

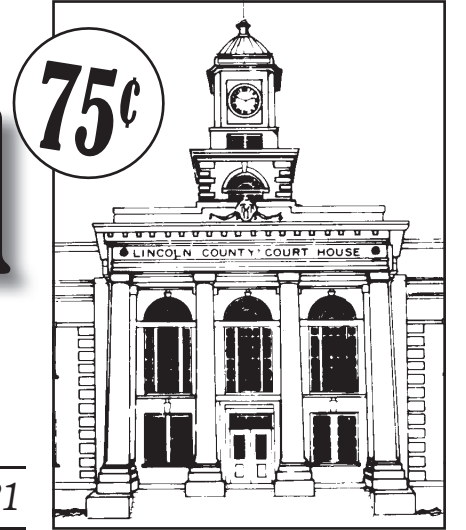
# The Lincoln Journal

"To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Established in 1893

www.lincolnjournalonline.com

Vol. CXXVIII, Number 7 • P.O. Box 399 – Lincolnton, Georgia • Publication No. 313-660 • 10 Pages • February 18, 2021



## LCES students celebrate Valentine's Day

Lincoln County Elementary School students in Mrs. Luiza Thompson's pre-kindergarten class enjoyed the photo booth set up on Thursday, February 11, in celebration of Valentine's Day. Those smiling for the camera were (front row, l-r) Emma Jean Plueger, Jalyric Booker, (back) James Bryant, De'Caius Lucas, Westin Lively, and JaMarcus Norman.

## \$1.1 million in CARES Act funding could help replenish state cutbacks

By JANE ELLYN AARON  
staff reporter

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds and COVID-19 counts were both pertinent topics discussed by the Lincoln County Board of Education last week, as Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light made presentations on both issues. Those tentative funds would serve to replenish state cutbacks, as well as to offset costs incurred from COVID safety precautions followed by the district.

CARES Act funding would potentially come in the amount of \$1,110,533, however at the time of the meeting was not yet approved by the state – though it was thought to be voted on last Thursday, February 4.

"This is actually CARES Act 2. You remember CARES Act 1 came out right before school started in August," Light said. "With CARES Act 1 we got \$275,984. We spent that money saving 3.75 teachers. I think everybody remembers the \$660,000 or 10 percent cut that the state took from us. We used the \$275,000 to save 3.75 teachers jobs, at the time we did not know how all of that was going to roll out.

"This is the second portion of the federal money. The federal money comes from the feds, goes to the state, the state votes on it, if they approve it then they're going to give us a final definition of how we can spend it," Light added.

"So, for us to try and say this is exactly what we're going to do with this money I think is difficult and a bit premature, because we don't have the final restrictions and regulations yet. That being said, our plan right now, if we receive all of this money, the first priority would be to replace the 10 percent reduction we received from the state to start the school year."

Likewise, the superintendent explained monies would be used to help replenish the general fund, and get it back to where it should have originally been.

Taking second priority, funds would possibly be used to cover the cost of safety and protective procedures and resources expended due to COVID.

"All things we spent money on to try and protect against COVID," the superintendent noted, adding that third in line for CARES Act funding would be to examine the financial challenges experienced

through 2021 and cover those expenditures. Any monies leftover could be put toward future challenges in the '21-'22 school year.

"Those are things I believe we should use [the funds] for," Light said.

Furthermore, in order to shed additional light on the way the school system tracks COVID cases throughout the district, the superintendent shared a "COVID-19 Summary" spreadsheet with the board.

The sheet included brackets of "direct exposure" and "positive" cases for employees, LCES, LCMS, and LCHS students. The data recorded covered the last six months — from July through February 4, 2021.

As of February 4, there were zero positive cases recorded for the beginning of the month, with only two direct exposures. One at LCMS, one at LCHS.

Light brought attention to two "high count months," being November and January. He explained that "November was when we had the issue with football off campus," and January's influx was due to the return of students from the holidays in December. Since January reflected a total of 165 direct exposures and 33 positive cases, which included employees and all three schools, this is why school closures ensued until near the end of the month.

"If you eliminated those two months, we're in really good shape," Light said, further explaining that since July the district totals, that reflect both employees and students, showed 268 direct exposures and 57 positive cases.

"I think we've been very blessed in Lincoln County, and we've worked very hard to stay away from it. We've worked hard to clean up and make sure nobody passes it. It happens outside and comes in," Light said. "I wanted to share those numbers to try and shed some light on fears and rumors, and understand those fears and rumors – these are actual numbers that have been confirmed."

Additionally, Special Services Director Dr. Howie Gunby noted that within the COVID summary, some employees are listed twice for direct exposure. For instance, they could have been exposed in August and again in January, just as the LCHS basketball team was quarantined twice, which means those children were listed as being directly exposed twice.

"All we've done is follow CDC guidelines," Light said, thanking the diligence of the custodial staff, administration, and teachers.

In other business, the board voted to purchase new uniforms for

(continued on page 10)

## Goolsby's legacy leaves mark on hearts of all

by JANE ELLYN AARON  
staff reporter

He was a friend to everybody – that is the legacy that Richard Goolsby leaves behind as the community, together, mourns his loss. Having a heart to serve, of comradery, of kindness, and possessing a special talent for always having something to say at just the right time, to the man "who never met a stranger," he will be missed and forever loved by all.

And the feeling was mutual. Goolsby's actions toward not only his friends, but in his services to others throughout Lincoln County and beyond, spoke volumes of his character.

"The community meant everything to Richard," Tab Reed, a close friend since childhood, said. "He loved being in Lincolnton, he loved his community, he loved football, he loved family. That's just Richard right there. He always loved being around people and he just enjoyed being – here. He didn't want to be anywhere else but here in Lincolnton."

Everyone, it would seem, has a "Richard story," of either humor or the extension of a helping hand, so to say he is beloved is an understatement. He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and truly a friend.

It was deemed a genuine tragedy of accidental circumstances that Goolsby's life ended, as he was struck by a car driven by a 23-year-old female on Highway 47 Wednesday night, February 10, according to Georgia State Trooper Sergeant David Lacey.

"It was definitely not intentional on her part, that's why no charges are being filed, because speed wasn't a factor, she was not impaired, it was basically just a bad circumstance," Lacey reported.

Though the accident is still under investigation, the community's attention has been turned to simply honoring Goolsby's memory and celebrating the life that he had, along with the mark he left on the

## County sends revamped resolution to General Assembly for approval

Commissioners will take a second shot at changing the statute creating the Lincoln County Board of Elections. A resolution to change the appointment procedure which was passed by commissioners in their January 14 meeting didn't pass muster at the General Assembly in Atlanta recently.

The original statute, which passed in 1996, created the board of elections and registration. The board consists of five citizens chosen from a list of nominees representing and submitted by the Republican and Democratic parties of Lincoln County, the Lincolnton City Council, the county commission, and the school board. The grand jury selects the board members from the list of nominees.

During discussions held at the Board of Commissioners' work session on Thursday, February 4, County Attorney Ben Jackson provided information from Georgia General Assembly Deputy Legislative Counsel D. Stuart Morelli to Senator Lee Anderson, which took issue with two components of the resolution.

The resolution would allowed the two political parties the opportunity to appoint individuals to serve on the board of elections. However, according to Morelli, it is unconstitutional for nongovernmental actors to appoint members of governmental boards, so giving them appointment powers would be unconstitutional.

An option provided by Morelli

would be that the two political parties could nominate members of the election board, with the board of commissioners making the appointment from the list of nominees. This would allow the parties to have a say in the selection process, but still keep the actual appointments in the hands of governmental actors.

The second issue was with the terms of current members of the Board of Elections being terminated early. Morelli suggested that the members could either serve out their terms or the whole act governing the board could be repealed and at the same time the General Assembly could adopt a new local act establishing a new board of elections.

During the meeting on Thursday night, February 11, commissioners approved a resolution to abolish the board of elections.

Commissioners also approved the resolution to create the board of elections and registration for Lincoln County; to retain all legal authority; to define the powers and duties of the board concerning primaries and elections; to provide a method for appointment, resignation, and removal of members of the board; to provide for qualification and terms of members; to provide for powers and duties of the board; to provide for board organization and regulation; to provide for expenditure of public funds by the board; to give the election superintendent and the board of reg-

istrars certain powers and duties; to provide for board contracts; to provide for definitions; to provide for a chair, clerical assistants, and other employees; to provide for compensation for such persons and members of the board; to require certain submissions; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

The resolution states that board of elections and registration shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Lincoln County, Georgia, meet all legal requirements, and shall be appointed as follows:

The newly created board would consist of five members: three chosen by the Board of Commissioners, one from the Lincolnton City Council, and one from the Board of Education. Terms for the five-member board were also set.

The two appointees from the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education's appointee would serve terms from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024. Thereafter the appointees will serve terms of four years to coincide with the terms of service of the President of the United States.

The county's third appointee and City Council's appointee would serve terms that would run July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. Thereafter the appointees will serve terms of four years to coincide with the terms of service of the Govern-

(continued on page 10)



RICHARD GOOLSBY

as he was with his family and they were together that's what he really enjoyed at this point in his life."

Yes, if one thing were ever certain, it's that Goolsby lived his life caring for others. As his own heart was filled with love, the evidence of that love spilling over onto others comes in the form of stories now. Encounters shared by people near and far that remember "this one time Richard..." A quality of character that's hard to put into words, but is unmistakably felt in those still present.

"If you're living in this world and you have maybe 10 close friends then you're lucky. Friends who you may not have seen for years, but you can pick up where you left off like it's only been five minutes. They know you love them, and they love you — I lost one of those last week," Turner said.

"A lot of us have lost our best friend, I can tell you," Norman likewise agreed.

So as the community bands together to honor their friend, the beautiful understanding is that the best of friends leave the strongest, most unforgettable, touches behind — and that is quite the memorial for Goolsby to have.