



Renee and Ernie Guthrie (left) greeted Matt Grooms and Grace Nesseth (right) amongst the flag display at the Guthrie home facing Highway 378. The couple stopped by on their way to Elijah Clark State Park.

Couple arrives in Lincolnton on day 140

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Before leaving the restaurant, Danner asked the couple if they would like something specific to eat and the couple requested fresh broccoli and corn. Danner and the courthouse crew prepared the dishes, along with fried chicken, and delivered the meal to them at the park.
After leaving the restaurant, on their way to Elijah Clark State Park for a rest, the couple stopped by the home of Ernie and Renee Guthrie to admire Guthrie's flag display.
Georgia was the couple's tenth state in their "Walk Across Ameri-

ca," and they told Bentley that they were enjoying the trees and the history of the state.
Nesseth, Grooms, Foxie, and Nemo resumed their journey on Thursday morning, April 15, headed to McCormick, South Carolina.
According to the couple's website, thegoldenroad.com, "Time in a Bottle" is a non-profit that cleans home for children battling life threatening illnesses. Each family gets five free cleanings at the time of their choosing, while they are undergoing treatment. The organization wants to ensure that families come home to safe and health en-

vironment.
At the present time, Time in a Bottle is helping families only around Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While the couple walks, they raise awareness and funds in hopes that more cleaning companies will want to start "Time in a Bottle" in their communities.
On the site the couple states, "This is why we walk. We want to do all we can to try and help as many families as we can, so they can have more time to focus on each other."
For more information visit timeinabottle.org.

Tankersleys are guest speakers at Chamber forum tonight at 7

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce is hosting its third "getting to know your local business community" forum on Thursday, April 22, at 7 p.m.
April's spotlight will feature Brian and Becky Tankersley, owners of Double Branches Farm and Produce Market. The couple will share their journey on starting the farm, their plans for 2021, and beyond.
Those wishing to listen in and pose questions to the featured

speakers are asked to contact the Chamber through its website, lincolngachamber.org, or by email at info@lincolngachamber.org. A call-in number and PIN will be provided for access to the forum. Only those who have registered by Wednesday, April 21, will have access.
"The Chamber is opening this forum to everyone in the community who is interested in listening and learning about our local businesses

and non-profits. We have moved onto a zoom meeting platform, which is a bit more interactive, and we are recording the forum for later view" Chamber Chairman Maggie Shaw said.
"During the zoom forum, participants can join in the discussion or just listen. We would love for residents to connect with us and get to know a bit more about Double Branches Farm and Produce Market," she added.
The "getting to know your local business community," teleconference/zoom forum is intended to spotlight local Chamber trade professionals and non-profits. It provides a focused introduction and insight into local business structure and gives the community an opportunity to learn first-hand what is readily available in Lincolnton.
Questions can be posted on zoom once the session begins or may also be emailed to info@lincolngachamber.org referencing the company to be spotlighted up to 24 hours before the forum begins.
Chamber businesses interested in participating in the next teleconference can contact the Chamber at the email address above and a representative will be in contact.

Golden Harvest food distribution at recreation complex is today

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.

McDuffie County reports 1642 cases and 41 deaths, Columbia lists 10,929 cases and 157 deaths, and Richmond County reports 19,616 cases and 404 deaths.
Also reported as of 3 p.m. Monday, 869,590 Georgians had tested positive for COVID-19. Of those patients, 60,521 were hospitalized, and 17,241 deaths have been reported.
To register for the vaccine in Lincoln County, go online to ecphd.com [East Central Public Health District] to register. After going through a questionnaire process, you can choose your county or put in a radius from your location. You can then choose your time and place for a vaccine appointment.
The online system gives people the opportunity to see where appointments are available around them so they can choose their preferred travel options. It also provides for email or text confirmations and reminders. There is no waiting for a callback - pre-screening, date and time are all handled online.
Anyone not meeting the eligibility criteria right now, it will not allow them to make an appointment.
For those without internet access or who are just not computer-savvy, call 706-721-5800.

DPH reports on COVID-19 cases; register for vaccine at ecphd.com

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County remained at 506 with twenty-four reported fatalities as of the 3 p.m. posting by the Georgia Department of Public Health on Monday, April 19.
Neighboring Wilkes County lists 668 cases and twenty deaths,

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.

Three instructional specialists hired

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on reading. Without being able to read, and without improving on reading, it is very difficult for students to improve in other subjects. So obviously, reading is the major focus," Light said.
He went on to explain that after meeting with team leaders in March and learning that 20 percent of the ARP funding must be spent on instruction, the leadership team kept going back to this position.
According to Light, those applying for the position were made aware that it is funded for only two-years. The board would have to decide at the end of the two years if the positions would be continued using local tax dollars.
All three principals present at the board meeting agreed that this position would help reduce the "major learning gap" the district has experienced since the start of COVID.
The Board approved the new position and hired Amanda Sandifer, Brianne Jenkins, and Heather Huff to serve as Intervention and Instructional Specialists for the 2021-2022 school year.
Bufford also gave her monthly finance report, noting that 75 percent of the fiscal year is now complete. Taxes are in at 98.32 percent and revenues are at 84.52 percent.
Expenditures are at 69.61 percent, "keeping all our expenditures in line," she said.
Bufford reported that there is \$4.1 million "cash in the bank," and the fund equity is at \$3.2 million.
SPLOST collections are "also looking good, we collected \$61,674 for March," she said.
The balance of the SPLOST account is \$509,266.72, with the bond tax balance of \$985,289.01, and \$1,494,555.73 available for the future bond payments.
"We made our payment on March 31, which was due April 1. Out of the SPLOST fund we paid the interest of \$401,862.50, which leaves a balance of \$169,184 in the SPLOST account. In the bond tax, we paid the \$740,000 in principal which left about \$335,000 in the bond tax account. We still have

about \$500,000 left which will cover the October payment, and are working towards the April 1, payment for next year," the director explained.
There was no change to capital projects, which still has \$52,544 available for future use.
Bufford also briefed the board on FY22 budget discussions, stating that, "while it is still early in the process, it looks like we are in better shape than this time last year."
Light informed the board that the second COVID-19 vaccine would be administered on April 16 in front of the high school auditorium until 1:30 p.m., after which the vaccine would be given at the elementary school. According to Light, 76 employees had received their first vaccine.
In other business the board approved revisions to IGB, Student Support Team/Response to Intervention and reviewed policies: CGK, Tenure; DFB, State Aid; DIB, Capital Assets; GDQ, Part-Time Re-employment after Retirement; JBB, Entrance Age; and JBCCA, Student Assignment to Schools, with no changes being made.
Accepted the low bid from Pool Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration for the chorus room rooftop air conditioning unit at a cost of \$42,590, based on clarification of a note in their bid, "stat-

ing that existing duct work may not meet specs as noted on plans because duct work was not upgraded at time of install" and that the bid price will stay at the same amount.
After returning from executive session the board accepted the resignations of Charles Folger, Grace Ashmore, Derrick Williams, Kevin Speed, Carol Johnson, and Angoneckia Booker.
Approved the hiring of Doug Huff, Winter Cook, Elizabeth Fogarty, Katie Hayslip, and Chris Knight, as teachers for the 2021-22 school year.
Approved the retirement of Minnie Stokes; approved the hiring of Connie Burton as a para-professional, and Ronald Cleveland as a substitute custodian.
Moved Pat Lahr from the maintenance supervisor scale to the transportation supervisor scale at position 7.
Changed Charles McDonald to a full-time counselor for the 2021-22 school year.
Voted to give all full-time district employees a \$1,000 supplement and all 49 percent district employees a \$490 supplement based on the Governor's promise, and be paid out of the CARES II grant. The supplements will be paid out on April 16.
The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held May 11, at 7 p.m.

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Residents invited to preview Prom goers at Camp Lakeside

The annual LCHS Junior-Senior Prom will be held Saturday, April 24, from 8-11 p.m. with a change in venue to the multi-purpose building at YMCA Camp Lakeside.
As per tradition, visitors can enter at 7 p.m. with a designated area specified for spectators to sit. Visitor parking is limited, with the area located at the rear of the multi-purpose building reserved for prom participants.
Students will be announced from 8-9 p.m. and visitors are welcome to stay and watch. It will also be streamed live on the Lincoln County

High School YouTube Channel.
Tickets were included in student invitations which will allow a parent or family member access to a designated photo area for close up shots. A ticket must be presented to enter the area.
Prom Queen and King, along with Prince and Princess will be announced at approximately 10:30 p.m. Winners must be present to win. Students choosing to leave the prom will not be allowed to re-enter the building.
Camp Lakeside is located at 1238 Dogwood Drive, Lincolnton.



Track teams host meet at home today

The Lincoln County High School boys and girls track teams will have a home meet starting at 4:15 p.m. Thursday, April 22. Coach Harrison Spurlock invites residents to come out and support the Red Devils. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. The teams will head to Social Circle for Region 8-A meets on Wednesday, April 28 at 9:30 a.m. and Friday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m.. Competing on the girls track team are (top photo, front row, l-r) Kara Hearst, Jamiyah Caser, Carly Carruth, Shamayah Johnson, Jeremiah Bolton, Anajah Norman, (back) senior Crystal Treadwell, Amari Freeman, Destiny Barksdale, Jaleiah Henderson, Kiyasha Green, Avery Price, senior Rachel Jordan, and Coach Harrison Spurlock.
Those competing on the boys track team are (front row, l-r) Ny'ziah Cane, Franklin Brown, Jaiden Dukes, Josiah Claxton-Jones, (back) Hagan Ball, Brentson Hearst, senior Keenon Lampkin, Aidan Wynn, and Coach Harrison Spurlock

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