

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 15 • P.O. Box 399 — Lincolnton, Georgia • Publication No. 313-660 • 10 Pages • April 15, 2021



Red Devils begin region play next week

The Lincoln County High School Red Devil baseball team including (front row, l-r) Bryson Quarles, Peyton Rowe, Heath Creswell, Devin Hogan, Cole Bentley, senior Jackson Bryant, Judson Beggs, Ray Adcock, (back) Coach Robert McCarty, Aubrey Flanigan, Braelyn Stephens, Jack Antonakos, James Mattison, senior Storm Bessinger, Tristan Pia, Kellen Smith, and Coach Kevin Hunt will begin region play with an away game against Towns County at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 20. A doubleheader is scheduled for 5 and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 23 at home.

City moves forward with phase two of water treatment system upgrades

With the completion of phase one of the City of Lincolnton's water treatment system upgrades complete, the city has a balance of \$365,000 left out of \$516,000 awarded by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).

Kenneth E. Green of G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers updated the city council on phase two of three phases during the council's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 6.

Green explained that the city's original budget of \$300,000 for phase two of the project included the replacement of 800 residential meters. Since that time, the decision was made to include all 995 residential meters, commercial meters, and Lincoln County's meter in the bid process.

Phase two of the project will include replacing the city's manual-read water meters with an automatic meter reading system. The cost includes furnishing all mate-

rials and equipment and performing all labor necessary for installation of advanced meter reading software and hardware for meter reading. It includes backend compatibility with existing billing software, new handheld computers, training, and necessary appurtenances as specified or necessary to provide a complete system.

The bid received by Brooks Brothers Construction LLC of Gibson, Georgia, for phase two of the project came in at \$465,595.

Green recommended that additional funding from GEFA be requested to cover the shortfall in phase two, with an added request of approximately \$347,700 for phase three of the project totaling \$513,384 in additional funding.

The budgeted items for phase three of the project would cover improvements to the water treatment plant and include: turbidimeter upgrades, upgrading the SCADA system, alum pond rehabilitation, fluoride treatment

(continued on page 10)

Mason family asks for citizens' help in honoring father

The family of Welcome Emerson Mason is asking for the community's support in honoring a pillar of the community with a COVID-19 safe, drive-by greeting in celebration of his 95th birthday on Sunday, April 25.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has requested that participating drivers line-up at the Curry Colvin Recreation Complex located on Rowland York Road at 4 p.m. The sheriff's office will provide an escort for safety and traffic flow, traveling east on Rowland York past Mason's home, and exiting on Highway 79.

The drive-by event will last 95 minutes, one minute for each year, and Mr. Mason will be sitting in his front yard ready to greet those participating. The family reminds those who choose to participate that this is a "drive-by" event; do not exit vehicles.

Those unable to line up by 4 p.m. are asked to drive safely by the Mason home traveling east on Rowland York Drive toward Highway 79. Those unable to participate in the drive-by during the 95 minutes allotted may send cards and letters to Welcome Emerson Mason, Post Office Box 214, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

For more information contact Marcus Elton Mason at 706-401-3205.

Coble hired as new director; Williams honored for service

Josh Coble, a recently retired Command Sergeant Major at Fort Gordon replaced John Stone as Lincoln County Development Authority director as of Monday, April 12. Stone made the announcement at last week's regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, noting that Coble's hiring had already been approved by the Development Authority.

Stone described Coble as full of energy, highly qualified, and ready to start. He went on to assure commissioners that he would remain through the end of April to ensure a smooth transition. "I am confident that he will be fully versed in all aspects of the Development Authority, so no projects are left behind before I leave. I think you are really going to enjoy working with him," Stone said.

Stone further reported that the Development Authority approved up to \$17,000 in funding for preliminary engineering services with Engineering Management, Inc. for the wastewater expansion project into the Soap Creek area.

Septic tank issues continue to be a problem for two businesses in that area, according to Stone, and the Development Authority agreed that the possibility of expanding the county's wastewater system into the Soap Creek area would have a positive economic impact and the county would benefit by adding commercial and residential customers to its service.

Commissioners were fully briefed on the project during the county work session on Thursday, April 1, and agreed to sign the proposal with EMI and accept the funds from the Development Authority.

According to Commission Chairman Walker Norman, before any project can move forward a preliminary engineering services study must be completed to see if the project is even viable. Once the study is completed, the Board of Commissioners can decide whether to move forward with the project.

Norman recognized Claudine



Claudine Williams (center) accepted a plaque from Commission Chairman Walker Norman (right) and Lincoln Leisure Director Nancy Blount, for her 26-years of dedicated service to the county's senior citizens.

Williams for her 26-years of dedicated service to the Lincoln County Senior Service. "She has done a tremendous job working with the senior citizens and I'm sure she will be missed," Norman said.

Norman presented Williams with a plaque on behalf of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners which read "in recognition and appreciation of your 26 years of dedicated service to the Lincoln County Senior Services from October 12, 1995 to January 18, 2021."

At Gray addressed the Board of Commissioners about his concerns over the county's maintenance of the right-of-way on Salem Church Road. Gray had decided the right-of-way to the county in 2008, with the understanding that it would be routinely maintained by the county. At present, Gray considers the right-of-way a hazard, with overgrown trees making it difficult to see oncoming traffic when exiting

his driveway. He asked that the county take immediate action to resolve the issue.

Grey further voiced his displeasure with a gate being placed across Booth Branch Road that limits his access to an area where he walks.

Norman explained that County Attorney Ben Jackson is currently in discussions with the landowner's attorney and that the gate has been removed until the issue is resolved.

Public Works Director Roby Seymour asked commissioners for approval to renew the county's contract with Eagleview Aerial Photography at a total cost of \$44,259, which would be paid out in installments of \$14,753 over the next three years.

Seymour explained that there would be a slight increase in the cost of \$1,523 per year in the new

(continued on page 10)

Potential jurors asked to report for April term of court next week

Lincoln County Superior Court Traverse Jury will convene Monday, April 19 and continue through April 23. Jury selection will be held at the Curry Colvin Recreation Complex located at 1962 Rowland York Road.

A statewide Judicial Emergency Order was first issued by Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court Harold D. Melton on March 14, 2020. The order has been extended 12 times, with the last being dated March 9, 2021, which now authorizes the resumption of jury proceedings within certain COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Superior Court Chief Judge Harold A. Hinesley, who is set to preside over the proceedings, wants jurors to know that, "We are taking precautions to insure everyone's safety while serving on the jury. Therefore, the selection of the jury will be April 19-23, and will take place at the Walker T. Norman Gymnasium located at the Curry Colvin Recreation Complex located at 1962 Rowland-York Road," rather than at the Lincoln County courthouse.

After selection ends, the Jury proceedings will move to the Lincoln County courtroom in the courthouse located at 210 Humphrey Street. All jury summons have indicated the time to report at the Walker T. Norman Gymnasium. Jurors are asked to wear masks, to maintain social distancing upon entering the gymnasium, and to follow the bailiffs' instructions at all times. Panels of prospective jurors will be called at staggered times in order to maintain proper social distancing.

Furthermore, on Sunday, April 18, jurors are asked to call 706-359-5501 after 3 p.m. to receive additional instructions.

Jurors for the week are Mary Lois Allen, Jason L. Aycock, Jackson Barnes, Lou Ann Barnett,

Aaron C. Barr, Nicole Louise Bass, Hope Shanell Beard, Sherry Dean Bennett, Tammy Stewart Bennett, Lydia Michelle Best, Thomas Donald Blackburn, Breanna Leashae Blackwell, J. Ira Blanchard, Anita Bolton, Rose Olivia Boothe, Jimmy Justin Colley, Shawn Tyson Cunningham, Carolyn McClendon Curley, Montana Polina Dawkins, Megan Grace Edmunds, Malcom Vernon Elam,

Mary F. Elam, Dave Ferguson, Paula Ann Fletcher, Queen Delorion Foster, Sean Daniel Foster, Raven Turner Freeman, Russell William Gibbs, Stephanie Reese Goldman, Taveras Gresham, Patrick William Guin, April Rae Harris, Ryan Allen Hayes, Walter Kenneth Holloway, Paula Belinda Janssen, Cynthia Dunham Johnson, Robert Louis Jones, Patrick Bryant Kelley, William Cody-O'Neal Keneson, Michael A. Kicklighter, David Kenneth Koone, Deleki Rayatta Lee,

Julia Jones Leverett, Christopher Niles Lewis, Dorothy Hogan Marlow, Howell Judson Mauldin, Phillip G McGahee, II, Prelo Mickens, Bobby Gene Moon, Donnie Ray Moore, Sandrina Takesha Morgan, Bobbie R. Mercier Norman, Crystal Ann O'Neal, William Boyce Paradise Jr., Dewey Lanier Parton, Debra C. Partridge, Amanda Rachel Pruitt, Nancy Sue Pund, Alisha Nichelle Quarles,

Debby Reed, Eve F. Reeves, Jason Paul Rickerson, Victoria Benedetto Ronan, Crystal Johnson Rowe, James Robert Rowe, Zoe Bereta Rupp, Mary Ellen Sawyer, Jonathan Lee Segars, Christine Marie Shively, Jack Gordon Smalley, Tanya Sue Smith, Karen Joan Stafford, Nancy C. Stowe, Teresa Nicole Tucker, Rose Mary Tutt, Mildred Danford Walton, Derrick Deleon Ware, William Guy Wellmaker IV, Shakita Margarita Wilkinson, Kendra Denise Williams, Frankie Lee Willis, and James Ellis Wood II.



Twelve Lincoln County Food Pantry volunteers including (l-r) Travis Reid, April Darling, Jenny Carr, Paula Drew, and Sherell Myers (back to camera) gathered on Tuesday morning, April 8, to bag frozen meats, canned vegetables, paper products, and more in preparation for the mobile food distribution held on Thursday, April 15. It took the volunteers well over an hour to prepare for the event. The extra time volunteers put in ahead of a distribution goes a long way in ensuring a seamless distribution.

Golden Harvest, LCFP food distribution to be held at recreation complex April 22

Partnering together for a joint county-wide, drive-through mobile food distribution on Thursday, April 22, will be Golden Harvest Food Bank, Lincoln County School District Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light, Camp Lakeside, and the Lincoln County Food Pantry.

Golden Harvest will deliver 15-meal boxes of non-perishable items which can include cereal rice, dried

beans, pasta, peanut butter, canned pork, etc. LCFP will provide frozen meats, and Dr. Light and Camp Lakeside will provide "blessing bags" for families with children.

The distribution will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the Lincoln County Recreation Complex located on Rowland York Road.

The 15-meal boxes will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis

until they are gone and will replace the food pantry's regular distribution.

The next drive-through mobile food distribution will be held from 10 a.m.-noon on Thursday, May 6, at the Firetower Road location.

Monetary tax-deductible donations can be made to the Lincoln County Food Pantry by mailing contributions to P.O. Box 473, Lincolnton, GA 30817.