

# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Disney at the Dollar General

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



It seems like I blinked and all of a sudden my world changed from an icy, bleak, dark world where every living thing looked crispy brown and dull, to a world full of promising life and beauty.

Flowering pear trees are blooming everywhere and seem so much fuller than I ever remember. Daffodils are popping up, too. When I open the back door in the early morning, the air is much warmer and there is a promise of sunshine. What a difference!

Maybe I am just seeing the world differently this season, but, this past year has been a challenge. We have all had an unexpected existence this past year. I remember when we first heard about this pandemic. I look back now and am so thankful that we have hope for a better spring and summer.

I just feel as if I am seeing each day with a different perspective. It seems like I am enjoying such simple things that I had taken for granted in the past. The other day I was in the Dollar General Store here in Lincolnton. There was a very nice lady working there and she greeted me as I walked in the store. I appreciated that. I was wearing a mask, and so was she, but we both felt each other's smiles.

I moved slowly down each aisle looking at each shelf and item. I was pleased to see items with the promise of happy spring and summer activities. How wonderful! How wonderful to be out of the house traveling in the warm sunshine to a store and see people I hadn't seen in ages.

The lady, who greeted me when I first walked into the store, was back in the back placing merchandise on shelves and when she saw me she asked me how I was doing today. "Well, actually, I feel like I am a kid at Disney World!" I responded.

She thought that was so funny but it was the truth. I had been to Disney and remembered the complete joy and wonder of those children as they entered the Magic Kingdom. While I must admit that I really do not think that the Dollar General Store is the "Happiest Place on Earth!" I did feel a special joyful experience of freedom I had not felt in a while due to the pandemic.

I still wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. I still social distance and will be cautious for a while, but I am much more thankful for the simple things in life, things I had taken for granted before the pandemic.

Somehow I think God is happy about that.



## 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: Please help settle an argument. My co-workers say daffodils are always propagated by bulbs. I know daffodils multiply by forming "baby" bulbs around the "mother" bulb, and that is one way they reproduce. However, I say daffodils have seeds as well and can be grown from seed. Who is correct?**

**A:** You are. Daffodils may be grown from seeds. Daffodils multiply from bulb division (as you described) and from seeds. When a daffodil bulb produces an offset or "baby" bulb, the

baby bulb is genetically the same as its parent. A seedling can be quite different from its parents. This is how daffodil hybridizers produce new varieties. It takes about five years from the time a daffodil seedling germinates until it blooms. We can be thankful to hybridizers for the work they do to breed new varieties, evaluate them and produce them in quantities large enough to be offered for sale. When you see a "new" variety listed in a bulb catalog, there are many years of effort behind it.

**Q: Is water from a rain barrel safe to use on vegetable gardens?**

**A:** Yes. You can use it for watering your vegetable garden as well as your trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and lawn. Just keep an eye on the water to be sure it does not become a breeding place for mosquitoes. A rain barrel is an old fashioned tool that helps modern gardeners by cutting their water bills. It also reduces storm water runoff that may overload sewer systems in some cities.

**Q: Will planting lemongrass or special scented geraniums keep away mosquitoes?**

**A:** Numerous claims are made about the mosquito-repellent properties of certain plants, especially "citronella" scented geraniums. Usually these claims are made by people selling the plants. While these plants may exhibit some insect-repellent properties when crushed and rubbed on the skin, simply planting a few or even a garden full of them is unlikely to make any difference in the number of mosquitoes you encounter.

**Q: This has been a wonderful year for daffodils. I have seen more kinds than I have before. What is the name of the daffodil that looks like it is in a wind tunnel? The flower is fairly large and petals flare backwards.**

**A:** Without actually seeing it, it is impossible to give a definitive answer, but it is possible that what you are describing is one of the cyclamineus types of daffodils, so named because the flared-back petals are reminiscent of cyclamen flowers. A popular cyclamineus variety is 'February Gold' which has petals that flare back a little. Other varieties with more of the wind-blown effect include 'Jettfire,' 'Itzim,' 'Rapture' and 'Toby the First.' Look through a bulb catalog or book on daffodils and see if any of these or another matches what you have seen.

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) or visit the department's website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

## This weeks tips from the BBB

Yes, World Password Day is a real event that occurs every year on the first Thursday of May. While you probably didn't plan any parties or events, it does present a good awareness tool to remind everyone of the importance of protecting ourselves through the use of strong passwords.

Wireless technologies such as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi have forever changed the way people not only interact with one another, but also how they complete day to day activities such as shopping, researching, banking, eating, and communicating. The more everyone is online, the more there are opportunities for hackers to get into personal accounts, steal information and drain checking or savings accounts before victims realize it. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), securing today's online environment goes beyond thinking about the Wi-Fi router at home - and it all starts with a password.

Passwords should be different for every account that lives online, is in the cloud, or is attached to something that retains personal or financial information. Think about the last time any of your online account passwords were changed. If they are all the same or a similar variation of the same password, if they are too easy to guess, or if they are forgotten or compromised - change them. According to the Federal Trade Commission, people don't need to change their passwords as often as they may think; however, it's good practice make certain the password is as secure as possible.

BBB recommends the following tips to stay safe in an online world:

- Think of your passwords as walls. A password or a passphrase should be considered a wall between free access to your personal information and the world. The stronger the wall, the more difficult it is for others to break down. The more walls, the more difficult it is to even access the information. Encryption is the easiest way to ensure communications between an electronic device and a website or server is protected.

- Avoid easy passwords. An example of a weak password is one that is easy to guess - information that anyone can find on social media sites or through a phishing email or text. A strong password has at least 12 to 14 characters, mixed with uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.

Commonly used passwords are your pet's name, your mother's maiden name, the town you grew up in, your birthday, your anniversary, etc. Surprisingly, the answers to these common passwords can typically be found online. Even if you don't consider yourself an active user of social media or the Internet, your information is out

there on one forum or another. Even for passwords that require numbers along with letters, people tend to stick to simple patterns like 0000, 1111, 1234, etc. Never use the same password for multiple accounts, especially for the most sensitive ones such as bank accounts, credit cards, legal or tax records or medical related files.

- Make them creative. Running low on creative ideas for different passwords? Try using song lyrics. Not only is it basically impossible for hackers to guess what song you are using, it's even harder for them to guess which lyrics you're using on top of that.

- Use a "passphrase". Instead of using a single word, use a passphrase. Your phrase should be relatively long, around 20 characters, and include random words, numbers and symbols. Something that you will be able to remember but others couldn't come close to guessing such as PurpleMilk#367JeepDog\$.

- Use multiple passwords. Using different passwords for different accounts is also important. While it may be easier to remember one password for every account, it's much easier for hackers to break down one wall rather than multiple walls. If hackers can figure out one password, even if it's to something harmless like your Instagram account, they then know the password to every single account you own. This includes websites you shop online at, banking accounts, health insurance accounts, email accounts - you name it.

- Use multi-factor authentication. When it's available and supported by accounts use two-factor authentication. This requires both your password and an additional piece of information upon logging in. The second piece is generally a code sent to your phone, or a random number generated by an app or token. This will protect your account even if your password is compromised. Many newer devices now include fingerprint or facial recognition as a way to unlock them. This may be an option and a way to protect any apps on the device in the unfortunate event it becomes lost or stolen.

- Consider a password manager. A written list would be best, but if you're worried of losing it, write a list on your phone and label it as something other than 'PASSWORDS'. Keep the list updated and organized as well as secretive. Avoid keeping the list on the device as it will only make it easier for the thief to access all of the apps and personal data stored on it.

Still not convinced? Consider a reputable password manager to store your information. These easy-to-access apps store all your password information and security question answers in case you ever forget. However, don't forget to use a strong password to secure the

information within your password manager.

- Select security questions only you know the answer to. Many security questions ask for answers to information available in public records or online, like your zip code, mother's maiden name, and birthplace. That is information a motivated attacker can easily obtain. Don't use questions with a limited number of responses that attackers can easily guess - like the color of your first car.

If you received notification from a company about a possible breach, it is always best practice to change that password and any similar passwords immediately.

Check out more information from BBB on cybersecurity, get tips on protecting yourself against identity theft and recover from it by using the tools from ftc.gov/identitytheft.

### Sunday services

Blessed Hope Bible Baptist meets at the Presbyterian Church on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for prayer meeting. Come join us. For more information call 706-359-6759.

### Church anniversary

Observance of the 148th anniversary of Newberry Missionary Baptist Church will be held in the church parking lot Sun., May 16, at 9:30 a.m. The anniversary sermon will be delivered by their pastor, Rev. Willie J. White.

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**Getting ahead of garden insects**

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service

Each year, I get a number of calls asking for identification of common garden insects. Unwelcome pests reduce yields and lower the quality of harvested fruits and vegetables. Insects may cause damage through boring, sucking, or chewing plant parts such as roots, foliage, or fruits and vegetables themselves. In addition to plant damage, insects are often vectors of diseases that, if unnoticed and unmanaged, can cause significant issues in your garden. Effective control of most insects can be done in a safe and economical manner to help reduce losses. The use of cultural practices, mechanical and biological control, and chemical applications can provide season-long garden insect control.

First and foremost, soil preparation, planting time, and plant rotation is essential. Be sure to soil test and make any needed amendments far in advance of planting your garden.

You should dig or plow your garden in the fall and spring, at least three weeks before planting. This helps reduce numbers of soil insects by eliminating weeds that pests need and exposing them to weather conditions and predators. If you cannot plow at the end of the growing season, at least remove the debris or residue from this year's plants.

Sun solarization, or heating of moist soil under clear plastic can help reduce soil-inhabitation pests as well prior to planting.

Mulch can also be a useful addition to provide a barrier to weeds, maintain soil moisture, and reduce the risk of insect pests.

Be sure to plant your garden early, as vegetables maturing for harvest later in the season will have higher insect populations and more issues than those that are mature and harvested early.

On a harvest note - the longer you leave vegetables and fruits in the garden after ripening, the higher the likelihood it will get attacked by insects. Many insects are specific to a certain type of plant such as cole crops, cucurbits, or others.

Rotating your garden, or planting a crop in different sections each year, can help reduce insect problems by eliminating the pest's preferred plant. Similarly, try to avoid planting similar plants in one area - for example, do not plant all of your tomatoes in the same row or cluster. This helps reduce the spread of a pest should you start having issues.

If you've followed some of the

### Super Crossword

Answers

R	A	B	B	I	A	G	A	V	E	A	C	M	E	E	L	B	E	
E	L	L	I	S	D	O	W	E	L	P	L	A	Y	N	O	R	M	
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S	P	E	D	M	E	R	E	G	A	T	O	R	S	C	A	L	E	

## 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:  
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