



The News Observer Has **NEW EMAIL** Addresses!

our email has changed to editor@ganewsobserver.com

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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, MAY 07, 2026

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City of Vienna April 27 Council Meeting

A motion was made to have the city administrator report removed from the agenda, due to a claim that, "We don't have a city administrator."

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The City of Vienna held its April 27 council meeting and it began with Mayor Pro-tem John Mathis Jr. who made a motion to have the city administrator report removed from the agenda, due to the fact that he is claiming, "We don't have a city administrator."

He also is alleging that Mr. Michael Bowens is an "At will employee." The motion passed on a vote of three in favor and one against. Later in the meeting, a motion was made by Councilwoman Tabatha Carter and approved by the council for a \$700 expenditure to Attorney J. Edward Shipp out of Buford, Ga. Councilman John Mathis asked, "Why is that an action item?"



The Mayor replied, "Because y'all have to approve any extra money going out. I didn't recommend Mr. Shipp." Councilman Mathis said, "We appointed him." The mayor replied, "And I vetoed it." Councilman Mathis again replied, "Mr. Shipp is the city attorney, you can overlook it."

Mayor Daniels said, "It is a motion on the floor, you should

have called for an executive session. I'm not in the arguing mood today sir. If you want to discuss that, that is something we need to take up stairs." Following discussion, the council approved on a vote of three in favor and one opposed the \$700 expenditure for Attorney J. Edward Shipp.

During the city clerk report, Councilman Mathis asked

about, "A check made out to Mr. Land. Why wasn't that an action item?" Mayor Daniels responded, "Mr. Land is on the executive orders until you find out what you're going to do." Councilman Mathis asked, "For that amount of money? That's four times what Mr. Shipp's invoice is."

The mayor replied, "That is correct sir." Mr. Mathis continued, "At no other time has an invoice been an action item." The mayor said, "This is a special situation. In my 23-years here, we've never had but one (city attorney)." The City of Vienna Comprehensive Plan is due for an update by October 27, 2027 to operate not only as a municipality but within the county as a whole. Officials OK'd The River Valley Region-

al Commission drafting the update at no additional cost to the city. Before the vote, Mr. Verlin Jones addressed the council and Mr. Mathis replied, "Point of Order." and John Mathis was asked, "What is your point of order?"

John Mathis said, "Mayor and council, Mr. Jones shouldn't be allowed or recognized to speak because he's no longer the city attorney, He was released February 9, 2026." Mr. Jones responded that he had received an email from the Mayor dated April 26 appointing him for another 72 hours.

Mayor Eddie Daniels confirmed, "That is on the executive order." Earlier in the meeting, a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13 meeting died due to lack of a second.

School Board OK's Three Resignations and One Termination

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The Dooly County Board of Education met last Tuesday in a called meeting and accepted the resignations of Army JROTC Instructor Stephen Cordle, DCHS Dean of Students and Athletic Director Brandon Dawkins and DCES Fourth Grade Teacher Katie Lowery with all three effective June 30, 2026.

The board also approved the termination of DCES Paraprofessional Sherita Washington effective immediately. School officials also hired Demetric King as a DCHS-Dooly County

School System School Resource Officer and Security Director effective immediately.

The following positions will become effective July 1, 2026-Marcus Bryant as a high school CTAE Teacher, Eric Martin will be serving as an elementary school Special Education Teacher, Karli Ray -DCES first grade teacher, Andravious Smith-DCHS History Teacher and Interim Head Boys Basketball Coach, Tracy Waters-middle school Special Education Teacher and Kadejah Zanders-Counselor at DCHS.

Local Club Receives Several Community Service Awards



Photo Contributed
Left to right: Kathie Byrd, Charlotte Vestal, Sharon Wilkin, Lisa Ramsey, Cathy Jones, Sandy Hawkins, Kay Thombley and Brenda Gramm. (Not pictured: Kay Chadwick).



Photo Contributed
VWC was presented the Sharon Carter Operation Christmas Award for its project of filling boxes for children around the world.



Photo Contributed
VWC won the Best Overall Award for Civic Engagement and Outreach.

Contributed

Nine Vienna Woman's Club members attended the recent 130th GFWC Georgia Convention held at the Courtyard Marriott in Warner Robins.

The Club was presented with several awards for its community service including: Third place, Membership Category I in Education and Libraries; First Place, Membership Category I in Civic Engagement; Best Overall Club and recipient of the Judine Heard Civic Engagement Award; recipient of the Sharon Carter Operation Christmas Child Award; recipient of the High Five Award for its numerous projects to support the State President's Special Project entitled "Books for Little Hands."

Club member Cathy Jones, who served as State President during 2024-26, presided over the three-day event which included business, awards, memorials, and installations of new officers.

Other Club members serving in leadership positions assisted with the event including Kathie Byrd, State Protocol Chair and 2026 Convention Chair; Sharon Wilkin,

UFR Report for April

By Senior Firefighter
Kenny Mercer

Unadilla Fire Rescue responded to seven calls in April and a total of 43 in 2026. Wednesday, April 1 units offered assistance at the Landing Zone on Plunkett Road. Monday, April 20 to wires Down, I-75 Exit 122 southbound. Wednesday, April 22 to a Wildland Fire that was canceled enroute to Highway 329 at County Line Road and Sunday, April 26 to a false alarm on

Duncan Avenue.

Tuesday, April 28 to a burn complaint on Scott Street, Wednesday, April 29 to a report of wires down on Pine Street at Elko Road as well as a call on the 29th to a power line Arcing due to a tree limb on the line on Elko Road.

A reminder: Dooly County is under a Burn Ban until May 22 by Administrative Order of the Georgia Forestry Commission and Governor Brian Kemp.

Two Arrested Including a Vienna Resident in Entering Auto Incidents

By CCSO

Deputies with the Crisp County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of individuals entering vehicles Friday, April 24 at approximately 7:00 a.m.

The location was 2104 US Highway 280 West. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with a suspect identified as James Cumbus, a 39-year-old male from Vienna, Ga. who was arrested and charged with four counts

of Party to Crime.

He was detained after being observed by a resident looking into vehicles and attempting to flee the area. During the investigation, multiple victims reported items missing from their unlocked vehicles. Some of the stolen property was later recovered nearby.

During the incident, a second individual initially provided false identifying information to deputies before being identified as Joseph Smith, a 32-year-old male from

Pitts, Ga.

He was arrested on his outstanding warrant and is also charged with four counts-entering automobile or other motor vehicle with intent to commit theft or felony, obstructing or hindering law enforcement officers, giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement officer. Smith was found to have an outstanding warrant through the Cordele Police Department.

Drink More Water, Georgia



By FACS Agent
Destiny Phillips

Drinking water is crucial for staying healthy. As the weather warms up in Georgia, it is even more important to keep an eye on your hydration. Water plays an important role in keeping all of our bodily functions operating properly.

For example, water aids digestion, helps control body temperature, and builds body tissue. When we are dehydrated, these functions are affected, and we may experience symptoms such as headaches and irritability. Each family member may need different amounts of water each day.

This depends on factors like age and gender. Youth need less water than adults. Generally, divide a child's weight in pounds by half to find out how many ounces they should drink daily. The Institute of Medicine recommends 91 oz. for women and 125 oz. for men per day.

Thirst is not an accurate gauge of hydration in older adults. They may need to drink even if they do not feel thirsty. There are times when we may need to drink more water, such as sweating in the sun and heavy exercise. It is important to hydrate before, during, and after. Water is often the best source of hydration. Common sports drinks are not necessary unless heavy exercise occurs for over an hour. These drinks contain high levels of sodium, which are already found in many of the foods and snacks we eat daily.

Additionally, we should drink extra water if we lose fluids while we are sick. While many beverages, such as juices, sports drinks, and coffee, do add to our water intake, pure water is the best option for hydration.

If you struggle to drink enough water, try carrying a reusable water bottle so you have constant access and a reminder to drink more. Additionally, infusing your water with fresh, sliced fruit is a great way to add flavor without added sugar or sodium. Stay hydrated this summer and remind your friends and family to drink more water.

For more information, visit fieldreport.caes.uga.edu or contact Destiny Phillips, Dooly County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent at destiny.phillips@uga.edu.

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest and Recovery of Stolen Firearm

By CCSO

A deputy from the Crisp County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop Sunday, April 26 that resulted in the arrest of one individual and the recovery of a stolen firearm. A Crisp County deputy observed a Lexus traveling northbound on Joe Wright Drive at 18th Avenue around 1:00 a.m. The vehicle failed to dim its headlights for oncoming traffic and later stopped improperly in a crosswalk at the intersection of Joe Wright Drive and 16th Avenue. These violations prompted the deputy to initiate a traffic stop.

During the stop, the deputy noticed the driver and front-seat passenger switching seats. The deputy made contact with

21-year-old Ian Kleckley, who was in the front passenger seat and had been the driver. A records check revealed that he had an active warrant from Crisp County.

With assistance from a responding supervisor and the Cordele Police Department, deputies searched the vehicle and discovered a loaded 9mm handgun, which was confirmed to have been reported stolen by the Cordele Police Department.

Ian Kleckley from Cordele Ga. was transported to the Crisp County Jail and charged with the following: Theft by receiving stolen property (a felony), Driving with a suspended or revoked license and Failure to dim headlights.

State Fundraising Committee Co-Chair; Kay Chadwick, State Life Director; Charlotte Vestal and Sandy Hawkins, South West District Convention Decor Committee.

AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

State President's Special Project Chair entitled "Books for Little Hands"; Kay Thombley, State President's Special Project Co-Chair; Lisa Ramsey, State Communications and Public Relations Committee Chair; Brenda Gramm,

Dooly County Chamber Honors Meredith Lester as the 2025 Dooly County Professional Woman of the Year



Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sinyard and La'El Sanders
Professional Woman of the Year—Mrs. Meredith Lester with Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb

Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sinyard and La'El Sanders
Nominees for Professional Woman of the Year pictured left to right: Sheena Jones, Bridget Hathcock and Meredith Lester along with Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb, Chair Amanda O'Neal-Neisent and Marlene Kimball.

By Chamber President-CEO Rhonda Lamb

Dooly County, Ga.—The Dooly County Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted its annual Professional Women's Luncheon, welcoming more than 80 professional women, and several supportive members of the community for an afternoon of connection, inspiration, and celebration.

The Chamber was honored to recognize the outstanding women who help shape Dooly County through their leadership, service, and dedication. Board members recognized included Marlene Kimball, Amanda O'Neal-Neisent, Sabrina Sinyard Holmes, Dr. Monica Kears, Rhonda Woodward Bartlett, Brenetta Chaney Childs, Linda Mitchell, Carrie Mashburn, and Cheryl Card.

Past recipients of the Dooly County Professional Woman of the Year award who were in attendance and recognized included Marlene Kimball, Sabrina Sinyard Holmes, Catherine Burden, Rhonda Woodward Bartlett, and Linda Mitchell.

The Chamber also recognizes its dedicated staff and volunteers who help make events like this possible, including Tiffany Sinyard, Phyllis Keaton and La'El Sanders. The luncheon also served as an opportunity to recognize recipients from the Chamber's recent Annual Meeting.

The Community Partner of the Year, the Dooly County College and Career Academy was acknowledged during the luncheon after being unable to attend the previous event.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Monica Kears, the DCCC Board and the outstanding students who are part of the program which continues to be a true game changer for future career success in Dooly County.

In addition, the Chamber presented an Appreciation Award to Senator Jon Ossoff for his

office's outstanding responsiveness and support following recent damage sustained during a storm at the BIG PIG JIG®.

After reaching out to federal legislative offices in Washington, D.C., Senator Ossoff, his team, and key staff members, responded quickly and went above and beyond with follow-up calls and meetings with Chamber leadership to help identify resources and opportunities for recovery and support.

This year's nominees for Professional Woman of the Year included Bridget Hathcock, Sheena Jones, Cyndi Mercer, and Meredith Lester. Each nominee was recognized for her meaningful contributions and impact on Dooly County.

Congratulations to all these amazing nominees. Bridget Hathcock is a leader in the field of physical therapy and wellness, known for her innovation, compassion, and commitment to patient-centered care.

Through her work and her involvement in the community, including hosting fitness opportunities for seniors, she continues to improve both the health and quality of life for those she serves.

Sheena Jones is recognized for her dedication and growth in her profession, as well as her strong presence in the community. She is known as someone who shows up, builds relationships, and contributes meaningfully to both her workplace and Dooly County.

Cyndi Mercer goes above and beyond in her work, driven by a true passion for helping others. She is dedicated to serving our community and ensuring others have access to assistance, educational information, and resources they need.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of Meredith Lester as the 2025 Dooly County Professional Woman of the Year. Lester is widely recognized as a cornerstone of the Unadilla and Dooly County community.

As the owner of Meredith's Elegant Event Center, she has played a vital role in revitalizing downtown Unadilla, creating a space that brings people together and strengthens the community. Her leadership extends far beyond her business, having served on the Unadilla City Council for over 15 years, where she has helped guide economic growth and progress.

Lester further serves our community through her role with the Dooly County Board of Education, where she is an integral member of the team. Her diverse talents and contributions greatly benefit our community and play a meaningful role in supporting student success.

Lester has also been recognized at the state level for her leadership, serving as a Municipal Association District President and mentoring newly



Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sinyard and La'El Sanders
Senator Jon Ossoff and his office were recognized, "For his outstanding responsiveness and support following recent damage sustained during a storm at the BIG PIG JIG®."

elected officials. She is known throughout the community as a trailblazer who leads with purpose, vision, and heart.

During the program, Dooly County Chamber Chairman Amanda O'Neal-Neisent also took a moment to recognize Rhonda Lamb, President and CEO, for her 25 years of dedicated service to the Chamber and our community. Her leadership and commitment play a vital role in the growth and success of the organization and the community she loves.

The luncheon also featured special guest vocalist Rhailyn Pavlik, who provided a meaningful and uplifting performance that added a heartfelt and inspirational element to the program.

The Dooly County Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to all partners, sponsors, and community supporters who made this event possible. Including government and community partners with appreciation for their leadership, service and ongoing investment in our community.

City of Unadilla, City of Vienna and the Dooly County Board of Commissioners. Diamond Sponsors: SA Recycling, Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC), Amerigreen Environmental Recycling. Platinum Sponsors: Brannen Motor Company, Cadence Bank (part of Huntington Bank), Georgia Power, Middle Georgia EMC. Gold Sponsor: Astro Exterminating. Silver Sponsors: Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC), Dooly County Family Connection.

Gold Event Sponsors: City of Unadilla, Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC), City of Vienna, Brannen Motor Company, Cadence Bank (part of Huntington Bank), Georgia Power, Middle Georgia EMC, SA Recycling, Amerigreen Environmental Recycling, Astro Exterminating, Dooly County Schools.

Silver Sponsors: CGTC, Daybreak, Fyzical Therapy and Balance Centers. Bronze Sponsors: Five Points Infrastructure Services, Piggly Wiggly - Vienna, South Georgia Banking Company. Ad Spon-

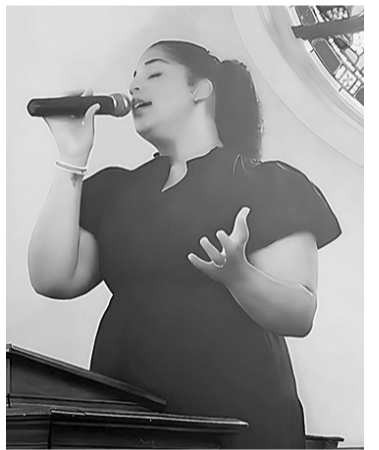


Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sinyard and La'El Sanders
Special guest vocalist Rhailyn Pavlik

sors: AAPHC, Astro. BIG PIG JIG, Brannen Motor Company, Brannen-Smith Funeral Home, CGTC, Cadence Bank-Huntington Bank, Café 41, City of Unadilla, City of Vienna, Crisp/Dooly Fuller Center for Housing, Dilly Dally in Dooly, Dooly County School System, Dooly County Board of Commissioners, Dooly County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Craig Peavy, Dooly County Recreation Department, Dooly County Tax Commissioner Paula Smith, Flint Humane Society Rescue and Foster Program, Lasseter Tractor Company, Georgia Power, Marlene Kimball, Middle Georgia EMC, Piggly Wiggly.

Door Prize Sponsors: AAPHC. City of Unadilla, Café 41, Crisp Dooly Fuller Center, Dooly County Family Connection, Dooly County Chamber, BIG PIG JIG®, Dooly County EDC, Dooly County Sheriff's Department, Ellis Brothers, Holly Black, Keaton's Creations, Marlene Kimball, Middle Georgia EMC, Rhonda Lamb, South Georgia Banking Company, Tiffany Sinyard, Stripling's General Store, Unadilla Meat Company.

Special Thanks: Dooly County K-8 for their assistance with preparation of the luncheon. Centerpiece Sponsors: Rhonda Lamb and La'El Sanders. For more information about the Dooly County Chamber and upcoming events, please contact Rhonda: (229) 322-1596, Member Services: Tiffany (478)778-1745, Membership: Phyllis (229)938-6253.

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.

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).



National Day of Prayer in Byromville

Contributed

Join the Byromville Community Thursday, May 7 at 12:00 noon in Groves Park to pray together for our country. For more information, visit: [nationaldayofprayer.org](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org).

FA Library Named In Honor of Mrs. Joyce Wilkes



Contributed

We honored a wonderful lady Mrs. Joyce Wilkes Monday, April 27 for 37 years of dedication to Fullington Academy. She served as our school librarian for 37 years. Thank you to all the people who came out to visit with her and reminisce about old times. A plaque will be placed outside of the Library reading the "Joyce Wilkes Library."

ian for 37 years. Thank you to all the people who came out to visit with her and reminisce about old times. A plaque will be placed outside of the Library reading the "Joyce Wilkes Library."

Dooly County Community CALENDAR

email: editor@ganewsobserver.com



CCU Food Pantries in May

Christ Chapel Unadilla has two Food Pantry dates in May with no Food Drive scheduled this month. The food pantry dates are May 9 and May 16 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon both Saturdays at CCU located at 400 Jeannette Street in Unadilla. Volunteer check-in is 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. For more information, call Christ Chapel Unadilla at 478-627-9352.

Christ Chapel Bingo Night in Byromville

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

Town of Dooling Meeting

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

Dooly County

Library

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

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

The Elizabeth Harris Library

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

"An Hour of Encouragement"

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

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. (TFS)

Wonderful story time with Head Start and Ag in the Classroom

Photo by Julianne Woodward Bartlett

Elizabeth Harris Library Manager and Rhonda Woodward Bartlett along with Angie Burton with the Dooly County Farm Bureau during Ag. in the Classroom last Friday. Contact the library at 312 Harman Street in Unadilla at 478-627-9303 or visit <https://www.lbrls.org/>



Miss Jan Peavy Expresses Her Gratitude for Retirement Celebration

Contributed

"Miss" Jan wanted to say thank you and this note says it all. "Dear Fullington Academy, I am deeply moved by the beautiful retirement celebration you organized for me. It was very obvious that incredible effort was put into the decorations and food. The party was a wonderful reminder of why the Family has been so important to me.

Thank you too, for the beautiful necklace. I will always treasure it. Thank you to the PTO for the antique grandfather wall clock. I will think of FA everytime it chimes. It has been an honor to serve the students and families of FA. While I am looking forward to the next chapter, I will miss the daily energy and spirit of our school. With sincere gratitude, Jan Peavy, Miss Jan."

We're the ones who are grateful, for your years of love, care, and dedication. It was an honor to celebrate with you. Thank you to all who helped and stopped by to share your gratitude and memories.



Police Chase Results In Drug and Financial Identity Fraud Charges Among Others

Story and Photo By CCSO

A Crisp County deputy attempted to stop a speeding vehicle traveling 84 mph on Interstate 75 Thursday, April 30. When the deputy attempted contact with the driver, the vehicle fled. The driver exited at Exit 101, ran a red light at 16th Avenue, and re-entered the interstate, driving recklessly across multiple lanes and the emergency shoulder.

During the pursuit, a passenger threw a bag from the vehicle. Stop sticks were deployed but avoided, resulting in minor injury to a deputy. The fleeing vehicle later struck a red SUV, ending the pursuit. A search of the recovered bag revealed marijuana and related materials. A search of the vehicle revealed



multiple identification cards, W-2s and debit cards belonging to multiple different individuals. Jabria Wright and Saquario Davis were taken into custody.

Wright, the driver, a 23-year-old female from Atlanta, GA is charged with: Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police Officer, DUI, six counts financial iden-

tity fraud, possession of marijuana with Intent to Distribute and numerous traffic violations and citations. Saquario Davis a 24-year-old male from Atlanta is charged with: six Counts - Financial Identity Fraud, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute and Abandonment of Dangerous Drugs. EMS re-

sponded to the scene and occupants of the struck vehicle were also evaluated.

No one was transported by EMS, all injuries were non life threatening. The crash is being worked on by GSP Post 30. The Arabi Police department assisted with traffic control.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts
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313 W. Union St., Vienna
Open Through Lunch
Eddie Conner, Manager

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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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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
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 WATERMELONS GALORE!

Today we take a close look at a favorite American fruit, the watermelon. It is believed that watermelons originated in Africa, with roots traced to the Kalahari Desert and Sudan region over 5,000 years ago. Initially bitter and pale-fleshed, they were domesticated in Northeastern Africa (Egypt) for their high water content. They spread throughout the Mediterranean, Asia, and Europe before reaching the Americas in the 16th century.

Evidence of cultivated watermelons appears in Egyptian hieroglyphs and tombs over 4,000 years ago. Ancient plant breeders, possibly in Mediterranean lands, developed sweeter, red-fleshed varieties around 2,000 years ago, moving them from a desert crop to a popular dessert. By the 10th century, they were widespread in Europe and Asia; they were brought to the Americas by European settlers in the 1500s.

If you've seen one watermelon, you haven't seen them all. Not by a long shot. With hundreds of watermelon varieties available worldwide, there are melons in plenty of sizes, colors, and degrees of sweetness to taste and compare.

Watermelons come in three main sizes. At one end of the size chart are the big guys, so-called picnic watermelons. These are watermelons large enough to feed a crowd, and some of the giant picnic melons could probably feed everyone at a church picnic.

Next in size are icebox watermelons. These are compact melons designed to fit easily into a refrigerator, making them perfect for small families. They usually weigh between 6 and 10 lbs, which is smaller than traditional "picnic" watermelons. Sugar Baby is the most well-known icebox melon.

Most recently, small, per-

sonal watermelons, also known as mini melons, are showing up in stores. Personal watermelons are small, 3-to-7-pound, typically seedless melons with thin rinds, designed for easy storage and single-person consumption. Ranging from 4-6 inches, these sweet, high-yield melons are ideal for containers. A popular one is 'Mini Love', which is a 3-6 pound, red-fleshed, crack-resistant variety.

Following are a few of the world's watermelon varieties, many of which have wonderfully delicious, evocative names.

The world's largest watermelon variety is the Carolina Cross, which is specifically cultivated for competition and capable of producing fruits weighing over 200 pounds. Nearly all, if not all, world records for heavy watermelons in the past few decades have been set using this variety. The heaviest watermelon ever grown was a 350.5-pound Carolina Cross, grown by Chris Kent in 2013.

Charleston Gray-developed in 1954 by Charles Andrus, a plant breeder with the United States Department of Agriculture in, you guessed it, Charleston, South Carolina. Its rind is a light, slightly dusty-looking green. According to the USDA, Charleston Gray is in the lineage of a whopping 95 percent of the watermelon grown in the world.

Crimson Sweet-introduced by Kansas State University in 1963, it's now one of the most popular watermelons in the world.

Densuke-an icebox-size melon grown on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, Densuke watermelons have a very dark green ("black") rind and are known to be very sweet. Grown in limited numbers, they can sell for extremely high prices (several hundred U.S. dollars) in Ja-

pan, with one once selling at auction for more than \$6,000 U.S. dollars. The variety has been called both "the black watermelon" and "the world's most expensive watermelon."

Georgia Rattlesnake-thought to have been developed in Georgia in the 1830s, it's sometimes called "the watermelon that made Georgia famous."

Jubilee-developed in 1963 by J.M. Crall in Leesburg, Florida, in the University of Florida's watermelon breeding program. Not only is it now one of the best-selling varieties in the U.S., it's one of the most commonly grown watermelon varieties in the world.

Moon and Stars-the celestial name comes from the unusual speckled small yellow dots ("stars") and occasional large yellow spot ("moon") on the dark green rind. Introduced by Peter Henderson and Company in the 1920s, it eventually was thought to have disappeared. "Moon and Stars" was rediscovered in 1981 growing on a farm in Missouri and is available commercially once again.

Sugar Baby-icebox-size, green-black rind. Developed by M. Hardin in Geary, Oklahoma, and first offered for sale in 1959.

Tom Watson-with a solid green rind, often produces giants over 100 pounds.

Originated around 1900, when a Florida farmer named it in honor of Georgia's Thomas (Tom) Edward Watson. Tom Watson (the man) was a trial lawyer, U.S. congressman, and U.S. senator who's called the architect of the Rural Free Delivery mail system, according to The Melon by Amy Goldman. Tom Watson (the melon) has flesh, encased in a thick, hard rind that made it an excellent melon to ship. According to Goldman, it was "the most popular shipping melon during the Great Depression.

I'll bet you didn't know there were so many varieties of watermelons. Grow some of them!

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.



DR. LANIER ROBERTS

Columnist

Writings From The Heart SPIRITUAL FOOD FROM A FLOCK OF GEESE

Geese fly in a "V" formation because with all those flapping wings it helps to increase their flying distance up to 70%. There is a lot of unity involved for them to accomplish this. It reminds me of Christians serving the Lord and growing a local church. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, And with his brethren." (We can grow a local church much more successfully if we serve the Lord with one accord and with love and compassionate hearts). Amen.

Lead goose gets tired and falls back into the flock and another takes his place. There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to men, but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able but will with that temptation make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it." ICor.10:13. (God will help us while we are going through any temptation. You see, the lead goose did not give up when he got tired, he just went back into the flock to reserve his strength to take the lead again ON ANOTHER

DAY!).

Honking Geese With A Purpose---The reason geese honk while they are flying is for encouragement. It's like them saying to each other, "We can make it, we can make it, let's keep going." (Our spiritual application is Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose).

When a goose gets sick or wounded, he goes down to the ground, BUT NOT BY HIMSELF. Two others go with him and stays to tend to him until he gets well or dies. Then they go back to find another flock to join and continue on their journey. Our spiritual act comes from Luke 10:33-35 concerning the Good Samaritan and the wounded man who was beaten up on a wayward road and left for dead. Check it out.

God speed to you all. Until next time.

No Redraw Of Georgia's Maps...For Now

Charlie Harper
Guest Columnist

The United States Supreme Court struck down Louisiana's Congressional district maps last week, setting off a wave of redistricting sessions in legislatures across the South. Louisiana is in a court-ordered situation as their map was specifically ruled unconstitutional. Alabama had a pending case, and their Governor has already called for a special session of as well to remedy the map according to the SCOTUS decision.

Tennessee has elected to do the same, with Texas and Florida having already completed red-draws. On the other side, Virginia and California have completed partisan red-draws this year - both having to ram through changes to their constitution to add Democratic seats. Virginia's process and map has been declared unconstitutional by a state judge, with the resolution to the changes pending before their state Supreme Court.

"Gerrymander" has become partisans favorite word when one of the states they are aligned with perform it, and an unfair anathema when they're on the opposite side. Those trying to make sense of talking heads making opposite arguments for and against, but always using the word "fairness" to apply to their side.

Too often the benchmark for "fairness" rests on who started it. New York redrew maps in 2024 to gain more seats for the Democrats. Illinois has had maps that look as if drawn by Rorschach himself for decades. All of New England wildly overrepresents Democrats by population, though Republicans posting their map on social media should quit highlighting Vermont (with its one Congressional district) as evidence of systematic gerrymandering for obvious reasons.

The people appealing to your sense of fairness want you to be motivated and/or shamed by it.

They have no interest in holding themselves or their party to the same standard.

Reapportionment - the act of redrawing districts - is not about fairness. It's the most raw act of power you can witness from a legislative body. It is where friends will metaphorically stab friends in the front because there's little time to arrange a clandestine back stabbing. Those who have power want to keep it or expand it. Those who do not will exploit every angle to attain it.

Georgians are currently voting for member of Congress using maps drawn by the same restrictions stuck down in the Louisiana case. There is a lot of pressure from segments of the Republican party and their griftersphere to force Governor Brian Kemp to cancel the ongoing election, call a special session, redraw maps, and start the process over.

There is little chance this is going to happen. It's something that Governor Kemp has already ruled out for this year. It's not even clear the Governor has this power under Georgia's Constitution.

Votes have already been cast. Throwing out legally cast votes for a do-over isn't something courts are likely to mandate as a remedy.

Most of those who immediately called for the Governor to cancel elections and immediately redraw maps are candidates for statewide office, including some (but not all) of the current candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

When voters hear red meat being thrown to the base, they often see the first order operation, say "yeah, they're appealing to their people" and move on. Hyper-partisans don't care as much about communities of interest as they do larger majorities. Appealing to the base with rhetoric that isn't legally or logistically possible sends a signal that they're on the right side,

and costs them nothing.

A special session would require five legislative days for a bill to be introduced and pass both chambers. Candidates for statewide office who are currently state elected officials cannot raise money when the legislature is in session.

Not only would a special session upset the election currently underway, but would halt last minute fundraising if done "immediately" as several have requested. Those self-funding their campaigns would have a clear advantage over those still trying to fund their last minute get out the vote ads. This would affect those incumbents trying to win their legislative seats in addition to the statewide races.

Those seeking maximum advantage with weirdly drawn maps may also end up losing it all. Few in Georgia media want to remind you what happened the last time Democrats were in charge of redrawing Georgia's congressional and legislative maps. House members in Republican areas were drawn into multimember districts. Senate districts in rural areas connected remote parts of the state with land bridges several hundred yards wide. A Congressional district ran from suburban east Atlanta to Savannah, with others having zig zag shapes through towns and counties segregating neighbors based on party, and on race.

The statewide election that year yielded the first partisan flip of state control since Reconstruction. Some credit the flag issue. Some cite angry teachers. But in a race decided by a slim margin, every disaffected voter can claim they were the reason.

Normal Georgians rejected the sacrifice of their communities of interest to maintain partisan power. When Republicans do eventually meet to address redistricting concerns, they would be wise to balance partisan desires with the will of local communities.



BILLY POWELL

Columnist

Parables To Ponder MY WATCH ALARMED IN CHURCH

Once I purchased a new wrist watch that automatically alarmed every hour. I made the mistake of wearing it to church. At exactly high noon, as the preacher momentarily paused during his sermon, my watch alarmed with twelve shrill beeps. Everyone looked around, but I didn't let on that it was my watch. In reality, it was more than the chiming of the hour. The watch sent the preacher an unintended subliminal message. The alarm said, "Preacher, it's 12 o'clock and you are preaching overtime."

Unless the Holy Spirit falls on a congregation, a preacher loses his audience at high noon or after 25 minutes in the pulpit, whichever comes first. Most people are thinking about that roast in the oven or how long they will have to wait in line at the restaurant. Watch the employees depart their workplaces at lunchtime. When both clock hands point to twelve, they all make

a mad rush to leave their work stations. It is no different in church on Sunday morning. At 12 o'clock, the congregation grows restless and many worshippers will make a furtive glance at their watches.

Speak too long, and the congregation becomes fidgety and inattentive. A person's attention span seriously wanes after 20-minutes. The most effective messages are delivered in 25 minutes or less. A long-winded message will put people to sleep. Such was the case when the Apostle Paul preached long into the night at a church in Troas. A young parishioner there named Eutychus grew drowsy and fell out of a three-story window.

One hour of preparation is required for every minute of delivery; consequently, a 20-minute sermon requires 20-hours research, study and script preparation. A pastor, known for his well-prepared and succinct sermons, was the famous Peter Marshall. When

Dr. Marshall pastored churches in Covington and Decatur, people would line up in the rain outside the church to hear him preach.

The greatest sermon in history was Jesus' Sermon on the Mount which can be read slowly in 20-minutes. Another notable sermon was Peter's message at Pentecost that saved 3,000 people. Peter's recorded message can be recited in 10-minutes.

The most effective homilist I have ever heard was a Baptist preacher who typed his messages word-for-word and never spoke longer than 20-minutes. I actually timed him one Sunday. His message lasted exactly 13 minutes and 7 seconds. This pastor's sermons became the talk of the town, and everyone who came to hear him preach knew the service would be over at high noon, if not before. Church attendance doubled. Two morning services had to be installed to accommodate the overflow crowds that came. As a result, church attendance dramatically increased, Sunday School enrollment swelled, and many were walking the aisles to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Contributed

Dooly County is currently under a burn ban through May 22, 2026, by Administrative Order of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Georgia is experiencing severe drought conditions, and wildfire risk is at a critical level. Right now, it only takes one spark to start a fast-moving, dangerous wildfire.

This is not the time for "safe enough." Even routine outdoor activities can have serious consequences under these conditions.

What to remember:

- There is no safe outdoor burning at this time
- Anything that creates a spark can ignite a wildfire
- Fires can spread quickly and unpredictably in dry conditions

Our firefighters are responding to a high number of wildfires across the state - we need everyone's help to prevent the next one.

Learn more about current conditions and safety guidance: <https://gatrees.org/current-wildfire-information-and.../>

Every spark matters. Every decision matters.

The News Observer

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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.

NO26-025
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CONSTANCE MARILYN HARPE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0016
PETITION FOR LETTERS 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 MARILYN 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 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

NO26-019
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

NO26-023
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 LETTERS 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**.
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 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

NO26-024
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: 0 4 6 - 2 5 J - 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 no 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 prescribes. 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.**

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

NO26-017
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
KRISTINA BROADWAY, PLAINTIFF
V.

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

NO26-027
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF NATHAN JEROME JORDAN, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0020
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:
CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE JORDAN has petitioned for **CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE JORDAN** to be appointed Administrator of the estate **NATHAN JEROME JORDAN**, 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 Steet
Vienna, GA 31092
(229) 268-4217
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 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

NO26-026
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Patsy Christine Bridges, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-0019
PETITION FOR 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.
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

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.Chilids
Clerk of Superior Court
Dooly, County
April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 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 LETTERS 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 Steet
Vienna, GA 31092
(229) 268-4217
April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

NO26-028
STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
Re: Patricia E. Rigdon Estate
Dan R. Spires, Jr., Temporary Administrator of the Estate of Patricia E. Rigdon, 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 Temporary Administrator. All persons owing to the estate are also required to make immediate payment to the Temporary Administrator, whose postal address is P.O. Box 937, Cordele, GA 31010. Dan R. Spires, Jr., Temporary Administrator,
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

END LEGALS

Trojans Wrap Up Regular Season This Week With A Region Championship on the Line

By Head Coach Mike Ashley

We started off last week with an away game against Covenant Monday, April 20 which I was excited for because we got to play at Luther Williams Park in Macon, Ga. A historical park that had a lot of pro ball players come through there. Somewhere I grew up playing high school and American Legion baseball, so it was good to take the guys there to see that kind of history. We had been playing pretty well and thought we'd have another good game with them.

We started off with Eli Ashley doing what he always does, hitting the ball, one of the few that day. So it was a close ball game. We had some really 'bone head' errors that really ended up costing us the game. Two were infield pop ups and for some reason, in that park once the ball got up over that roof, the guys were having a hard time finding it.

No excuses from me though,

we just didn't play well in the field. In a tight ball, you've got to make those kinds of plays. I was disappointed with the outcome, we lost 4-3. Good outing from the pitching staff. They did what they had to do to win, kept it close. Defensively, we were just sloppy. We had a game last Tuesday at Central Fellowship Christian Academy and Eli Ashley led off with a base hit, Brantley Ross came up and we started hitting the ball and everybody contributed that day on offense.

We ended up scoring 23 runs and we scored 10 runs with two outs and Cash Greene had his first solo home run. Brantley Ross actually had an inside the park grand slam, so that was really big for him. Eli Ashley pitched that game and he did pretty well. I hadn't pitched him much this year and I thought he did a fantastic job, but that one inning we stayed in there for like 45 minutes to hit, it kind-a got to him. Tried to let him finish it up, but I brought Cash



Photo By Bonnie Hovesler
#22 Senior John Wilson Floyd who made two unassisted double plays, one of which was catching a line-drive in the hole and diving back to first to tag the bag for the double-play.

Greene in to close it out, I think eight pitches the last two outs. So, we ended up winning that one 23-5.

Next we had CFCA coming



Photo By Bonnie Hovesler
#1 Brantley Ross who had an inside the park grand slam in the first game last week against CFCA. Senior John Wilson Floy.

back to our place last Thursday to finish up that home and home series. Brantley Ross was on the mound and he did exactly what we expected him to do with 10 strikeouts and pitched a really good game and we played really good defense. We got the bats going with Eli Ashley finishing the week 7 for nine plate appear-

ances with a couple of doubles. Brantley, Clay Sangster, Cash, were doing what they do driving in runs and Augie Harris had a good game at-bat and made some good plays in the outfield.

Tucker Sorrow finally started getting a little comfortable, driving the baseball and doing a fantastic job. Just an all around good performance by our guys.

This week, we had a huge game, the region championship was played Tuesday, April 28 at Crisp Academy and hopefully we can do something that we haven't done in a while at Fullington Academy and bring home a region championship and that would help us in our state standings and looking towards the end of the season and where we're going to fall in the rankings and hopefully a home field series the first round of state. That would be great for Fullington and I'm excited to see where our guys end up. No matter what, we're going to be ready to play ball.

We'll finish the season with

our regular season game against John Hancock Thursday, April 30. The guys have been outperforming any expectations that I had. John Wilson Floyd was big all week like he always is with two unassisted double plays catching a line-drive in the hole and went diving back to first to tag the bag for the double-play. He put the ball in play every-time I needed him to and he had an 11-pitch at-bat, so that was huge to see him do that.

I'm just really happy for him this year as a senior. Chase Hughes put the bat on the ball and the leaders are stepping up. It's just a different feel for them, a lot of confidence this season which is good to see. It's good to see this team come together and start gelling and we're excited to see where we end up this Tuesday. Hopefully I'll come back with some good news next week.



Unearth a story summer read club at Elizabeth Harris Library

Contributed

The Unearth a story 2026 library summer reading programs will begin June 3 at 4:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Harris Library in Unadilla with Jerry G. White, June 10: Modern Dinosaurs, Thursday, June 18: Animal Tales (Fossils Alive! Dinosaurs among us, and June 24: Wildlife

Wonders.

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

Despite Losing Region Championship, FA Hoping for State Playoff Berth

By Head Coach, Mike Ashley

Homicide 0, Forcible Rape 0, We started off last week with a big game, it was for the region championship against Crisp Academy and I felt pretty confident going in because we had been putting up a lot of runs. It was kind-a an off day. I could tell by the kids, it was a later start. They didn't tell us they had senior night going on that night. So, we had to change our routine which I don't like to do.

We get there and the kids are starting to 'amp' up a little bit, so I thought we were okay. Key to the game, they called on their number one guy and we called on our number ones, so both pitchers started off really well. Eli Ashley usually does something to get on base to lead off the game, but he didn't have a very good game. We only recorded a couple of hits with Cash Greene and Clay Sangster provided the offense and Augie Harris hit the ball hard, but just hit it right to the fielder. We just struggled on offense and I couldn't un-

derstand that because that pitcher was not over firing. It wasn't anything that we hadn't seen. I could tell then we were playing tight and it all came down to one inning. We walked the number nine hitter and we had two outs while doing this. CA hit a good hard ball to our shortstop, so I thought we were getting out of the inning and Tucker Sorrow fields the ball with a wide high throw and here we are, two men on and two out.

One of their top guys comes up, so by walking the number nine hitter, you're leaving yourself open. He hit one down the right field line and they scored two runs and ended up with three runs that inning with two outs. We came back out with runners on base and were able to score one run and that was pretty much it for offense. We left the bases loaded, runners at second and third and we just couldn't get anything going. Brantley Ross finished the game and he didn't record an earned run and that's kind-a been the story this year. We've had a lot of one and two runs games, leav-

ing runners on where we had opportunities. Other than that one inning, we played a great defensive game, but you've just got to take your hats off. They did what they needed to, to win, but a very disappointing loss.

My first year coming in playing for a region championship, I was very confident going in. But, we just didn't get it done. We turned around and played John Hancock last Thursday traveling to Sparta, Ga. I knew who they were going to pitch because we played them the first game of the year. He did really well against us, beating us in a one run game. I saw the same start like I saw against Crisp Academy and for whatever reason, we were not locked in and didn't start offensively like I wanted us to. Cash Greene pitched another great game and his last four starts have been so good. But, we just didn't back it up with runs. Same story, we had one inning that decided the game and they did what they had to do to manufacture their runs scoring two in one inning and we scored one

and that was your ball game. They won 2-1.

We have a young team starting six freshmen against John Hancock. Our mental side of the game is really what has cost us in the close games this year and just learning how to grind it out and win. I stressed that lately and when it comes to the mental side, you can't coach that. You can give 'em all the literature you want, but until they figure it out, that's going to be the difference. We ended our regular season, waiting on the brackets to come out, but I think we're going to be in the playoffs.

Hopefully we'll get back on our hit streaks because our pitching has been good enough to win ball games and it's kind-a been like that all year. We're a hot and cold team and it's something we've got to fight through and we're plenty good enough and we've got talent.

VGC Presents Scholarship Check



Contributed

Mrs. Elaine Johnson presents a Vienna Garden Club scholarship check to McKinley Causey, a graduating senior at Fullington Academy.

Carson Stevens Wins Back to Back State Pole Vault Title

Contributed

Fullington Academy had a great week at the GIAA State Track Meet at Strong Rock Christian in Locust Grove, highlighted by Carson Stevens defending his State Pole Vault Title by clearing 13'8" last Friday, congratulations to him.

Willa Kehayes turned in a Personal Record in the 100 meter dash on Thursday and finished up with a great

showing in the Long jump Friday.

Our 4x100 relay team consisting of Willa Kehayes, Sadie Chambless, Olivia Cawthon, and Kade Vaughan had a great run on Thursday as well.




Photo Contributed

4X100 relay team Willa Kehayes, Sadie Chambless, Olivia Cawthon and Kade Vaughan.



Photo Contributed

Carson Stevens who won back to back pole vault titles.



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.