



Dooly County Veterans Museum

Will be Open Memorial Day from 10am-5pm

Monday, May 25, 2026 Hwy 41 South, Vienna, GA



Remembering Our Nation's Heroes on Memorial Day

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 21, 2026

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Council Agrees to the Financing of New Tractor

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The council, following discussion, approved the financing of a Kubota tractor for a little over \$39,800. Public Works Director Leon Lester also stated last Tuesday that, "Last week, we did some patching around town. We're still doing pump repair work at the LAS field, gas, water repairs. Also responding to sewer calls and performing emergency water leak repairs and mowing grass in between rain showers."

The council agreed to adopt the 2025 CHIP grant policies and procedures and the department of community affairs is overseeing the selection process along with the River Valley Regional Commission. Unadilla



FireRescue responded to a false alarm Sunday May 10 at Lasse-ter Tractor Co. and a total of 44 calls so far in 2026.

Jewel's Personal Care Home 930 Third Street in Unadilla held its grand opening Saturday, May 16, "A place where care is timeless and thoughtful. Providing an opportunity for everyone to meet the staff and connect with the community and are

now touring future residents."

During Mayor Myron Mixon's report he said, "We are currently updating the city's website. The city is working with VC3, formerly known as Sophicity to create a more functional and informative website. The city's web address will remain the same www.cityofunadillaga.com.

City hall will close Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. City Hall will reopen Tuesday, May 26 during regular business hours." City Hall was also temporarily closed due to a power outage last Monday.

According to a report, "A squirrel who affectionately was named Reggie, climbed onto a transformer and caused the outage."

Unadilla Residents Concerned about Road Conditions

By Mayor Myron Mixon

Citizens, I understand we would like all the streets in perfect condition. I took office as Mayor of Unadilla in January 2016. Prior to that, there hadn't been any street resurfacing in 30 plus years.

With the help of the council, we have an aggressive resurfacing program that has made major strides on our streets.

Below are the completed projects. West Railroad St., Lee St., Dennard St., Borum St., Ivey St., Cosby St., Peavy St., East Railroad St toward the pris-

on, Plunkett St. repairs by the prison, Duncan St scheduled for this summer and Bogan St. scheduled for 2027.

Again I know it's not as fast as we would like but to go from none for decades to all these streets being resurfaced ain't bad either.

Cordele Police-U.S. Marshals Service Arrest Suspect in Shooting

By CPD

Monday morning, Oct. 11, officers with the Cordele Police Department in coordination with the United States Marshals Service Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force, arrested a seventeen-year-old male identified as the suspect in the Wednesday,

May 6 shooting incident that occurred in the 500 block of West 24th Avenue at Sunset Homes.

The suspect was taken into custody that morning at a residence in Cordele without further incident. The Cordele Police Department would like to thank the United States Marshals Service

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force for their assistance and partnership in locating and apprehending the suspect.

This remains an active investigation and no additional information will be released at this time.

Juvenile Arrested on Charges of Possession of a Pistol

By CPD

Cordele police officers were patrolling the area of 24th Avenue and Joe Wright Drive Wednesday, May 13 around 1:00 a.m. when they observed three unknown males running from the area. When officers made

contact with one juvenile male, an AR-15 pistol style weapon fell from his waistband.

Upon further search, the officers recovered a Taurus pistol from the juvenile's backpack.

The 16-year-old juvenile was arrested and charged with two

counts of Possession of a Pistol by a Person Under 18 years of Age and two counts of Obstruction of Law Enforcement Officers. Due to proactive police work and assistance from the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, two guns are now off the streets.

Executive Order Lifts Burning Ban

By GFC

As wildfire conditions improve, the State Forester burn ban has been lifted in all counties. Executive Order: <https://gatrees.org/.../executive-order-lifting-burn-ban.../>

This is welcome progress and a testament to the incredible work of wildland firefighters, first responders, and partner agencies who have worked around

the clock over the past several weeks.

A few important reminders: While the State Forester's wildfire burn ban has been lifted, some counties may still have local burn restrictions or ordinances in place. Always check with local officials before conducting outdoor burning.

The Georgia EPD summer burn ban is still in effect for 54 coun-

ties, primarily in and around metro Atlanta, through October 1.

That seasonal restriction remains in place regardless of current wildfire conditions. Even with improved conditions, parts of Georgia remain dry, and wildfire risk has not disappeared. It still only takes one spark to start



Vienna Council Approves Advertising for Position of Chief of Police

By Tim Franzén
News Observer Reporter

The council following executive session Monday, May 11 approved advertising for the position of chief of police. Before that motion was made, Sheriff Craig Peavy presented officials with his assurances that, "I am supporting whatever the city wants to do. I have never wanted to take on Vienna. Some sheriff's in certain areas, they might want the whole county. I want what's best for the people and if the city wants to talk contract, I'll talk. If they want to appoint a chief, I'll work with them like I always have. Right now, for a little over two months, we're up to about 400 service calls in Vienna, not all are bad. I'm still short-handed and that puts an extra stress on us and my guys are wearing out. I'm not here to say, 'give me a contract, I'm not here to say, 'You need a chief.' Whatever you need from me, you know you're going to get it. It's the amount of time I can give it to you. That's why it's important to me that the city be covered 24-7, but it's not really being covered 24-7 because of the lack of manpower I have.

We do get here as fast as we can. I'm not saying I want an answer tonight, I'm just asking if y'all can head a little closer in that direction, that will help me and my people. I support whatever you decide. To cover Vienna like it ought to be covered, I think Vienna's big enough and has enough going on that probably a minimum of five or six is what it would take. I want what's best for the city and I'm going to respect your decision. It's going to take the commissioners involved as well."

Mayor Eddie Daniels also reported, "We've got two cases, a molestation and GBI is working one. We have a predator walking around that has not been arrested that's molesting little girls. We don't know who he is, so it's time that we do something here. This person is still out on the streets of Vienna. I don't know who he or she is. They're walking around Vienna and have molested a couple of young girls, but this is serious. The GBI is working on one of the cases and I understand the

other case was given to our former chief, but I don't think it ever hit the ground."

Investigator with the Dooly County Sheriff's Department Randy Lamberth replied, "I think the two cases that you just referred to. We'll get those forwarded and see what we've got and we might have to start over. We're going to be behind the eight ball trying to collect certain evidence."

According to information provided by the City of Vienna, "Prior to the approval of the agenda and following a point of order objection by Council member Mathis, Mayor Daniels requested City Attorney by Executive Order Verlin Jones to address the mayor and city council of the potential negative implications of not approving the minutes of the March 23, 2026, April 13, 2026 and April 27, 2026 meetings. Those potential negative implications include invalidating the appointments of members to the Vienna Historic Preservation Commission, invalidating the agreement for River Valley Regional Commission to prepare the State of Georgia required update to the Comprehensive Plan and invalidating the filling of the interim public works superintendent position. Council member King made the motion to amend the agenda to add Item 2.a.- Reconsider the Approval of the minutes of April 13, 2026 meeting and Item 2.b. - Reconsider the Approval of the minutes of March 23, 2026 meeting. Council member John Mathis seconded. Motion approved with four yes (Mathis, Tabatha Carter, Babette Lewis, Albert King) and 0 no. Council member Mathis made the motion to Amend the Agenda to remove Item nine (City Administrators Report).

Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved with three yes (Carter, Mathis, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member Mathis made the motion to Amend the Agenda to add Item 7.a. Resolution 2026-0511A to Hire Interim Police Chief. Council member Carter seconded.

Motion approved with three

**CHIEF OF POLICE
CONTINUED PG 2A**

**BURN BAN
CONTINUED PG 2A**

DCSS Honors DCSO during Nat'l Police Week



Contributed
Dooly County Schools and Communities in Schools had the privilege of feeding the dedicated officers of the Dooly County Sheriff's Department in

honor of National Police Week Wednesday, May 13. We are so grateful for the men and women who put on the badge every day to protect and serve our community including the families

and students of Dooly County. This was a small way to say a big thank you for all that you do, we see you, we appreciate you. We're proud to stand with you.

CHIEF OF POLICE CONTINUED FROM 1A

yes (Carter, Mathis, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member Mathis made the motion to amend the agenda to add Item 7.b. Resolution 2026-0511B to stop payments to any attorney outside of a council approved attorney. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved with three yes (Carter, Mathis, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member Mathis made the motion to amend the agenda to add Item 7.c. Resolution 2026-0511C to terminate Michael Bowens as city administrator, effective immediately. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved with three yes (Carter, Mathis, Lewis) and one no (King).

13, 2026 Meeting. Council member Mathis seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Council member King made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026 Meeting. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no.

read Resolution 2026-0511C and carried the motion by calling for a vote. Council member Carter made the motion to terminate Michael Bowens as city administrator effective immediately and to hire an interim city administrator. Council member Lewis seconded.

Council member Mathis made the motion to advertise for an interim chief of police. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Council member Mathis read Resolution 2026-0511A. Mayor Daniels expressed his discomfort with this action. Council member Mathis carried the motion by calling for a vote. Council member Carter made the motion to appoint Joel Mathis as interim police chief. Council member Lewis seconded. During discussion, City Attorney by Executive Order Jones noted the Resolution was not provided to the clerk and he also reminded members of Charter section 2.19.

Council member Lewis made the motion to advertise for an interim chief of police. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Council member Mathis read Resolution 2026-0511A.

During discussion, City Attorney by Executive Order Verlin Jones noted Charter section 2.19 for the council members as it pertains to hiring and firing of department heads going through the mayor and also the approved and amended employee handbook that lists rights of employees. The motion approved with two yes (Carter, Lewis) and 1 no (King).

Council member King made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Meeting. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Council member King made the motion to approve the minutes of the April

Mayor Daniels expressed his discomfort with this action. Council member Mathis carried the motion by calling for a vote. Council member Carter made the motion to appoint Joel Mathis as interim police chief. Council member Lewis seconded. During discussion, City Attorney by Executive Order Jones noted the Resolution was not provided to the clerk and he also reminded members of Charter section 2.19.

Council member King made the motion to approve the Slate of Officers for GMA District 8 for 2026- 2027. Slate of Officers nominated are: President – Kevin Brown, Mayor of Buena Vista; First Vice-President – Brooke Huckaby, Mayor of Arabi- Second Vice-President – Eddie Daniels, Mayor of Vienna-Third Vice-President – Wesley Rainey, Mayor of Cordele. Council member Carter seconded. Motion approved four yes (Mathis, Carter, King, Lewis) and 0 no. Mayor Daniels then recognized City Clerk Margaret Shelley and expressed appreciation for the work she performs as city clerk. He then signed a Proclamation recognizing May 3 through 9, 2026 as Professional Municipal Clerks Week."

The motion approved with two yes (Carter, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member Mathis read Resolution 2026-0511B. Council member Mathis carried the motion by calling for a vote. Council member Carter made the motion to stop payments to any attorney not approved by city council. Council member Lewis seconded. Motion approved with two yes (Carter, Lewis) and one no (King). Council member Mathis

BURN BAN CONTINUED FROM 1A

a wildfire. We're grateful for the progress being made and for every Georgian who helped by taking precautions, following restrictions, and supporting wildfire response efforts.

For current wildfire updates, safety information, and resources, visit: <https://gatrees.org/current-wildfire-information-and.../>

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).

DCMS Seventh Graders Explore Their Future



Contributed

Our Dooly County Middle School Seventh graders had an exciting opportunity to visit Fort Valley State University as part of our College and Career Ready initiative. Students explored the campus, learned about future career pathways, and experienced college life firsthand.

A special thank you to our counselor Ms. Eliza Bryant for planning this outstanding trip and helping form the partnership with Fort Valley State University to provide our students with this valuable experience.

At Dooly K-8 Academy, we are committed to exposing our students to opportunities that inspire them to dream big, work hard, and prepare for a successful future.



Why Are Firefighters Still Out There? This is why.

By Ga. Forestry Commission

A reburn is caused by needlecast, a common wildfire challenge in Georgia's pine forests. Needlecast happens when dry pine needles fall in thick layers across the forest floor. Those needles create highly flammable fuel that can hold heat, smolder unnoticed, and reignite long after the main fire front has passed.



That's exactly why mop-up operations are so critical.

Even when containment numbers improve and flames are no longer making headlines, hidden heat can remain. A single hotspot in heavy needlecast can flare back up, cross containment lines, and put firefighters, nearby communities, and property at risk all over again.

This picture was taken several days ago on the Highway 82 Fire, a reminder that these are still active incidents, and the

work is not done. Mop-up may not be the most visible part of wildfire response, but it is some of the most important work our crews do.

Tax Appraiser I Vacancy

The Dooly County Tax Assessor's Office is accepting applications for a full-time Tax Appraiser I position. Duties include assisting taxpayers, maintaining property records, processing homestead exemptions, entering appraisal data, filing documents, answering phones, and supporting daily office operations.

Applicants should possess strong computer, customer service, organizational skills and willing to take training /certification classes offered by the Tax Appraiser School. procedures and ability to work with the public are required. High school diploma or equivalent required; appraisal or tax office experience preferred.

5-day work: 8:00 am -5:00 pm. Hourly pay starts at \$16.00.

Public Works Mechanic Vacancy

Dooly County Commissioners is accepting applications for a full-time Mechanic at the Dooly County Public Works Department. Responsibilities include repairing and maintaining county vehicles and heavy equipment, performing oil changes, tire repairs, brake work, diagnostics, and preventive maintenance on gas and diesel equipment. Applicants should have experience working with heavy equipment, shop tools and be able to follow instructions and work safely.

Minimum of 3 years' mechanical experience is preferred. Valid driver's license required. Criminal and Vehicle Record check required. 4-day work week, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Hourly Pay Rate: \$19.00

County Benefits for the above county vacancies are: 100% Paid Medical Insurance, Paid Annual & Sick Leave, Paid Holidays, Retirement program and Life insurance.

Must pass Drug & Alcohol screening, Criminal background check and Vehicle Drivers Records check.

Applications for the above vacancies may be obtained at the Dooly County Commissioners' Office, 113 North Third Street, Vienna, GA 31092 or the website: www.doolycountyga.com Dooly County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Application Deadline is May 29, 2025.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

The Dooly County Board of Education will hold its second public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund and Special Funds Budget on May 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the time referenced in the Board Room at the Dooly County Board of Education Central Office, 202 Cotton Street, Vienna, GA.

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS APRIL TERM, 2026 DOOLY SUPERIOR COURT

To the Honorable Amy Bryant, Judge of the Superior Court for the Cordele Judicial Circuit:

The Grand Jury empaneled for the April Term, 2026, Dooly Superior Court, was sworn in on May 11, 2026 at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Grand Jury's organization consisted of Kimberly Barron, Foreperson, Haleigh Goodroe, Clerk and Lyndon Childs as Bailiff.

The Grand Jury wishes to thank Judge Amy Bryant for her helpful and informative charge and District Attorney Bradford L. Rigby and Assistant District Attorney Heather Calhoun for their assistance.

We, the Grand Jury, considered 24 bills of indictments and returned 24 true bills.

The Grand Jury recommends that these presentments be published in the official newspaper of Dooly County, Georgia, and that such paper be paid the usual fee for publication.

Kimberly Barron, Foreperson

Haleigh Goodroe, Clerk

The above and foregoing general presentments having been returned and read in Open Court, it is Ordered that they be received, spread upon the minutes of this court and published as recommended.

In Open Court, this 11 day of May, 2026.

Judge Amy Bryant
Judge Superior Courts
Cordele Judicial Circuit
Bradford L. Rigby
District Attorney



FVSU Head Start, "Grateful for Dooly County Library"

Contributed

For the last few weeks, Dooly County Library has doubled as a schoolhouse for Head Start. The kids and teachers brought so much fun and laughter to this building. The manager and staff enjoyed every minute.

Ms. Gipson with the Fort Valley State University Head Start said, "We're very grateful for Dooly County Library to allow the Head Start-Early Head Start to continue providing educational services to our children. The families were extremely happy to continue the collaboration with the library."



Last Monday, the children also enjoyed bubbles as one of their activities.

For more information about the summer reading program at Dooly County Library, contact Manager Jill Kloberdanz at 268-4687 or drop by at 1200 East Union Street in Vienna.



UNEARTH A STORY 2026 Library Summer Reading Club

Unearth a story at the Elizabeth Harris Library, 312 Harman St, Unadilla. Programs are free and start at 4:00pm. June 3 - Jerry G. White; June 10 - Modern Dinosaurs, Thurs.; June 18 - Animal Tales (Fossils alive! Dinosaurs among us); June 24 - Wildlife Wonders.

For more information call 478-627-9303. The Summer Reading Club at

Elizabeth Harris Library is just around the corner. All programs are at 4:00 p.m. in Unadilla. Please thank our sponsors. This year's programs are brought to you by the following sponsors: Jerry G. White/City of Unadilla, Modern Dinosaurs/Lions Club, Animal Tales/Brannen Motor Company, and Wildlife Wonders/Mayor Myron Mixon.

Peace and Unity Ride in Vienna

Contributed

Are you riding in the Peace and Unity Ride on Saturday, May 23? Lineup begins at 10:00 a.m. at the old hospital parking lot in Vienna and ends at the downtown Vienna Square for refreshments, music and words from our pastors and other community leaders. There will be an extended ride

for those interested. Whether you're rolling in on an ATV, golf cart, slingshot, motorcycle or other RV. All drivers are to pay \$20 and each passenger \$5. All proceeds benefit the Bethlehem Baptist Church Women's Ministry Outreach program, a cause worth riding for. All ages welcome and vendors might be on site.

Kaleb Green Selected Gates Scholar

Submitted by Kylie Garrard

Dooly County Schools is proud to announce that Kaleb Green, a senior at Dooly County High School and Salutatorian of the Class of 2026 has been selected as a Gates Scholar and member of The Gates Scholarship Class of 2026.

Chosen from a pool of more than 61,000 applicants from across the nation, Kaleb is among only 750 students to receive this prestigious honor placing him among the most exceptional young leaders in America.

The Gates Scholarship, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is one of the most competitive and prestigious scholarships in the United States. It is awarded to outstanding minority students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to serving their communities.

Recipients receive full funding to attend the college of their choice, covering unmet financial need through undergraduate

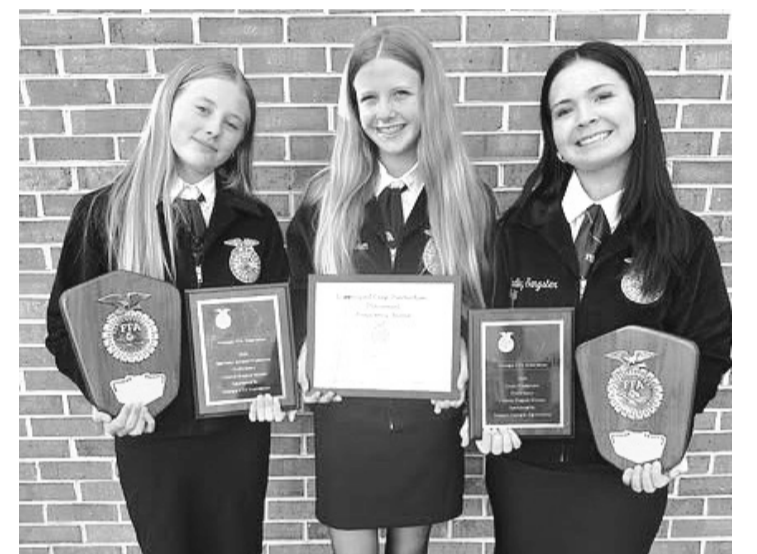


Photo Contributed
Kaleb Green

graduation. Kaleb's selection as a Gates Scholar comes on the heels of another remarkable distinction: he has earned the title of Salutatorian of the Dooly County High School Class of 2026, a reflection of years of unwavering academic dedication and excellence.

Together, these two achievements represent a defining moment not only for Kaleb and his family, but for the entire Dooly County community.

FA FFA Recognized at 2026 Area Three Awards Banquet



Contributed

Fullington Academy FFA members Hadley, Gabby, and Olivia traveled to Fort Valley State University last Thursday to attend the Area Three FFA awards banquet. Our Chapter was recognized for: Second Place Jr Veterinary science CDE, Second Place Jr Horse Evaluation CDE, Grain Production Central Region Winner-

Chase Hughes, Specialty Animal Production Central Region Winner- Keira Musselwhite, Diversified Crop Production Placement Area three Winner-Landon Cobb.

Thank you to the area three officers and Central Region State Staff for putting on such an incredible banquet. We are so proud of all of our members and their hard work this past year.

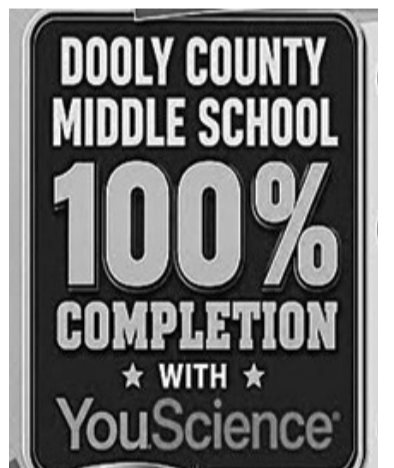
Success Worth Celebrating

Contributed

Dooly County Middle School has officially reached 100% YouScience completion for all students in six-eighth grade. ("An online aptitude-based career guidance platform that helps students and young adults discover their natural strengths ("aptitudes") and match them with relevant educational and career pathways. It uses "brain games" to measure abilities and combines them with personal interests to recommend.") This accomplishment reflects the hard work,

collaboration, and dedication of our students and staff in helping connect learning to real-world college and career pathways. We are incredibly proud of this milestone and what it means for our students' futures.

A very special thank you to our outstanding school counselor, Ms. Eliza Bryant and all of our teachers for ensuring this important work was completed successfully. Your commitment to our students continues to make a difference every single day.



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. (TTS)

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. (TTS)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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

NAPA Brooks Auto Parts
229-268-2700
313 W. Union St., Vienna
Open Through Lunch
Eddie Conner, Manager

THE CITIZENS AGENCY
"Dependable Insurance"
121 N. 3rd Street
P.O. Box 486
Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-2800

Vienna, GA
Evergreen Baptist Church
Pinehurst, GA
229-645-3476
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

Akin Insurance Agency, Inc.
Local People. Local Service. For a Lifetime.
Proudly Serving Dooly County
for more than 10 years!
Corner of Union & 3rd
229-268-4751 • Vienna

IF YOU NEED TO ADVERTISE EMAIL
Phyllis Keaton
phyllis.keaton@yahoo.com
(229)938-6253

Church
Vienna, GA
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Byromville, GA
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
Unadilla, GA
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
Vienna, GA
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Vienna, GA
New Bethel Baptist Church
Unadilla, GA
478-627-3775
Mt. Zion CME
Vienna, GA
229-268-6013
Northside Missionary Baptist Church
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

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



Writings From The Heart THE BIBLE AND ITS TRANSLATIONS (PART ONE)

DR. LANIER
ROBERTS

Columnist

Nearly all the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew; the small remaining portion was written Aramaic, sometimes called Syriac. The Aramaic section section comprises three passages (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Dan.2:4-7:28), one verse of Jeremiah (10:11), and two words in Genesis (31:47, a place name meaning "heap of witness"). Aramaic was the language spoken by the people and was the language spoken by Jesus during His public ministry. However, the New Testament was written in Greek, the language used in letters and other writings. Greek was the language understood practically everywhere throughout the Roman Empire, even in the remote provinces, and was recognized as the language of culture.

Since few persons can easily read the ancient languages of the Scriptures, many versions and translations of the Bible have been made. It has been translated, either in whole or in part, into every language of the world today; but, because the spoken languages change

from generation to generation, the work of the translation continues.

HEBREW.—All of the Old Testament manuscripts which have been found are written in square, black letters which resemble the printed Hebrew of today. These square characters came into use some years prior to the birth of Christ.

Two facts made the translator's task difficult. First, Hebrew was then written without any spaces separating the words. For this reason, the translator was puzzled to know where one word ended and the next word began. Second, the Hebrew alphabet consisted of twenty-two letters, all of them consonants. (Four of these consonants, however, were sometimes used to represent vowels.) In writing, only the consonants were put down. The reader was expected to know which vowels should be added. Evidently it was believed that the reader would be sufficiently familiar with the sacred text to be able to supply from memory the omitted vowels, or else it was thought

that the context in which each word occurred would suggest the proper vowel or vowels to be inserted. If we may use English to illustrate the problem, let us suppose one came upon the consonants m and n. Could one tell with certainty what word was intended? Would it be "man" or "men", "main," "mean," "mien," "moan," "moon," or even "omen."

In the sixth and seventh centuries A.D., when Hebrew as a spoken language was beginning to die out, it was observed that the rabbis were not always agreed as to the proper reading of passages in the synagogue scrolls. As a result, there was danger of confusion and misunderstanding. Accordingly, Jewish scholars of that period, who became known as the Massorettes, undertook to determine and to indicate the proper vowel or vowels for every word in the Hebrew Scriptures. They indicated these vowels by means of small marks above, within, or below the consonants. They did not regard these vowel points as a part of the sacred text, and for that reason they refrained from marking them on the synagogue scrolls. They did insert them, however, on other scrolls and in their commentaries on the scriptures.

Thanks to the Thomas Nelson Inc. for the above information. God speed to all. Until next time.



TIM LEWIS

Columnist

In The Garden With TOMATO SUNSCALD, UNEVEN RIPENING, AND CRACKED FRUIT

Tomatoes are probably the most popular plants in the home vegetable garden. They are tasty and boast a variety of uses from pastas, sauces, salsas, and so much more! Boost your tomato yields by properly pruning your plants for greater health and fruit production.

Why prune tomato plants? As tomatoes grow, they continue to develop branches, leaves, and fruit from the main stem. However, some of these branches develop quick and vigorous foliage growth over fruit production. These branches are called suckers. If suckers, or regular branches for that matter, grow too densely, you may experience greater pest and disease problems relating to poor air circulation and light access. Pruning can help to open up the plant to greater access to and improve air circulation for healthier growth, larger, and higher fruit quality over excessive foliage growth. Regular pruning can also keep your harvest visible and within reach.

A little background on tomatoes is in order. All tomatoes fall largely into two categories, determinate or indeterminate as it relates to their growth habits. Determinate tomatoes tend to be shorter and bushier, with a limited height range. They also set all of their fruit within a limited time frame. While they may need some light pruning from time to time, this should be limited to removing dead or damaged leaves.

Indeterminate types, on the other hand, will continue to produce fruit throughout the summer season. They will also continue to grow vertically with a vining habit that requires support for healthy growth. Indeterminate tomatoes require greater care as they are more likely to need ongoing pruning throughout the season to remove dead or damaged leaves, excessive growth, and sucker branches.

The best time to start pruning tomatoes is when they are young, around a foot tall, and have several sets of leaves. This will allow the plant to continue gathering the light it needs with the remaining leaves.

Suckers are the quick-to-grow branches that form at the leaf axils. This is where the branches extend from the main vine. Regular branches will form horizontally away from the stem. Suckers form at a 45 degree angle and extend upwards. When growing tomatoes, it is best to maintain one main central vine. If a sucker is left unpruned, it may eventually compete with the main stem and ultimately reduce fruit production.

Determinate tomatoes need no pruning other than the removal of all suckers below the first set of flowers. Additional pruning will not affect fruit size or plant vigor. However, if pruning is done anywhere above the first flower cluster, the tomato harvest will be reduced.

Following is a step-by-step tomato pruning guide.

Step 1: Remove dead or dis-

eased branches. When pruning, removing the dead or diseased portions is the most important place to start. This will help your plants divert their energy to new growth and fruit production.

Step 2: Remove suckers. Suckers will form along the central vine in the "V" between the main stem and leaves/branches. It is best to catch these guys when they are young and short. When left to grow, suckers can quickly increase by several inches, eventually competing with the central stem. This should be avoided as suckers will reduce your harvest yields.

Step 3: Remove the lower leaves. Once the dead and diseased branches and suckers have been removed, you may consider removing any branches below developing fruit. This is optional, but it may improve air circulation and promote fruit ripening.

As long as your tomatoes have strong main stems, it's fine to leave a few suckers on the plant. The general recommendation is to leave two or three suckers to improve yield, but not to let every sucker grow.

If you are concerned about your indeterminate tomato growing tall and cumbersome, you might try this: once the plant has reached an ideal height (such as the top of your support cage or stake), simply pinch out the main terminal (top) bud on each main branch. This will help keep the plant at that height. Of course, your harvest will be reduced accordingly.

Tomato pruning is more trial and error than precision, so look at it as an experiment. When you first start pruning, do less rather than more. If you grow the same varieties year after year, you'll get a feel for how they respond to pruning.

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.

President Pro Tempore Larry Walker III Highlights Consumer Protections in Newly Signed Georgia Insurance Fairness Act

ATLANTA (May 12) — Senate President Pro Tempore Larry Walker III (R-Perry) today applauded Governor Brian P. Kemp for signing House Bill 1344, the Georgia Insurance Fairness Act, into law. Carried by Sen. Walker in the Senate, this comprehensive insurance reform package strengthens Georgians' access to affordable, quality insurance.

HB 1344 gives homeowners the right to see and dispute aerial images used as the basis for terminating their insurance policy. If an insurer relies on aerial or satellite images as a basis for canceling or not renewing a homeowner's insurance, they must now provide the homeowner with copies of the recent, date-stamped images used, and at least 60 days to address any identified issues and maintain coverage.

"In the 30 years I've been an independent insurance agent, I've never seen a market like we have experienced in the last few years," said Sen. Walker. "I've received calls from folks across the state whose homeowner's insurance policies

were canceled with little notice or explanation. I'm proud to carry HB 1344 because it allows consumer protections to advance along with new technology."

Another key component of this legislation is the creation of the Georgia Storm Damage Mitigation Program, which will provide grants for structural improvements, such as roof reinforcement and other upgrades that reduce storm-related damage. The program is expected to lower long-term costs for families and insurers alike.

HB 1344 also enhances transparency by requiring local governments to report how insurance premium tax dollars are used, giving taxpayers greater visibility into how those funds support essential services and reduce insurance costs. "This legislation brings transparency where there was confusion, accountability where there was abuse, and real protections where there were gaps.

HB 1344 helps families fortify their homes before disaster strikes and makes sure the system is fair at the start. At

the end of the day, our goal is to restore trust and position Georgia's insurance market to work for its people, not against them," said Walker. The legislation strengthens enforcement against insurance fraud by increasing penalties for staged accidents and fraudulent claims, while also cracking down on uninsured motorists and on illegal solicitation practices targeting accident victims.

Additionally, HB 1344 establishes clear timelines for insurance claims following catastrophic events and extends the statute of limitations for certain property claims, providing consistency and fairness for policyholders. HB 1344 takes effect July 1, 2026. Sen. Larry Walker III serves as President Pro Tempore of the Georgia Senate.

He represents the 20th Senate District, which includes Bleckley, Dodge, Dooly, Laurens, Pulaski, Treutlen and Wilcox counties, as well as a portion of Houston County. He may be reached by phone at (404) 656-0095 or by email at Larry.Walker@senate.ga.gov.



BILLY POWELL

Columnist

Parables To Ponder WERE THERE A REAL ADAM AND EVE?

Were Adam and Eve two distinct people, or should the Genesis account of the first man and first woman be interpreted allegorically? The Bible states that God created Adam from the dust of the earth (Gen. 2: 7) and formed Eve from Adam's rib (Gen. 2: 21). A literal interpretation of this means that Adam and Eve embryos were not attached to an umbilical cord or nurtured inside a mother's womb. Neither did they undergo natural childbirth. Instead, they arrived fully mature with one abnormality-- a missing navel. The moment Adam and Eve experienced consciousness, they looked around and wondered how they got here. Surely, their sudden emergence into human existence left their minds reeling with wonderment.

There are two separate accounts of creation: one in Genesis, chapter 1 and another in chapter 2. Chapter 1 fails to mention Adam and Eve. It states only that "God created 'MANKIND' in his own image, male and female he created them." While this pas-

sage speaks of mankind in a pluralistic sense, the chapter-2 account confines itself to two discrete individuals: Adam and Eve. Bible scholars attribute these disparities to different authors, i.e. the author of chapter 1 did not write chapter 2. So the question is: Can the two divergent accounts be harmonized, or should we believe that God created "multiple people" (as chapter 1 implies) and that Adam and Eve in chapter 2 "are symbolic of the first humans." Another question arises: Where did Cain (who slew his brother Abel) get his wife? Gen. 5:3 states that "Adam (other than Cain, Abel, and Seth) had other sons and daughters." Therefore, Cain married his sister, which is incest. Was the Serpent who beguiled Adam and Eve a creation of God or did the Serpent create himself? Or, was the Serpent a metaphorical representation of mankind's inclination to sin? Such questions stoke the fires of evolution--that man evolved from a single-celled organism that became a fish, which in time walked up on the shore and eons later became a

man.

The historicity of Adam and Eve is a question which strikes at the heart of the Christian faith. If Adam did not exist, it would invalidate Paul's redemptive plan in Romans 5:19: "For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Christ) shall many be made righteous." Therefore, man could not have inherited Adam's culpability to sin, if Adam was an unreal, metaphorical character.

Further, recent genetic research has revealed that today's human population could not have emerged from a single pair of humanoids: the XX-chromosomal Eve and the XY-chromosomal Adam. Research shows that a core beginning of at least 10,000 humans would be required to produce the diversity of genes in today's population. Yet, according to the genealogies in 1 Chronicles, chapter 1 and Luke, chapter 3, Adam was a historical figure. Jewish tradition has it that Adam and Eve are buried in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron (Palestinian city on Israel's West Bank). In summation, if you believe the first verse in the Bible, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," the questions herein will be of no consequence.

Georgia university system increases tuition 1%

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Tuition will rise 1% for Georgia students attending one of the state's public colleges or universities, the state Board of Regents decided Tuesday.

The regents also increased tuition 3% for out-of-state students attending one of the University System of Georgia campuses.

"With enrollment at record levels, we're focused on limiting new financial hurdles and delivering real value on every

campus," Chancellor Sonny Perdue said in a statement. "Today's decision reinforces that commitment."

Tuition covers only a portion of instructional costs, with the state paying for 57%, according to the university system. It said students pay, on average, less in tuition now than in 2017 when adjusted for inflation.

The system also said the Georgia General Assembly's new budget for fiscal year 2027 includes a \$34.2 million "reduction" in enrollment-driven state funding. The budget, which awaits the signature of Gov. Brian Kemp, increased

the state funding for teaching to \$3.5 billion, up nearly \$229.5 million from the budget approved last year.

The Senate initially sought to roll that back by \$123.5 million, but settled on a \$34.2 million reduction in negotiations with the state House.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said on the Senate floor on April 2 that the Senate's move had been framed publicly as a cutback.

"Only in government can more money next year than this year be called a cut," he said.

The News Observer

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

Send all submissions to:
editor@ganewsobserver.com

Publisher Emeritus: DuBose Porter
General Manager: Pam Burney
Interim Executive Director: Danyale Starley
News Reporter: Tim Franzén
Sales Rep.: Phyllis Keaton
Design Manger: Andrea Banker

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 legal 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.

NO26-023
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 come from:
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 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 objections. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any 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 objections. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and must be filed with the Court on or before May 25, 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
NO26-028
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 a 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

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 a 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 objections. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and must be filed with the Court on or before June 1, 2026.
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

NO26-030
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA DOOLY COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLIE C. DANILES
All creditors of the estate of said deceased, late of said county, are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us
This day of 2026.
Laurie Hill
309 Spruce Ln
Vienna, GA 31092
May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026

NO26-027
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOOLY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF NATHAN JEROME JORDAN, DECEASED
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

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 a 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 objections. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and must be filed with the Court on or before June 1, 2026.
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
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

Under signed, Henry Christopher Moore and Mollie Williams Co-Executors of the Estate of Charles Frederick Moore, hereby give notice in terms 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 a Temporary Administrator and all persons owing to the estate are required to make prompt payment to a Temporary Administrator having postal address 4232 Tillman Bluff Road, Valdosta, GA 31602, and P.O. Box 1194, Hawk Hill, GA 31036, respectively.
Henry Christopher Moore and Mollie Williams
Co-Executors
LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC
Attorney for Co-Executors
May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026

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 come from:
Henry Christopher Moore and Mollie Williams Co-Executors of the Estate of Charles Frederick Moore, hereby give notice in terms 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 a Temporary Administrator and all persons owing to the estate are required to make prompt payment to a Temporary Administrator having postal address 4232 Tillman Bluff Road, Valdosta, GA 31602, and P.O. Box 1194, Hawk Hill, GA 31036, respectively.
Henry Christopher Moore and Mollie Williams
Co-Executors
LAW OFFICE OF NICHOLSON C. EDWARDS, LLC
Attorney for Co-Executors
May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026

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 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 objections. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any objections and must be filed with the Court on or before June 1, 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

END LEGALS

SGBC Announces Local 2026 Julian & Jan Hester Memorial Scholarship Winners

By SGBC
TIFTON, GA—Emily Thompson, a senior at Colquitt County High School, has been selected as the local winner of the Julian & Jan Hester Memorial Scholarship by South Georgia Banking Company. Thompson received a \$500 scholarship from South Georgia Banking Company as the winner and will move on for consideration in the statewide selection process for one of four \$1,000 scholarships, sponsored by the Community Bankers Association (CBA).
Thompson was chosen through a panel of local judges for her exceptional academic work, SAT scores, and community involvement. In addition to



Emily Thompson (left); Tucker Moore (center); Lyla Scott (right)

her academic work at Colquitt County High School, she has also done dual enrollment at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for the past two years. She plans to attend the Uni-

versity of Georgia or Georgia Southern University after graduation.
Tucker Moore, a senior at Tift County High School, and Lyla Scott, a senior at Wilcox Coun-

ty High School, were chosen as runners up. Both Moore and Scott will also be considered for one of the four \$1,000 scholarships in the statewide selection process.

"We are so excited to support Emily, Tucker, and Lyla in their pursuit of higher education," said Sam McCard, Bank President. "We believe that young people are our future. By offering a local scholarship and sponsoring applications for students in South Georgia to move onto the statewide Julian & Jan Hester Memorial Scholarship selection, we are proud to help connect exceptional local students with an opportunity to fund their future."
The Julian & Jan Hester Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Community Bankers Association, awards \$1,000 scholarships to four high school seniors who plan to attend a Georgia college/university/

technical school each year. Local banks like SGBC help identify and nominate outstanding students from their communities.
The Julian & Jan Hester Memorial Scholarship is named after long-time CBA Chief Executive Officer, the late Julian Hester and his late daughter, Jan Hester. Jan was a senior at the University of Georgia when she died in an auto accident in April of 1990. In addition to supporting community banking, this scholarship is an opportunity to pass on the positive qualities both Julian and Jan Hester exemplified to further the development of tomorrow's generations.

DCHS Teacher of the Year Announced



Contributed
Dooly County High School is proud to recognize "Professor" Juone Brown as our 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication, passion, and the positive impact you make on our students every day. Thank you for all that you do to inspire success and support our school community. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Celebrating Excellence in the Classroom



Contributed
Congratulations to Mrs. Consuela Woodson on receiving the My Teacher is Tops Award. Her story aired last Wednesday morning and evening on 13 WMAZ. A special thank you to Jakayla Baldwin for recognizing and nominating such an outstanding educator.
Mrs. Woodson's dedication, passion, and commitment to her students truly make a lasting impact every day. We are so proud to have you as part of our school family. This honor is well deserved.

DCES Teacher Earns Master's



Contributed
Congratulations to Ms. Kamilya Henderson, first grade teacher at DCES on earning her Master's Degree in Teaching from Georgia Southern University. Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to education continue to inspire those around you.

This accomplishment is a true reflection of your hard work and passion for making a difference in the lives of students. Dooly K-8 Academy is proud to celebrate this major milestone with you. Wishing you continued success as you soar to even greater heights.

FA Seniors Honored



Contributed
Photos by Bonnie Hauesler
Fullington Academy's Class of 2026 seniors were honored during a recent ceremony with Izzy Ross, Rylee Reed, Aubrey Pope, Abby Nixon, Keira Musselwhite, Brookline Cromer, Kaitlyn Bloodworth, McKinley Causey, Hunter Smith, Charlie Jackson, Chase Hughes, Aidan Hill, Garlan Godfrey, John Wilson Floyd and Landon Cobb who received their Stoles and other cords during the event.
Those eligible seniors and graduates could receive an Honor Grad Stole, Sr. Beta Cord, American Red Cross, Sports, FFA, Fine Arts or Yearbook Cord. Carson Stevens, Carli Gibson, Bethany Alexander, Evelyn Fletcher and Augie Harris won honor roll awards for outstanding



scholastic achievement.
Georgia Certificates of Merit were given to Carli Gibson and Carson Stevens.

DCHS All-Area Soccer Selections

Contributed

Dooly County High School had the following All-Area selections for our Women's Soccer program: First Team All-Area: Sheryl Sandoval, So-

phia Gracia and Shortin Woodard. Second team All Area: Jorish Woodard and Yaneli Velasquez. We're extremely proud of our girls for being selected to the different area teams.



Sheryl Sandoval

Photo Contributed



Shortin Woodard

Photo Contributed



Sophia Gracia

Photo Contributed

Signing Day 2026



Contributed

Signing day for Alex Mendez and Michael Hyatt Jr. was held last Friday, May 15 in the high school library. Alex signed his Letter of Intent to play at Andrew College this fall. Michael signed his

LOI to play at Central Georgia Technical College. We're extremely proud of Alex and Michael for earning their scholarship offer and we're grateful to share this moment with them.

Dooly County Athletics Honored

Contributed

Dooly County Athletics is proud to announce that we were selected as the GHSA Region Runner-Up for the Sportsmanship Award during the 2025-2026 Athletic Season.

This recognition reflects the

dedication, character, and pride shown by our student-athletes, coaches, staff, families, and fans throughout the year. From the classroom to the field, court, track, and sidelines, Bobcat Nation continues to represent Dooly County with class, respect

and pride. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this achievement possible. We are proud of the culture we continue to build together both in competition and in our community.

FA Jr. BETA Putting in Community Service Hours

Contributed

Fullington Academy Jr Beta members have been working on community service hours. Making a difference one service at a time. We are proud of our members for dedicating time and energy to help in our community. Through hard work, kindness, and leadership they continue to show what it means to 'Lead by Serving'. Thank you for giving back and representing our school with excellence. First place: Madelyn Thompson,



Second place: Eli Chitwood
Third place: Ellie Claire Will-

JUNETEENTH

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ANNUAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL

JUNE 20, 2026
3:00 – 8:00 PM
NORTH HOUSTON SPORTS COMPLEX
900 N. HOUSTON ROAD






GRADUATION 2026

DOOLY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



FULLINGTON ACADEMY



Valedictorian
Javis Bennett

Salutatorian
Kaleb Green



CONGRATULATIONS!

Class of 2026!

You hold the key to your future, and we hope many doors of opportunity are unlocked.

We are proud of all of our graduating seniors.



our community
Vienna

203 West Cotton Street
Vienna, Georgia 31092

www.cityofvienna.org

DOOLY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are proud of you.

DOOLY COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.doolychamber.com

P. O. Box 308, Vienna, GA 31092

229-268-8275

Rhonda@bigpigjig.com

www.bigpigjig.com



2026

Beard Insurance Agency

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



Wishing you the best in all of your future endeavors.

478-627-3029

1985 Pine Street, Unadilla, GA 31091



piggly wiggly

Vienna • 229-268-2911

We proudly support you and hope your future is filled with success.



Congratulations!

DOOLY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2026!

We are proud of you! Best wishes!



Dooly County Local School Board Governance

- Ms. Sherri Taylor- District 1 (Chair)*
- Mr. Norman F. Dexter- District 2*
- Ms. Minnie Harper- District 3*
- Dr. Sherrod Willaford- Superintendent*
- Mrs. Miranda Barron- District 5 (Vice Chair)*
- Mr. Michael Bowens- District 4*





DC 2026 Class OF congratulations DC



Ahmaji Felton



Aleesiah Taylor



Alex Mendez



Ambria Cotton



Angel Hillmon



Angelica Gomez Choquin



Antavious Hunter



Antrevious Ross



Ashly Marleny Bautista Zacarias



Brexston Gaston



Camille Taylor



Cecil King



Celina Howell



Chartasia Thomas



Chartavious Burke



Chassidy Bell



Christopher Courson



Co'Lexius Mincey



Damian Rodriguez



Damien Horne



Deiona Lewis



Devin Peterson



Donovan Stepter



Eddie McWilliams



Eileen Rivera



Elysiah Armstrong



Emily Garcia



Evelyn Diaz



Francisco Rodriguez



Hugo Reyes-Godinez



*Ja'Cambrian
Dawson*



*Ja'Mya
McNair*



*Jamari
Buckles*



*Jamarius
Nicey*



*Janiyah
Fluellen*



*Javar
Whitehead*



*Jarvis
Bennett*



*Jeremy
Perez*



*Jocelyn
Guthrie*



*Jocelyn
Presley*



*Jorish
Woodard*



*Jose Caxaj
Garcia*



*Joshua
Hyatt*



*Kaleb
Green*



*Karen
Gonzalez*



*Katelynn
Foster*



*Kavielle
Rollins*



*Kaylee
Courson*



*Ke'Ayyah
Gaston*



*Kennedy
Barron*



*Kentavious
Lucas*



*Kieandria
Spivey*



*Kimora
Odom*



*Kira
Spivey*



*Lamarcus
Spivey*



*Lydia
Gomez*



*Markavion
Riggins*



*MaSiyah
Hamilton*



*Mi'Kiya
Daniels*



*Miracle
West*



*Nazya
Hooks*



*Rashaud
Merrell*



*Rosa Maria
Tercero-
Antonio*



*Rosvin
Pelico-Calel*



*Ryhanna
West*



*Scotty
Freeman*



Seven Sutton



Sha'Kayla Walker



Shamari Webb



Shaniyah Porter



Sherly Sandoval Guarcha



Sonia Perez



Tariah Gates



Thailyn Bryant



Tovirus Fleming



Tray-Len Fleming

The News Observer
The Legal Organ of Dooly County

HAPPY GRADUATION

BEST WISHES & BEST of LUCK!

Congratulations to the graduates of Dooly County!

CITY OF UNADILLA

Class Of '26

As you journey down the tracks of life, remember that your hometown is proud of you for all you have achieved thus far, and we are rooting for a continued path of success and happiness.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Fullington Academy 56th Annual Commencement

By Tim Franzén

News Observer Reporter

Fullington Academy's Class of 2026 celebrated last Friday during commencement exercises held in the gym. Mr. Russell Lawley, head of school recognized the Valedictorian, Salutatorian and STAR student and presented scholarships to the graduates.

The Valedictorian and STAR student Aidan Hill along with Salutatorian McKinley Causey were presented with a medal in honor of their hard work and dedication in obtaining their academic achievements. Aidan Hill had a 4.0 GPA and received the Dooly County System wide STAR student award as well. He also received recognition for highest cumulative average in math, science and history.

Aidan also selected Ms. Michelle Hughes as his STAR teacher. Salutatorian McKinley Causey also had a 4.0 GPA during her high school career. Also, John Wilson Floyd received an award for the highest average in career technical classes. Numerous grads received recognition for their academic success including Kaitlyn Bloodworth, McKinley Causey, Landon Cobb, Brooklin Cromer, Garlan Godfrey, Aidan Hill, Chase Hughes, Charlie Jackson and Keira Musselwhite. Presentation of gifts to honor grads was by Madison Lamberth, vice-president and Abby Nixon.

Abbie Nixon, Aubrie Pope, Rylee Reed, Isabella Ross and Hunter Smith were given a spotlight for participating in the dual enrollment program at South Ga. Technical College. John Wilson Floyd also was recognized for his achievements in the welding program. The Scholar Athlete Scholarship recipient for 2026 went to McKinley Causey who was a participant in five sports in one year.

Keira Musselwhite received the FFA award for participating in agricultural classes all four years of high school. A community scholarship was also awarded to Keira Musselwhite and Chase Hughes for their meaningful impact to the Fullington community.

Fullington's Valedictorian Aidan Hill spoke during the 56th annual commencement, "I want to start where everything starts with family. Mom, thank you for putting up with me. For teaching me to make the right decisions even when I didn't



Photo by Bonnie Hauesler

The Fullington Academy Class of 2026 graduates

Kaitlyn Bloodworth, McKinley Causey, Landon Cobb, Brooklin Cromer, John Wilson Floyd IV, Garlan Godfrey, Aidan Hill, Chase Hughes, Charles Jackson, Keira Musselwhite, Abbie Nixon, Aubrie Pope, Rylee Reed, Isabella Ross and Hunter Smith.

want to hear it. For loving me without conditions and without limits. You believed I could do this long before I did, and I wouldn't be standing here without you. Dad, thank you for being the blueprint of what a good man is supposed to be. You've helped me prepare for everything—sports, interviews, tests, hard conversations, and yes, this speech because I had absolutely no idea how to write one. You always knew what I needed, even when I didn't ask. To my sister, thank you for making high school easier by charming every teacher before I ever walked into their classroom. You set the bar high and gave me something worth chasing. And just so you know, I won. The competition I made up between us? I won it.

To my classmates, you kept me on track, reminded me about due dates I would have absolutely missed, and made learning feel less like a chore and more like something we were figuring out together. I hate studying. But learning with you? That I didn't mind at all. And to my teachers, thank you for doing your best with me, which I know wasn't always easy. You have been a second family. From elementary school to today, you shaped the way I think, the way I work, and the way I see the world. I couldn't have asked for better people to send me into what comes next.

Obstacles don't care how big or small they are. They don't care whether they make sense. They show up. And when they do, you have a choice: back down,

or get back up. Working through hard things can feel like trudging through mud: exhausting, slow, frustrating. It can feel raw, like a cut to the face. But skin knits itself back together. Scars fade. And what stays with you isn't the pain, it's the resilience, the wisdom, the quiet knowledge that you've been through something hard and you made it through.

Romans 5:3-5 puts it better than I ever could: 'We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame.' Endurance. Character. Hope. That's the sequence. That's the path forward. Class of 2026, we made it. Not without struggle, not without scars, but we made it. Fall. Get back up. Keep going. That's all any of us can do and it turns out, that's enough."

The Salutatorian McKinley Causey during her address shared, "For Garlan (Godfrey) John Wilson, Rylee (Reed) and myself, this journey started in 3K before we knew what GPA meant, before senior schedules, before college applications, before any of us could imagine standing here tonight. We learned our ABCs together, sat crisscross, applause during story time, and probably cried at least once when our parents dropped us off at school. Others joined our class later along the way in elementary school, middle school, or high school.

But one of the special things

about Fullington is that eventually it stopped mattering when you arrived. Somewhere along the way, we became one class, one team, and one family. That's the thing about a small school. In bigger schools, it's easy to get lost in the crowd. But here, people know your name. Teachers know your strengths and your struggles. Coaches push you because they believe in you. And classmates become more than classmates, they become part of your story. We grew up together in these hallways.

One day we were lining up for recess, and the next we were lining up for senior pictures. One day graduation felt impossibly far away, and now we're here wondering how it arrived so quickly. There's excitement about what comes next. Some of us are heading to college. Some are pursuing careers. Some may still be figuring things out. But there's also something bitter-sweet about realizing this chapter of our lives is ending. For years, these people have been our everyday life. The faces in this room became familiar in the way only a small school can create. We celebrated victories together, supported each other through difficult moments, else would understand, and built memories that became the soundtrack of our childhood.

And now, for the first time, life will pull us in different directions. But I think one of the greatest gifts Fullington gave us is this: we learned that success is important, but relationships



Photos by Bonnie Hauesler

Valedictorian Aidan Hill and Salutatorian McKinley Causey

matter more. We learned discipline, responsibility, and hard work. But we also learned kindness, loyalty, and community. We learned that being known matters.

Before I close, I want to take a moment to thank my family, especially my mom and my sister. Mom, thank you for being my constant, for every sacrifice you made that I didn't always see, and for believing in me even on the days I didn't believe in myself. Your strength carried me further than you know. And to my sister, thank you for being my built-in best friend for the laughter, the honesty, and for always reminding me who I am when I forget. I also want to take a moment to remember my Dad, who isn't here with us today. He was my biggest supporter, and no matter what I was facing, he always said the same thing: 'Just try your hardest, and everything will work out.' Even though he isn't here, I carry his love and his lessons in everything I do. I hope I've made him proud, and I'll keep trying to do so with every step I take forward. I hope

wherever life takes us, we never forget where we started. I hope we never forget the people who helped shape us. And I hope we never forget this small school that gave us a place to belong before we even knew how much that mattered. Tonight is not the end of our story. It's simply the last verse we all sing together."

Shan Akin, chairman, board of directors handed out diplomas. The graduates were then instructed to turn their tassels.

Landon Cobb shared memories of his experiences with each member of the Class of 2026. That was followed by a video presentation. Honor Graduate Rylee Reed spoke at the commencement and welcomed everyone to the ceremony. The Invocation was by Kaitlyn Bloodworth and Charlie Jackson presented the benediction. The graduation ceremony ended with the traditional tossing of the mortar boards.

Photos by Bonnie Hauesler

Fullington Academy grads during their traditional tossing of the mortar boards. The Fullington Academy Class of 2026 celebrating the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.





FULLINGTON ACADEMY

*Valedictorian
Aidan Hill*

*Salutatorian
McKinley Causey*



*Abbie
Nixon*



*Aidan
Hill*



*Aubrie
Pope*



*Brooklin
Cromer*



*Charlie
Jackson*



*Chase
Hughes*



*Garlan
Godrey*



*Hunter
Smith*



*Izzy
Ross*



*John Wilson
Floyd*



*Kaitlyn
Bloodworth*



*Keira
Musselwhite*



*Landon
Cobb*



*McKinley
Causey*



*Rylee
Reed*



FULLINGTON TROJANS ACADEMY

Established 1970

The mission of Fullington Academy is to provide a complete education program in a safe, Christian environment. We are committed to promoting social and civic responsibility along with education to develop compassionate, self-directed lifelong learners.

264 Pine Avenue | Pinehurst, GA 31070
Office: (229) 645-3383 | Fax: (229) 645-3386

www.fullingtonacademy.com


CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

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Middle Georgia EMC






Congrats
TO THE CLASS OF
2026!

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Congratulations & Best Wishes!

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt




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Cheers to the Graduating Class of 2026!
We Are Proud of You.

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Graduates,
You Make 2026 Extraordinary!

Thanks for your patience & sacrifice in a challenging year.



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We Celebrate and Congratulate You!

SHERIFF CRAIG PEAVY & STAFF

Wishing the Class of 2026 a prosperous future and praying you stay safe and secure.

