

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 16 • P.O. Box 399 – Lincolnton, Georgia • Publication No. 313-660 • 10 Pages • April 22, 2021



Grace Nesseth with Foxie, Matt Grooms, and Nemo head toward Elijah Clark State Park for a few nights of rest before heading on to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Couple shares tales of adventure during their Walk Across America

Grace Nesseth and Matt Grooms arrived in Lincolnton, Georgia, on the 140th day of their "Golden Road, Walk Across America," which began on the shore of Huntington Beach, California, on October 2, 2020. The couple arrived in Lincolnton on Tuesday, April 13, after spending the night at the Fitzpatrick Hotel in Washington, Georgia. The couple's more than 2,500-mile journey will end upon arrival in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on May 1.

The traveling twosome, along with their canine companions, Foxie and Nemo, have been traveling across country to raise awareness for "Time in a Bottle," a non-profit organization started by Nesseth's mom, Grace, after her brother was stricken with cancer. The organization provides free home cleaning services to families with children battling life-threatening illnesses.

They were escorted into the City of Lincolnton by Chief of Police Brandon Lively on Tuesday, April 13, with lights and sirens blaring, and were treated to lunch and prayer at El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant, compliments of First Assembly of God pastor's Lanis Lewis and Terry Bond.

Keeping the couple company during lunch and helping to share their story were Pastor Theresa Thigpen Bentley, Lincoln County Tax Commissioner Brenda Danner, and Lizzy Long.

According to Bentley the couple shared some interesting facts about their journey including a 10-day delay in their travels due to snow in Russellville, Arkansas. The duo has traveled through California,



Enjoying lunch at El Sombreros were (front) Matt Grooms, (l-r) Grace Nesseth, Brenda Danner, Theresa Thigpen Bentley, Lizzy Long, and (back) El Sombrero server.

Arizona, New Mexico, the panhandle of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, part of Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and now Georgia.

Another experience the couple shared was that their shoes melted

while walking in the desert and that Nesseth was on her sixth pair, while Grooms was on his fifth. Sleeping accommodations have included wineries, churches, railroad tracks, under bridges, and private areas just large enough to erect a tent, sleep, and return to walking the next morning.

Bentley also stated that the couple prepared for the journey by burying food ahead of time on a stretch of road 85 miles long, where there were no resources.

Danner added that the couple met at a wedding, and that Grooms had proposed to Nesseth during their walk in Arizona. They also travel with a double stroller which hold supplies and provides a place for their tiniest traveler, the couple's Yorkie, Foxie, to ride. According to Danner, the other dog traveling with them was found abandoned in a national forest and was named after the stroller brand, Nemo. They have also had to replace the tires on the stroller three times and carry a solar panel with them to charge their devices.

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STAR Student, Teacher selected

Jordyn Deason, daughter of Timmy and Deborah Deason, has been named STAR Student for the LCHS Class of 2021. Kevin Speed, history teacher at LCHS, was selected by Deason as her STAR Teacher. Profiles of the honorees will appear in a subsequent issue of *The Lincoln Journal*.



Budgeting of \$3.8 million in CARES, ARP discussed

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act grant funding and budgeting were discussed at length during the Lincoln County Board of Education's regular meeting on Tuesday, April 13.

According to Director of Finance Kay Bufford, the grant amounts available to the district has come in three phases, CARES I, totaling \$275,984; CARES II totaling \$1,110,533; and ARP (CARES III) totaling \$2,494,100. To access the grant money, a budget must be submitted to the Georgia Department of Education, once the budget is approved the school district can begin requesting a drawn down of those funds.

The CARES I grant was used to fund 3.75 fine arts teachers' salaries and benefits, for Fiscal Year 2020-21, after the state cut the education budget in 2020. Those funds will be depleted by the end of September 2021 which is when the grant expires.

Bufford then presented a proposed budget to the Board of Education for the available CARES II grant funding for FY21, FY22, which includes Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), maintenance, and disinfecting supplies, excess costs in school nutrition, air

conditioning units, Chromebooks, and 3.5 fine arts teachers' salaries and benefits which would total approximately \$829,546, leaving \$280,987 in available funding through September 2022.

Out of the ARP (CARES III) allocated funds, Bufford included funding for three Intervention and Instructional Specialists' salaries and benefits for FY22 and FY23, total \$600,000, leaving an available balance of \$1,894,100. According to Bufford, 20 percent of the ARP grant money must be spent on instruction or "lost learning."

Other proposed items included were: I-Vu Building Automation System; new floors in the gym, floors in the gym classrooms, halls and classroom floors, new roof-top air conditioning units, and a ride-on floor scrubber for LCES; items proposed for LCMS include a ride-on floor scrubber; and at LCHS repairing terrazzo flooring, band room carpet, lunchroom flooring, and new roof-top air conditioning units. The rough estimate on these projects was \$1,277,800.

According to Bufford, anything that makes it easier to clean and disinfect the schools, improves the air quality, or assists with student safety meets the federal requirements.

Board member Chris Heitman asked if any of the grant funding can be put into the district's Capital Projects Fund for future projects.

Bufford replied, "no, but we can use these grants to make improvements that would normally come from local or state funding, which would allow funds in those accounts to continue to grow."

Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light then recommended the Board approve a new position as Intervention and Instructional Specialist, and to hire one specialist for each school, focused on reading and improving Lexile scores. The position would be for 200-days, would be funded using the ARP grant for two-years.

"The Intervention and Instructional Specialist would be focused

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Registration begins for MG Sprouts prog. to run June 8-July 16

MG Sprouts, a six-week program designed for children ages 6-8, will introduce students to the wonders of gardening through reading and activities conducted at the Lincoln County Public Library beginning in June.

Lincoln County Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent Robyn Stewart with the Lincoln County UGA Extension Service is partnering with the library on this, its first in-person program of 2021. According to Stewart, the in-person program is a result of the University of Georgia lightening its COVID-19 restrictions.

The hour-long sessions will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays from June 8 through July 16, and registration is required.

MG Sprouts was designed to provide youth horticulture education that can be delivered regardless of weather or season and does not require a garden to participate. The goal is to provide fun horticulture activities that allow children to develop positive experiences, make personal choices to explore growing plants, and to connect gardening practices with the health of the environment.

The program combines read-aloud sessions to engage students in stories using books that teach concepts of growing things and the natural world. Following the story, students discuss and participate in hands-on activities and games. Take-home sheets and a journal help engage the student's family in his or her discovery of the growing world. Through these activities, participants will learn about "ugly vegetables," Jack's garden, and "plants gone wild." All materials and books will be provided to participants at no cost.

For information or to register your child, contact the Lincoln County Extension Office at uge3181@uga.edu or by calling 706-359-3233. All University of Georgia and Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System COVID-19 protocols will be used to ensure the safety of all participants.

A more detailed description of the program is featured in Stewart's column on page 4.



The Groves-May House will be just one of the featured attractions during the opening of the Lincoln County Historical Park on Super Museum Sunday.

L.C. Historical Park will be open for tours on Super Museum Sun.

The Lincoln County Historical Park will be open for tours from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, May 2, as part of the Georgia History Festival's Super Museum Sunday.

Historical society members will be on hand to make guests welcome and to conduct tours of all the attractions in the park.

"One of the things we try to do is to bring more history to more people and opening the park for tours during Super Museum Sunday is a great way to do that," Lincoln County Historical Society President Don Thomas said. "I wish we had enough volunteers to open for tours every weekend."

Guests will be guided through each of the venues at the park and will hear the stories of the sites and the significance of them in the history of rural Georgia.

"Our park is a continual reminder of how difficult life was for our ancestors, and the adaptations, tools, methods, and machinery of the past are fascinating," said past president Gary Edwards.

The Lincoln County Historical Society was formed in 1982 to perpetuate the memory of the economic and cultural history of Lincoln County, Georgia. The Lincoln County Historical Park started as a vacant piece of land, and the Society built it up over the last 30-plus years into a small settlement like those that used to be seen every few miles along the roads in rural Georgia.

In 1987, the first building, the Groves-May House was moved in. Originally constructed in 1878, it was home to two prominent Lin-

colnton doctors. It sat on the lot now occupied by Bells Grocery Store.

Over the following years, other buildings were moved in, and a few were built on site. The park now contains a doctor's office, a one-room schoolhouse, a tenant house, an animal-powered cotton gin (one of the few operational in the country), a portable sawmill, a grist mill, a performance pavilion, a country store, a smoke house, a corn crib, a syrup press, a blacksmith shop, a turpentine still, and a log cabin. "Visitors on Super Museum Sunday will hear the story of each of these," Edwards said.

Admission will be free. The park is located at 147 Lumber Street in Lincolnton, beside the post office.

The Lincoln County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Membership meetings are held at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. The History in the Park lecture series is held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday evening of each month from April through November.

The Society's big annual event, Pioneer Day, is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving; this year on November 20. The pavilion and the May House are available for rental for weddings, family reunions, and other community events.

For further information, contact Thomas via email at dpdastro@aol.com or Edwards by phone at 757-831-9556. For a complete listing of locations participating in Super Museum Sunday and an interactive Googlemap, visit georgiahistoryfestival.org.