eastern Florida where there is the potential for low pressure to develop off the East Coast and draw some moisture into the Florida Peninsula,” Knox wrote in her Climate and Agriculture in the Southeast blog post from April 5. “Most of the rest of the region will be under high pressure and is not expected to get much if any rain. If you look at the longer-range models out to 384 hours (April 21), all of the models show the

same general pattern with slight variations about where the driest conditions will be.” The U.S. Drought Monitor’s (USDM) April 2 drought map showed all of Georgia in some stage of drought starting with abnormally dry, the USDM’s label for the least severe drought stage.

Most of the state is experiencing much more severe dry conditions. Twenty-five counties in South Georgia are in Exceptional Drought, the most severe drought stage. Another 86 counties, covering the entire Coastal Plain and much of the North Georgia mountains, are in Extreme Drought, the second-most severe stage. A time-series graphic provided by the USDM shows how current drought conditions are shaping up against

previous years since 2000. Once on the landing page, change the Area Type tab from national to state and then select Georgia in the next tab labeled Area.

The dry conditions are already having effects on Georgia farms. “Since August, we probably haven’t had over four inches of rain. The last significant rain we had was about a month ago, just out of the blue. We got an inch and six tenths, but it [moisture] didn’t even register. It didn’t last,” said Daniel Johnson, a Pierce County row crop farmer in deep Southeast Georgia. “Right now, we’re having to irrigate ahead of planting corn and behind planting corn.”

Johnson says he’s having to irrigate at least a half inch of water to plant his corn crop and

at least a half an inch after planting to get the seed to germinate and come up. He’s relying on deep wells to irrigate his crop. In Screven County, located in upper Southeast Georgia on the South Carolina line, Ben Boyd said his dad, Olin, says the farm is as dry as he’s ever seen it this time of year.

“We had about a half inch, probably four weeks ago, but we hadn’t had any significant rain since probably last October. I bet you, we haven’t had two inches of rain since last October,” Boyd said. “We never have to replant corn because it’s too dry and won’t come up, but we’re going to have to replant a pretty good bit of corn if nothing changes.” Boyd said they’re having to irrigate four or five days ahead of planting corn to even get a plow in the ground. To add insult to injury, he said corn seed is in short supply. In Southwest Georgia, Julie Hardy says her family farms across Thomas, Grady and Mitchell counties.

“Our farm in Mitchell County got some rain last week, so we’re planting soybeans there because the ground is too hard to plant in Thomas and Grady counties. We’re having to irrigate in Thomas and Grady counties to plant soybeans. We didn’t have

to irrigate to plant our corn, but we had to irrigate it to get it to come up and we’re still irrigating our corn crop now that it’s up,” Hardy said. “It worries me because it’s very expensive to run those pivots whether they run on diesel or electricity.”

UGA Extension Forage Specialist Lisa Baxter told Georgia Farm Bureau media that the state’s hay stocks are already threatened. Many producers are already contending with dwindling hay supplies, limited winter grazing and ongoing dry conditions.

“The 2025 growing season, I have dubbed the ‘year that no grass was happy in the state of Georgia,’” Baxter told the Farm Monitor. She noted that some areas of South Georgia last got significant rain in early August 2025. “With so much of the state being in moderate to severe drought it’s really setting us up for a challenging start to the 2026 season.”

Heard County farmer Ralph Caldwell is one of Georgia’s cattle and hay producers already looking at ways to make it through this summer if the drought persists.

“I carried over less than 20 bales of hay from last year, and I feed 1,000 bales of hay a year. We had to start feeding

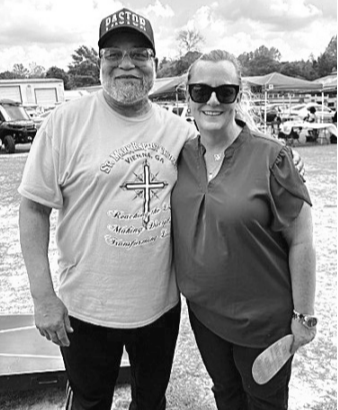
earlier because it was a cold winter and the cows ate more hay,” Caldwell said. “Since I’m not carrying hay over from last year, I’m actually contemplating putting part of my cropland in some type of summer grass for insurance because of the hay situation.”

Caldwell, who usually grows hay, corn and soybeans along with raising cattle and having 20 poultry houses, says his area is experiencing moderate drought conditions right now. He received roughly three-tenths of an inch April 4 after not getting any rain for about three weeks.

“Following this El Nino pattern, from what I understand, we’re forecast to have a drier summer, so it has me very nervous,” Caldwell said. “As of right now, I’m thinking about not planting corn because we’ve got such high input costs, and if it’s a drought year, corn definitely will not pencil out whatsoever. I’m still considering planting soybeans just because it’s going to be cheaper to grow.”

May 15 is the latest Caldwell said he can plant corn and make a crop. Every farmer GFB News reporters talked to asked that people start praying for rain.

“Easter Brought Joy and Light to Worship”



By Pastor Katie Griffis

Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul Chapel United Methodist Church were beautiful events of Holy Communion, Wor-

ship, and Fellowship. We were so thankful to be a part of the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Easter Egg Hunt. Easter brought joy and light to worship

as we celebrated the risen Lord together. Happy Easter season! Join us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. as we welcome and love all who worship.

HEALTH ISSUES CONTINUED FROM 1A

Register emphasized that it is largely preventable and that screening is essential. While colonoscopies remain the most trusted method, at-home stool tests such as Cologuard are also available. These allow individuals to collect a sample privately and mail it in. Results indicate whether further testing, like a colonoscopy, is needed. Screening should begin at age 45, however, those with a family history of colon cancer should be screened 10 years prior the age of diagnosis for the family member or sooner if indicated. Diabetes was described as a “gateway” to many other health issues.

The pre-diabetic stage is the best time to make changes.

Maintaining a healthy diet, staying active, taking prescribed medications, and monitoring blood sugar levels are all critical. Attendees also discussed symptoms, risks, and common questions about medications and testing frequency. Knowing your numbers is key.

The conversation concluded with kidney health. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney disease, highlighting how interconnected these conditions are. Warning signs include swelling, fatigue, high blood pressure, and nausea. Overall, the goal was to raise awareness about prevention and available resources. Local health departments offer screenings and education to support healthier

choices.

Taking charge of your health starts with being informed. Our next Community Care Conversation with Café 41 will be held on April 23, 2026, from 4:00–5:30 p.m. As we move into May, topics will include harmful substances, dating safety, sexual assault awareness, and cyber safety.

If you are a parent of a high school aged, starting to drive, junior or senior, consider bringing your young adult. Whether preparing for college or greater independence, these conversations can help equip them to navigate real-world situations safely and confidently. We hope you will join us.

GEORGIA 811

Utilities Protection Center, Inc.

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

IT'S THE LAW!



City of Vienna
Public Awareness – Natural Gas Safety
Protect People First, Then Property

Purpose:

The purpose of our natural gas mains and service lines are to transport natural gas to the businesses and individual customers. It is estimated that there are more than 800,000 miles of underground gas mains and service lines in the United States today. Fortunately, pipeline accidents are extremely rare, but do occur. Natural gas is extremely flammable, potentially hazardous, could possibly dissipate oxygen from your dwelling causing suffocation and in the right mixture with air cause a fire or explosion.

The City of Vienna’s Natural Gas System consists of the following:

- Mains in sizes from 1.5” to 6” of both coated steel and PE Plastic
- Service Lines in sizes from 5/8” to 4” of both coated steel and PE Plastic
- Odorization Station
- Main Line Underground Cut-off Valves
- Critical / Emergency Main Line Valves

The gas mains and services lines are buried underground and have a depth range of 24”-36” for gas mains and 12”-18” for service lines. These gas lines are located on most of the streets in the City of Vienna and are monitored on an annual basis for any signs of leakage and corrosion.

That is why it is extremely important that anyone 72 hrs prior to mechanize digging/moving earth in any way, MUST CALL 811 to notify the Utilities Protection Center of Georgia of your intention to dig around what could be utilities that could be damaged. When you call 811 the UPC will notify all utility owners or operators and have them locate and mark all utilities located in the area in which you will be digging.

Know the telephone numbers to call and keep them available.
City of Vienna Gas – 229-268-4744 Mon-Fri 8:00 – 4:30
After Business Hours - Emergency – 911 or 229-322-5250
Georgia Call Before You DIG - 811

Can You Recognize And React to A Natural Gas Leak?

Trust your senses. Seeing bubbles in wet or flooded areas, dead vegetation or discolored plants or grass in a normally healthy environment, a hissing sound, and your sense of smell could indicate a gas leak that should be reported immediately to: City of Vienna Gas Department at 229-268-4744 or 911 or 229-322-5250 after regular business hours for immediate response by qualified personnel. If you smell gas inside your home or business, leave the premises immediately, do not call from your home, don’t turn on or off any electrical switches, do not attempt to air out the building. If you are on the phone, do not hang it up, lay it down and call the gas department from another phone at a safe distance. Remain away from the premises until emergency personnel have given you the ok to return. Never try to make repairs to stop a gas leak as you could possibly make the situation worse and cause possible damage, injury or death.

Please do not hesitate to call your local natural gas department if you even think that what you smell may be gas. It is better to be safe.

Jeff Priest - Gas Superintendent

Ciudad de Vienna
Conciencia Pública – Seguridad de Gas Natural
Proteja las Personas Primero, Luego la Propiedad

Propósito:

El propósito de nuestras líneas principales y líneas de servicios de gas natural son para transportar gas a negocios y clientes individuales. Hoy en día se estima que hay más de 800,000 millas de líneas principales y de servicios de gas natural bajo tierra en los Estados Unidos. Afortunadamente, los accidentes de líneas son extremadamente raros, pero si ocurren. El gas natural es extremadamente inflamable, potencialmente peligroso, puede disipar oxígeno de su vivienda causando sofocamiento y una cantidad exacta de aire puede causar un incendio o explosión. El sistema de gas natural de la ciudad de Vienna consiste en lo siguiente:

- Líneas principales hechas de tamaño de 1.5” a 6” de metal cubierto y plástico PE.
- Líneas de servicio hechas de tamaño de 5/8” a 4” de metal cubierto y plástico PE.
- Válvulas para cortar suministro a las líneas principales subterráneas
- Válvulas Críticas/Emergencia para líneas principales
- Odorizantes

Las líneas principales y líneas de servicios de gas están enterradas bajo tierra y tienen una medida de profundidad de 24”-36” para líneas de gas principales y 12”-18” para líneas de servicio. Estas líneas están localizadas en la mayoría de las calles de la Ciudad de Vienna y son monitoreadas anualmente para ver cualquier señal de fuga o corrosión.

Es por eso que es extremadamente importante que cualquier persona que vaya a escavar o mover tierra de cualquier forma DEBE LLAMAR al 811 con 72 horas de anticipación y notificar a Utilities Protection Center of Georgia de la intención de escavar alrededor de las líneas de servicios públicos que se podrían dañar. Cuando llame al 811 el UPC le notificará a todos los dueños/operadores de servicios y hará que localicen y marquen el área en la cual usted estará escavando.

Sepa los números de teléfono y téngalos disponibles.
City of Vienna Gas – 229-268-4744 lunes-viernes 8:00 – 4:30
Después de horas hábiles - Emergencia – 911 o 229-322-5250
Georgia Hable antes de Escavar- 811

¿Usted Puede Reconocer y Reaccionar a una Fuga de Gas Natural?

Confíe en sus sentidos. Ver burbujas en áreas mojadas o inundadas, vegetación muerta o descolorada en ambientes normalmente sanos, un silbido y su olfato pueden indicar que hay una fuga de gas que debe ser reportada inmediatamente al Departamento de GA de la Ciudad de Vienna al 229-268-4744 o 911 o 229-322-5250 después del horario hábil de servicio para una respuesta inmediata por un personal calificado. Su huele gas dentro de su casa o negocio, salga del lugar inmediatamente, no llame de su casa, no encienda o apague ningún interruptor eléctrico, no trate de ventilar el área. Si está en el teléfono, no cuelgue, deje el teléfono y llame a la compañía de gas de otro teléfono a una distancia segura. Manténgase alejado de la propiedad asta que el personal de emergencia le de permiso de regresar. Nunca trate de reparar fugas de gas porque puede que empeore la situación y puede causar daño, lastimadura o muerte.

Por favor no tarde en llamar a su departamento de gas natural si cree que huele a gas. Es mejor estar seguros.

Jeff Priest – Superintendente de Gas

Local Club Collects Clothing items for Gateway Center

Contributed

The April meeting of the Vienna Woman's Club was busy as usual with routine business and committee reports. Charlotte Vestal was the April hostess. Members enjoyed a delicious meal of marinated green bean salad, baked ham with raisin sauce, roasted red potatoes, and croissants provided by hostess Charlotte Vestal. Plans were finalized for the Club's role at the State Convention.

In honor of both Advocates for Children and Child Abuse Month, members collected 75 sets of boys and girls underwear and 37 pairs of socks for the Gateway Center in Cordele.

The Gateway Center provides services for victims of abuse or sexual assault. For more information, visit: <https://gfwcgeorgia.org/> or write to P.O. Box 66 Vienna, Ga. 31092.



Photo contributed
Charlotte Vestal was the April Hostess.

Keira Musslewhite Dooly Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipient



Contributed

Please join us in congratulating our FFA President Keira Musslewhite, on being selected as this year's Dooly County Farm Bureau scholarship recipient. We are so thankful for the support of the Dooly County Farm Bureau, Angie Burton and all they do to support our pro-

gram and the students at Fulington.

This is a well-deserved honor that reflects Keira's hard work, leadership, and dedication to agriculture and our chapter. We are incredibly proud of all she has accomplished and can't wait to see what she does next.



Give the Gift That Saves Lives

Contributed

Dooly County High School JROTC is proud to host a One-Blood Blood Drive Friday, April 24 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and we're calling on our community to show up and make a difference.

The blood drive will be held at Dooly County High School and every donation has the power to save up to three lives, and right now, the need is greater than ever.

All donors receive refreshments, OneBlood T-shirt and wellness checkup including blood pressure check, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening. Roll up your sleeve and join us in supporting OneBlood.

Together, we can make a lasting impact right here in our community. Appointments are encouraged, so please visit: oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 24471.

CCU's Food Drive Was Amazing

Contributed

What a day for the Friday, April 10 Christ Chapel Unadilla Food Drive. It was nothing short of amazing. Even with a late start, God showed up in a big way. 40 volunteers came together, new faces and familiar ones with special thanks to our community partners: Lineage Logistics and Dooly State Prison for serving alongside us. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped spread the word.

You helped us reach so many in need. Over 500 people were blessed with free groceries. We

are incredibly grateful to the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank for supplying the food and helping us make this impact possible. This is what a community looks like. This is what serving looks like. This is what love in action looks like. If you missed it, don't worry, we're still here to serve you.

Our CCU Food Pantry will be open this Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at 400 Jeanette Street in Unadilla. Come out, spread the word and let's continue to take care of our community together.

Sign up for Early Head Start at the Dooly County Library



Contributed

Dooly County Library is hosting sign ups and interviewing the children for Early Head Start while renovations are underway after the Dooly County Head Start building located on Pine Street Vienna was flooded. Li-

brary Manager Jill Kloberdanz commented, "We welcome everyone to use our facilities when needed."

For more information, contact Dooly County Library, 1200 East Union Street in Vienna or call 229-268-4687.

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St. Paul Chapel UMC in Partnership with Church in Uganda

By Pastor Katie Griffiths

Just a few short weeks ago, the mission coordinators shared how the Lord has already directed St. Paul Chapel's steps toward partnership with the Buvunya UMC in Uganda.

Trusting in God's direction, the church answered the challenge to increase our commitment by raising \$55,000 for the construction of a permanent Buvunya Church building. This step of faith required courage, action, and obedience. The people of St. Paul Chapel UMC responded

in love and generosity and the goal has already been met and exceeded. God is doing great things in us and through us.

Even though we are a small congregation, God is using us to make a big impact. Our "mustard seed" faith proves that truly nothing is impossible with God. As we continue on our journey, let us walk by faith and not by sight, being assured that when we follow the Lord's leading, He will provide abundantly. May the Lord direct our steps.

Local Club Encourages Everyone to Learn the Facts-Prevent Child Abuse

Contributed

During Child Abuse Prevention in April, members of the Vienna Woman's Club encourage everyone to get the facts: Neglect is the most common form of abuse, followed by physical, sexual and emotional abuse. 11,435 cases of child abuse or neglect were confirmed in Georgia during 2023. More than 5 children die every day in the US due to abuse or neglect. Children in their First year of life have the highest rate of victimization. Over 75% of perpetrators are parents of the victim. Abused children are more likely to have physical health issues, mental health disorders and criminal activity

as adults. Call the National Childhelp Hotline for assistance: 800-422-4453.

Vienna Woman's Club members are also promoting awareness of child abuse during April by collecting new boys or girls underwear in sizes M, L and XL. Items will be donated to the Gateway Center, a social services center which provides support to victims of child abuse and sexual assault in the Ben Hill-Crisp-Dooly-Wilcox areas.

If you'd like to help us in this worthy cause, please send an email to our dedicated address at: join@gfwcviennaga.org.

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 Jeanette 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. - 4PM. Closed Saturday.

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

The Elizabeth Harris Library

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

"An Hour of Encouragement"

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

Bethlehem Baptist Church

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts

229-268-2700

313 W. Union St., Vienna
Open Through Lunch
Eddie Conner, Manager

THE CITIZENS AGENCY

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for more than 10 years!
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229-268-4751 • Vienna

- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church** Byromville, GA
- Richwood Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Pleasant Valley Baptist Church** Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3713
- Reedy Branch Baptist Church** 740 Church Avenue Byromville, GA
- Riverview Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Shady Grove CME Church** Vienna, GA
- Shiloh Methodist Church** Vienna, GA
- Smyrna Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-6852
- Snow Methodist Church** Unadilla, GA
- St. John Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Springhill Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- St. Luke CME** Lilly, GA
- St. Mark's Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Tippettville Baptist Church** Vienna, GA
- Trails of Faith Deliverance Holiness Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-4377
- Turkey Creek Baptist Church** Lilly, GA
- Unadilla First Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-627-3615
- Unadilla United Methodist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-627-3330
- Vienna Congregation** Vienna, GA
- Vienna First Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-4386
- Vienna Methodist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-4207

IF YOU NEED TO ADVERTISE EMAIL

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

- 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 APRIL CHORES

April has finally arrived and spring has definitely sprung! Let's look at some things we can be doing in and around the garden in this most glorious gardening month.

Once you are certain the soil has warmed up to stay, consider planting summer-flowering plants such as gladiolus, canna lilies, caladiums, and dahlias. Planting some every two weeks will give a succession of color to your landscape. Make the first planting in the latter part of this month after the soil has warmed significantly and stays consistently warm.

Stay on top of early sprouting weeds before they overtake the garden or flower bed. Hand weeding will prevent many from setting seed that will produce next year's crop. A little herbicide, well-placed, will be beneficial as well.

Begin to pinch back and deadhead annuals such as petunias, salvia, impatiens, and others to encourage the formation of new branches and thus more flowers. Keeping a close watch on this will reap many benefits.

Watch for aphids on tender new leaves and flower petals. They are always attracted to the youngest growth and often find their way into the young,

unfurled leaves and may go unnoticed for some time. A yellowing or wilting of the plant tips and/or the presence of ants may indicate their presence. Fortunately, aphids are relatively easy to control once discovered. Before resorting to insecticides, you might try washing them away with a strong burst of water or even simply flipping them off with your hand.

Edge the entire flower bed or flower garden. It will make a big difference!

In clumps of perennials, pinch back some stems in the front area of the clumps to create a succession of blooms. Do this with tall phlox, bee balm, baptisia, agastache, and other returning perennials.

Begin pinching back fall bloomers such as chrysanthemums, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, and asters. This stimulates branching and results in more flowers later in the season.

Stake tall plants such as hollyhocks, hibiscus, Agastache, and foxglove before they get too tall and out of hand.

Add fresh mulch to beds if needed. One to two inches around annuals and perennials on top of existing mulch will be sufficient. No more than four inches total mulch is ad-

visable. If a soil sample has not been taken from your garden within the past two years or so, now is a good time to take one. Ideally, a soil analysis should be undertaken before fertilizer is applied to the garden. Otherwise, you will be, as they say, "shooting in the dark" when it comes to providing your plants' nutrient needs. Many perennials, in particular, need very little supplemental fertilizer as long as they are planted in fertile soil.

If the leaves on your grape myrtles and hydrangeas develop a grayish coating later in the season, they probably have developed powdery mildew. Try a mixture of four teaspoons of baking soda in one gallon of water on them. Apply this once a week, being sure to cover the tops and undersides of the leaves.

Many of you are just now planting your prized tomato plants. Remember this-after planting tomatoes, it is a good idea to mulch them right away. This will help to prevent leaf diseases such as early blight. This debilitating disease is caused by a soil-borne fungus that produces spores which splash onto the leaves from the soil during rainfall or overhead irrigation. Control of this disease with fungicides is difficult. Immediate mulching is more effective.

I trust that these tips will help you in your gardening endeavors this month. Look for more next week.

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 4 - MERCY AND MOTIVATION

My stack of scribbled notes is shorter, but still has a precarious tilt. I've grown a bit weary of sifting through papers, but recently found fresh motivation. We'll get to that later.

I kept a sample letter of a common scam - trying to buy land for less than it's worth. Legitimate buyers sometimes make unsolicited offers at decent prices. There are, however, countless solicitations which are far below market value.

Gazillions of unscrupulous proposals are made, knowing a few recipients will take the bait. Financial predators don't mind taking advantage of people who can be manipulated. They also exploit very capable people who get careless. So be careful. If you're leaning toward making a quick decision, it's usually best to slow down.

Another scribbled note contained several questions I had been pondering. Can a dog have a cat scan? Can a cat be dog-eared? Is a doggone cat gone because of the dog? It's hard to sleep while searching for answers.

A newspaper clipping had a picture of Sonny and SuSu Burt announcing the sale of Daphne

Lodge. I intended to write a story about them but never got around to it. Besides the excellent food and charming atmosphere, the lovely couple made customers feel like family. Like the bar on Cheers, it was a place where everybody knows your name.

One slip of paper had a potential column title, "Shadow Finds a Home." My mother's yard dog is 93 pounds of affection. He's too friendly to be a protector but will knock you down if you're carrying food. Here's some background on that unwritten column.

Shadow is the last survivor of three similar-looking stray dogs that found their way to my mother's rural home. His ribs were showing when he came and he was afraid of people, as were Spot and Spottie before him. All three dogs, in different years, were apparently dropped off at the wet-weather creek near Mama's home. Three strays went looking for mercy and found it. Perhaps there's a lesson in their stories.

I've finished reviewing notes through 2022 and just got to one from October 3, 2021. Shannon Akin shared this high-school

remembrance in our men's Sunday School Class that Sunday. I know the date because I scribbled it on a church bulletin. It was about Mr. Hubert Yow, who taught agriculture at Vienna High School for decades.

Mr. Yow loved orange juice and kept some in a refrigerator in the ag building. Someone, however, began discretely depleting his supply. Mr. Yow spiked the juice with syrup of ipecac, a product used years ago to induce vomiting when a person swallowed poison. The mystery was solved, and Allen Cross lost his taste for orange juice.

"Life Expectancy Plummets in U.S." That newspaper article from September of 2021 included the 2020 chart. Men were pegged at an average of 74.5 years. I'm a bit weary of sifting through scribbled notes, but those statistics gave me new motivation. Rather than taking a break, maybe I should write a little faster.

I'm hoping to be above average, but either way will be okay. An unwritten column, "Shadow Finds a Home," just reminded me of three stray dogs who went looking for mercy and found it. Their good fortune probably involved some luck, but man has a sure thing if we claim it. It may not be on our terms or timetable, but mercy is ours for the asking.

*joinerscorner.com
neiljoiner@gmail.com*



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder FOOLHARDY TO LET YOUNG SPROUTS GO UNWEEDED

The Minister of Youth in a Baptist church bulletin wrote the following note to parents: "Parents, please make it a priority to have your children with us on Wednesday nights at 6:15. If your children have other friends who are not currently active in another church, do your best to bring them. I am a firm believer that it is easier to reach children for Jesus Christ than older kids. By the time they reach middle school, if Christ is not a priority in their lives, there is a strong possibility he never will be. Then, when it's too late, we wonder where we went wrong." There has never been a truer statement. By the time children reach 7-8 years of age, they have formed their moral foundation and will carry that value system forward throughout their lives. When children reach teenage status, it is too late to change their moral values.

How soon can a child be saved? Charles Hadden Spur-

geon wrote, "as soon as children can learn evil, be assured that they can be competent under the teaching of the Holy Spirit to learn good." Spurgeon urged Sunday School teachers: "Never go into your class with the thought that children cannot comprehend. Children are capable of salvation." A good example is Josiah. When he became king of Jerusalem at age 8, he immediately began to seek God's guidance and performed great works by his twelfth birthday.

A person's chances of being saved diminish rapidly with age. As people grow older and become more set in their attitudes, they increasingly resist the life-changing message of Christ. Studies revealed that 95-percent of the people who receive Christ do so before age 25. After the age of 35, only one person in 50,000 receives Christ; after 45 only one in 300,000; and after 75 only one in 700,000 is converted. Hardening of the arteries and

hardening of the heart go hand in hand. The writer of Ecclesiastes warned of the dangers of resisting salvation when one is young: "Don't let the excitement of being young cause you to forget your creator... Remember Him now while you are young, before the silver chord of life snaps, and the golden bowl is broken, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God."

Evangelistic efforts are usually slanted toward adults at the expense of children. This is inconsistent for in planting a garden, we would be foolhardy to let young sprouts go unweeded during the spring and expect an abundant harvest in the summer. God cautioned the Israelites escaping from Egyptian bondage to "forget not the things your eyes have seen and teach them to your children and grandchildren." Timothy became Paul's protégé because he was taught the scriptures from childhood by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

We have an awesome responsibility to bring up our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." Jesus said, "prevent not the children from coming to me, for such is the Kingdom of God."

I-75 southbound also, because there was a long line of vehicles still moving south going into Vienna, and quite a number coming west off Farmer's Market Road. Any news on that, anyone? Lord may everyone be safe. Amen.

3). Let's have a prayer for some things: Dear Lord Jesus, PLEASE comfort and heal those who are ill and hurting, those who were involved in those wrecks today, and those who are just down-in-the-dumps. In Your Precious, Sweet, and Holy Name. Amen.

Jesus said He would never leave or forsake us. He also said, "Lo, I am with you always". He loves us to heaven and back. Amen. Until next time.

Walker: Our Final Week Under the Gold Dome

By Sen. Larry Walker III
(R-Perry)

The gavel has fallen, and the 2026 Legislative Session is now behind us. While the work under the Gold Dome has come to a close, my work for you is far from finished. In many ways, it's just beginning again back home, where these decisions matter most. Since January, we have pushed forward with the purpose of lowering costs, strengthening our communities, and protecting the values that define Georgia. This session also marked my first serving as your Senate President Pro Tempore, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me.

That's a responsibility I carry with me every single day. At the heart of this session was the passage of a balanced, responsible budget. The Fiscal Year 2027 budget reflects what Georgians expect: discipline and support for their families. We've protected your tax dollars, planned wisely, and invested where it truly matters. That includes a \$100 million commitment to the Employees' Retirement System, because the men and women who built this state deserve security in retirement.

It also includes nearly \$50 million in improvements across Middle Georgia, strengthening our colleges, upgrading critical infrastructure, and supporting public safety in our correctional system. These are real investments in our communities. We

also confronted a hard truth this session.

Too many of our children are falling behind in the classroom. When only about a quarter of students are reading on grade level, doing nothing is not an option. That's why we made a serious \$70 million investment to place literacy coaches in every K-3 school and passed the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026. We are drawing a hard line and committing to change the trajectory for our next generation. At the same time, we know families are feeling squeezed. Rising costs are hitting kitchen tables across this state. That's why we took action to let you keep more of what you earn. Through House Bill 463, we lowered Georgia's income tax rate and expanded the standard deduction, delivering real, lasting relief. This year, we also took meaningful steps to provide long-term property tax relief for Georgia homeowners. Under legislation passed by the General Assembly, local governments must now cap annual reassessment increases at no more than 3% or the rate of inflation, bringing predictability and protection for families facing rising home values.

In addition, counties and cities now have new tools, pending voter approval, to significantly reduce or even eliminate property taxes through local sales tax options like the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) and the Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST). These

measures could save you and your family hundreds of dollars as soon as this year, with even greater relief in the years ahead.

In many communities, homeowners could see their property tax bills cut in half or, in some cases, eliminated entirely, while ensuring that growth and investment remain balanced and sustainable.

And we didn't stop there. We advanced legislation to protect consumers and strengthen trust in our systems. House Bill 1344 cracks down on insurance fraud and adds transparency to the claims process, because honest Georgians shouldn't pay the price for bad actors. Senate Bill 207 opens the door for more Georgians to reenter the workforce while maintaining accountability, giving people a second chance to contribute and succeed.

Now, my focus shifts back to the 20th Senate District, because the job doesn't end when session does. It is the honor of a lifetime to serve you and your family. Thank you for your trust, your support and the opportunity to keep fighting for what matters most right here at home. Sen. Larry Walker III serves as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. He represents the 20th Senate District, which includes Bleckley, Dodge, Dooly, Laurens, Pulaski, Treutlen and Wilcox counties, as well as a portion of Houston County. He may be reached by phone at (404) 656-0095 or by email at Larry.Walker@senate.ga.gov.



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart A COUPLE OF THINGS OR MORE

1). Jean and I got to visit Carolyn Tondee (she's my first cousin) in ICU today and prayed for her. We had a nice visit. I ask y'all's prayers for her to get out pretty soon. She's 93 and "tough as nails". Carolyn, you are loved by SO MANY. She is a member of PEAVY MEMORIAL CHURCH in Cordele. She is the one I wrote about several weeks ago about a 91-year-old

(he turned 92 on March 29th) driving a 93-year-old to church almost every Sunday. With your prayers, I believe this can continue. Amen.

2). Coming home from preaching in Cordele today, there was a wreck that had just happened on Hwy 41 right above the Farmer's Market. A car was turned upside down and resting on its top. There must have been an accident on

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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.

NO26-016 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS Jason A. Fowler and Angie F. Cawthon, Co-Administrators of the Estate of Frances S. Fowler, hereby gives notice under Section 53-7-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 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-Administrators. All persons owing to the estate are also required to make prompt payment to the Co-Administrators, whose postal address is 180 Brittany Drive, NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061 and 1795 Highway 90, Vienna, GA 31092, respectively. Jason A. Fowler and Angie F. Cawthon, Co-Administrators Prepared By: LAWSON & REID, LLC Attorneys for Co-Administrators April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 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

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

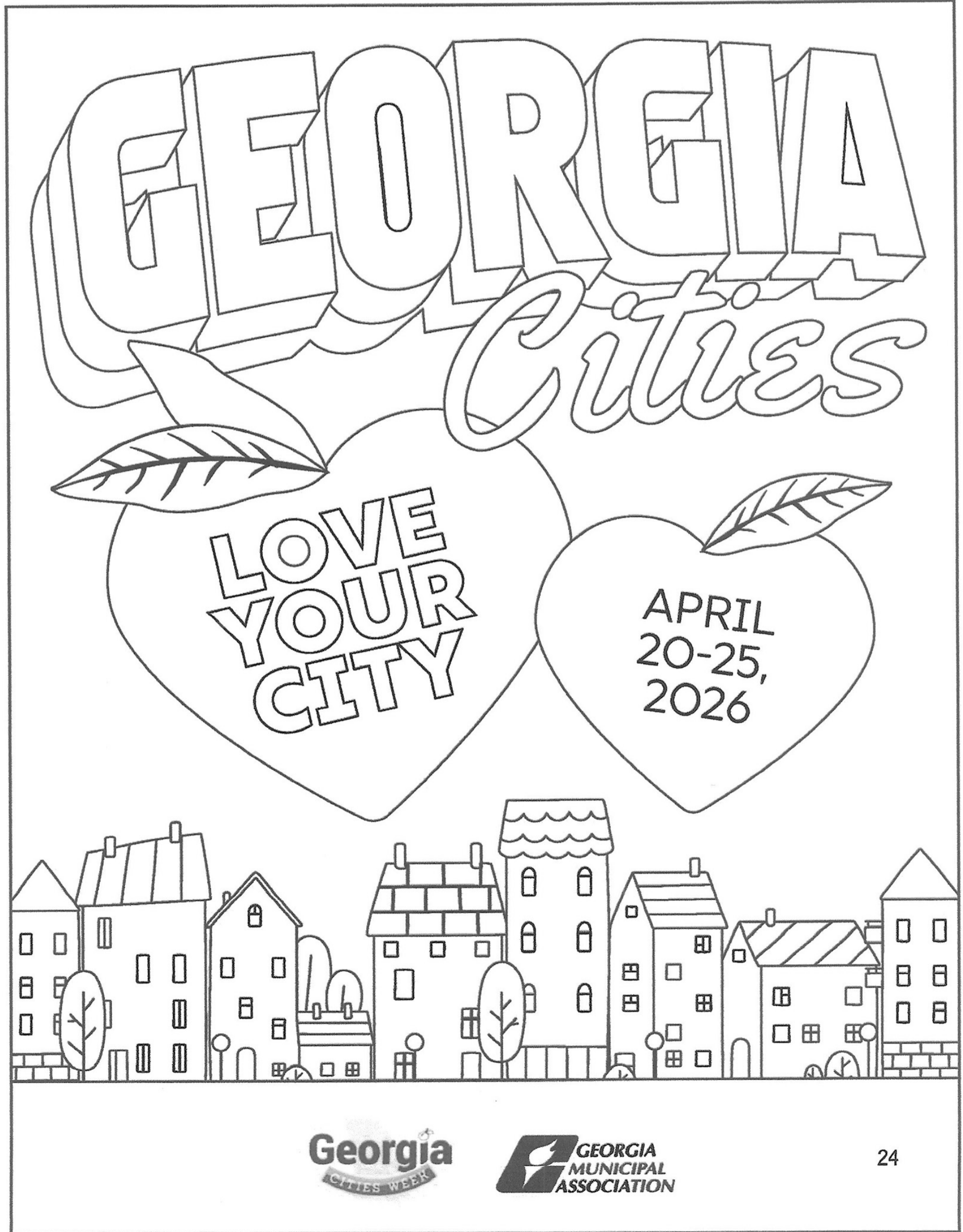
NO26-015 IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF: J. W., a child CASE NUMBER: 046-26J-0013 DOB: 08/31/2015 SEX: F TO: TRENTAVIOUS PRITCHETT, putative father of the above-named child. Any other person(s) claiming a parental interest who appear to the court to be proper 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):

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 NO26-018 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA CARLEY LYNN PENNEY, Petitioner v. RUSSELL ELLIOT JONES III, Respondent In Re: RUSSELL ELLIOT JONES III, a minor male born 2025. CAFN: 26DV-0044 NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Notice is hereby given that CARLA LYNN PENNEY, the undersigned, filed this petition in the Superior Court of Dooly County, Georgia on the 9th day of April, 2026, praying for a change in the name of minor child from RUSSELL ELLIOT JONES III to RUSTON MOORE PENNEY. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 9th day of April, 2026. CARLA LYNN PENNEY Petitioner April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026 NO26-017 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA KRISTINA BROADWAY, PLAINTIFF v. GREGORY BROADWAY, JR, DEFENDANT Civil Action File No. 26DV-0041 NOTICE OF SUMMONS--SERVICE BY PUBLICATION TO: Gregory Broadway, Jr., Defendant named above:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Complaint for Divorce was filed against you in said Court on April 1, 2026, and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on April 2, 2026 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon Kristina Broadway, plaintiff, whose address is P.O. Box 326 Vienna, GA 31092 an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order of service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Witness the Honorable Amy Bryant, Judge of said Court. This 2nd day of April, 2026. /s/ Rosa B. Childs Clerk of Superior Court Dooly, County April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 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 NO26-011 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



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 SINYARD-HOLMES (478)627-3022

Dooly County Lady Bobcat Makes All-State History



Contributed

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has officially released its GHSA Girls Basketball All-State Teams and we are proud to celebrate one of our very own. Congratulations to Ja'Kayla Hooks for being selected to the Class A Division II All-State Team (Next 11). Standing tall at 6'0", Ja'Kayla continues to represent Dooly County High School with excellence on and off the court.

Her dedication, dominance, and leadership have earned her recognition among the top players in the entire state of Georgia. This recognition is a testament

to the hard work, commitment, and pride that defines #Bobcat-Nation. Ja'Kayla continues to raise the standard and represent The Grove at the highest level. The future is bright for Lady Bobcat Basketball.



FA Hoping to Take Next Steps Toward Region Championship

By Head Coach
Mike Ashley

We came back from spring break hoping to break the trend at Fullington and have a good run before and get back to playing baseball. But we had Southland Academy come and play us here at home last Monday and I started Eli Ashley and had one probably one of his best outings this year and used it as a warmup with three innings and Brantley Ross a couple of innings and then brought in Tucker Sorrow and they all pitched good enough to win, but just couldn't hit the ball, a lot of poor mental approach at the batter's box and had a lot of guys watching strike three and couple didn't even take their bat off their shoulder.

I didn't know whether they were still mentally on spring break. It was a close game 5-2 and Cash Greene had the only two RBI. Brantley Ross had done a really good job with two strikes moving over Eli Ashley and Chase Hughes to put 'em in scoring position before Cash picked up the RBI's. It was not a total disappointment, but we had done a lot of work the Saturday before we came back to school and everybody seemed to be with it, but we just couldn't get it together that day.

Last Tuesday, we turned around and traveled to Southland to play 'em again. I started Cash Greene and he was doing really well into the third inning putting the ball in play several times, but couldn't get base hits, but it was a close ball game and Cash got injured on the mound and stepped off for a pick-off back to first and his foot came out from under him and strained his hamstring, so the next inning, he's up to bat and lays a bunt down to first and ends up pulling that hamstring and had to come out of the game.

Seeing that we had a region game coming up, I was not going to 'burn' the rest of our pitching and Augie Harris pitched for the first time this year and he struggled a little bit and that's to be expected. Things got sort of out of hand, so I brought in John Wilson Floyd that I

knew he was going to throw strikes and they put the ball in play. We had a couple of errors, but throughout that game, our at-bats were not quality at-bats, we didn't have but a couple of base hits.

Tucker Sorrow finally broke out of the little slump he had been in with right off center opposite base hit, but we ended up getting run ruled losing 11-1 and a disappointing outing all together. We got back to the school, kind of regrouped and got our mind right going to Grace Christian down in Bainbridge last Thursday for our first region game with them. We started Brantley Ross on the mound and he did really well struggling with the umpires strike zone, the low strike he had been getting all season was not there. That umpire wanted something a little higher, so he finally adjusted to it and came around. Eli Ashley struggled the first couple of at-bats, but he finally got himself a hit. He has scored some runs and is leading in stolen bases. Chase Hughes and J.W. Floyd had a really big game and I was so happy for those seniors.

Chase missed hitting one out by just a couple of feet. J.W. put the bat on the ball and had several RBI. Cash Greene and Augie Harris hit the ball really well, so it was good to see the middle and back half of the lineup start coming alive which is what I've been waiting on. I was happy for them because if those guys don't get it done, we usually struggle a little bit. Eli who's ranked number 15 in all of GIAA as far as runs scored did get a hit. That tells me that the guys behind him are doing their job. Brantley Ross scored off an error, but put himself in position to have some success.

We ended up run-ruling them 16-1 in the fifth inning. I told the guys, if we go down there and take care of business, Grace is



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

#4 Cash Greene

young, rebuilding, they lost I think every ball player they had last year and have a new coach. This week, Brantley Ross who is leading in batting average had the mound Tuesday, April 14 and hopefully will close out that series.

We then played Grace Academy again Thursday on the road. We need to wrap up that series with Max Preps having us ranked number one in the region. We'll also need to beat Crisp Academy on April 28 after we take care of Grace and that will seal our region championship.

Hopefully we'll see some of these younger guys get back to where they were before spring break, so I'm looking forward to it and excited to see what we do this week. At press-time, the team is 5-6 overall and 4-2 in the region.

Bobcat JV Soccer Team Secures a Victory

Contributed

The Dooly County Bobcat Junior Varsity boys secured a 4-0 win in last Thursday's match over Valdosta High School.

Cole Gaultney had a brace (two goals) while Josue Morales and Matthew Hyatt had one goal each. We made several mistakes and we didn't capitalize on some

opportunities we had, but we were relentless and were able to secure the win. We're extremely proud of our boys for their efforts.

HOMETOWN HEROES: CELEBRATING MILITARY KIDS FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP



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



PERKINS FIELD
105 MULBERRY ST.

