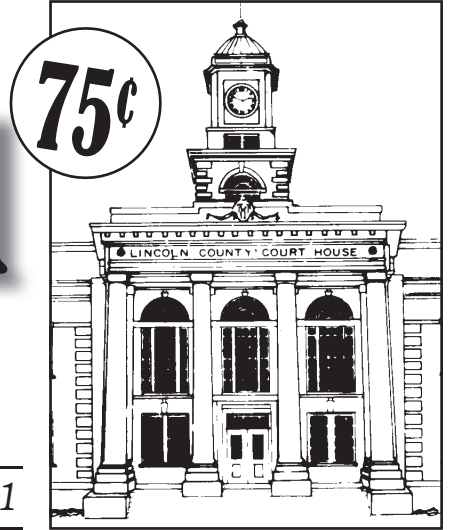


The Lincoln Journal



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

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The annual FFA holiday club party was enjoyed by LCHS students (l-r) Tripp Keener, Anthony Attardo, Tyler Coulson, Memphis Ingram, Michael Bowen, Aaron Clegg, Brayden Wiggin, Dalton Jenkins, Kayden Stafford, Lane Parton, Bryson Segars, Colby Hoyt, Hagan Ball, Madison Tankersley, Asher McGill, and Elizabeth Ann Reed.

LCHS students celebrate CTAE month in conjunction with National FFA Week

Celebrations abound as "National FFA Week" is currently underway at Lincoln County High School. Since the month of February is also deemed "CTAE Month," students and teachers alike have highlighted the importance of these career- and technically-based programs along with the impact they make.

National FFA Week embraces more than 93 years of FFA traditions while looking forward to the organization's future. More than 760,000 members participate in National FFA Week activities at local, state, and national levels, Lincoln County included, as these local members have a passion for agriculture.

Designated a national week in 1947, the week of George Washington's birthday, National FFA Week is a time when local chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their schools and communities learn about FFA and agricultural education.

"For the duration of the 2020-2021 school year, our chapter has been out and about in the community. Between upcoming plant sales that we are looking forward to in the spring and helping local farmers, the Lincoln County FFA is active year-round," Chase McGill, LCHS agricultural teacher and FFA advisor, said.

"We hold monthly club meetings to keep members informed and up-to-date on upcoming events. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought many things like national and state convention, competitions, along with advisor meetings to a halt (going virtual), but things are starting to improve in upcoming months!" McGill added.

Just recently, students competed in many career development events such as Junior Agriculture Mechanics, FFA Quiz, Job Interview, Creed Speaking, Wildlife, and Lawnmower Operations.

Adhering to the FFA mission "to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education," the LCHS branch strives to build up its future agricultural leaders, food suppliers, and innovators.

FFA is also an extracurricular club umbrellaed under the Career, Technical, and Agricultural (CTAE) course programming offered at LCHS.

A wealth of CTAE courses is available, giving the community's children many practical options for both future education and employment. The courses serve to provide not only real-life skill sets, but also to prepare them for the workforce by offering them a diversity of hands-on outlets through which to explore those skills.

Many students at LCHS have been given the option to learn some of these skill sets, which are coupled with their regular academic courses. Lincoln County currently offers several concentrations of study which are therapeutic services, programming, food science, agriculture, agriculture and construction, and cybersecurity, which is steadily being introduced.

Within these concentrations are "career pathways," which are more specific areas of study within those categories. Each pathway has three classes that must be completed by students to receive an official certificate — highlighting their learned skills — which is awarded them upon graduating alongside their high school diplomas. These classes are likewise coupled with Work-Based Learning for students with "defined career pathways" in grades 11 and 12.

The pathways offered are therapeutic services/patient care, thera-

peutic services/public health, cybersecurity, programming, food science, construction, welding, horticulture and animal systems, horticulture/mechanical systems, and animal/mechanical systems.

"We offer more programs here than most school systems our size, which is great advantage for our students," Stephanie Jordan, CTAE and Work-Based Learning director, said. "We also have a great staff that's incredibly eager to help the kids, and also wants to do the best for our kids — we're truly fortunate to have the staff that we do."

Furthermore, according to the Georgia Department of Education, "CTAE is preparing Georgia's students for their next step after high school — college, beginning a career, registered apprenticeships, or the military. Georgia CTAE pathway course offerings, and the new Educating Georgia's Future Workforce initiative, leverage partnerships with industry and higher education to ensure students have the skills they need to thrive in the future workforce."

Because CTAE is such a crucial curriculum offered at LCHS, many teachers and students have weighed in on its importance, as well as describing what the specific class concentrations offer.

In Therapeutic Services, students can complete pathways in patient care or public health. The majority of students in the program choose to complete the patient care pathway which leads to a Certified Nursing Assistant credential, according to health care teacher Tangie McKinney.

"The program consists of 136 hours of training in the lab, classroom, and clinical area," she said. "Our students travel to Lake Crossing Health Center for clinical experience and more than

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CNA students (back, l-r) Sasha Sullivan, Alexandria Gilpin, Haleigh Collins, Destiny Booker, Ryjon Wynn, (front, l-r) Keona Elam, Jillian Riddlehoover, Alexis McCall, and Jamiyah Riles participated in "Scrubs Day."

Kemp announces \$552 million in aid to landlords and tenants

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capital Beat News Service

The state will distribute more than \$552 million in federal coronavirus relief aid to landlords and tenants affected by the pandemic, Gov. Brian Kemp announced Friday, February 19.

"The effects of COVID-19 have hit many Georgians hard financially," Kemp said in a prepared statement. "In addition to protecting lives, we have to protect livelihoods so that Georgians can continue to have economic opportunity. I am pleased to be able to provide this rental relief to renters and landlords who have been impacted the most."

The state Department of Community Affairs will administer the program under U.S. Treasury guidelines that are still being developed. The money will go directly to landlords and utilities.

In general, households that qualify for unemployment benefits or have suffered a reduction in household income or other financial hardship due to the pandemic will be eligible for assistance.

Those at risk of homelessness or housing instability also will qualify

for the program.

Georgians with household incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) will be eligible, while those below 50% of AMI will be given priority, as will people who have been unemployed for 90 days or longer.

Payments generally may not exceed 12 months, but some households may qualify for 15 months under certain circumstances.

Chamber launches new forum to spotlight local businesses

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce is launching a new teleconference forum, which is intended to spotlight Chamber trade professionals tonight, February 25, at 7 p.m.

"The forum will provide local businesses a platform to inform the community about what they do, products they sell, how their business started, what motivates them, hardships that they've overcome, innovations in their fields, or awards they have received. Anything that the company wants to discuss," Chamber Chairman Maggie Shaw

said. The agency expects to launch a public application portal to the program next month. For more information on the program, click on www.GeorgiaRentalAssistance.ga.gov.

A federal eviction moratorium now in place has been extended until March 31. As a result, no one should be evicted solely for non-payment of rent at least until that date.

The teleconference forum is intended to provide a focused introduction and insight into local business structure. It will give the community an opportunity to learn first-hand what is readily available in Lincolnton. If all goes well, the forum will continue on the last Thursday of each month, Shaw said.

Those wishing to listen in and pose questions to the featured speaker are asked to contact the Chamber through its website lincolngachamber.org or by email at info@lincolngachamber.org. A call-in number and PIN will be provided for access to the forum.

"Spratlin Hardware and Building Supply President Marcus Spratlin has graciously offered to be our first spotlight business," Shaw said. "He will be discussing Spratlin's 100 years in business, which the company celebrated in 2020."

Once the featured speaker has finished, a chamber representative will open the forum to questions which can be emailed to info@lincolngachamber.org, the moderator, in real time, will pose questions to the speaker.

Chamber businesses interested in participating in the next teleconference can contact the Chamber at the email address above and a representative will be in contact.

Prekindergarten registration to be held at LCES March 12

A drive-up prekindergarten registration will be held Friday, March 12, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Lincoln County Elementary School campus located at 175 Rowland York Drive.

Parents should line up in their vehicles (similar to the usual caridlers lineup) and staff members will provide a number and registration packet, if needed, to each vehicle. Parents can also download the registration packets from the LCES website.

Eligible children must be resi-

dents of Lincoln County and must be four-years-old on or before September 1 of this year.

Required documents for student registration include a certified birth certificate, as copies will not be accepted; Social Security card; a current Georgia immunization form 3231; and the hearing, vision, and dental screening Form 3300, if the child is four years old at registration.

Due to COVID-19 the Lincoln

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LCHS Red Devils head to state playoffs

The Lincoln County Boys Basketball team will face Macon County in the first round of state playoff games on Wednesday, February 24, after placing second in region play on Friday, February 19. Team members include (top photo, front row, l-r) Kellen Smith, Nazalous Hogan, Demondrea Booker, Malcolm Wynn, Semaj James, Franklin Brown, C.J. Zellars, (back) Coach Charles Folger, Miles Parks, Caleb Willis, Frankton Sherman, Keenon Lampkin, James Mattison, Coach Elridge Wynn, and Coach Robert McCarty. Senior basketball players are (bottom photo, l-r) Miles Parks, Caleb Willis, Yoshira Martin, Keenon Lampkin, and Malcolm Wynn.