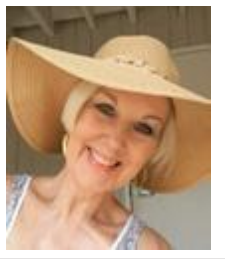


Editorial page

Nolia's Notes Perfect Winter Wardrobe (Southern Style) by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



It is winter in the small southern town of Lincolnton, Georgia, where we live.

"I'm taking Eli for a walk," I heard Dwaine say as he opened the back door. I knew it was the other way around and Eli, our dog, was taking Dwaine for a walk, but I did not mention that.

I caught a glimpse of Dwaine as he passed by the door... hummmmm. "Hey Dwaine, commere," I said.

"Whut?" Dwaine asked as he grabbed the dog leash.

"Just commere a sec," I said.

"Whut?" Dwaine asked again.

But now he was moving slowly to the doorway so that I could see him in clear view. "Whut?" Dwaine asked again, now with a bit of concern.

"Something wrong?"

"Well, no," I said, "I just want to see you a sec before you go out."

"Whut?" Dwaine said, again.

There he stood holding the leash in his hands and Eli dancing all around in anticipation of his upcoming walk.

I just took a moment to drink in the vision of Dwaine's chosen attire.

He wore a black knit stocking cap (think burglars in the movie Home Alone).

He had on a short-sleeve cotton t-shirt (think Georgia Bulldog red).

Over the light weight t-shirt, he wore a heavy fleece long-sleeve jacket, complete with hood.

Next he had on summer shorts, and then flip-flops completed the ensemble.

"U need me to do something?" Dwaine asked, perplexed.

"Nope," I said, "Have a good walk."

Dwaine turned around and out the door he went. I smiled to myself as I heard the door close.

He had no idea I was reviewing his choice of clothing for the southern winter day.

Dwaine's attire was perfect for our crazy winter weather here.

I am sitting here, now, watching

the national weather channel. As I view the weeks predicted weather for the area, I spy something I rarely see. Yes, there is a snowflake emblem right there on the screen where we usually see a raindrop.

Hummmmm... My heart skipped a beat! Could it be? Ha... I bet someone just made a mistake and put that snowflake up there.

But... you never know! There are those rare occasions when we do see a flurry. Usually, very unexpected, and usually, never predicted accurately.

I have been listening for a snow forecast for as long as I can remember. There were a few rare occasions as a child growing up in Augusta, Georgia, when we had enough snow to make a small snowman.

There was a year here in Lincolnton, after we married back in the 70's when it snowed several inches! Bob and Linda Blackburn had just built a house on Lillian Sims Drive.

Their house was up on a hill that made a perfect slope for skiing! Dwaine had a pair of snow skis and so he walked up the street and went to the top of the hill, strapped on his snow skis and down he went.

He skied down Lillian Sims, then took a left down Ward Street and skied down town. There were no cars out and he had fresh pristine powder to enjoy.

Next day he was the talk of the town! A big snow like that hasn't happened again since I have lived here but you never know.

After all, we have been through 2020 and we are now dealing with 2021! Dwaine's skis are somewhere in an antique store now and his new knees are not compatible with anything that slides under his feet!

I am hoping for a flurry before spring. If we do have a bit of snow this year, I am sure my husband, Dwaine, will be wearing his perfect winter outfit, complete with flip-flops!!!!



Consumers get answers from Ga. Department of Agriculture

Consumer Q's is a weekly question-and-answer column by Arty Schronce at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Please share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with him by phone, mail or email.

Q: What is a capon?

A: A capon is a male chicken about 16 weeks to eight months old which is surgically unsexed. They weigh about four to seven pounds and have a good quantity of tender, light meat. They are usually roasted.

Q: One of my plants was killed by the cold weather. I thought it was hardy. May I take it back for a refund?

A: Cold hardiness is not an exact science, and there are numerous factors that come into play when considering how cold hardy a plant is. A plant may survive 0 degrees F. for one night with no damage provided temperatures rise the next day. The same plant may be killed outright if exposed to only 15 degrees F. for three nights if daytime temperatures don't rise above freezing.

Plants that are well established are less likely to be damaged than those planted more recently. Cold snaps that follow extremely warm periods are more damaging than those that come after a gradual period of cooling.

Plants that are flushed with new growth due to lots of water and nitrogen fertilizer are also more likely to be damaged than those grown under leaner conditions.

Plants in pots and containers are much more susceptible to cold damage because their roots are more exposed than those of plants in the ground. Some plants will survive low temperatures provided their roots are not wet but will die during cold, damp periods.

Some evergreen shrubs in sunny areas will experience "leaf burn" if the ground remains frozen for extended periods. This is because the sunlight will raise the temperature of the leaf and cause it to transpire and lose water.

The plant is unable to absorb water from the frozen ground which leads to the scorched appearance of the leaves. These

plants often relapse in the spring with no major damage. When you see this kind of damage, don't jump to a premature conclusion that the plant is dead.

Are you sure your plant was supposed to survive the winter? Also, don't forget that many perennials die back to the ground but re-sprout in the spring. They are not dead but may look like it on the surface.

It is unfair to expect a nursery to predict every possible scenario and guarantee success in all situations and conditions. If we are that demanding, it may lead to nurseries carrying only weedy and undesirable plants like Chinese privet and Japanese honeysuckle that will grow practically anywhere.

Q: I don't think the gasoline pump gave the proper amount. Who do I report this to?

A: Notify the station manager and call the Georgia Department of Agriculture immediately if you experience malfunctioning pumps (including leaking hoses) or problems with the quality of the gasoline, kerosene or diesel fuel you receive.

The direct line to our Fuel and Measures Division is 404-656-3605 or you may call our toll-free line: 1-800-282-5852. This number is on all fuel pumps in the state. You can also e-mail the office at fuel@agr.georgia.gov.

Please let us know the name and address of the store or station, the pump number and the nature of the problem. Please do not just say "There is a problem with the gas station on XYZ Road outside Georgiaville."

Be precise so we have as much information as possible in order to investigate. If there is a problem, the affected pump or pumps will be locked down until the problem is corrected.

If you have questions about agriculture, horticulture, food safety or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce (arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov) or visit the department's website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

Due to the deteriorating conditions of the culvert pipe on Gullebeau Road at the creek, the road will be closed for much needed repairs.

To reduce the impact of the closing the road will not close until 8 a.m. allowing school buses and residents time to leave the area for work and school. The road is schedule to reopen at 4 p.m.

Those impacted by the closing include everyone living on Gullebeau Road, Wells Creek Drive and Lake Circle.

This weeks tips from the BBB

After much anticipation, 2021 is here. While many used their time at home in 2020 to try new hobbies and bake (and eat) plenty of sweets, the new year provides a time to reflect on what you hope to achieve in the coming year.

Exercising more, focusing on health and improving finances are among the most common resolutions each year and will likely be the top goals again in the coming year.

Use these tips from BBB to accomplish your 2021 resolutions:

Exercise

One of the best ways to keep up with your resolution to exercise more is choosing the right gym for your needs. Use these tips from your Better Business Bureau to find your perfect gym:

- Determine goals and priorities. Ask yourself these questions as you begin your search: Can this gym help me with my specific fitness goals? Would I rather work out at a smaller, local gym or one with multiple convenient locations? Would a variety of equipment and classes keep me motivated?

- Take a tour. Touring the facility can give you a better idea of the equipment, trainers and classes available. Use this opportunity to learn additional information about the gym, such as busy times or how often showers and equipment are cleaned. Some gyms even offer virtual tours.

- Understand the cost. Many gyms use the beginning of the year to promote introductory offers or free trial periods. Be sure to ask when these promotions end and what the regular cost will be moving forward.

Get healthy

In addition to exercising more, many people want to improve their health by quitting smoking or losing weight. Weight loss supplements and smoking cessation aids often promise quick and easy results, which can be tempting to consumers looking to help accomplish their goals. Before using any health-related products, remember these tips:

- Check with health professionals. The best thing to do when considering a supplement or other health product is to consult your doctor. They may be able to provide recommendations or guide you away from potentially harmful products. You can also use FDA resources to learn

which products were recalled for using dangerous ingredients.

Don't believe claims of "miracle" results. Companies advertising weight-loss products often promise extreme results to make quick sales. The CDC suggests one to two pounds lost per week is a healthy and attainable goal, so avoid products that advertise a large amount of weight loss within a short time frame.

Be cautious with free trial offers. Many health product retailers offer monthly subscriptions and free trial periods for first-time customers. If you are interested in a free trial, read the fine print. You may be automatically enrolled in a subscription and charged a monthly fee once the trial ends.

Improve finances

The new year is a great time to assess your finances and implement needed changes or improvements. Although improving your finances is often confusing and can be frustrating, there are professionals and services dedicated to helping you. Keep these tips in mind when searching for financial assistance:

- Assess your finances. Review your finances to see which areas need improvement. Request a copy of your credit report through one of the three credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Equifax or Experian. You can also use BBB.org to find reliable financial advisors to help you build your credit and manage your money.

- Know the difference. Different financial services, such as credit counseling and credit repair, are available to consumers.

The first step to improving your finances is to understand which of these services you need. For example, credit counseling offers a comprehensive solution that focuses on various resources to help you solve your financial issues. Credit repair companies, however, offer to remove inaccurate information from your credit file for a fee. Remember, you have the right to remove incorrect information yourself for free.

- Consult trustworthy sources. When deciding on a company to assist you financially, find their business profile on BBB.org to view their rating, customer reviews and complaint history.

For more BBB tips, visit www.BBB.org/tips.

TO THE EDITOR

Congressman should resign

TO THE EDITOR:

Jody Hice, who represents Lincoln County in the 10th District of the House of Representatives, helped foment domestic terrorism and violence by posting on Twitter - shortly before a riotous mob desecrated the U.S. Capitol - a picture of himself walking into the United States Capitol with the words "This is our 1776 moment." He and five other Georgia Representatives (Rick Allen, Buddy Carter, Andrew Clyde, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Barry Loudermilk) were on their way to object to the peaceful transfer of power by challenging the Presidential electoral college vote count. That Hice is a Baptist pastor makes his actions even more reprehensible.

Simply put, Hice was encouraging a coup d'état. He incited and encouraged the domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, call them what you will, who then ransacked and vandalized our most noble institution and threatened members of Congress, their aides and staff. That mob drew innocent blood inside the hallowed halls of the United States Capitol, emboldened by Hice and others. The death of Brian Sinkwick, a Capitol police officer murdered during the insurrection, is on the hands of Hice and his cronies.

Despite the carnage at the Capitol, just a few hours later Hice objected to the votes cast, both Republican and Democratic, from Arizona and

Pennsylvania. He wanted to throw out the votes from Georgia but was rebuffed because not a single Senator would support his outrageous ploy. Hice aggressively tried to substitute his view over the will of 5 million citizens in our state and millions of voters in other states. He enthusiastically embraced bizarre, conspiracy theories spewed from the dark recesses of right-wing radicals.

The Presidential votes in question had been checked, rechecked, and certified. Republican leaders in Georgia had counted, recounted, recounted again, and audited the voting and ballot processes and found nothing out of order. More than 50 lawsuits challenging the election were thrown out as baseless. Attorney General Barr found no evidence of problems with the election. The election was deemed to have been the most secure U.S. election in history by a team appointed by the President.

The free-for-all in our temple of democracy was brazen, lawless, and disgusting. All of this might not have happened if Hice and his cohorts respected truth, justice, laws, and the Constitution of the United States. Shame on you Jody Hice. Shame on all the Georgia Congressional Representatives who supported you on that fateful day. You should apologize, seek repentance for your transgressions, and resign.

SUSAN ABRAMSON

A recap of 2020

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service

Lincoln County Extension envisions a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change. Our vision is to provide empowering, impactful programming containing unbiased, research-based information to Lincoln County residents in the areas of 4-H youth development (4H) and agriculture and natural resources (ANR).

When 2020 began, nobody could have predicted what the rest of the year would bring. The departure of Ms. Jodi Coon in the spring left us without a dedicated 4-H staff member until October, and the COVID-19 pandemic severely restricted our ability to do any in-person programs or events.

In light of these challenges, Lincoln County Extension has been hard at work. In 2020, our office served over 2300 individuals face to face, over 500 people by phone, and over 1800 by email. We also provided 50 on-site consultations for homeowners and other clients in 2020. These numbers reflect a significant increase in phone and email contacts over 2019, and despite the pandemic, our face to face numbers remained similar. Lincoln County Extension also processed 146 samples of feed and forage, water, and soil in 2020, a 65% increase from 2019. In addition to our office contacts, Lincoln County Extension also moved into our new building, hired two new staff members, and provided a variety of 4-H and ANR programs.

The Lincoln County 4-H program had a tough year in 2020. In the spring prior to the pandemic, we were on track to continue our historical participation in DPA, summer camps, and poultry judging. We were able to have 28 students participate in District Project Achievement, of which 53% placed. Our junior/senior 4-H'ers also won the Outstanding Community Service Project at their District Project Achievement contest. Due to the pandemic, all in-person contests were cancelled shortly after we finished Project Achievement, and Jodi Coon left at around the same time.

From around April to October, Lincoln County Extension did not have a 4-H staff member, and we were not able to host any in-person meetings or events with students for

approximately the same time frame. Even now, we have just gotten word that all UGA Extension activities were cancelled through February 14th.

Despite these challenges, we did hire a part-time 4-H Program Assistant, Ms. Johannah Stone, in October of 2020. She has been holding in-school club meetings for 4-H'ers and working on getting them ready for Project Achievement this spring, which we are still hopeful will happen in-person at Rock Eagle in May. Due to the restrictions on in-person programming, we have decided to hold off on starting our specialty clubs back up (poultry judging, livestock judging, and archery team) as we would not be able to have adequate practice for students and there are no contests being offered at this time.

Fortunately, despite the pandemic our ANR programming was able to continue, albeit in some new ways. Our ANR agent hosted two iterations of a Hobby Flock Seminar Series. The first, held prior to the pandemic, was held in-person in February and had 17 attendees. The second reiteration was held online in July and had 248 registrants. This program won the 1st place poster at the Northeast District Annual Research Symposium and a 2nd place poster at the Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents (GACAA) AM/PIC.

A second program that was offered was an online Horse Owners Seminar Series. This program was held in August and had 286 registrants. It won the GACAA equine programming award and was 2nd place in the GACAA Oral Presentation contest. A final program held in 2020 was an online Sportfish Pond Management class, which had 14 attendees. Our ANR agent is also the one who typically writes our newspaper articles - if you ever want to hear about a specific topic, please let us know!

Despite the challenges of 2020 and early 2021, Lincoln County Extension is proud to serve our community. If you have ideas on how we can better communicate, provide information, or any programs you would like to see, please let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

Guillebeau Rd. slated to close for repairs on Jan. 28, from 8-4

Lincoln County Public Works Director Roby Seymour has issued a notice to property owners on Gullebeau Road of a scheduled road closing on Thursday, January 28.

Due to the deteriorating conditions of the culvert pipe on Gullebeau Road at the creek, the road will be closed for much needed repairs.

To reduce the impact of the closing the road will not close until 8 a.m. allowing school buses and residents time to leave the area for work and school. The road is schedule to reopen at 4 p.m.

Those impacted by the closing include everyone living on Gullebeau Road, Wells Creek Drive and Lake Circle.

Everything possible will be done to make these repairs in the timeliest manner possible.

Residents with questions or concern should call the public works office at 706-359-5523.

Super Crossword

Answers

SCAMP	IMAMS	SWIM	BLAB
TIBIA	NABES	WORE	RIACE
OLYMP	PICHO	TOKRA	ETTAM
MISO	FORA	FREIGHT	TITON
PASSEN	GERLO	ADT	EETERS
ADO	DOLL	MARS	
UGG	ETAS	LEISSON	HESSE
GROW	ELAS	SEATTLE	BLEW
LITLO	SLAPS	DES	SURE
INFLAT	ABLERIA	FT	LJEGES
FLAY	INDIA	RAWN	
PASCAL	ANTARCTIC	OCEAN	
ESAU	ASIS	ESP	ELLA
GARBAGE	HEAP	SAP	PISALM
SPASM	MERLIN	MORE	NYE
IRIS	ENID	ONS	
ABDITOR	SPACEMOUNTAIN		
BROADBUNCH	IRISE	MINI	
AGRA	GOREO	TMEANS	SALOTT
SETH	TARP	FRANK	IRENE
ESSO	SLOE	SALSA	RYDER

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