

# 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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## OES staff assists in vaccinating teachers, staff

Lincoln County Office of Emergency Services staff members (l-r) Advanced EMT Courtney Davis, Advanced EMT Dawn Davis, EMT Taylor Thurmond, and Paramedic Captain Shane Toy, and (not pictured) EMT intermediate Tammy Thain assisted Lincoln County Health Department Nurse Manager Hilary Daniel vaccinate teachers and staff at Lincoln County Elementary School on Friday, March 12.

## Chamber seeks volunteers to serve on board of directors, ambassadors

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good men and women to serve as members of the organization's board of directors and ambassadors for 2021-22.

The mission of the chamber is to advance commerce, tourism, and civic interest in the Lincolnton-Lincoln County area.

The board of directors is the policy-making body of the chamber, which represents a broad cross-section of the business and professional leadership of the community.

The responsibility of the board

is to become familiar with the by-laws, policies, and procedures in order to serve as informed representatives of the chamber of commerce.

Board members are likewise required to:

1. Be an active member or member representative of the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce.
2. Attend the annual chamber banquet
3. Attend the annual planning meeting/conference to develop goals for the coming year.

4. Attend each regular or special board meeting, normally on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

5. Attend chamber-sponsored events.

6. Attend special events to promote the chamber of commerce or the community.

7. Assist in chamber events and activities.

8. Serve on at least one committee of your choice each year or as may be requested by the CEO.

9. Perform such duties as may be requested from time to time by the CEO and/or board of directors.

10. Prepare for each meeting by doing any homework necessary to be informed and take an active role in meetings.

11. Possess the ability to distinguish between personal interests as a citizen and interests as a member of the chamber and its board of directors.

Each board of director serves a three-year term.

"We are seeking individuals who are willing to step up to the plate and work hard to make a real difference in our city and county," said Chairman Maggie Shaw, "Being a board member is a wonderful opportunity for community service. Our hope is that there are business owners, community leaders, and residents willing to take on the challenge."

The qualifications for this position include:

1. The business and work experience that will assist in the exercise of sound judgment in considering challenges facing the chamber as they relate to the overall program of community development.

2. The ability to inspire others to participate in worthwhile initiatives, sponsored by the chamber, and to motivate individuals to get involved and volunteer within the community.

3. The ability to work constructively and harmoniously with directors, members, volunteers, and staff of the chamber in accordance with the policies established by the board of directors.

4. A demonstrated ability for leadership in community service.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the application form about serving the community as a chamber director or ambassador contact Maggie Shaw at [info@lincolngachamber.org](mailto:info@lincolngachamber.org).

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## Georgia sees big vaccine boost with judges, court staff eligible

By BEAU EVANS  
Capital News Beat Services

Judges and court staff in Georgia are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines amid a large boost in dose shipments from the federal government that kicked in last week.

The addition of Johnson & Johnson-brand vaccines has helped roughly double the weekly allocation sent to Georgia from 228,000 doses in recent weeks to 458,000 doses, Gov. Brian Kemp said at a news conference last week.

Widening eligibility to judges and court staff comes as state officials eye opening up COVID-19 vaccines to all Georgians, potentially as soon as early next month.

"We are getting closer to that day," Kemp said. "So I still feel very good about that timeline. As

we get more vaccines, we're going to open up this sucker to everybody."

Georgians can pre-register for a vaccine appointment at [myvaccinegeorgia.com](http://myvaccinegeorgia.com) even if they do not yet qualify under the governor's eligibility criteria. They will be notified and scheduled for an appointment once they qualify.

Along with judges and court staff, Georgia's vaccine eligibility list currently includes all residents ages 55 and older, health-care workers, nursing home residents and staff, first responders and people with physical, mental and behavioral health conditions.

State data shows roughly 2.7 million vaccines have been given in Georgia so far, though Kemp said that figure does not include about 250,000 doses that officials have identified as administered but that have not yet been reported by local providers.

Nearly 1 million of those vaccines have been given to Georgians ages 65 and older. About 70% of the state's older and most vulnerable populations have received at least one dose, Kemp said.

With demand still sky-high for vaccines, Kemp said his office is warning many providers to stop withholding vaccines to make sure patients receive both doses and to administer them within seven days – or face smaller allocations going forward as shipments to Georgia continue growing.

"To be clear: we are going to move these doses where the demand is," Kemp said. "And we are going to ship these doses to where they're being used most efficiently. That is my message today to providers."

Demand has particularly fallen in rural South Georgia, possibly due to doubts over the vaccine's safety and effectiveness, the governor added. He urged everyone to schedule appointments for the vaccine so that enough Georgians will have immunity to effectively halt the virus' spread.

"Vaccination is our ticket back to normalcy," Kemp said. "The more people who are vaccinated,

the more lives are saved and the quicker we get back to our normal way of life."

The boost in vaccine shipments also comes as Georgia opens five new mass vaccination sites in Savannah, Columbus, Waycross, and Bartow and Washington counties. Those add to four other sites already open in metro Atlanta, Macon, Albany and Habersham County.

As more Georgians are vaccinated, the number of people who are contracting COVID-19 and being hospitalized by the virus is continuing to decline after a sharp winter outbreak, said Georgia Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey.

"This is a good sign," Toomey said on Tuesday. "We would like to keep it down and keep it declining in the weeks ahead, and everybody being vaccinated will help with that effort."

More than 837,000 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Georgia as of last week, with roughly 199,000 more reported positive antigen tests indicating likely positive results. The virus has killed 15,928 Georgians.

## LCHS seniors eligible to apply for scholarship

Seniors at Lincoln County High School may apply for the W.E. Mason Pioneer Scholarship by submitting an application to the Pioneer Educator Committee.

The scholarship is available to students with a grade average of 80 and above, and is designed to give preference to first-generation college students and those interested in pursuing the field of education. Students must have been accepted into an institution of higher education by the submission deadline, April 22.

Interested students should contact the high school counselor or principal.

For more information about the scholarship or to contribute, contact Luther Jones at 706-410-4349.

## Blue Star marker will be dedicated at clubhouse April 1

The Garden Club of Georgia and the Azalea District Pine Needle Garden Club of Lincolnton are preparing to dedicate the new Blue Star Memorial Marker on the grounds of the Lincolnton Club House.

The markers will honor families of the fallen. Those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

The ceremony is scheduled to take place Thursday, April 1, at 1 p.m.

The Blue Star Program began during World War II, with the planting of trees in towns and cities to honor those citizens serving in the Armed Forces. Over the years, the program has evolved into the roadside markers of today.

The community is heartily invited to attend the dedication ceremony. Refreshments will be served following the dedication.

The Lincolnton Club House is located at 255 North Washington Street.



DESTINY BARKSDALE



JENNA KINZLE



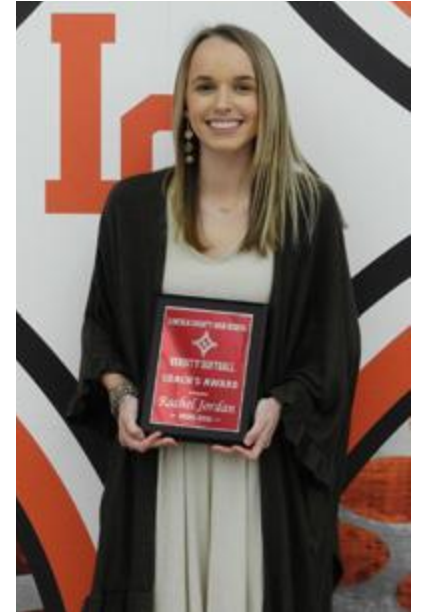
JORDYN DEASON

## Lady Devils honored at awards banquet

Lady Devil softball players were honored for their achievements at a special awards banquet held Tuesday, March 16, at Lincoln County High School. Those recognized were varsity players and included Jordyn Deason, who received the Most Valuable Player award and Region 8-A Public First Team All-Region; Autumn Crook, Most Improved; Destiny Barksdale, Best Offensive Player; Jenna Kinzle, Best Defensive Player; Rachel Jordan, Coach's Award; and Kohli Carruth, Region 8-A Public Softball Second Team All-Region and Best Defensive Player.



AUTUMN CROOK



RACHEL JORDAN