

# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Cain't I Dis Say???

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



He had big brown eyes and a smile that could light up the room. He barely came up to my waist and he was spry and had a small build as kindergarten students go. He was in the office of our elementary school, bouncing around, going from the principal to the office staff, chatting as if he were one of the grown-ups. Because he was just as cute as a button, none of us even thought of the time or where Rodrick should be!!!!

It wasn't long before his teacher, Mrs. Wilcher, appeared at the office door looking for him. You see, she was calling the roll in her classroom and Rodrick did not answer, yet, other students were adamant that he was at school and one student thought he saw Rodrick in the office.

"What are you doing up here, Rodrick?" Mrs. Wilcher asked him.

We could tell she was exasperated, but Rodrick was even more exasperated than she, and he let everyone know. He threw his little arms straight out, with palms up, and he shrugged his shoulders and asked with the most frustrated expression as only a little kindergarten child could express, "Cain't I dis say goot moanin'?"

That happened many years ago. Rodrick is grown now, probably with grandchildren! That was a

moment in time for me I shall never forget. I often think of Rodrick.

I hope life has not dampened his joy for the mornings. I hope he still has sparkling eyes and a bright smile. That morning, many years ago, he was happy visiting and beginning his day checking on the ladies in the office, bidding them a goot moanin'!

He would get to class eventually. He would later do his lessons, have his lunch and get on the bus headed for home, but first, he wanted to share his good feelings about the morning.

He wanted to start the day with the people whom he thought to be the leaders of his school and he was very comfortable visiting with them and wishing them a good day. How do you start off your day?

Some of my mornings are better than others, but I often hear Rodrick's words in my head, "Cain't I dis say goot moanin'?"

Rodrick's spirit was an inspiration. He was happy without a care in the world. He was spreading joy for the day with people as only he knew how.

Today, his words ringing in my ears still bring a smile to my face, but more importantly, a smile to my heart. Some days before I even get out of bed, I close my eyes and say to God, "Cain't I dis say goot moanin'?"

## This weeks tips from the BBB

Better Business Bureau reminds those who experience storm and hail damage to take certain precautions when hiring a roofing contractor.

Natural disasters like tornados, hurricanes and floods can bring out the best in people, as strangers reach out to help others in need. Unfortunately, crises also bring out persons who choose to take advantage of the victims.

Some of the most common "after-disaster" scams involve damage done to roofs. BBB offers the following tips to homeowners who suffer roof damage in the wake of a natural disaster:

- Check with your insurance company about policy coverage and specific filing requirements. Save all receipts if temporary roofing repairs are necessary.
- Although you may be anxious to get things back to normal, avoid letting your emotions get the better of you. Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision with a long-term impact. Be pro-active in selecting a business and not re-active to sales solicitations.
- For major repairs, take time to shop around and get 3-4 estimates based on the same specifications and materials. Check out references that are at least one year-old, verify that all licensing requirements are up to date, and check to see if a permit is required.

- Be wary of door-to-door workers who claim to have left-over materials from a job "down the street" or who do not have a permanent place of business. If salespeople go door-to-door, check to see if your community requires them to have solicitation permits.
- Be leery if a worker shows up on your doorstep to announce that your home is unsafe. If you are concerned about possible structural damage in your home, have an engineer, architect or building official inspect it. While most roofing contractors abide by the law, be careful allowing someone you do not know inspect your roof. An unethical contractor may actually create damage to get work.
- Require a written contract agreement with anyone you hire. Be sure their name, address, license number, if applicable, and phone number are included in the contract. Read and understand the contract in its entirety, and don't sign a blank contract. A copy of the signed contract is to be given to you at time of signature.

Clearly written proposals that are detailed and broken down into separate line items are a good sign that the contractor is being

thorough and has prepared an accurate estimate. The following is a partial list of items your estimate or proposal should include:

- The type of roof covering, manufacturer and color
- Materials to be included in the work
- Scope of work to be done (Removal or replacement of existing roof, flashing work, e.g., existing flashings to be replaced or re-used, adding new flashing, flashing metal type, Ventilation work, e.g., adding new vents)
- Who is responsible for repairing/replacing exterior landscape or interior finishes that are damaged during the course of the work? Make sure that it contains language addressing who is responsible for any damage that occurs as a result of the work. All items of concern and work to be done should be included in the contract.
- Installation method
- Approximate starting and completion dates
- Payment procedures
- Length of warranty and what is covered, e.g., workmanship, water leakage
- Who will haul away the old roofing materials and/or project waste (e.g. extra materials, packaging, etc.)? Is there extra charge for this service?

If one estimate seems much lower than the others and it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Many fly-by-night contractors' below-cost bids seem attractive, but these contractors often are uninsured and perform substandard work or use substandard materials. Make sure to read the fine print. Some contracts use a clause where substantial cancellation fees or liquidation damages are required if the homeowner decides not to use the contractor after insurance approval of the claim. In some instances, you may be required to pay the full agreed price if the homeowner cancels after the cancellation period. If an estimate or contract is confusing, ask the contractor to break it down into items/terms you can understand.

Storm chasing has become a multi-million-dollar industry, complete with computerized hail forecasting, teams of out-of-state installers and trained salespeople who go door-to-door soliciting work.

Disaster victims should never feel forced to make a hasty decision or to choose an unknown contractor. Start with trust. For reliable information, lists of BBB Accredited Businesses by industry and BBB Business Reviews on local businesses, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) or call 800-763-4222.



## Consumers get answers from Ga. Department of Agriculture

Consumer Q's is a weekly question-and-answer column by Arty Schronce at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Please share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with him by phone, mail or email.

### Q: Is butter safe at room temperature?

A: Butter is safe at room temperature. However, if butter is left out at room temperature for several days, the flavor can turn rancid so it is best to leave out only what you can use within a day or two.

### Q: Why is it hard to grow a lawn in the shade?

A: There are several reasons. Turfgrasses are not shade-loving plants. Shade reduces the amount of light available for photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is how plants manufacture food. If plants, especially sun-loving plants like turfgrasses, don't get enough light, they starve. Fallen leaves exacerbate the problem by practically smothering the grass.

Shady conditions encourage fungal diseases because the grass blades stay wet longer since the sun cannot dry the grass blades and because the air does not circulate as readily under the shade of trees as it does in the open.

Trees prevent some of the rain from reaching the plants beneath them. Tree roots also compete with the plants for water and nutrients in the soil.

If your property is shaded, consider having mulched areas instead of a lawn, drifts of shrubs such as azaleas, a bed of shade-loving perennials or swaths of shade-loving groundcovers like dwarf mondograss. Stop trying to fight nature and, instead, plant the things that want to be in the shade.

### Q: Are powdered egg whites pasteurized?

A: Egg white powder is dried egg white (albumen). Dried egg whites are pasteurized by heating in the dried form for a specified time and at a minimum required temperature.



### TO THE EDITOR

## Leaders should heed Washington's words

TO THE EDITOR  
Our nation is truly at a crossroads in many senses of the word. Our leaders at all levels of government, as well as those of us who put them in office, would do well to read and heed the wise words of George Washington contained in his 1796 "Farewell Address." Among many points made in this document, three stand out.

First, he voices strong words against the dangers of political factions and parties. He warns the "spirit of party" is not to be encouraged... "lest instead of warming it should consume." How true this is today with our dysfunctional, paralyzed Congress that seems not to know the meaning of compromise.

Secondly, Washington draws a clear connection between political prosperity, religion and morality. Listen to his words... "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." Those in our country who promote freedom "from" religion would do well to read these words.

Lastly, Washington offers a strong caution regarding public debt. He states... "As a very important source

The powdered egg whites can be reconstituted by mixing them with water. The reconstituted powder whips like fresh egg whites and, because it is pasteurized, can be used safely without cooking or baking it. Although pasteurized, for optimal safety, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service says it is best to start with a cooked base, especially if serving high-risk persons, such as the elderly, young children and individuals with compromised immune systems.

### Q: Why are foods recalled just because an ingredient is not listed on the label?

A: Food manufacturers must list the ingredients on the product label. People need to know what is in the foods they consume. Some ingredients such as shellfish, nuts, peanuts, eggs, milk, soy and wheat can cause allergic reactions in some people. These reactions can be severe and even fatal.

### Q: There is something growing on my property that has dark green stems that are thorny. It has a fruit that looks like a small lemon with a velveteen surface. What is it?

A: It is trifoliate orange (Poncirus trifoliata). It is the most cold-hardy member of the citrus family and will grow throughout Georgia and even farther north. It is almost exclusively grown as ornamental for its interesting branches, white flowers and attractive fruits. Although the fruit is fragrant and citrusy, it contains little pulp compared with other citrus species. The pulp is extremely sour and chock full of seeds.

If you have questions about agriculture, horticulture, food safety or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce ([arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov)) or visit the department's website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

### Sit, Sew classes

The American Legion is hosting additional classes: "Sit & Sew" classes, meet monthly on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday morning, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
"Quilting Classes" are monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7-9:30 p.m. Call Linda Buesching/Instructor at (706) 359-1572.

Sewing and quilting stations are appropriated spaced and masks are required.

All levels of quilting welcome. The cost is a "donation" to the American Legion.

### BOE meeting dates

The Lincoln County Board of Education 2021 meeting dates are follows: May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11, 2022.

The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Board of Education Administration Offices Building at 423 Metasville Rd.

of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate..." He reminds us that debt can be settled only by tax revenues and he points out that... "no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant."

It is a true tragedy that many of our elected leaders seem not to be acquainted with the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. It is likewise a tragedy that our public education process does so little to advance this understanding.

T. MARVIN GOLDMAN

### Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

### Called meeting today

The Lincoln County Development Authority will have a called meeting on Thursday, April 8 at noon in the conference room of the Welcome Center



## Pesticide Licensing

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service



A pesticide is any substance that can prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate pests, and includes anything used as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant. The use of pesticides can be used to control pests - undesirable organisms that injure humans, plants and animals, manufactured products, or natural substances. Common pests include weeds, insects, animals, and disease pathogens like bacteria and fungi. I have written about integrated pest management in the past, so today I wanted to focus on the licensing requirements around pesticides and pesticide use.

First, it's important to distinguish the different types of pesticides on the market. General or unclassified pesticides are those which have low toxicity and pose little threat to human or wildlife health.

Some general use pesticides you might be familiar with are weed killers, rodent poisons, ant baits, and other products that can be purchased at any home and garden store.

Restricted use pesticides are those that have higher toxicities and pose a significant threat to human and environmental health and safety. In order to purchase or use a restricted use pesticide, you must hold a pesticide license obtained through the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

There are two classifications of pesticide licenses offered in the state of Georgia. A private applicator license is for those who intend to use restricted pesticides for agriculture production on property owned, rented, or otherwise in their care or on the property of another person, provided there is no compensation between parties. For example, this would include most farmers, ranchers, orchardists, and foresters.

A commercial applicator pesticide license is required for people who are not directly producing

### Festival entries wanted

The American Legion Post 194 and Classic South Quilt Guild is looking for entries for their upcoming quilt, craft and sewing festival scheduled for June 12-13. If you have quilts, sewing crafts, or toys, novelty items, ceramics, paintings, jewelry, etc., please contact Linda Buesching at 706-359-1572 or Al Ewing at 661-666-3749 for more information on entering your items.

### Registration opens for adult softball at recreation dept.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department is hosting "Summer Slugfest," an adult softball league. The season will run June 15-July 22, with games held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Teams can be co-ed or all men with a \$250 registration fee per team. Registration will run from March 15-May 31 at the recreation complex.

League rules include: all team members must be in uniform (jersey); have 15 players to a roster; use 44 core and 375 compression balls; no illegal bats; five homers per game; any homerun after five changes the inning.

The end-of-season tournament will be held July 31.

For more information contact LCRD Director LeTrellis Glaze or Lisa Willingham at 706-359-2236.

### Mail in tithes

Price Grove Baptist Church members are reminded that they are able to mail in their tithes to Price Grove Baptist Church, P.O. Box 916, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

## The Lincoln Journal

Established in 1893  
The Official Organ of Lincolnton and Lincoln County  
(USPS 313-660)

Published every Thursday in Lincolnton, Georgia  
Peachtree Street, by Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE  
One year in Lincoln County - \$26.00  
Wilkes, Taliaferro Counties - 26.00  
Outside three-county area - \$41.00  
(includes 8% state and local sales tax)

Periodicals postage paid at Lincolnton, Georgia  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Lincoln Journal, P.O. Box 399  
Lincolnton, Georgia 30817  
706-359-3229

Email us at: [journal@nu-z.net](mailto:journal@nu-z.net)  
Visit us online at [www.lincolnjournalonline.com](http://www.lincolnjournalonline.com)