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The News Observer

"Local news means the world to us."

The Vienna News and The Unadilla Observer

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

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State Forester Issues Burn Ban Governor Declares State of Emergency for South Georgia



Contributed

The State Forester has issued a Burn Ban in South Georgia due to extreme drought conditions and the worsening risk of wildfires is rising, especially in the southern region of the state.

As a result, Georgia's State Forester John L. Sabo has issued a ban on outdoor burning for 91 counties.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has also declared a State of Emergency for those 91 counties in South and Central Georgia April 22 in response to widespread, fast-spreading wildfires.

The state of emergency is effective for 30 days lasting until at least May 22, 2026. The purpose is to mobilize state resources, including the Ga. National Guard and air assets to support local fire departments.

A mandatory comprehensive outdoor burn ban was issued concurrently for the same 91 counties, prohibiting the burning of woods, lands, marshes and yard debris.

The order triggers the state's price gouging statute to protect consumers from elevate prices

on fuel and other necessary goods. Mr. Sabo commented, "We need everyone to take this situation seriously.

GFC's wildland firefighters are responding daily to a near-record number of wildfires. It's critical to remember that just one spark or ember can ignite a life-threatening wildfire."

Fully 98% of Georgia's total land area is currently in moderate to exceptional drought conditions. The number of wildfires statewide in April has also now risen above Georgia's five-year average.

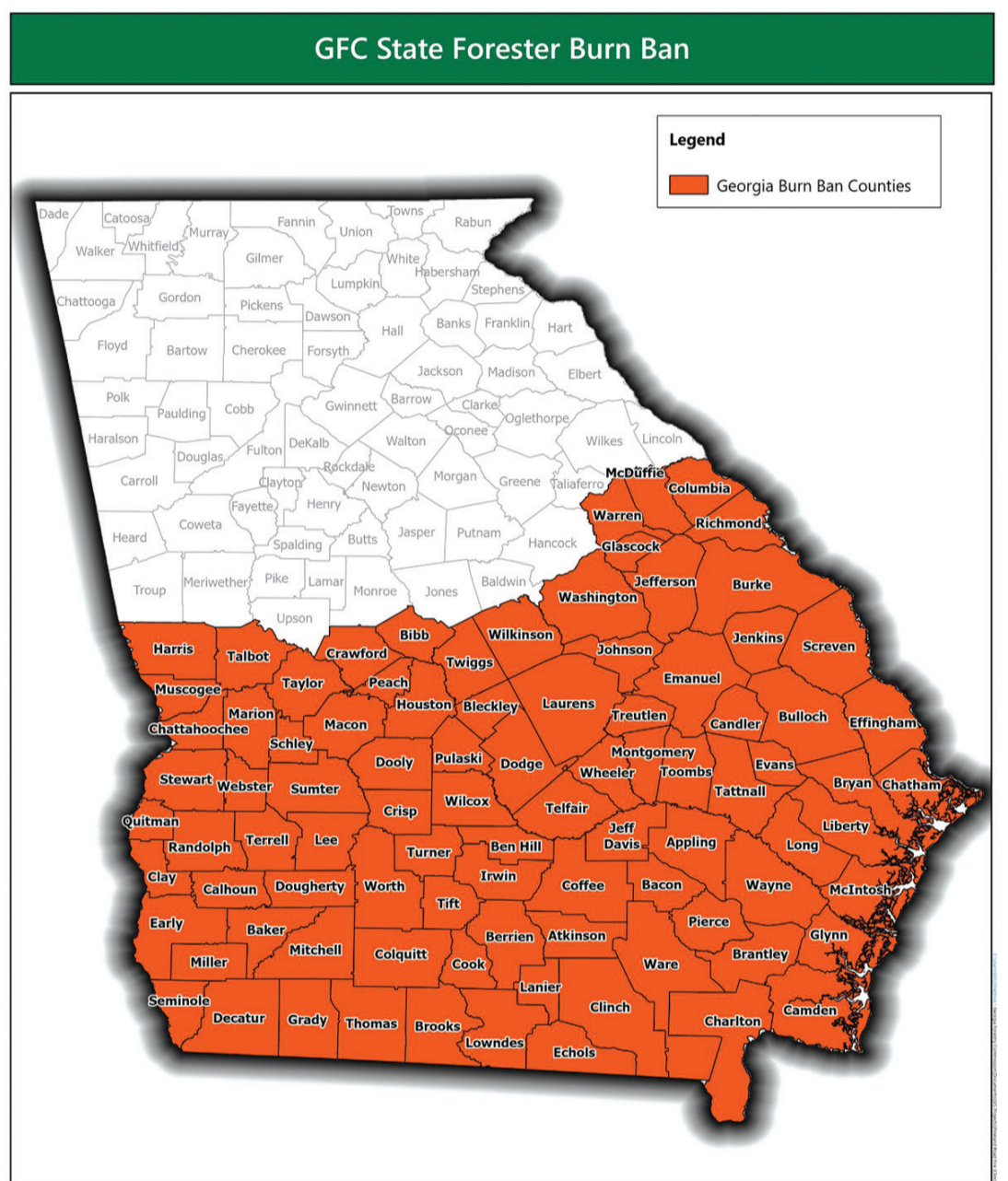
"I want to thank Director Sabo, Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper, Georgia EPD, and all those working to address the impacts of this critical drought," said Governor Brian Kemp.

"Georgia Forestry responders are working hard to battle the wildfires caused by these dry conditions, and I'm encouraging all Georgians to do their part in helping them by adhering to this burn ban."

The burn ban area includes counties below metro Atlanta, running from Harris County in the west all the way to Columbia County in the east and south to the Florida state line and includes Dooly and Crisp County.

This is the first time in the agency's history that a GFC mandatory ban on outdoor burning has been issued.

**BURN BAN
CONTINUED PG 4A**



Prepared by: Georgia Forestry Commission
Date Exported: 4/21/2026
Projection: WGS 1984



VVFD on Scene Offering Assistance Fighting Fires



Photo Contributed

Contributed

Several members of the Vienna Fire Department left for Brantley County early Saturday morning. Our units had a direct effect on saving several houses as well as providing a water supply for other units protecting homes. They made it home safely around 3:30 Sunday morning.

Photo Contributed

City of Unadilla display for Georgia Cities Week in 2026.

Unadilla Embraces Georgia Cities Week 2026 Love Your City

Contributed

Unadilla started Georgia Cities Week Last Monday with a get to know your city day at City Hall as visitors were invited to take a grand tour and then stop at the community center for our equipment display.

Trivia day was last Tuesday and each person who answered all questions correctly had their name entered into a raffle to win \$100. Earth Day was celebrated Wednesday, April 23 and residents were encouraged to clean up plastic in your neighborhood or have a picnic in the park, conserve water, take a nature walk. Day four was Get Families Reading day.

Mayor Myron Mixon who has joined the Mayor's Reading Club encourages you and your family to take the family literacy pledge. Families who read together establish emotional connections creating opportunities for conversation.

Daily reading significantly improves vocabulary, sentence comprehension and phonological awareness. The initiative is led by the Georgia Council on Literacy to improve reading outcomes while celebrating American history.

Day five was city spring cleanup. Volunteers collect-

**GA CITIES WEEK
CONTINUED PG 3A**



Secret Santa Initiative Accepting Donations at Café 41 for Displaced Fire Victims

By Cyndi Garrison

A huge thank you from all of us. We are absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown during this past holiday season's Secret Santa Initiative.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to every single person who donated, participated, and gave so selflessly to make the holidays brighter for others in our community. You reminded us all of what this season is truly about.

Now, our community needs us again. As many of you know, a devastating fire is currently ravaging the southern part of our state, leaving families displaced and in desperate need of support.

In response, we are converting the donation hamper at Café 41 into a non-perishable food and supply donation hamper for

fire victims. What to donate: Canned goods (soups, vegetables, beans, fruit), pasta, rice, cereals, crackers, peanut butter, jam, honey, bottled water and juice boxes, hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo) and baby items if you are able.

Drop off at: The hamper inside Café 41 or at Open Hearts of Vienna, Ga. 1404 East Union Street.

Every single item makes a difference. Whether it's one can or a whole bag, it is all deeply appreciated. These families have lost so much, and your community has always shown up when it matters most.

Let's do it again. We are so ready to do what we can. Any donations will be gathered once weekly and taken to the appropriate drop off locations. Let's do this y'all.

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

By Allison Bowen

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the devastating fires sweeping through the southern part of our state. Families have lost their homes, their belongings, and so much more. Now it's our turn to step up and show them they are not alone.

Open Hearts Ministry will be collecting donations to be delivered directly to Pinehurst Baptist Church, who is actively coordinating relief efforts for fire victims.

We are accepting non-perishable donations, including: Canned goods (soups, vegetables, beans, fruit), pasta, rice, cereals, and crackers, peanut butter, jam, and honey, bottled

water and juice, hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant), baby supplies and diapers if you are able and clothing and blankets (gently used or new). Every donation no matter how big or small will go directly to those who need it most.

These families are going through the unimaginable, and your generosity can make a real difference during one of the hardest times of their lives.

If you have questions about drop-off or would like to help in other ways, please reach out to us directly. Thank you for opening your hearts. That's what we do. Open Hearts Thrift Store is located at 1404 East Union Street in Vienna.

VGC Observes Garden Week in Georgia

Contributed

Garden Week in Georgia 2026 was celebrated April 19-25. Vienna Mayor Eddie Daniels (center) signed a local proclamation naming April 19-25 Garden Week in Georgia. Els Rombaut, owner of Fruits of Vienna and Marsha Mulderig, members of the Vienna Garden Club were on hand at the event last Tuesday. The observance that is held the third week in April celebrates the horticultural beauty of the state, focusing on community engagement and promoting green spaces.



State Representative Stinson Announces \$150,000 for Renovations at Vienna High and Industrial School



Contributed

State Representative Patty Marie Stinson announced last Thursday that she was able to, "Deliver \$150,000 to the Dooly County School System for renovations at the historic Vienna High and Industrial School at 216 Ninth Street."

Dooly County Family Connection Executive Director Amanda O'Neal-Neiscent commented, "Thank you for always being such a huge and active supporter of Dooly

County and the families that call it home." Current school system CEO-College and Career Academy-CTAE Director Dr. Monica Kearsse said, "We are forever grateful and appreciative. Thanks for all of your support and hard work on our behalf."

Other responses were, "Thank you for seeing the vision and moving forward with our request." Local Family Connection President Rhonda Lamb replied, "Thank you so much

Vienna High and Industrial School

for always representing Dooly County and all your constituents."

The Vienna High and Industrial School was attended by African-American students on the east side of Vienna and was built back in 1959. It is also among the largest 'equalization' schools in Georgia. The late Dr. Napoleon Williams was the principal and following desegregation, the building

became the home of the integrated Vienna High School.

Back in 2012, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significant contributions in the areas of architecture designed in the international style by Stevens and Wilkinson out of Atlanta, education, black ethnic heritage and social history with a state historical marker placed on site.

Photo Contributed

STRAIGHT TALK FROM LYNDSEY WALTERS

Criminal Defense Attorney | Courtroom Experience | Court Administrator

Lyndsey knows how the judicial system works because she's been in it. As a public defender, she took multiple jury trials to verdict across our circuit. She's represented clients charged with murder, child molestation, rape, and assault, never shying away from difficult cases.

Being a prepared defense attorney means also understanding the prosecution. In fact, experience isn't defined by which side of the courtroom you stand on. It's defined by how well you know the law, the process, and the people you serve.

She's now Court Administrator and ADR Director for our Superior Court Judges, using her knowledge of criminal and civil law in judicial operations - giving her the exact experience needed to be our DA.

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied.

- The 1700 case backlog is the worst in our circuit's history. Change is desperately needed.
- As of January 2026, there were 4,000 warrants waiting to be indicted or accused.
- Administrative inefficiency is costing taxpayers time and money while delaying justice.

The Bottom Line: The current approach isn't working. Lyndsey is ready to streamline the process, end the backlog, and lead our District Attorney's office.

Early Voting April 27th - May 15th. Election Day May 19th.

VoteLyndsey.com

Paid for by The Committee to Elect *Lyndsey* WALTERS



Lyndsey WALTERS

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY



The Dooly Market-Farmers Producers and Pop-Up

Contributed

The Dooly "Farmers and Producers" Market is in its Inaugural year. In 2025, it was an idea that was organized by a group of volunteers. In 2026, it will provide local farmers, gardeners, growers, artists and artisans as well as food-related businesses with an opportunity to sell directly to residents and provide easy access to farm-fresh items. Also known as the Dooly Market, Farmer, Producers and Pop Up Shops is a co-sponsored event with the City of Vienna, Ga.

Hosted each Thursday Evening from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the city square from May-October. We are currently seeking vendors offering a diverse range of products, including fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, cheeses,

baked goods and cottage foods. We particularly welcome local farmers and artisans who share our commitment to sustainable agriculture. Their participation helps enrich and strengthen our community.

In addition, a limited number of booths will be available for non-profit organizations, local agencies, churches and student fundraising efforts. To further enhance the market experience, we will also feature local musicians and singing groups to provide entertainment throughout the event. We are located in the city square on the lawn. Parking is around the square and there is also parking on Second Street. For more information and to sign up as a vendor, visit <http://doolymarket.com/>.

Thirteenth Annual Home Run 5 K and Fun Run

Contributed

The Home Run 5K and 1 meter Fun Run will be held Saturday, June 7 in Americus at the First Methodist Church beginning at 7:45 a.m. One hundred percent of every dollar contributed as a sponsor of the Home Run benefits the Americus Campus of the Methodist Home, restoring childhoods one step at a time. The race is in memory of a friend of the home, Jay Williams.

St. Paul United Methodist Chapel Pastor Katie Griffis commented, "For those of you who love to support the Methodist Home for Children and Youth, you might want to consider be-

ing a sponsor or supporter of the 5K run. This is a worthwhile cause that we already support in many ways. You can make your donations to the church and mark your payment as designated for the Methodist Home and we will make sure the funds are delivered."

You can also make checks payable to: The Methodist Home Americus Auxiliary and include Home Run 5K on the memo line.

Registration for the Home Run races can be completed at www.TheMethodistHome.org/Events. For more information, contact Rebecca Ferguson: 229-938-3916.

Local Club Celebrates Federation Day

Contributed

The Vienna Woman's Club was chartered in 1955 by the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. We are under the umbrella of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which was founded by Jane Cunningham Croly. In the late 1850's, Croly was widely known for her syndicated column written under the pen name "Jennie June."

She became the editor of the New York World in 1862. In 1868, the New York Press Club denied her admittance to a special program being presented by Charles Dickens.

She was so incensed that she formed the Sorosis Woman's Club. By 1889, Croly convened a national convention of women who formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

April 24th is celebrated annually as Federation Day and is part of Volunteers in Action Week celebrated annually during the third week of April and this year was observed April 19 to 25.

This week-long celebration placed a spotlight on inspiring figures whose invaluable seeds of kindness through volunteering are bettering the community and our world in general. This significant celebration was established in 1974 and it provides the perfect opportunity to say thank you.

It also challenges us to do better and look for ways to be active participants, joining hands to impact our local communities and calling for more support. For more information about joining, visit: facebook.com/viennawomansclub/.

CCU's ROC DA MIC is Sooner Than You Think

Contributed

June Seventh is coming fast and the energy is already through the roof. ROC DA MIC is going to be one for the books, Unadilla. Free event, Live performances, Commu-

nity love right here at Christ Chapel. You do not want to hear about it later, you want to say you were there. 400 Jeanette Street, Unadilla, Ga. Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

GA CITIES WEEK

CONTINUED FROM 1A

trash in neighborhoods, parks and city right of ways.

This project fosters community pride while removing tons of litter from city roadsides. Cleanups protect local ecosystems by reducing plastic pollution and debris that threaten wildlife. Help us to maintain clean streets and an improved quality of life.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing at 5:30 PM on May 18, 2026, at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the Planning Commission to receive citizens' input and comments on the following zoning requests.

Request #1 – Jose & Lisa Garcia have submitted a Re-Zoning application for parcel #65-6 currently zoned R-2 (Multi-family Residential). The request is to Rezone the property from R-2 (Multi-family Residential) to AG (Agricultural). The rezoning request is to allow farm animals and farm business operations on the property. The property is located at 812 Hwy 41 Vienna, GA 31092.

Dooly County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Dooly County will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (seven working days).

For more information, contact Zoning Administrator Glenn A. Layson at 229-268-4228.



PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna.** The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the Dooly County Commission to receive citizens' input and comments on a text amendment amending the present Ordinance of AG (Agricultural) Article IV Section 5 & 6 to contain new setbacks, Agricultural confinement buildings and quantity of animal allowed. A copy of the proposed text amendment is available by contacting Zoning Administrator, Glenn A. Layson, via email at zoning@doolycountyga.com; via telephone at (229) 268-4228; via internet doolycountyga.com under the public notices tab; or in person during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the exception of lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street Vienna.

The recommendation for the zoning text amendment comes from the Dooly County Planning Commission and will be presented by the Zoning Administrator on their behalf. Any private individual shall be entitled to speak and/or present evidence as in favor or in opposition to the proposed change to the zoning text before the Dooly County Commission at the public hearing.

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PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing at 9:30 AM on May 21, 2026, at the Dooly County Commissioners Office at 113 N. Third Street in Vienna. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow the Commissioners to receive citizens' input and comments on the following zoning requests.

Request #1 – Jose & Lisa Garcia have submitted a Re-Zoning application for parcel #65-6 currently zoned R-2 (Multi-family Residential). The request is to Rezone the property from R-2 (Multi-family Residential) to AG (Agricultural). The rezoning request is to allow farm animals and farm business operations on the property. The property is located at 812 Hwy 41 Vienna, GA 31092.

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For more information, contact County Administrator Danielle Jefferson at 229-268-4228.

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: editor@ganewsobserver.com



Christ Chapel Bingo Night in Byromville

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

Town of Dooling Meeting

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

Dooly County Library

1200 East Union St., Vienna
Mon. - Thurs. 9AM-6PM
Fri. 9:30A.M. - 4P.M.
Closed Saturday.
Thursdays - COLOR & CHAT. Color books and colored pencils will be provided

or you can bring your own. For more information contact Jill Kloberdanz, library manager library at 229-268-4687.

The Elizabeth Harris Library

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

"An Hour of Encouragement"

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

Bethlehem Baptist Church

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

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
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- 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

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

- Church** Vienna, GA
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- 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 MELONS, MELONS AND MORE MELONS

Melons are a favorite of many gardeners. According to the National Garden Bureau, from which this information comes, there are over 15 types of melons available around the globe. The most popular ones here in America are the cantaloupe, muskmelon, and honeydews, but there are many more that you may wish to grow and taste test. Look for these in mail-order seed catalogs. They are there-I have seen a few of them myself.

Middle Eastern melons, or ananas, are oval-shaped with fine netting with pale green to orange skin and very sweet, fragrant white flesh. Its name means "pineapple" because of its unique pineapple-like scent. Average weight is three to four pounds. One named variety is called San Juan.

Eastern U. S. cantaloupes are yellow-orange summer melons with firm, thick orange flesh, which remains firm whether the fruit is harvested or left on the vine. Five to six pounds at maturity. A few varieties include Athena, Ambrosia, Aphrodite, and Avatar. Some old-time varieties are Hales Best Jumbo, Iroquois, and Edisto.

Canary melons, also known as Spanish or San Juan canary melons, have bright yellow skin and have oblong shapes. They are slightly larger than

cantaloupes or honeydews. Inside, the flesh is creamy colored and mild. They have a strong, pleasant aroma and sweet flesh that is very good mixed into a fruit salad. An example is Tweety.

Casaba melons are oval with a pointed end and wrinkled yellow skin. Its flesh is white and very sweet. Melons weigh four to seven pounds. Varieties include Golden Beauty, Bidwell, and the long-storing Winter Pineapple.

Charentais melons, also known as French Charentais, are French types identified by their smooth, grayish rinds and orange flesh. They are very sweet, typically grow only to the size of a softball and are suitable for vertical growing on a trellis. One variety is Oui.

Christmas melons are also called Piel de Sapo or Rochet melons. They have a football shape and weigh five to eight pounds with yellow to green mottled rinds. Sweet flesh is pale orange to light green. Grand Prix is a Christmas melon.

Crenshaw melons are a casaba cross with a more oblong shape and weights of about five pounds. Yellow skin, sometimes streaked with light green, and peachy orange flesh with strong, spicy aroma. Lilly is a Crenshaw variety.

Galia melons hail from Is-

rael. They have netted rinds much like cantaloupes but are paler in color. Flesh is green to white and sweet with a spicy or banana-like aroma. They slip from the vine when ripe. Passport is one Galia melon variety.

Honeydews have smooth, greenish-white or yellow rinds. Flesh may be green, white, or orange. Texture is similar to cantaloupe, but the flavor more subtle. Varieties include Dulce Nectar and Earli Dew.

Oriental melons or Asian melons are very small, weighing about one pound. They are elongated with yellow skin and pale peach to white flesh. Reportedly, because the seeds are so small and the rind so thin, the whole melon can be eaten. Two varieties are Goshiki and Sweet 100.

Persian melons, larger than cantaloupes, have dark green rinds with light brown netting. The rind turns to light green at ripening. Unlike most melons in the Reticulatus group, Persian melons do not slip from the vine when ripe. Casaba and Kharbozeh are two varieties.

True cantaloupes are named for the town of Cantalupo near Rome, Italy and have rough, warty (not netted) skin. This one is a European cantaloupe, and is rarely grown here in America.

I'll bet you didn't know there were so many types of melons out there. If you're like me, you wish you could grow some of each one!

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 5 - VIEWING DOESN'T COUNT

My scribbled notes from 2021 named two friends I planned to visit. I waited too long for one. Viewing doesn't count.

I kept a newspaper column by Lanier Roberts about an experience from his youth. He and a cousin were playing on a sawdust pile when a man with a knife startled them. They fled, never knowing if the stranger meant them harm or just wanted to scare them away. It reminded me of a local story that circulated during my childhood.

Sheriff Johnny Johnson made headlines in Dooly County after finding a moonshine still inside a sawdust pile. The ingenious setup had a gas cooker and a hidden entrance. Sheriff Johnson had earlier caught a bootlegger and noticed wood shavings in his car trunk. It didn't take him long to find the pile.

A scribbled note from June of 2021 demonstrated Mr. Emmett Stephens' quickness in finding clever lines. His son, Charles, told me a story about a Vienna City Council meeting that Mr. Emmett attended decades ago.

Charles said his father wasn't involved in politics, but he felt strongly about some proposal

scheduled for discussion. After Mr. Emmett expressed his opposition, a member of the council asked, "Emmett, who pulled your string?" Mr. Emmett said, "Nobody. I'm a self starter."

A. J. Jarvis, a former banker in Vienna, was mentioned in a note. He had suggested I write a column about old comics. Examples he gave included Smiley Jack, which I'm not familiar with, plus Dick Tracey and Snuffy Smith. As a longtime comic reader, I liked his idea. Liking without effort, though, doesn't get things done.

My favorites are gone from what Daddy called the funny papers, but I still read a few comics each day. When I was little Daddy would read them to me on Sundays and add bits of commentary. Snuffy Smith, Lil' Abner, Beetle Bailey, and Little Orphan Annie were among his regulars. I don't know how much reading the comics has impacted my life, but memories of sitting in my father's lap are still a blessing.

A memo from April suggested Paul Harvey would be a good column topic. Years ago I was an ardent fan of his immensely

popular radio program. I never wrote about him, but I do have a short personal story.

When Paul Harvey came to Valdosta State College in 1973 to make a speech, I was the Student Government President and had a chance to meet him. It surprised me when he asked if I knew Deke DeLoach and had I seen him. Deke soon joined us and was warmly greeted. I was impressed that Deke had never mentioned his family's friendship with Mr. Harvey. It was a good lesson in choosing modesty.

After Mr. Harvey's talk, he opened the floor for questions. A guy who was part hippie asked, "Do you think marijuana should be legalized?" Mr. Harvey flashed a huge grin. "I don't think cigarettes should be legal!" he said. "Next question." The audience, including a few aspiring hippies, laughed heartily. It was a splendid example of disagreeing without being disagreeable.

Deke DeLoach was a laid-back guy with an understated confidence. He had sort of a Peter Fonda vibe like in Easy Rider. I hadn't thought about Deke in ages. Now I'm wondering what all roads he may have travelled. I'd love to know the rest of the story, but may have waited too long to ask. A scribbled note just became a sober reminder. Viewing doesn't count.

joinerscorner.com
gneiljoiner@gmail.com

Until WE WAKE UP here are some scriptures in KEEPING ONE'S FEET ON THE GROUND.

Psalms 121: 1 and 2. "I will lift my eyes to the hills where my help comes from, my help comes from the Lord which made heaven and earth". Psalms 18:2 "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in Him will I trust, my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower". Another scripture is: Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose". I will close with this one; I Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers".

Stay calm, be cool, for the Lord is our shepherd and we shall NOT want. God speed to you all. Until next time.



BILLY POWELL
Columnist

Parables To Ponder EYEBALL TO EYEBALL WITH A WATER MOCCASIN

I have had a number of frightening encounters with snakes, but this incident was the scariest. Many years ago I had a boat and enjoyed fishing in the Flint River. On this particular fishing trip, my son, Bill, about 13 years old at the time, and I launched the boat at the old River Ferry just outside Marshallville, Georgia, and headed downstream toward Montezuma. We fished several hours during the morning hours and returned that afternoon. As we approached the Ferry where we would park the boat, I turned off the engine about 25 yards before reaching shore, so there would be no unused gas left in the carburetor, and began coasting toward the docking area. I apparently cut the gas too quickly, because the boat didn't reach the shore. I tried frantically to re-crank the engine, but without success. We found ourselves drifting in the river without propulsion. I

looked up and we were heading straight for an overhanging bush thicket at water's edge. As the boat slammed into the bush, three huge water moccasins fell from its limbs. One hit the water with a big splash. One dropped right pass Bill's shoulder, hit the boat and bounced into the water. The third moccasin, almost as big around as a stove pipe, landed in the center of the boat, atop the well area. He was less than 3 feet away. He looked at me with those cold, menacing eyes and I looked nervously at him. I was petrified with fear and didn't know whether to stay in the boat or jump out. With two other deadly leviathans lurking in the water nearby, jumping out didn't seem like a good idea. Staying in the boat didn't either, because one bite from that monstrous snake packed with all that poisonous venom, and I wouldn't live long enough to receive medical attention. I thought about

hitting him with the paddle, but the paddle was on Bill's side of the boat. I hollered to Bill to hit the snake with the paddle. Bill swung and missed as the slithering snake lurched toward me. Just as I closed my eyes expecting the monster to be in my lap, I heard another splash. The sinister, beady-eyed moccasin, which represented my worst nightmare, abandoned ship and jumped in the water. Was I relieved! Bill and I were visibly shaken. It was several minutes before we could regain our composure. From that day forth, we never cut the engine when approaching the river's edge, regardless of how much fuel was left in the engine.

God sent serpents as divine punishment against the Israelites, who began to complain during their desert sojourn. As they trudged through the wilderness, vipers hiding in the sand would bite them without warning. A bite from a viper meant paralysis and certain death. God heard Moses' intercessory prayer and responded by instructing him to build a bronze serpent and set it upon a pole. The life of anyone bitten by a snake could be spared by looking at the bronze serpent.

significant risk, and I want to strongly encourage all Georgians to do the right thing and adhere to the Georgia Forestry Commission's burn ban while these conditions persist," said Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler J. Harper.

"I am deeply grateful to Commissioner Sabo and the entire team at GFC for their tireless efforts to successfully contain wildfires across the state."

Chance of rain is unlikely for most of the affected area in the coming days. GFC will continue to work closely with local responders, the Governor's Office, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Division, and other state and local partners to combat any wildfires and address the ongoing drought.

BURN BAN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Once again, the burn order went into effect upon the State Forester's signature and will remain in effect for 30 days, unless otherwise extended. The order prohibits, among other activities, prescribed burns as well as the burning of yard debris and agriculture material in the affected area.

"The extreme drought conditions across Georgia are putting agriculture and forestry at

Writings From The Heart KEEPING ONE'S FEET ON THE GROUND



DR. LANIER
ROBERTS
Columnist

We certainly are living in trying times. What used to be right is now wrong, and what used to be wrong is now right in the world's eyes. It reminds me of the Old Testament scripture which states: "evil will be called good, and good will be called evil."

Ten years ago, I would not have fathomed what is taking place in the world (especially in America). It's mind boggling!! I feel it is so prevalent to everyone that I don't have to list any of them. You already know. But the following is some help for us,

KEEPING ONE'S FEET ON THE GROUND during

this mess.

What's really happening is we have internal sources in country and out siders coming in to set up a FALL OF ROME effect. In other words, there is not a nation in all the world that can take on America one-on-one and be successful. BUT if they can only destroy it within one principle at a time, they will surely do that.

Destroy the family first, then work on individual principles one-at-a-time. Their goal for success is to use our own laws and rights against us. So far, it's working and will be successful

UNLESS WE WAKE UP.

Prominent Pinehurst Resident Clint Thompson Passes Away

Contributed

Clinton B. "Clint" Thompson Jr. age 68 of 3880 Nellieville Road, Pinehurst died Monday, April 20 at this residence.

Born in Montezuma, he was the son of the late Clinton B. Thompson and Louise Edge Thompson. Clint was a farmer and also worked at Robins Air Force Base where he retired as a hydraulic technician. He had a great love of animals, especially his dog, Goose and was known for his ability to just about tame any of them.

He was a member of Pinehurst Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Larista



F. Thompson of Pinehurst, his son, Cole Thompson (Allison) of Pinehurst, his sister, June T. Allen (Larry) of Juliette and his mother and step-father-in-law, Dr. Bob and Jean Latimer of

Perry. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Carlton Farmer. Funeral services were held last Thursday, April 23 in Pinehurst Baptist Church with interment in Roberts Cemetery.

The family may be contacted at the residence, 3880 Nellieville Road, Pinehurst. Memorial gifts may be made to Pinehurst Baptist Church, PO Box 157, Pinehurst, Ga. 31070 or the Daybreak Pregnancy Care Center, 1300 Union Street, Vienna, Ga. 31092. Brannen-NeSmith Funeral Home of Vienna had charge of arrangements.

Dooly Soccer Team's Seasons Come to an End

Contributed

The Lady Bobcats traveled to Pearson, Ga. last Tuesday to take on the Atkinson County Lady Rebels in the first round of the GHSA 1A-Division II State Playoffs. The girls lost its playoff match with a score of 4-0.

Our girls end their season with a record of 5-15. We're proud of

our girls for their efforts this season and we want to thank all the seniors for their dedication these past four seasons. It wasn't the end we wanted, but we're proud of each of y'all.

The Bobcats lost its playoff match last Wednesday to Atlanta Classical Academy with a score of 4-4 and 4-2 in penalty kicks.

The boys end their season with a record of 15-4. We're proud of our boys for their efforts this season and we want to especially thank all the seniors for their dedication these past four years. It is also not the end we wanted, but we're proud of each of you as well.

Subscribe Today!

478-825-2432

The News Observer

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

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

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

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

LEGALS

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

NO26-017
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

Rooney Bowen III
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Denal Fluellen
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Dooly County Probate Court
 104 South Second Street Vienna, GA 31092
 (229) 268-4217
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NO26-026
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Patsy Christine Bridges, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0019
PETITION FOR LETERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:
CYNTHIA B. DOSSETT has petitioned for **CYNTHIA B. DOSSETT** to be appointed Administrator of the estate **PATSY CHRISTINE BRIDGES**, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before June 1, 2026.
BE FURTHER NOTIFIED: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel at the following address/telephone number 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 South Second Street
 Vienna, GA 31092
 (229) 268-4217
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

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

NO26-019
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
STATE OF GEORGIA, Plaintiff
V.
SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$6,737.00) OF UNITED STATES CURRENCY Defendant(s) in rem.
SUJI KIM,
Purported Owner(s)/Interest Holder(s)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 26DV-0019
NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS
 TO: ALL PERSONS HAVING AN INTEREST IN SAID PROPERTY
 You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking the forfeiture of the above-described property was filed in the said Court on the 23rd day of February, 2026, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-16-12 and 16-5-46(g).
 Said action alleges that you may have an interest in said property. You are further notified that by reason of an order for publication by Notice of Proceedings entered by the Court on the 9th day of April 2026, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Bradford L. Rigby, District Attorney, Post Office Box 5510, Cordele, GA 31010 an Answer to the complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of the second publication. If you fail to do so, judgment pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-16-12(e) will be taken for the relief demanded in the Complaint. If you have been personally or notoriously served with the complaint and summons, the foregoing does not apply and you should respond within the time specified in the summons.
 Witness the Honorable Amy B. Bryant Judge of said Court.
 Amy B. Bryant
 9th day of April 2026.
 Clerk of the Superior Court Dooly County
 Cordele Judicial Circuit
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 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

NO26-020
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.
 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.
 Rooney Bowen III
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Denal Fluellen
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Dooly County Probate Court
 104 South Second Street
 Vienna, GA 31092
 (229) 268-4217
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026

NO26-024
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:
Z. A., a child
DOB: 05/12/2023 SEX: F
CASE NUMBER: 046-25J-0033
L. R., a child
DOB: 02/20/2021 SEX: F
CASE NUMBER: 046-25J-0034
TO: LAKEISHA RICHARDSON, natural mother of the above-named children. WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, putative father of the above-named children.
SUMMONS AND NOTICE
 Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-241, on April 21, 2026, a petition for permanent guardianship has been filed in the above-styled matter alleging the above-named children to be in need of the appointment of a permanent guardian, and **SHERITA ARMSTRONG** has been named as the proposed permanent guardian for the children and is the individual who will be the child(ren)'s permanent guardian if the petition is granted.
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, unless otherwise ordered by this court, you, the party(s) named above, are hereby ORDERED and 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 Dooly County, Georgia, located at the Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015 on the **8th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, to answer the allegations of the aforementioned petition and to show cause why the above-named child(ren) and all parties named herein shall not be dealt with according to law. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or any other person having physical custody or control of the above-named child(ren) is hereby commanded to ensure the above-named child(ren)'s presence in likewise manner at said date, 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 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.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that you should immediately review EXHIBIT A attached hereto for a full explanation of your right to an attorney at all stages of these proceedings.
 WITNESS the Kristen W. Pack, Judge of said Court, this 21st day of April, 2026.
 PATSY BRIDGES, Clerk

Juvenile Court of DOOLY County, Georgia
READ CAREFULLY
 The child(ren) involved in this proceeding shall be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings, and the court will appoint an attorney to represent the child(ren) as soon as possible.
 All other parties to these proceedings are entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings. If you want an attorney, you may choose and hire your own attorney. If you want to hire an attorney, please contact your attorney immediately. If you want an attorney but are not able to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship, you may ask for an attorney to be appointed to represent you. The Court would inquire into your financial circumstances and if the Court finds you to be indigent (financially unable to hire an attorney), then an attorney will be appointed to represent you. If you want an attorney appointed to represent you, please let the Court or the Clerk of the Juvenile Court, know that you want an attorney immediately so that you may make application for court appointed counsel at the earliest possible time.
EXHIBIT A
RIGHT TO COUNSEL
 1. The child(ren) involved in this proceeding shall be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings, and the court will appoint an attorney to represent the child(ren) as soon as possible.
 2. **All other parties to these proceedings are entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings.**
 3. If you want an attorney, you may choose and hire your own attorney. If you want to hire an attorney, please contact your attorney immediately.
 4. If you want an attorney but are not able to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship, you may ask for an attorney to be appointed to represent you.
 a. If you request appointed counsel, the Court will inquire into your financial circumstances to determine if you qualify as indigent under the terms this state proscribes. If the Court finds you to be indigent (unable to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship), then an attorney will be appointed to represent you at no charge to you.
 b. If you would like to apply for court-appointed counsel, you must do so within 72 hours of your receipt of this notice, but in no event later than forty-eight hours prior to your scheduled hearing. You may obtain an application for appointment of indigent counsel by contacting the Office of the Judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Cordele Judicial Circuit at 229-271-4727. Should you desire to seek appointment of counsel, it is imperative that you do so timely. FAILURE TO TIMELY APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE APPOINTED COUNSEL REPRESENT YOU DURING ANY PARTICULAR HEARING.

5. You are not mandated to be represented by counsel in any proceeding, and you may waive your right to counsel and proceed pro se (on your own, without an attorney) during any proceeding. Please be aware, however, that there are a number of dangers of proceeding without counsel in any proceeding. For instance, if you intend on appealing any ruling of this court that has to be done properly, and an attorney could help you with doing that if you had an attorney. There are many other ways that an attorney might assist you in your case if you have an attorney, but you do not have to have an attorney, and it is your right to waive your right to an attorney and participate in your proceedings without the benefit of counsel. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FAILING TO TIMELY HIRE COUNSEL OR APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO COUNSEL. In that case, you may be required to participate in the proceedings without the benefit of counsel.
 April 30, May 7, 2026

NO26-025
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CONSTANCE MARYLYN HARPE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0016
PETITION FOR LETERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
KENT HARPE AND SARAH MEGAN SMITH has petitioned for **KENT HARPE AND SARAH MEGAN SMITH** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **CONSTANCE MARYLYN HARPE** 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 **June 1, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Rooney Bowen III
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Denal Fluellen
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Dooly County Probate Court 104 South Second Street
 Vienna, GA 31092
 (229) 268-4217
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 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. Tamara Almond unit #27
 5. Parnell Brown unit #35
 6. Erica Reehal unit #41
 7. Chip Moore unit #44
 8. Kimberlyn 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

NO26-023
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
NATHANIEL JEROME LEWIS SR, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0017
PETITION FOR LETERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern:
Nathaniel Jerome Lewis Jr has petitioned for **Nathaniel Jerome Lewis Jr** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Nathaniel Jerome Lewis Sr** 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**.
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 5. Parnell Brown unit #35
 6. Erica Reehal unit #41
 7. Chip Moore unit #44
 8. Kimberlyn 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

NO26-018
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

NO26-020
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.
 TO: All Interested Parties and to whom it may concern:

NO26-024
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:
Z. A., a child
DOB: 05/12/2023 SEX: F
CASE NUMBER: 046-25J-0033
L. R., a child
DOB: 02/20/2021 SEX: F
CASE NUMBER: 046-25J-0034
TO: LAKEISHA RICHARDSON, natural mother of the above-named children. WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, putative father of the above-named children.
SUMMONS AND NOTICE
 Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-241, on April 21, 2026, a petition for permanent guardianship has been filed in the above-styled matter alleging the above-named children to be in need of the appointment of a permanent guardian, and **SHERITA ARMSTRONG** has been named as the proposed permanent guardian for the children and is the individual who will be the child(ren)'s permanent guardian if the petition is granted.
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, unless otherwise ordered by this court, you, the party(s) named above, are hereby ORDERED and 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 Dooly County, Georgia, located at the Crisp County Courthouse, 510 North 7th Street, Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia 31015 on the **8th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, to answer the allegations of the aforementioned petition and to show cause why the above-named child(ren) and all parties named herein shall not be dealt with according to law. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or any other person having physical custody or control of the above-named child(ren) is hereby commanded to ensure the above-named child(ren)'s presence in likewise manner at said date, 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 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.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that you should immediately review EXHIBIT A attached hereto for a full explanation of your right to an attorney at all stages of these proceedings.
 WITNESS the Kristen W. Pack, Judge of said Court, this 21st day of April, 2026.
 PATSY BRIDGES, Clerk

Juvenile Court of DOOLY County, Georgia
READ CAREFULLY
 The child(ren) involved in this proceeding shall be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings, and the court will appoint an attorney to represent the child(ren) as soon as possible.
 All other parties to these proceedings are entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings. If you want an attorney, you may choose and hire your own attorney. If you want to hire an attorney, please contact your attorney immediately. If you want an attorney but are not able to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship, you may ask for an attorney to be appointed to represent you. The Court would inquire into your financial circumstances and if the Court finds you to be indigent (financially unable to hire an attorney), then an attorney will be appointed to represent you. If you want an attorney appointed to represent you, please let the Court or the Clerk of the Juvenile Court, know that you want an attorney immediately so that you may make application for court appointed counsel at the earliest possible time.
EXHIBIT A
RIGHT TO COUNSEL
 1. The child(ren) involved in this proceeding shall be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings, and the court will appoint an attorney to represent the child(ren) as soon as possible.
 2. **All other parties to these proceedings are entitled to be represented by an attorney at all stages of these proceedings.**
 3. If you want an attorney, you may choose and hire your own attorney. If you want to hire an attorney, please contact your attorney immediately.
 4. If you want an attorney but are not able to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship, you may ask for an attorney to be appointed to represent you.
 a. If you request appointed counsel, the Court will inquire into your financial circumstances to determine if you qualify as indigent under the terms this state proscribes. If the Court finds you to be indigent (unable to hire an attorney without undue financial hardship), then an attorney will be appointed to represent you at no charge to you.
 b. If you would like to apply for court-appointed counsel, you must do so within 72 hours of your receipt of this notice, but in no event later than forty-eight hours prior to your scheduled hearing. You may obtain an application for appointment of indigent counsel by contacting the Office of the Judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Cordele Judicial Circuit at 229-271-4727. Should you desire to seek appointment of counsel, it is imperative that you do so timely. FAILURE TO TIMELY APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE APPOINTED COUNSEL REPRESENT YOU DURING ANY PARTICULAR HEARING.

5. You are not mandated to be represented by counsel in any proceeding, and you may waive your right to counsel and proceed pro se (on your own, without an attorney) during any proceeding. Please be aware, however, that there are a number of dangers of proceeding without counsel in any proceeding. For instance, if you intend on appealing any ruling of this court that has to be done properly, and an attorney could help you with doing that if you had an attorney. There are many other ways that an attorney might assist you in your case if you have an attorney, but you do not have to have an attorney, and it is your right to waive your right to an attorney and participate in your proceedings without the benefit of counsel. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FAILING TO TIMELY HIRE COUNSEL OR APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL MAY RESULT IN YOUR WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO COUNSEL. In that case, you may be required to participate in the proceedings without the benefit of counsel.
 April 30, May 7, 2026

NO26-025
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CONSTANCE MARYLYN HARPE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0016
PETITION FOR LETERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
KENT HARPE AND SARAH MEGAN SMITH has petitioned for **KENT HARPE AND SARAH MEGAN SMITH** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **CONSTANCE MARYLYN HARPE** 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 **June 1, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Rooney Bowen III
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Denal Fluellen
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Dooly County Probate Court 104 South Second Street
 Vienna, GA 31092
 (229) 268-4217
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

END LEGALS

Charges Filed Against Ga. Inmate Highlights Contraband and Corruption Concerns Tied to Dooly State Prison

By FCOSO

Apr 20, 2026 - The Flagler County Sheriff's Office obtained an arrest warrant for Abraham Rivas, 32, who is incarcerated at Dooly State Prison in connection with a phone-based fraud scheme that targeted a Flagler County resident by impersonating a Flagler County Sheriff's Office deputy.
 On March 12, deputies with FCOSO's Community Policing Division responded to a fraud report in Palm Coast after a victim reported sending two \$500 payments to a person claim-

ing to be "Officer Christopher Osorio with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office."
 The victim believed the money was required for bond and an ankle monitor following the victim's spouse's recent arrest. The case was assigned to the Flagler County Sheriff's Office General Assignment Unit. During the investigation, detectives tracked the funds to a bank account. According to the account holder, Rivas told them the incoming payments were legal sports-betting (gambling) winnings, and he believed the people sending

the money were Rivas' family members.
 The account holder said the money was then sent to Rivas' commissary account at Dooly State Prison. Detective First Class Douglas traveled to Dooly State Prison and interviewed Rivas. Rivas admitted to orchestrating the scheme and described how the fraud operation functioned from inside the Georgia prison system. During the interview, Rivas stated that other inmates ran similar scams and claimed that correctional staff were aware of the activ-

ity. Rivas also claimed that he used proceeds from the fraud to purchase marijuana inside the prison.
 Detective Douglas obtained an arrest warrant charging Rivas with organized scheme to defraud and grand theft. "This suspect used deception and impersonated FCOSO to exploit our victim and they did this from a Georgia prison," said Sheriff Rick Staly.
 "It appears criminal activity is occurring right under their nose, and that is completely inexcusable. If you steal from our resi-

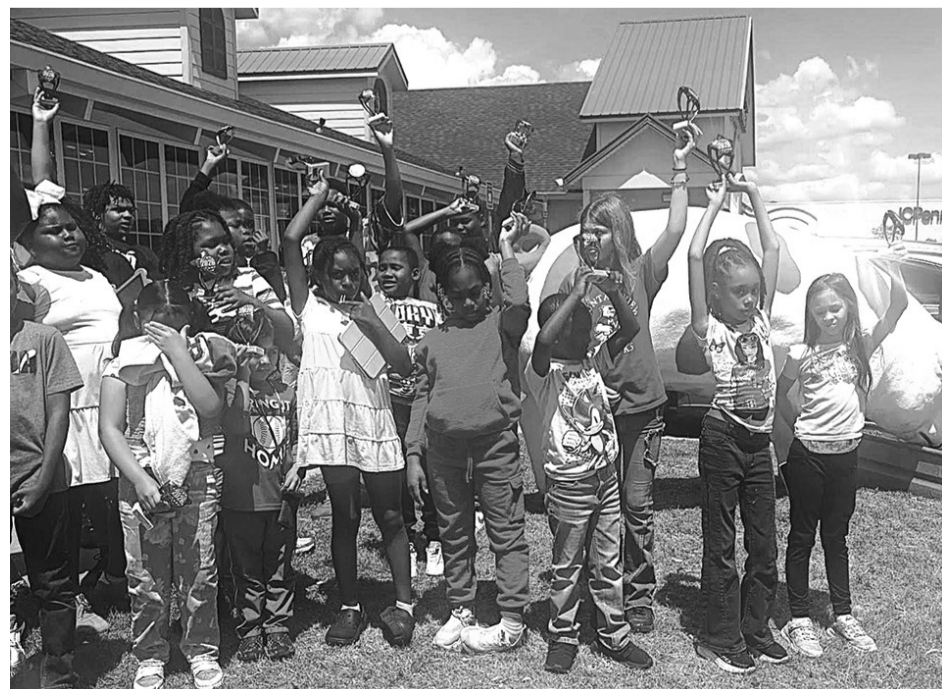
dents, whether you are in Flagler County or in a prison cell in another state, we will investigate the case, obtain a warrant, and hold you accountable."
 "The Flagler County Sheriff's Office will never call, text, or email demanding money or personal information to clear-up a warrant, avoid arrest, or resolve a legal issue," Sheriff Staly added. "Do not send money to anyone you do not know, especially via Zelle, Cash App, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or other instant payment methods, as it's most likely a scam."



Photo Contributed
 Abraham Rivas, 32

Rivas is currently serving four years in the Georgia Department of Corrections for charges including aggravated assault, theft by taking, robbery by sudden snatching. He was scheduled for release in 2027.

Celebrating Our Champions at the Special Olympics



Contributed

The Dooly County School System's incredible students who participated in the Special Olym-

pics were treated to a wonderful lunch recently at Ole' Times in Warner Robins as part of their awards celebration. Students were proudly presented with trophies recognizing their participa-



tion and hard work.
 They also enjoyed a delicious meal together, truly a well-deserved celebration of their success. A special thank you to Ms. Braswell for organizing

such a meaningful and memorable experience for our students. Your dedication made this day extra special.

DCHS Track and Field Wraps Up Impressive Showing at Region Meet



Photo Contributed
Girls 4X100 meter relay-First Place-Region Champions-Chassidy Bell, Cherish Sutton, Ajayla Royal and Makalie Royal.

Contributed

The Dooly County High School Track and Field teams wrapped up an impressive showing at the GHSA Class 1A Division II – Region Four Track Meet held last Tuesday at Montgomery County High School in Mt. Vernon, Ga. Team final standing: Lady Bobcats – Fourth Place Overall, Bobcats – Fifth Place Overall. Girls 4X100 meter relay-Region Champions. Chassidy Bell, Cherish Sutton, Ajayla Royal and Makalie Royal. Speed, Chemistry, Championship Execution.

DCHS Track and Field Wraps Up Region Meet

The top performances: Lady Bobcats- Ajayla Royal – second Place (100m Dash), Ajayla Royal – second Place (200m Dash), Chassidy Bell – fourth Place (Long Jump) and Ja'Kayla Hooks – Fifth Place (400m Dash). Girls 4x400 Meter Relay – second Place-Kaleena Cotton, Ja'Kayla Hooks, Cherish Sutton and Chassidy Bell. Top performers-Bobcats- Jeremiah Anderson – sixth Place (100m) and fourth Place (200m), Antavious Hunter – seventh Place (200m), Jamari Buckles – fifth Place (400m Dash), Fred Nicey – fourth Place (300m Hurdles)

and Kimani Williams – eighth Place (300m Hurdles). Distance Events: Francisco Rodriguez –seventh Place (1600m) and 11th Place (800m). Boys 4x400 Meter Relay – fifth Place Jamari Buckles, Keyhon Colson, Antavious Hunter and Kenderious Thomas. The Top four finishers in each event have officially advanced to the Sectional Meet, which will be held Saturday, May 2 in Bryan County. The Dooly County Track and Field program continues to compete at a high level, showing toughness, speed, and pride across every event. The DCHS Track and Field program delivered a competitive and determined performance last Monday on Day

Photo Contributed

one of the GHSA Class 1A Division II – Region 4 Track Meet hosted by Montgomery County High School. Competing against some of the top programs in the region, the Lady Bobcats currently stand fifth overall with 42 points, while the Bobcats also stand in fifth place with 46 points, keeping themselves firmly in the mix heading into Day two finals. The Lady Bobcats were led in the field by standout performances in the jumps and throws. Makalie Royal claimed a third place finish in the High Jump, while Ja'Kayla Hooks added a fourth place finish in the same event, showcasing her versatility across multiple disciplines. In the throws, Cherish Sutton earned a third place finish in Shot Put, with Zakiyah Jones placing fifth.

The girls also saw solid contributions from Kaleena Cotton and Chesnie Dawson in discus competition.

For the boys, the jumping events remained competitive with Kayvon Felton (fourth) and Kenderious Thomas (fifth) in the High Jump.

Antrevious Ross highlighted the horizontal jumps with a sixth place finish in Triple Jump. Track Events and Relays Shine-Dooly County showed strength on the track, particularly in relay competition: Girls 4x200 Meter Relay – second Place, Boys 4x200 Meter Relay – second Place and Boys 4x800 Meter Relay – sixth Place.

Hurdle events were another bright spot, as Fred Nicey delivered an outstanding second place finish in the Boys 110m Hurdles, while also qualifying for the finals in the 300m hurdles. Teammates Kimani Wil-

liams and Jashawn Ferguson added depth with strong finishes and qualifications.

Finals Qualifiers-Several Bobcats and Lady Bobcats advanced to Day two, putting Dooly County in position for a strong finish: Ajayla Royal – Girls 100m and 200m Dash (Finals), Jeremiah Anderson – Boys 100m and 200m Dash (Finals), Antavious Hunter – Boys 200m Dash (Finals), Ja'Kayla Hooks – Girls 400m Dash (Finals), Jamari Buckles – Boys 400m Dash (Finals), Fred Nicey – Boys 300m Hurdles (Finals) and Kimani Williams – Boys 300m Hurdles (Finals).

Distance Standout- Distance runner Francisco Rodriguez delivered one of the top performances of the day, finishing second in the Boys 3200 Meter Run, earning valuable points for the Bobcats.

FA's Evelyn Fletcher Class A Singles Champion

By Tennis Coach Marla Ceniza

Fullington Academy's Evelyn Fletcher is the new reigning Class A Singles State Champion in tennis. Miss Fletcher went into the state tournament with a number three ranking and defeated opponents from Lagrange and Covenant before meeting the state ranked number one player from Grace Academy (Bain-

bridge) in the championship. Miss Fletcher won the state championship match by defeating her opponent with a dominating score of 6-1, 6-2.

Fullington's tennis coach said "Evelyn played her best tennis of the year. She was extremely focused and stuck to her game plan for the entire tournament. Evelyn is a hard worker and more impor-

tantly, she is a humble winner."

Miss Fletcher credits her great conditioning to her year round workouts while also playing softball and basketball for Fullington Academy. Evelyn Fletcher is a junior at Fullington Academy. She is the daughter of Robert and Angela Fletcher (Americus) and has two sisters, Claire and Lyla.




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.