

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 10 • P.O. Box 399 – Lincolnton, Georgia • Publication No. 313-660 • 12 Pages • March 11, 2021



CALEB WILLIS
Most Valuable Offensive Skill Award
Region 8A All Region Award



DONALD OWENS
Most Valuable Offensive Line Award
Region 8A All Region Award



CJ ZELLARS
Most Valuable Defensive Skill Award
Region 8A All Region Award

LCHS student athletes recognized for achievements on and off the field

Red Devil football players were honored for their grit, determination, athleticism, and character at a special awards banquet held Thursday, February 25, at Lincoln County High School.

Surrounded by family, friends, coaches, teachers, and more, the boys were highlighted for their exceptional growth throughout the 2020 fall football season which ended in the third round of the playoffs – a feat worthy of praise, according to the LCHS athletic department.

"Our kids should really be applauded for this year and the adversity they faced," Head Coach and Athletic Director Lee Chomskis said.

Through coaching changeups over the past four years – the lack of consistent leadership making learning difficult – to COVID and quarantine this past year, the boys truly accomplished a lot for the 2020 season, Chomskis said.

"It took time this year [to grow], but as the guys began to buy in and stop questioning what we were doing, as they began to listen to the coaching and take that coaching [to heart] – and understanding the method to the madness that we have in our program – we began to improve," the coach added. "Around game five or six we began to start playing really good football."

"And with a really young football team, so we should really applaud what they've done – third



Present and past coaches presenting awards were (l-r) Howard Ellis, Larry Campbell, Lee Chomskis, Henry Madden

round of the state playoffs this year, which was quite an accomplishment under the circumstances. That means we're in the top eight, there are only eight schools left," Chomskis said. "In the year of COVID, that's quite astounding."

With a 9-5 season record, six seniors and nine juniors leading the Red Devils, and the youthfulness of the team, making it to the playoffs speaks for itself in this achievement.

According to the head coach, there are 30 returning football players at the season's end, however

the hope is to add a large freshman class to the team, along with "picking up the few students in the hallways who aren't playing currently," in order to grow the team in size and spirit this coming year.

"Of the awards given tonight," Chomskis segued. "It'd be nice if we could award everybody, but let's face it, if everybody gets a trophy how much could they really mean? So, everybody's not going to get an award tonight, but everyone is a winner because they stuck it out and played it through."

Those awarded first were on the junior varsity team, and included Ray Adcock, who received the Coaches Award; Nazealous Hogan, Most Improved JV; Demondrea Booker, Defensive MVP; and Semaj Jenkins, Offensive MVP.

Next, the list of varsity players awarded began.

Those Red Devils who made All-Region 8A were celebrated and awarded. The nine seniors and juniors were Reggie Reid, C.J. Zellars, Colton Willis, Miles Parks, Donald Owens, Willis, Teven Gartrell, Keenon Lampkin, and Johnny Wise. Wise was also named the 8A Region Defensive Player of the Year.

Awards were additionally given to the following players:

Joshiah Jones received the "Scout Team Player of the Year;" Franklin Brown, the "Thomas Bunch Coach's Award;" C.J. Zellars, "MV Defensive Skill Award;" Caleb Willis, "MV Offensive Skill Award;" Colton Willis, "MV Defensive Line Award;" Donald Owens, "MV Offensive Line Award;"

Tevin Gartrell, the "Coke Offensive MVP/Golden Helmet Award;" Reggie Reid, the "Henry Madden Service Award;" Johnny Wise, the "Howard Ellis Defensive MVP;" Keenon Lampkin, the "Larry Campbell Leadership Award;"

(continued on page 12)



Miles Parks (center) received the Billy McWhorter Most Improved Award, Region 8A All Region Award, and the 44 Strong Presentation. Present were his parents Anthony and Melissa Parks.

Committee's new six-point plan intended to improve city's image

The clean-up and revitalization of downtown Lincolnton were points of discussion at the City Council's meeting on Tuesday night, March 2.

Downtown Revitalization Committee Chairman Dwaine Biggerstaff kicked things off with the committee's plans for its "Main Street Initiative" with a list of projects intended to improve the image of the City of Lincolnton.

According to Biggerstaff, he and committee member Councilman Nicole Kelley have been working on a list of six projects that would better enhance and improve the appearance of the entrance corridors leading into the city and also serve to clean-up existing structures.

The first project mentioned was the reinstatement of the "Peachy Clean" workday. Biggerstaff indicated that the expense to the city would be minimal and that he and Kelley would be reaching out to local churches and organizations to garner interest and support.

In years past, the event was held in early spring prior to the Masters Tournament or bluegrass festival. Volunteers would pick up trash along the roadways leading into the city. "Anything we can do to improve the appearance of the city is worth the effort," Biggerstaff said.

The second project would be to make repairs and renew the City of Lincolnton's entrance signs.

Biggerstaff stated that he had been in talks with the Chamber of Commerce Chairman Maggie Shaw and the Lincolnton Artisans group getting feedback and, hopefully, volunteers to help repaint the entrance signs at a minimal cost.

The next item discussed was storefront facades.

"As much as we would love to keep things the same, improvements to the storefronts, like those completed on the Master's Closet, for example, does a lot to enhance the look of downtown and should be used as a template moving forward," Biggerstaff said.

The fourth item would be the cleaning up of the entrance ways leading into the city.

Biggerstaff intends to work with code enforcement and business owners located on those entrance corridors to ensure that they remain presentable to those entering the city.

The fifth project was Christmas decorations.

"The Chamber has run into some issues with their Christmas lights, so I'll be working with them to address that," Biggerstaff said. "I'd also like to see the Lincolnton Club House decorated for Christmas and I'm looking into the cost of purchasing 'pole halos' which enhance the existing lighting we already have. I'd just like to do anything we can to make the City of Lincolnton look a little more Christmasy," he said.

The final item on the list was the clean-up of the city barn. Biggerstaff explained the building has been neglected and could use a good clean-out on the inside and the outside needs some work as well.

The committee will continue to update City Council as project details and costs become more concrete.

At the urging of Councilman Alana Burke, Building Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Officer Larry Goolsby continued the discussion reporting on the increase in the number of new building permits being issued by the City of Lincolnton and the increase in new home construction.

Goolsby also touched on the renovations currently underway on several previously vacant buildings downtown.

"We've got a lot going on here, Councilman Alana Burke said, and

it's exciting to me, to see people taking an interest in what is here."

Moving on, Kenny Green of G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers gave a presentation on the water agreement between the city and county which calls for an annual audit to settle accounts between the two entities and project the rate for next year.

As for settling accounts, Green's report indicated that the difference between the total county payments and the county's share of the Operation and Maintenance expenses, the city should reimburse the county

\$33,307.24 according to the terms of the agreement.

In 2020, the total operating expenses increased 14 percent from 2019, while water plant production increased by 28 percent. Total personal services costs increased by 25 percent, purchased contracted services decreased by 15 percent, and supplies increased by 19 percent.

The report indicated that the County is intending to bring online several new wells this year and have therefore estimated the county

(continued on page 12)

Shepard Blood drive to be held at Lincolnton Baptist March 13

The Shepard Community Blood Center is inviting the public to celebrate National Good Samaritan Day by donating blood at the Lincolnton Community Blood Drive on Saturday, March 13, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Lincolnton Baptist Church. All donors will receive a special T-shirt as a "thank you" for donating.

Cancer patients, trauma patients, and patients undergoing surgery depend on blood donations from generous donors. The need for blood is constant and Shepard is calling on blood donors to help them stock the shelves at local hospitals.

Shepard is thankful for the community's loyalty and consistency in donating blood to patients in need. Twenty-nine blood donors came out in January, and 25 units of blood were collected at the last Lincolnton Community Blood Drive.

Donors with all blood types are

encouraged to donate, especially those who are O Negative, which is the universal blood type.

To ensure your donation is successful, be sure to eat a full meal before donating, stay hydrated, and get lots of rest the night before.

Donors must be in good general health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be at least 17 years old (or 16 with written parental consent) to donate. Be sure to take a photo ID or Shepard donor card with you when you donate. All donors will receive points that may be redeemed in Shepard's Donor Store for T-shirts or gift cards.

Lincolnton Baptist Church is located at 235 South Peachtree Street.

For more information, contact Recruitment Specialist Jacqueline Clemmons at 706-737-4551 or visit the Shepard Community Blood Center website, shepardblood.org.



Daylight saving time is here once again. On Sunday, March 14, clocks will be set ahead at 2 a.m. and everyone will lose one hour of sleep.

Some people love it – others hate it. The concept of daylight saving time has always been an issue. It was first started in 1918 as a wartime measure. Contrary to popular belief, it was not for the farmers to have more time to work in the fields. Americans hated it so much that the law was later revoked. It was reinstated in 1942 as another wartime measure, and the necessity of it ended in 1945. It was brought back again in 1966 with the enactment of the Uniform Time Act as an attempt to standardize daylight saving time. (DST)

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 commanded that daylight saving time start across the nation on the last Sunday of April and end on the last Sunday of October. Proponents of daylight saving usually state that most people would prefer an increase in daylight hours after the normal 9-5 workday. They have also stated that DST decreases energy consumption, however the real effect on overall energy use has been and continues to be disputed. Rather than rural interests, it has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that benefit from the change. Over the years, the starting and ending dates have been adjusted several times.

In recent years, changing clocks forward and backward is also a reminder to change the batteries in

smoke detectors. Many fire departments encourage people to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks because daylight saving time provides a convenient reminder. A working smoke detector more than doubles a person's chances of surviving a home fire.

More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third are estimated to have dead or missing batteries.

While battery-operated units have a built-in device that chirps when batteries get low, signaling the need for replacement, common wisdom dictates not waiting until that point. Batteries should be replaced twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

When you change your batteries, be sure to dust the unit, making sure that the sensor is lint free. The button test ensures that the batteries are working. However, it doesn't tell you whether the detector is operating properly. To find out, put two or three lighted matches together and then blow out the flame, holding the matches so that the smoke wafts up toward the unit.

After a period of 10 years, a smoke detector has endured more than 87,000 hours of continuous operation, during which time the internal sensors have probably become contaminated with dust, dirt, and air pollutant residues. If your alarm or detector is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it. Your family and your home are certainly important enough to do a little maintenance.