



Coaches past and present attending the awards banquet were (front row, l-r) Parker Martin, Howard Ellis, Larry Campbell, Henry Madden, Sonny Spurlock, (back) Charles Folger, Elridge Wynn, Will Chomskis, Lee Comskis, Wilkes Goolsby, and Todd Ware.

Athletes recognized at awards banquet

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and Miles Parks received the "Billy McWhorter Most Improved Award," and a special "44 Strong Presentation" in honor of his late brother and fellow Red Devil Austin Parks.

Further thanks were given by Chomskis to the parents and community, noting that their "support and love means everything."
"You can't be first class without a lot of folks standing around you and pitching in. Lincoln County

has always been first class and the reason we have been is because of you [the community]," he said.
LCHS Principal Dr. Chris Wolski likewise thanked the coaches for their dedication to their students, along with the "unsung heroes," the coaches' wives. He also thanked the Board of Education, athletic booster club, teachers, parents, and, of course, the players.
As a part of his opening prayer for the ceremony, Wolski expressed his desire for the students to recognize

God divinely giving them their athletic abilities, and to cherish them.
In that recognition, he added, "real winners have learned always to do their best. Real winners have learned not to quit. Real winners have learned not to blame others. And, real winners have learned to have respect for their friends, their coaches, their parents, and themselves."
Well-wishing for their futures, Wolski's hope was that they always remember what they've learned.



COLTON WILLIS
MV Defensive Line Award,
Region 8A All Region Award



FRANKLIN BROWN
Thomas Bunch Coach's Award



JOSHIAH JONES
Scout Team Player of the Year



JOHNNY WISE
Howard Ellis Leadership MVP,
Region 8A All Region Award



KEENON LAMPKIN
Larry Campbell Leadership Award,
Region 8A All Region Award



REGGIE REID
Henry Madden Service Award,
Region 8A All Region Award



TEVIN GARTRELL
Coke Offensive MVP
Golden Helmet Award,
Region 8A All Region Award



NAZEÁLOUS HOGAN
Most Improved JV



Ribbon cutting held for Lincolnton Optical

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Lincolnton Optical by the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce on Friday, March 4. Members of the Lincolnton Optical team cutting the ribbon are (l-r) optician Sally Bacon, optician Wendi Qualls and office manager Crystal Rowe. Dignitaries welcoming the new business to the community were (back row) Chamber Chairman Maggie Shaw, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Walker T. Norman, Mayor Henry Brown, and Lincoln County Development Authority Director John Stone.

The mission of the Lincolnton Optical team is focused on bringing local access to affordable glasses, sunglasses, contact lenses, and eye exams to the residents of Lincoln and surrounding counties.

Staff members not pictured are ophthalmic technician Alita McKinney, physician technicians Haley Johnson, Toni Harris, Leticia Story, and optometrist Dr. Jeff Sponseller.

City approves joint PDM plan

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will use less water in 2021.
According to the firm's 2021 projections, the county water rate should increase from \$1.77 to \$1.82 per thousand gallons.
Council reviewed the monthly planning and zoning report which showed that one Emergency 911 address was assigned, one rezoning application was received, and eleven building permits were issued totaling \$1,540.75. Goolsby performed 23 inspections on building permits; performed two temporary power turn-ons; and held four meetings with property owners/contractors during the month of February.

On a recommendation by Goolsby, the council voted to approve the rezoning request for property located on Elm Street from commercial to residential.

Fire Chief Matt Goldman reported that Engine 21 is currently at R&W for repairs to its cable linkage and that the braking system is also in need of repair. Goldman advised City Council that parts for the approximately 60-year-old vehicle are becoming increasingly difficult to find, but R&W is looking.

The report also stated that Goldman had applied for a grant for up to \$20,000 which would cover safety equipment items like thermal cameras, ventilation fans, flashlights, etc. If awarded the city would be responsible for 10 percent of the total costs.

Police Chief Brandon Lively's report showed that the department answered 305 calls for service in February. The calls included 7 incident reports, 43 miscellaneous, 4 accident reports, along with 31 citations, and 51 warnings.

The report indicated that the department is currently down to four patrol cars, one of which has over 100,000 miles. Lively stated that the search continues for a replacement vehicle.

Lively also reported that he had attended a training session with Chiefs of Police from around the CSRA. He also spent time with area law enforcement from surrounding counties regarding mutual aid and school safety plans that the agencies are continuously working to improve.

Council then approved Lively's request to attend the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police summer training session in Savannah.

Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Ben Alligood's monthly report showed that the approximate influent for Lincoln County was 839,000 gallons, while the influent for the city was over 11 million gallons. Treated effluent that was discharged was a little over 12.2 million gallons. Routine facility, equipment, and grounds maintenance was performed, along with the line repairs, and the clearing of clogged sewer mains. Sampling data has also been completed and recorded.

The report also indicated that the department lost no time due to accidents or incidents.

Council approved a request by Alligood to attend the Georgia Rural Water Association training conference in Jekyll Island in May.

Water Treatment Plant Supervi-

sor Jodi Lee's report showed that 12.5 million gallons of water were treated, with 11.3 million gallons sent to distribution, and 5 million gallons sent to the county during the month of February. Rainfall for the month was recorded at 5.82 inches and the Clarks Hill reservoir stands at 330.2 feet.

Both emergency generators are testing weekly with no problems and both fuel tanks are full. Basin #1 and #3 have been cleaned. High service pump #3 is out of service with a check value that won't close. Proposals for repairs are pending.

Lee's report also indicated that the plant was flagged by the Georgia Environmental Protection Divi-

sion for a non-submittal violation on November coliform samples, and non-submittal violation on 2019 consumer confidence report. Mayor Henry Brown asked Lee if he was working with Kenny Green to get the reports filed with EPD. Lee replied they had completed the report, plus the report for 2020, and are both being submitted.

In other business council approved a resolution to adopt the Lincoln County Joint Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan as the official plan of the City of Lincolnton.

The Lincolnton City Council's next regular meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, at City Hall.

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 residents 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 County Health Department will not be able to provide the screening or immunization. Parents are encouraged to contact their children's pediatricians.

Two proofs of residency must

also be produced, including physical addresses only. One proof of residency must be a utility bill such as gas, water, electric, etc., and the second can be a current lease/rental agreement, paycheck stub, residential property tax bill, warranty/quit claim deed, home purchase agreement, third person affidavit of residency, or homeowner's insurance policy. (A third-party affidavit used for residency must be notarized before it will be accepted.)

Parents or guardians must be present to enroll a child. A license or photo ID will be needed at the time of registration to verify the names on the child's birth certificate. If a parent's or guardian's name is not listed on the birth certificate, guardianship papers must be produced before a child can be enrolled.

Enrollment in pre-K is on a first-come, first-enrolled basis.

A child will not be registered until all of the required documents are received.

Camping out at LCES will not be permitted, and parents will not be allowed to line-up before 7 a.m.

For more information, call the Lincoln County Elementary School office at 706-359-3449.

DPH reports total fatalities at 22 as COVID cases increase to 490

Lincoln County had its twenty-second reported COVID-19 fatality according to the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) website as of Monday, March 8.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County increased to 490 with twenty-two reported fatalities as of the 3 p.m. posting by the Georgia Department of Public Health on Monday.

Neighboring Wilkes County lists 655 cases and seventeen deaths, McDuffie County reports 1587 cases and 38 deaths, Columbia lists 10,615 cases and 154 deaths, and Richmond County reports 18,866 cases and 363 deaths.

Also reported as of 3 p.m. Monday, 829,077 Georgians had tested positive for COVID-19. Of those patients, 56,836 were hospitalized, and 15,640 deaths have been reported.

To register for the vaccine in

Lincoln County, go online to ecphd.com [East Central Public Health District] to register. After going through a questionnaire process, you can choose your county or put in a radius from your location. You can then choose your time and place for a vaccine appointment.

The online system gives people the opportunity to see where appointments are available around them so they can choose their preferred travel options. It also provides for email or text confirmations and reminders. There is no waiting for a callback - pre-screening, date and time are all handled online.

Anyone not meeting the eligibility criteria right now, it will not allow them to make an appointment.

For those without internet access or who are just no computer-savvy, call 706-721-5800.

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