

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 23, 2026

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Commissioners Give Steve Sanders Send-off Retiring After 40-Years of Service

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Dooly County Coroner Brett Walls addressed the board of commissioners last Thursday concerning a response that occurred, "March 27, 2026 to an incident that did not meet the standard of care and service for our community. The deceased remained on scene longer than appropriate and we take full responsibility for this lapse. While the situation is not representative of our normal operation, that does not lessen its impact. We understand the weight of these moments for families and we regret the added distress this caused during a time of grief. We have taken immediate steps to prevent this from happening again. The first thing we're going to do, the coroner van, is going to every call no matter where it is. It's going to be there. If it can't be, we're going to ask EMS to help us. It is our responsibility to serve the citizens with dignity, care and urgency. In this instance, we fell short. We extend our sincere apology to the family and all those affected."

Incoming County Administrator 'Dani' Jefferson along with



Photo By Tim Franzén

A plaque was presented to Steve Sanders by the board of commissioners, county attorney and office staff. It read in part, "In appreciation for the 40-years of service as the Dooly County Administrator. You led by example, you set the bar and made a lasting impact that we will always cherish."

the board of commissioners later in the meeting congratulated long time and retiring County Administrator Steve Sanders, "For an incredible 40-years of service." Ms. Jefferson went onto to say, "Thank you for your guidance and the training that you provided and being willing to share your knowledge and experience. That meant a great deal to me and your contribu-

tions will not be forgotten and your legacy will continue to be felt for many years to come."

Commissioner Tony Lester shared, "I've learned a lot from you and we're going to miss you." Co-Chair Eugene Cason commented, "If we can retain everything that he's shared with us, we'll be great. I appreciate the work he's done providing the financials so we see the big

picture. He's been very open, transparent and I appreciate that."

Commissioner Timothy Robinson added, "You have to have some thick skin to take all the 'stuff' that he has. When something happens, it's going to go to the top." Commissioner David Mixon said, "I've known you all of my life and it's been a real pleasure to have worked

with you the last six years and I've learned a lot from you. We'll still need your guidance."

County Attorney Bert Gregory replied, "You have been a steady, guiding hand for many years in this community, this county and board. I've been proud to be able to work

STEVE SANDERS
CONTINUED PG 2A

Mayor Comments on Cleanup Efforts Around the City



By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels, announced during the council meeting addressing, "Jaime West, I do have a detailed case report on junk vehicles and outdoor storage. Letters are going out left and right for people to clean up around their properties, these abandoned homes. They've had adequate time to clean up and we've given them adequate time. The city has gone over to help out as well, but letters have gone out. We also extended the limb pickup time that we had because there were a lot of limbs. So, we have a detailed report."

Marcee with Easom and Easom, C.P.A.'s addressed the council presenting an audit report review. She concluded her assessment by saying, "The financials are in good shape as far as on a day-to-day basis. Margaret Shelley does a wonderful job."

She explained, "Our goal was to prepare a financial statement." Contained in the City of Vienna FY 2024 Financial Statement was an explanation of the three major fund categories with the City of Vienna, "Government funds are those through which most governmental funds, typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources."

Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Fund liabilities are assigned to the fund from which

they will be liquidated.

The city reports the difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities as fund balance. General should be used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. General, a government fund designed not to show a profit. They have specific needs already assigned to them, SPLOST, TSPLOST, Hotel-Motel, CHIP, CDBG grants, The American Rescue Plan Act. All of that has specific parameters on how that money can be spent, or restricted cash. Gas, which is a proprietary fund and water fund, also a proprietary fund, meaning it should be run like a business. Water and Sewer funds, a proprietary fund, should make money at the end of the day.

But the cash decreased in that fund by \$45,306 from one year to the next. One thing that the city has done over the past year is pay down about \$750,000 worth of debt within the water and sewer fund. That's a good thing. The gas fund over the years has not been a money maker for the city. I think the city should at least take an approach towards whether or not gas is going to be something that the city still provides."

The council approved the appointment of Tunisia Ali to the Vienna Historic Preservation Commission replacing David Brown whose term expires on December 31, 2027. Jeremiah Johnson also was appointed to

SPLASH PAD
CONTINUED PG 2A

Unadilla's Splash Pad Should be Ready by Memorial Day

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

Unadilla Mayor Myron Mixon provided an update on the progress being made on the opening of this summer's Splash Pad, "They've been coming along on the bathrooms and shingles on the roof. I talked to the engineer and it will be completed by Memorial Day."

The council agreed to confirm that a street name should be John D. Law Drive due to information to the effect that the county had it listed as John D. Law Avenue. Officials also OK'd the purchasing price to replace the front and back tires on the back hoe for the public works department.

Director Leon Lester also announced, "We repaired a major water leak repair and we got that done. Also, we weeded both cemeteries and we're going to try and spray it some more, so we can keep the weeds under control. Out here on Highway 230, I've got to get a permit from GDOT near Highway 230, we've got a water leak with probably a problem with a two-inch line." He also stated that there were three more leaks to repair as well as cleaning out a cross-drain pipe.

Unadilla FireRescue Fire



Photo Contributed

A draft of what the new splash pad in Unadilla will look like.

Units also had responded to one call so far during the month that occurred back on Wednesday, April 1 to the Landing Zone for Air Evac at Dooly State Prison. There have been a total of 37 calls so far in 2026.

During the Mayor's report, Myron Mixon announced, "It is time to begin updating our comprehensive plan that is done every 10 years. In the past, we have had the River Valley Regional Commission assist us with the planning process, requiring resolutions and public hearings. The Ga. Planning Act requires each community to submit a comp plan in order to receive their qualified local government status. Ian Perry from RVRC also informed me that he has pulled and to research deeds for two-three people pertaining to the CHIP grant who he will give applications to, but they must

tours, a coloring contest, equipment display day and tire day. The city continues to accept items to include in a time capsule to be buried later this year. The theme of this year's Georgia Cities Week is 'Love your City.'

The mayor had earlier commented, "We are so proud of the direction our town is headed and we want to maintain that momentum. Provide the services and infrastructure to help businesses grow and set the stage for events where families and individuals can gather as a community."

The event is sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association. Officials approved usage of the softball field by UPS to hold a kick-ball tournament June 20. Also a green-light was given for a Juneteenth event to be held June 21.

Georgia Cities Week Observed in Unadilla

Contributed

Join the City of Unadilla this week in celebrating Georgia Cities Week April 20-24.

The theme is 'Georgia Cities Love Your City.' Cities across Georgia will be celebrating Ga. Cities Week, sponsored by Ga. Municipal Association (GMA), to showcase and celebrate cities and the



many services they provide.

Thursday, the Mayor Reading as Georgia Car-

line visits city hall and Friday is city spring clean-up including free limb-debris pick up.

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 for the seat currently held by Mr.

Michael Bowens. The Board of Education District two election will feature Sharal McShell Young on the Democratic ballot May 19 with Michael Fletcher, who is also running for that school board district two seat on the Republican ballot. 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.

Accident Investigation Leads to Recovery of Stolen Gun and Arrest

By CCSO

Deputies with the Crisp County Sheriff's Office responded to a single-vehicle accident on Interstate 75 Monday, April 14 around 3:30 a.m. near mile marker 104 northbound. While examining the crash scene, deputies located a firearm with two magazines and ammunition thrown over the median barrier and scattered across the southbound side of the highway near

the crash site. The handgun was checked and confirmed to have been stolen out of the state of Florida. A second weapon, a ghost gun was located beside the vehicle. A ghost weapon is made from parts purchased over the internet with no serial number. Dan Cleveland, 18 of Macon, Ga. was charged with Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a felony offense.

Wildfire Prevention Starts With You

By the Georgia Forestry Commission

Georgia has already experienced 2,280 wildfires in 2026, burning more than 20,533 acres across the state. That's 52.9% more fires and 112% more acres burned compared to our five-year average. With much of Georgia still facing drought conditions and little rain in sight, the risk of wildfire remains high. Many of these fires are preventable,

often sparked by everyday activities like dragging trailer chains, parking hot vehicles in dry grass, or leaving embers unattended. Together, we can make a difference because wildfire prevention starts with you. Fighting fire. Protecting forests. Serving Georgia. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-ForestryCommission/> for more information.

SPLASH PAD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

the VHPC to fill the term of Stan Tydings which expires December 31, 2028. Former Magistrate Court Judge Al Willis spoke to the council thanking officials, "For paving Old Americus Road. It was in bad shape and the

bridge went out and got worse due to the truck traffic through there. The county paved all the way through to Highway 27 on it. I can safely say that we have the best road in Vienna and Dooly County."

BOE Focuses on Personnel Moves as School System Prepares for New School Year



Pictured are some of the students from Dooly County K-8 Academy who were presented certificates of achievement who were awarded 'Georgia Movie Academy' ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) awards for Innovative Designer.

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The school board accepted the resignations of Jabria Collier as Eighth Grade Science Teacher at DCMS effective June 30 and also James Walker who resigned back on April 1 as a DCSS school bus driver. Kylie Garrard-Family and Communications Engagement Specialist will be shifting into her new role as K-12 Gifted Coordinator effective July 1 as the school system prepares for another school year. Keshia Douglas will be the DCSS Chief Academic Officer-Federal Programs Director, Phillip Gentry-CTAE Director-Dooly County College and Career Academy CEO, Jody Pate will be the Director of Teaching and Learning (elementary), while Dr. Amilia Woolfork takes on the role of Director of Teaching and Learning (secondary) with these recommendations becoming effective July 1, Ka'liyah Burnam will be stepping into her role as a Pre-K teacher at DCES, Sheretha Siddon will serve as a DCES Kindergarten Teacher, Joe Brown III- DCMS REP Math Teacher, Anjaiah Vadla-DMS Eighth Grade Math Teacher and Emory Kendrick-DCSS Bus Driver. Officials approved a proposal from Coastal Signs and Graphics the installation of security

windows and door graphics at entry points to maintain a safe, secure and protected learning environment at a cost of \$64,002.67. The school board agreed to the necessary repairs to DCHS visitor's press box at the football stadium in the amount of \$32,926.20 with that estimate to be paid by the insurance co. Also granted was an additional amount of \$13,455.80 costs associated with the claim that would be paid through the general fund. The repairs were caused due to damage caused by a rain event/ Repairs will be made to the interior and exterior components of the structure, the siding, roofing, insulation, flooring and interior to restore the facility to a safe and operational condition. In other action taken by the board, the certified and classified salary schedules were given the go-ahead. In a related item, the school board on a vote of three in favor and two opposed agreed to the school system's fiscal year 2027 supplements for academics, athletics, champion and leadership positions. CFO Christopher Stephens presented his monthly report noting that the, "SPLOST VI distribution for the month of March, we received \$128,442.50 in revenues." Special recognition was hand-



Pictured is second grade student Miss Madelyn Morales-Gonzalez calling the meeting to order as School Board Vice-Chair Sherri Taylor looks on.

ed out at the school board meeting along with congratulations to, "Dr. Hollie Walters and Mr. Alvin Williams for completing the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders New Principals Institute. Your commitment to growing as instructional leaders inspires us all." Assistant Principals Mrs. Carla Mahone, Mrs. Kristen Anderson, and Dr. Chiquita Granville were also recipients of certificates from the Georgia State Principals Center Seminar." The school system also handed certificates of achievement to elementary and high school, 'Georgia Movie Academy' teams who were awarded the

ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) award for Innovative Designer. Last Thursday's school board meeting was called to order by second grade student Miss Madelyn Morales-Gonzalez who is Mrs. Buford's class. In other news: • The Dooly County School Employee Handbook was approved. It includes an increase in the number of sick leave days from three to five days for the 2026-2027 school year. • The school board OK'd submission of a GSBA exemplary school board application.

Suspect Arrested Following Vehicle Pursuit and Assault on Law Enforcement



Nickalus Mainor

By CCSO

A deputy from the Crisp County Sheriff's Office assisted the Georgia State Patrol in a vehicle pursuit Saturday, April 11 around 11:45 p.m. A Georgia State Patrol trooper had initially attempted to stop a vehicle that refused to yield, leading to a chase through the city of Cordele. A Crisp County deputy joined the pursuit as a secondary unit to assist. During the chase, the suspect vehicle traveled through several city streets until the Georgia State

Patrol executed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, bringing the vehicle to a stop. However, the driver attempted to flee again by accelerating and deliberately colliding with a Crisp County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle. The driver, identified as Nickalus Mainor, exited the vehicle and tried to escape on foot. With the help of the Georgia State Patrol, a Taser was deployed, and the suspect was taken into custody without any further incident. Nickalus Mainor, a 44-year-

old male from Byron, Ga. had active warrants and was wanted by the U.S. Marshals Service. He now faces additional charges of: Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Police Officer, (two Counts), Obstructing or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, Aggravated Assault, Willful Obstruction of Law Enforcement Officers, Interference with Government Property (Felony), Failure to Obey Stop Sign, Failure to Maintain Lane and Seatbelt Violation.

STEVE SANDERS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

with you these last few years." County Clerk Linda Woodson shared, "He's taught me how to be humble and I'm thankful and grateful to have had this experience. I appreciate you from the bottom of my heart." Chairman David Barron said, "Steve has gotten better over time and if he didn't know the answer, he would get it. I never would say anything to anybody on the street unless I called Steve and 99.9% of the time, he had the correct answer. I appreciate what you did." A plaque was presented to Steve Sanders, "In appreciation for the 40-years of service as the Dooly County Administrator. You led by example, you set the bar and made a lasting impact that we will always cherish. As this chapter of your life ends here, a new and exceptional one begins after retirement. From the Dooly County Board of

Commissioners." Mr. Sanders responded, "It was three-member when I came and I had an excellent staff now. It's been a good life, but it's time for it to be over. I'm looking forward to good things from 'Dani' and I hope y'all will support her in her efforts. She's got some good ideas. She's going to do things different than I am, but that doesn't mean it's wrong." Following a meeting of the planning commission Monday, April 13, the board of commissioners approved two rezoning requests and conditional use applications, one by David Burke that was also approved by the planning commission. The property was zoned Ag, and changed to Industrial to allow for the operation of a pallet company and saw mill located at 4890 Calhoun Road at the old Taylor Cotton Gin facility.

A request by Fred Hall, Jr. to rezone and a variance application that had also been approved by the planning commission is for property that was zoned Agricultural and it was changed to C-2 General Commercial and was also given a green-light by the board of commissioners. The change will allow for the operation of a gasoline service station. A variance was also approved to permit two additions to the structure located at 123 Hall Road in Unadilla. The board also OK'd the appointment of Commissioner Timothy Robinson to replace retiring and outgoing County Administrator Steve Sanders on the Middle Ga. Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. He joins Commissioner Tony Lester on that seven member board representing Dooly County.

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Third Street Baptist Church Hosting Benefit Sing

By Linda Mitchell, Director
Third Street Baptist Church in Cordele, Ga. is hosting a benefit sing by the Dixie Rhythm Boys for Daybreak Pregnancy Resource Center in Vienna, Ga. The event is this Saturday, April

25 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. These funds will go toward helping families in Crisp, Dooly and Wilcox Counties. Pastor Bobby Ryals is Pastor at Third Street Baptist Church. Hope to see you at the Benefit sing.

Unadilla's April Yard of the Month

By Sabrina Holmes

The April 2026 Yard of the Month winner is the Hinkson home located at 925 Third Street. This corner lot offers lots of natural shade and is perfectly manicured with beautiful bushes lining the walkway. This family has taken the time to ensure that their neighborhood looks great, and we encourage the community to do the same. The YOM competition will continue through September. Please contact city hall to nominate next month's winner.



AFBF: Rail merger would be costly for farmers

By Georgia Farm Bureau

The proposed merger of the Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railways would leave farmers with fewer transportation options and vulnerable to shipping cost increases at a time when balance sheets have been squeezed to the breaking point by rapidly rising input costs. Transportation, marketing and storage expenses are projected to rise to a record \$14 billion in 2026. American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the UP-NS merger in the March 11 Market Intel. "The risk of the UP-NS merger is clear," the Market Intel states. "It would leave farmers more dependent on fewer

railroads at a time when they already have almost no ability to walk away from higher costs or poor service. The merger does not create new competition for agriculture. It removes what little leverage remains by eliminating key routing and interchange options that currently help keep rates and service in check. When that pressure disappears, history shows that farmers do not ship less, they get paid less." The \$85 billion proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern would create the first coast-to-coast Class I railroad in U.S. history. The system would span roughly 50,000 route miles across 43 states. For farmers, fewer rout-

ing and carrier options would leave large portions of the country dependent on a single railroad for end-to-end service, reducing system redundancy that helps protect critical food and agricultural supply chains during disruptions. Farmers rely heavily on rail to move their products. In 2024 alone, U.S. railroads carried more than 80 million tons of corn, 26 million tons of soybeans and nearly 26 million tons of wheat, much of it originating in the Midwest and northern Plains. In fact, food and farm products represent about 20% of total U.S. rail tonnage. "The vulnerability of agricultural shippers to further consolidation is magnified by the

inelastic nature of rail demand, meaning farmers often cannot meaningfully reduce or change how they ship even when rail costs rise. For many bulk commodities, especially grain produced far from river systems or major processing centers, rail is not easily substitutable. Trucking long distances significantly increases per-unit costs, while barge access is geographically limited." The long-term effect of a merger could be an increase in food prices for consumers as expenses go up throughout the food supply chain. For these reasons, the American Farm Bureau Federation opposes the merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.



UnEarth a Story Summer Reading 2026 at Elizabeth Harris Library

By Library Manager Rhonda Woodward Bartlett

Please thank our sponsors. Elizabeth Harris Library in Unadilla is so excited about this year's theme and scheduled performers. With the support of Mayor of Unadilla, Myron Mixon and the City of Unadilla.

Vienna Garden Club Presents Monetary Donation to Dooly County Library



By Marsha Mulderig
Kloberdanz, library manager and Marsha Mulderig, Vienna Garden Club President.

Vienna Garden Club recently donated \$300 to the Dooly County Library. Pictured are Elaine Johnson, president of the local library board, Jill

Vienna Garden Club Donates Children's Books



By Marsha Mulderig

The Vienna Garden Club recently donated two books to raise awareness of environmental issues. 'The HoneyBee' by Kirsten Hall Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault and 'Ducks Overboard! A True Story of Plastic in Our Oceans' by Markus Motum were presented to Dooly County Library. Pictured are Elaine Johnson, president of the local library board, Jill Kloberdanz, library manager and Marsha Mulderig, Vienna Garden Club President.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR



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.

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

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.

"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)

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

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
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- 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

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- Forest Chapel Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA 478-645-3476
- Harmony Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Healing and Deliverance Church** Unadilla, GA 478-627-3775
- Liberty Baptist Church** Pinehurst, GA 229-645-3584
- Lilly Baptist Church** Lilly, GA
- Macedonia Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-1582
- Little Poplar Baptist Church** Byromville, GA
- Living Water Baptist Church** Unadilla, GA
- Mars Hill Baptist Church** Vienna, GA 229-268-6795
- Midway Independent Methodist**

- 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 GARDENING CHORES PART TWO

April is probably the busiest month for the average Southern gardener. There are so many tasks to get to (and we rarely get to them all). Following are some tasks worth considering during this sublime gardening month.

If you have canna lilies, be aware of a common problem affecting them—leaves that do not unfurl as they should in the spring. When examined closely, it is often found that the edges of the leaves have been woven together by silver webbing. When the leaf is unrolled, very often a white grub is found deep inside the leaf—the canna leaf roller. This grub is the larvae of the moth that laid its eggs on the leaves as they sprang from the soil in early spring. Control is best achieved by frequent examination and removal of these caterpillars. Also, remember to remove and destroy all canna lily stalks and foliage in November. The leaf roller moths overwinter in the dead leaves of the canna and, by removing their habitat, their life cycle is disrupted.

Remove faded flowers and seed pods of daffodils before they go to seed. Leave the green stems to carry on photosynthesis. This serves to bolster energy by storing food in the bulbs for next year's blossoms.

Tomatoes can do quite well in large containers at least ten gallons in volume. Larger pots are better. Choose a determinate tomato variety for best results. Determinate tomatoes grow shorter than their indeterminate counterparts and produce most of their fruit at once, while indeterminates keep growing and producing fruit throughout the season. Use a porous commercial potting mix for best results. Add a tablespoon of lime per gallon of volume to provide calcium to assist in the prevention of the dreaded blossom end rot. Put your pot in a sunny location with at least six hours of sun per day. A little afternoon shade is desirable. Water only when the soil feels dry to the touch a couple of inches down, then water generously enough so that a little excess water drains from the bottom of the pot each time you water.

For container plantings and in the garden, fertilize your prized tomatoes well early on, adding a complete fertilizer with minor elements every couple of weeks. Do this until the first tomatoes appear, then reduce the nitrogen level by about one half (change to a fertilizer with less nitrogen or apply the same fertilizer half as often). This will help ensure plentiful blossoms and fruit rather than excessive

stems and leaves at the expense of fruit production.

Perennials are a favorite in Georgia gardens. April is a good time to divide and replant them. If you haven't yet fertilized your perennials, apply a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 granular at a rate of one pound per 100 square feet of bed space. Fertilizing three times a year (April, June, and August) is sufficient.

Hybrid tea roses are always a challenge, and if you want large flowers, you can encourage their formation by disbudding individual stems. Select a stem that has a small but healthy-looking bud at the tip. Carefully cut off any side buds beneath it. This directs the plant's energy toward producing one large bloom on that stem instead of several smaller ones.

Pests are always a challenge in the flower garden. Aphids are a major challenge. Often found in the soft, tender tips of plants, they suck sap from stems and leaves, weakening the plant, and can disfigure the plants' growing tips. Suspect aphids if you see ants on a particular plant. Examine the undersides of leaves at the tips of the branches. Aphids may be green, yellow, black, or other colors, and they are quite visible with the naked eye. They have six legs and are pear-shaped. If you find aphids, try blasting them off the plant with a strong stream of water from a hand-held pump-up sprayer or water hose nozzle.

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.



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder WHISKY RIVER

I overheard the young lady say to her friend, "We went to Whisky River last Saturday night. We had a blast. The bourbon was flowing freely. I was so tipsy when I left that I could hardly make it to the car!" She didn't indicate if someone drove her home or she drove herself. I certainly hope she was chauffeured by someone less inebriated as alcohol and automobiles don't mix, a lethal combination that can result in death on the highways, oftentimes destroying the lives of innocent people. I doubt if the young lady made it to church the next day. She probably suffered an excruciating hangover that left her severely depressed all day Sunday. On Monday, her nerves were probably so frayed she was in no condition to go to work and, if she did, certainly not as a productive employee.

There are those who drink and are still able to make it to church on Sunday, but they don't enjoy a meaningful worship experience. Old Taylor and Wild Turkey have a way of dulling your spiritual receptors. In other words

you just can't seem to 'get with the program' when your head hurts, your stomach is queasy and your brain is still staggering from the effects of the night before. A preacher friend of mine once told me he was appalled at the number of people in his church that drank excessively. I would imagine that, if everyone who entered church on Sunday had to excuse themselves from the service if they drank the night before, the number of people setting in the pews would be significantly reduced. Churchgoers have ingenious ways of obtaining spirits without being seen doing so.

Many will justify drinking by saying that Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding in Canaan or that Paul wrote Timothy to take a little wine for his infirmities. An uncle once told me that "the Bible states it's better to drink it than to crave it." Knowing this wasn't in the Scriptures, I replied that the verse must have come from Hezekiah to which he agreed. Incidentally, Hezekiah was a king of Judah not a book of the Bible.

Georgia Legislature backed bill that would give residents new rights against homeowner associations

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Among the more popular bills to pass out of the Georgia General Assembly last week was a measure that would make it more difficult for homeowners' associations to foreclose on members' homes over disputes about money.

Sen. Matt Brass, R-Newnan, told fellow lawmakers during hearings on the bill that he had heard numerous anecdotes about associations that had abused their authority to levy fines, piling up bills that had led to liens on homes and then to foreclosure.

"You might have a rogue board member or a bad management company that wants a neighbor out or they want to try to get possession of that property," he said at a hearing last month. "And they start fining and feeing people."

Senate Bill 406 passed the Senate unanimously and it passed the state House by an overwhelming bipartisan margin. If Gov. Brian Kemp allows it to become law, it will put guardrails around the associations' authority to fine residents and place liens against their properties.

It would require associations to register annually with the Georgia Secretary of State if they plan to collect fines and fees. It would limit the types of debt that associations could use to place a lien on a property. It would double the current \$2,000 debt threshold for filing a lien provided owners are not in arrears for at least a year. It would require associations to upload certain records to the state and open their fi-

nancial books to members. And it would establish a hearing process for disputes to be overseen by the Secretary of State.

Caroline Simmons has been in a long-running dispute with her Decatur-area condominium association over the cost of new water meters. She asserted that the meters were not needed and that the board had failed to follow protocol to contract for them. She then sued.

SB 406 would give her an alternative to the courts.

"It means I have someplace other than the court to go to be able to rectify everything that I believe that the board is doing in violation of not only our declaration but of Georgia law," Simmons said in an interview this week.

She was among several homeowners who testified about aggressive association behavior at that hearing with Brass last month.

One man described a battle over the pavers he placed in the mud to give his pregnant wife safe passage through the yard. He said the association levied thousands of dollars in fines after ordering them removed.

Another man said he had spent \$25,000 dealing with water runoff from a neighbor's property. The association did not like the work he had done, which led to a costly legal fight. He called the associations "judge, jury and executioner."

A real estate agent described how an owner was at risk of losing his home because he failed to respond to an association order to repaint his front door.

She said the man had been busy tending to his dying wife.

At a prior hearing in February, a representative for the associations argued that there was no need for SB 406. Julie Howard, a lawyer who said she was a volunteer for the Community Associations Institute, said there are over 11,300 associations for condominiums and homes in Georgia, representing over 2.5 million people — about a quarter of the state.

She said residents voluntarily chose to live under those associations and that Brass was hearing from a relatively small number with complaints. She said there were already processes to hold boards accountable, including board elections.

"We don't think it's good law to make law based on a few rogue actors," Howard said.

But Brass said the existing processes had failed to protect the people who had come to him, and he described the protections in SB 406 as modest, with minimal burden on the associations. All they must do is spend \$100 a year to register with the Secretary of State and upload some of their records, he said. He said the legislation scratches the surface of the problems but establishes a framework for additional regulation in the future.

Homeowners' associations are effectively small cities, and require oversight, he said in an interview Thursday.

"I was trying to rein in the bad associations without punishing the good ones," he said. "And I think that was as close as we could get it, for now anyway."



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

Writings From The Heart

THINGS TO DISCUSS THIS WEEK

1). When milking a cow the old fashion way, you had better tie her tail to her leg (especially if the tail is damp or wet) because she is gonna slap you upside the head more than a few times before you finish. And I ain't kidding! Yes siree!!

2). The only job I was EVER fired from was helping add on to the Southern Bell building in

Americus right before I started college at Georgia Southwestern in 1966. The foreman had asked me to climb up a scapple type thing we had built. I got up about 20 feet and froze in place. I COULD NOT GO ANOTHER INCH! I did not know I had the fear of heights until then. I had climbed trees, barns, and other heights, but

Trying to get a person to quite drinking is close to impossible. Tell them that the CDC in Atlanta estimates that drinking (or smoking) shortens the average person's life span by 12-years and they will counter with the example of Uncle Bud who drank every day of his life, was making daily treks down to the pool room at age 95 to get his midday mug of beer and who lived to be 106. Actuarial departments of major insurance companies simply say that "the more you drink, the quicker you die". You can never convince a person that running on his or her own steam—at peace with self, fellowman and God—is a superior state to the 'buzz' of a chemical fix. Unfortunately, with the exception or long-term, fervent prayer, there is really very little you can do to get a person to stop drinking. Usually, nothing short of direct intervention by God will cause a person to quit. And sometimes God's remedy may not be the preferred alternative.

The Holy Scriptures warn us that strong drink is a mocker and a destroyer of lives. Personally, I do not condemn those who suffer this addiction. It is my fervent prayer that, through God's wonderful plan for their lives, they will find a way to quit.

this time I froze. He hollered for me to come down and then said to me, "I cannot use anyone who can't do the job. Leave the property." I did.

3). I don't know how in the world the Lord saved me when I was 32 years old. I was a mess. No, I had not killed anyone, robbed a bank, or broken into someone's house, but I was a mess spiritually. He gloriously saved me in 1975, and I have been as happy as a pig in a mud-whole ever since. PRAISE THE LORD!!! If y'all aren't saved, He can do the same for you. Try it, you will like it. That's for sure.

Always remember, Jesus loves us to heaven and back. Until next time.

Chancellor Perdue to retire, ending historic political career

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue announced Wednesday that he will retire from his job overseeing the state's 25 public colleges and universities, ending a career that spanned more than four decades, from service on a local zoning board to the cabinet of President Donald Trump, with two terms as governor in between.

"As I prepare to retire, I'm grateful for our presidents, faculty and staff, our students and the many communities that make up this remarkable system," Perdue said in a statement. He did not give a definitive date, saying he would leave the post after a national search finds a successor.

Just over four years ago, on April 1, 2022, Perdue assumed leadership of a higher education system that now has a \$12.1 billion budget, with 54,000 employees and 382,000 students.

Enrollment has grown during his tenure.

"Under his leadership, the system has seen record enrollment, modernized campuses and advanced medical education, including the launch of UGA's new School of Medicine," Gov. Brian Kemp said in a statement, adding that Per-

due's time leading the University System of Georgia "has solidified a legacy of impact that will continue for generations to come."

A native of Perry, Perdue attended undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Georgia, earning a veterinarian medical degree. He flew in the U.S. Air Force and owned an agricultural business.

He started his political career in the 1980s, on the Houston County Planning and Zoning Board, before making his way to the state Senate in 1991. He chaired the Senate Higher Education Committee and rose to the top rung for a senator as President Pro Tem.

In 2003, he made history by becoming the first Republican to occupy the Georgia governor's office since Reconstruction, serving the maximum two terms. Trump, in his first term as president, then tapped Perdue as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

After his pivot to chancellor, Perdue focused on affordability, eliminating a fee that saved students hundreds of dollars a year. He also restrained tuition growth, with students on average paying less now than in 2017 when adjusted for inflation, according to the system.

On Tuesday, the system Board of Regents raised tuition by 1% for in-state students and by 3%

for out-of-state students.

Despite Perdue's attention to affordability, critics noted that Georgia higher education remained out of reach for many from low-income households.

Georgia was among just two states without a comprehensive scholarship program based on financial need.

Lawmakers finally addressed that this year, budgeting \$325 million as seed money toward a need-based program to be called the DREAMS Scholarship Endowment Fund. They placed the program under the control of the Georgia Student Finance Authority, but the idea started as a small fund in the University System of Georgia Foundation, under the leadership of Perdue.

The national search for Perdue's successor will be conducted by a committee of the Board of Regents, with help from a consultant and from former Chancellor Stephen R. Portch and former Georgia State University President Mark Becker.

After they find a successor, Perdue, who has served as a foster parent with his wife, Mary, will have more time to spend with their four children, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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.

NO26-013
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

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

NO26-018
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

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.
 This 13th day of April, 2026.
 MONYIA ASKEW and DOROTHY BRYANT
 Administrators of the Estate of DENAJAH L. ASKEW, Deceased
 1366 Pinehurst Hawksville Road
 Pinehurst, GA 31070
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026

NO26-021
PUBLIC SELL NOTICE
 Public sale to highest bidder all contents of mini storage unit #4. Hwy 90, west, Vienna Ga.
 Contents: miscellaneous merchandise in the possession of Ralph Smith and personal property of Miranda Adams.
 Sell will be held on: May 2, 2026 @10am.
 2. Jaliz Bass unit #18
 3. No name unit #21
 4. Tamyra Almond unit #27
 5. Parnell Brown unit #35
 6. Erica Reehal unit #41
 7. Chip Moore unit #44
 8. Kimberly Snipes unit #49
 9. LaTonya Royal unit #51
 10. Sherre LaMotte unit #54
 11. No name unit #57
 12. Shonda Seay unit # 60
 13. Corinthian Quarterman Unit # 11
 April 22, 29, 2026

NO26-022
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ESTHER NEI BAWI, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0015
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
 TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern:
JOHN MANG PI has petitioned for **JOHN MANG PI** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **ESTHER NEI BAWI** deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **May 25, 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.

NO26-020
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, DOOLY COUNTY
In Re: Estate of DENAJAH L. ASKEW, Deceased
 All creditors of the Estate of **DENAJAH L. ASKEW**, deceased, late of Dooly County are hereby 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 the undersigned.
 This 13th day of April, 2026.
 MONYIA ASKEW and DOROTHY BRYANT
 Administrators of the Estate of DENAJAH L. ASKEW, Deceased
 1366 Pinehurst Hawksville Road
 Pinehurst, GA 31070
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 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:
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

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

NO26-016
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

Trojans One Win Away Over CA From Winning Region Championship

By Head Coach
 Mike Ashley

We had another region game against Grace Christian out of Bainbridge came up to see us at our field last Tuesday. We had already beat them the previous time. So, we had two more games this past week with them to see if we could get our first sweep in a region set. We had a good game coming in at home and our guys were excited to play 'em and we looked good in practice. Brantley Ross had another fantastic pitching day against Grace. He had a 2.80 ERA with 10 strikeouts.
 Eli Ashley continued to do what he does. He went two for three with a double and had a RBI. Cash Greene was one for three, two RBI, Augie Harris and Chase Hughes were both one for two and Clay Sangster had another big day with a couple of RBI. John Wilson Floyd had three RBI, so we got a really good outing collectively throughout the whole team.

We ended up 'run ruling' them 16-5. So, we prepared for another trip down to Bainbridge Thursday and had Cash Greene starting on the mound to see if could close out the series and did great, giving up one earned run and 10 strikeouts, pitched really well. We got off to a really slow start offensively, it was almost painstaking to watch.
 The first four innings, I think we scored one run, we were in a really tight ball game. They weren't threatening, but we could not hit their pitching who was probably pitching 60 miles-per-hour and he had our timing off, everybody was out front-pop ups. It got frustrating to watch, so about the fifth inning, I'd had enough so I 'jumped all over 'em' and they finally responded, so Augie Harris, Brantley Ross and Eli Ashley went two for five and Eli's had his .500 on base percentage, so he was getting on base and doing what he does with three at-bats 10 pitches or more and kept fouling the ball off with two strikes. He's done a great job for us and has more 10 pitch at-bats than I've ever

seen a player have in a season.
 Tucker Sorrow is struggling a little bit, but he was getting on base, so he did his job. J.W. Floyd had another good solid game with three RBI, so we busted loose in the last inning and ended up beating them 14-1, something I thought we should have done in three-four innings, but it ended up taking us the whole ball game.
 To finish it out and for the guys to respond at the end of the game, that was a good thing to see. We had a lot going on this week as far as watching the other region games going on.
 We're in a tie with Crisp Academy, so that's going to come down to our game on the 28th to see who wins the region. Westwood did a great job against 'em going 2-1 against CA, but lost a heartbreaker the last game they played the Wildcats at their place. It ended up being a high scoring game 18-11.
 We're looking forward to that challenge and looking forward to bringing the first region cham-

pionship back to Fullington in quite some time. This coming week we played Covenant Academy out of Macon, Ga. Monday at a historical park there, Luther Williams which is where I played American Legion baseball.
 I also played high school ball there against Mount de sales. A lot of Braves players came through there as I was growing up, so it's good for the guys to get to see that and play in that kind of park. It will be a really fun baseball game, but hopefully we can take care of business to boost our state playoffs. We'll play Central Fellowship Christian Academy, also out of Macon on the road, then play CFCA again at our place Thursday, April 23 with the first pitch at 5:00 p.m. in Pinehurst.
 I just hope we finish strong and continue to grow as a team because we're really young, but these guys have done an outstanding job this year. I've been very proud of them.

Enchanted Garden Prom 2026

Our Dooly County High School Prom was truly a night to remember. From the elegant gowns to the sharp, stylish suits, our students looked absolutely beautiful and represented DCHS. A special congratulations to our Prom King Cecil King and Prom Queen Emily Garcia. We are proud to celebrate you both with this well-deserved honor.
 Parents, give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back. This is the fruit of your labor. Your love, support, and dedication were on full display, and it made this night even more special. A big shoutout to DJ Smooth for keeping the energy high and the dance floor going. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success. We are so proud of our students and our community.



DCHS Honor Graduates

Dooly County High School proudly recognizes our Class of 2026 Honor Graduates, 27 outstanding students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, dedication and perseverance.
 We extend a special congratulations to: Valedictorian: Javis Bennett and Salutatorian: Kaleb

Green. Breydon Allen, Elysiah Armstrong, Kennedy Barron, Ashly Bautista-Zacarias, Thailyn Bryant, Evelyn Diaz, Janiyah Fluellen, Katelynn Foster, Emily Garcia, Angelica Gomez-Lechoquin, Karen Sucely Gonzalez, MaSiyah Hamilton, Nazya Hooks, Ja'Mya McNair, Jamarious Nicey, Kimora Odom, Sonia Perez, Jocelyn Presley, Damian

Dooly's Soccer Teams Advance to Next Round of Playoffs



#11 Dodany Mendez
 Photo Contributed



#23 Sophia Gracia
 Photo Contributed

Contributed
 Last Thursday, we honored the Class of 2026 in our senior night matchup against Macon County High School. The Lady Bobcats secured a 4-0 win over Macon County. Sophia Gracia had a brace (two goals), Katerin Garcia and Shortin Woodard had one goal-a-piece. The Bobcat boys were also victorious 4-0 over Macon County.
 Dodany Mendez had a hat trick (three goals) and Michael

Hyatt had one.
 The Dooly County girls who are 5-14 so far on the season played Atkinson County out of Pearson, Ga. in a playoff game on Tuesday, April 21. T he Dooly County boys 15-3 so far, hosted the Atlanta Classical Academy Cavaliers who are 4-9 Wednesday, April 22 in 'The Grove.' Dooly County's Junior Varsity boys secured a 3-3 draw in last Tuesday's match over Montgomery County High

NEED TO ADVERTISE?
 EMAIL our sales rep. **Phyllis Keaton**
 phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com
 (229)938-6253



FA MS Tennis Team Finishes Season Competition

Contributed

The Fullington Academy middle school tennis team completed their season Friday, April 10 against Crisp Academy. The highlight of the season was their first team win against Hawkinsville. Congratulations girls on a great season.



DCHS Varsity Tennis Teams Perform Well in Region Tournament

Contributed

Congratulations to the DCHS Varsity Tennis teams on their performance in the Region Tennis tournament on Tuesday April 14. Girls' tennis placed fourth in Region and Boys' tennis also placed fourth. Both teams will advance to the GHSA State Tournament. Congratulations to our athletes and coach.

Fullington Academy Excels at Region Track Meet

Contributed

The Fullington Academy Track Team competed at the Region Meet Thursday, April 16 at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany, Ga. and what a

day it was. Carson Stevens is a three-time Region Champion in Pole Vault. Willa Kehayes earned third place in both Long Jump and the 100 meter Dash. So proud of these athletes and the entire team. Way to represent Trojans.



Far right: Willa Kehayes who earned third place in Long Jump and 100 meter dash. Photo Contributed



Carson Stevens, three-time region champion in the pole vault. Photo Contributed



WRPD STRONG: NIGHT OF BLUE LIGHTS

FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP

LIVE MUSIC | KIDS ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS

Thursday, May 14 | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Perkins Field, 105 Mulberry St.



THE WARNER ROBINS POLICE DEPARTMENT, ALONGSIDE NEIGHBORING PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES, WILL BE ON SITE WITH VEHICLES, OFFICERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY.