

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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John Stone (right) welcomes new Development Authority Executive Director Josh Coble.



Courtney Elam Davis
Chairman



Beth Antonakos
Vice-chairman



Bobby Parker
Secretary-treasurer

Coble takes over as LCDA director; board of directors elects new officers

Josh Coble, who has already been on the job to ensure a smooth transition, is now serving as the Lincoln County Development Authority executive director following the announcement by former director John Stone that he would be retiring at the end of April.

Coble is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Army and retired as the Command Sergeant Major at Fort Gordon in 2020. He and his wife, Corey, have four children and currently reside in Columbia County.

The Lincoln County Development Authority board of directors – Bobby Parker, Steven Dawkins, Beth Antonakos, Bo Reed, Jeremy Dawkins, Johnny Spratlin, and Courtney Elam Davis – met recently to elect new officers and get acquainted with Coble.

The board elected Davis as chairman. She is a private practice attorney in Lincoln County.

Antonakos will serve as vice chairman. She and her husband, Clay, own Lee Builders.

Parker will serve as secretary-treasurer. He is a retired telecommunications technician and after being a life-long resident of the Augusta area, now resides in Lincoln County.

The Authority will have called meeting for a planning session Thursday at 6 p.m. The next regular quarterly meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 19, in the conference room of the Development Authority/Welcome Center Building located at 112 North Washington Street.

Drugs, assault, battery, and DUI's top list of arrests by Sheriff's Office

In a recent report issued by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Mar'yvesa Antonio Wells, 31, of Lincolnton, was charged with possession of drug related object, possession of firearm during commission of crime, possession of firearm by convicted felon, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, and possession of marijuana less than one ounce. A property bond was set.

Several arrests were recently made by officers with the department as outlined below.

The listed arrests are taken from the limited information in arrest reports provided by local law enforcement officials, and no arrests are left out. An arrest does not imply guilt; criminal charges are merely accusations and a defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty and convicted.

Those arrested were:

Edward Forrest Corley, 44, of Lincolnton, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set.

Cody William Hinton, 19, of Dearing, Georgia, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set.

Norris Hogan, 61, of Lincolnton, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set.

Trenton Jones, 36, of Lincolnton, was charged with probation violation, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of

marijuana (felony). No bond was set.

Brandon Jude Riley, 40, of North Augusta, S.C., was charged with criminal trespass, exploit of a disabled person or elder person. A cash bond of \$7,500 was set.

Tommy Jude Sherlock, 41, of North Augusta, S.C., was charged with criminal trespass, exploit of a disabled person or elder person. A cash bond of \$7,500 was set.

Ronnie Williams, 52, of Decatur, Georgia, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set.

Steven Joseph Weeks, 53, of Lincolnton, was charged with probation violation (Richmond County), possession of firearm or knife while trying to commit a crime, aggravated assault. A property bond of \$40,000 was set.

Derek Antwan Ivey, 46, of Lincolnton, was charged with driving while license suspended. A property bond was set.

Nathaniel Lewis Long, 34, of Lincolnton, was charged with simple battery family violence. A property bond of \$10,000 was set.

Shauna Marice Miner, 47, of Tignall, Georgia, was charged with disorderly conduct. A property bond was set.

Stephanie Gene Towne, 45, of Tignall, Georgia, was charged with disorderly conduct. A property bond was set.

Tierra Shantel Turner, 26, of Washington, Georgia, was charged with driving while unlicensed and too fast for conditions. A cash bond was set.

Crystal Dawn Weaghtington, 41, of Calhoun Falls, S.C., was charged with disorderly conduct. A property bond was set.

Roderrick William Cox, 30, of Lincolnton, was charged with criminal trespass, two counts of simple battery family violence. A property bond was set.

Christopher Mitchell Florence, 32, of Martinez, Georgia, was charged with DUI and criminal trespass in a State Park. A property bond was set.

Franklin Eddie Jones, 40, of Lincolnton, was charged with terroristic threats and acts and kidnapping. No bond was set.

LaKeith Mitchell Lockhart, 23, of Lincolnton, was charged with failure to maintain lane, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of drug related objects, possession of methamphetamine, violation of window tint, and probation violation. No bond was set.

Geno Wunchez Norman, 30, of Lincolnton, was charged with probation hold (Elbert County), simple battery family violence, obstruction

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DNR recovers two missing boaters after six days of intense searching

The bodies of two men who were reported missing and probably drowned in Clarks Hill Lake on April 25 have been recovered and turned over to the Lincoln County coroner and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources spokesman Mark McKinnon issued a statement concerning the recovery of the bodies of Eynn Wilson and Edward Kirk on Saturday, May 1.

The official report stated that on April 25, Georgia DNR Game Wardens, along with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Fire and Rescue, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and Lincoln County Office of Emergency Services responded to a double drowning on Clarks Hill Lake.

Upon arrival, the officers learned that 34-year-old Eynn Wilson of Augusta fell off a pontoon boat in Little River next to Cherokee Park and did not resurface. Edward Kirk, age 37, also from Augusta, jumped into the water from another nearby pontoon in an attempt to rescue Wilson, but he did not resurface either.

A search with side scan and sector scan sonar equipment began immediately and continued for more than five days. The DNR Law Enforcement Aviation Unit also flew the area several times, according to the report.

At 8:02 a.m. on May 1, during a surface search, Georgia Game Wardens located and recovered Wilson's body in approximately 35 feet of water within the search area, McKinnon reported. At 4:05 p.m. on the same day, they located and recovered Kirk's body in approximately 30 feet of water within the search area and near where Wilson was found.

Throughout the search, game wardens worked tirelessly covering roughly one-half square mile (600

Residents asked to roll up sleeves for blood drive

Shepard Community Blood Center will hold its next Community Blood Drive on Saturday, May 8, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Lincoln Baptist Church, located at 235 South Peachtree Street.

"All donors will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. The winner of this gift card can celebrate Mother's Day with their mother by treating her to dinner or something special." Recruitment Specialist Jacqueline Clemmons said.

All blood types are needed, but if you are O Positive or O Negative, Shepard especially urges you to consider donating. "Shepard's blood supply is supported strictly by the donations of volunteer donors and all donations to Shepard remain local. When you donate with Shepard, you are potentially saving the life of someone in your community," Clemmons said.

To ensure your donation is successful, be sure to eat a full meal before donating, stay hydrated, and get lots of rest the night before. Donors must be in good general health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be at least 17 years old (or 16 with written parental consent) to donate. Be sure to take a photo ID or Shepard donor card with you when you donate. All donors will receive points to use in Shepard's Donor Store to use on incentives such as T-shirts or gift cards.

For more information, contact Clemmons at 706-737-4551 or visit the Shepard Community Blood Center website, shepardblood.org.



Columbia County Fire and Rescue divers using sonar scan searched for more than five days for the two missing boaters on Clarks Hill Lake.

acres) of the lake. They dropped the sector scan approximately 300 times and Columbia County divers made 12 dives to clear possible sonar targets, according to the report.

The Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Critical Incident Reconstruction Team and the GBI are investigating the incident.

Banks is among elite group of 50 to be named Volunteer of the Year

United States Army Specialist Xavian B. Banks was recently awarded the organization's Volunteer of the Year award for the 205th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade-Theatre, Scholfield Barracks by U.S. Army Hawaii base senior commander Major General James B. Jarrard.

The certificate reads, "For your professionalism, dedication, and commitment to the U.S. Army Hawaii installation volunteer program. Your selfless actions personally your commitment to serving our Ohana was instrumental to our overall success and truly exemplifies the spirit of the Army family – total Army Strong." (Ohana means "family" in Hawaiian.)

There is only one Volunteer of the Year awarded for each state, placing Banks in an elite group of 50 representing the U.S. Army.

The designation came with his introduction to a two-star Major General, three-star Lieutenant General, and a feature in the military magazine, "Army Times."

Banks credits his hometown of Lincolnton, Georgia, for the tight-knit community atmosphere that he has adamantly implemented into the army culture. "He is the soldier that doesn't mind helping any and



SPECIALIST XAVIAN B. BANKS

every person. He will go over and above to be inclusive and make every soldier, civilian, and alike feel special," stated Captain Evangelista, Company Commander. "I am and always will be a Christian before a soldier. That's the mentality that keeps me motivated. If I can make a positive impact in someone's life each day then I'm doing good," Banks said.

He went on to thank his grandparents, Roy and Rubye Hunter and

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Cullars presents donation to LCCP

Lincoln County Family Connection (LCFC) Executive Director Daraivous Cullars (right) presented Lincoln County Food Pantry (LCCP) President Naomi Cobb with a \$1,000 contribution on behalf of the Lincoln County Community Partnership.

LCCP received funds from the CSRA Foundation to assist families impacted by COVID-19. These funds have allowed LCCP to donate hand sanitizer stations to the school system, sponsor a food giveaway at the recreation department, and distribute masks and hand sanitizers.