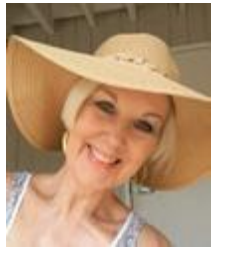


# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### People Who Know

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



The fabric was perfect, right pattern and on sale, too! The sales lady was nearby and I explained that I needed four yards of this particular fabric on the top rack.

She curtly said, "Bring the bolt to the counter."

I tried to be especially friendly and asked her if we could get someone to lift the heavy cloth from the top of the rack because I had recently had a double mastectomy and was not supposed to lift and reach heavy items.

She looked at me with a hard expression and said, "I will get it." "Oh, No!" I said, "I didn't mean for you to do that, I just thought we might get some help."

She took the fabric to the counter. Her expression softened and she began to tell me the following. She said, "During COVID, my husband was diagnosed with a cancer that needed prompt surgery. Things did not look good. Her husband's doctor said that he would begin to search for a specialist who could do the surgery immediately. He called and searched the web for someone who might have an opening for an appointment. He searched all the major hospitals with specialists, knowing his patient might have to travel to Texas or Ohio, for the surgery but no luck. There wasn't a specialist anywhere who could help. This doctor was worried. He knew time was a huge factor for her husband.

The next day he had a tee time at a local golf course. He was on the practice range when he thought he recognized a man swinging a club next to him. When he heard the man speak, he recognized him as a former colleague. They began to talk. This man had just recently moved back to the area. He was a surgeon and specialized in just the kind of surgery the husband so desperately

needed. He would be glad to help.

The man's doctor just happened to have all the MRIs and health tests and information about the patient on his laptop which was in his car! Both doctors put down their clubs and went to the parking lot to review the man's test and the surgery date was set.

All cancer was removed and the husband got a great report. A lot of folks would think that was certainly a splendid coincidence. What luck!!!! How fortunate!!!!

Hummmmm.....People, who know God, know that it was a miracle. God was working a mighty miracle here. Just like when I wasn't going to go this COVID year for my mammogram. I had never had a problem, and then this strange very irritating nurse insisted I go that day. There was no sign of an issue yet she was adamant that I go that afternoon and she made the appointment for me on the spot. They found cancer in that mammogram. Had I waited, things would have turned out a lot differently for me. A great coincidence??? Good luck??? Good fortune???

Nope...none of the above. People who know God know that a mighty miracle transpired and miracles happen all around us to show God's power and grace.

A line was beginning to form at the cloth counter and the lady finished her story. She looked surprised when I told her that she had been a blessing to me that day. I told her that I would share her story in an article and so here it is. I hope it has inspired you and been a blessing to you, as well. Who would have thought that a saleslady, whom I presumed to be grouchy and unfriendly, would have such a powerful and moving message to share, such a blessing to give????? That was a miracle!!!!

## This weeks tips from the BBB

Ransomware scams are again becoming popular and seem to be more vicious than ever. Just look at what happened with our gas prices. Ransomware is a virus that freezes your computer, holding it hostage until you pay a "ransom" to unlock it. Victims are consumers, businesses, and even government offices. Victims are reporting losses in the tens of thousands in versions of this scam that encrypts their files. The larger losses are incurred by businesses due to requirements to protect their network and their customers' personal information.

The scam begins when you click on an infected advertisement, link or open an email attachment. Suddenly, a pop up appears. The screen tells you that all the files on your computer have been encrypted, making them useless unless you have a key to decode them.

For victims of ransomware, decoding your files doesn't come free or cheap. Victims report that total losses from the different versions range anywhere from \$200 to \$500,000.

Most versions of this scam demand payment in Bitcoin. Bitcoin is an online currency that is decentralized, unregulated and anonymous, making it a new favorite method of payment for scammers. Like pre-paid debit cards and wire transfers, if you pay with Bitcoin, it's like paying in cash because it isn't tracked.

To remove the virus without paying the scammers, try running a full system scan on your computer to identify and delete the malicious files. If you are unable to remove the malware, you may need to contact a trustworthy computer repair shop for assistance. Victims may even have to wipe the machine's hard drive and reinstall files and software.

While completely avoiding ransomware scams may not be possible, you can take steps to minimize your risks by not downloading one. Here are some suggestions:

- Always use antivirus software and a firewall. Protect your computer (and your cell phone) by using antivirus software and a firewall from a reputable company.
- Update your software regularly. The regular reminders to update your browsers and other software are annoying, but they are for a good reason. These patches and updates

protect against the constantly evolving viruses and system vulnerabilities. Most of these have automatic updates available.

- Enable popup blockers. Popups are regularly used by scammers to spread malware. Prevent them from appearing in the first place by adjusting your browser settings.

- Be skeptical. Don't click on email links or open attachments you don't recognize and avoid going to suspicious websites.

- Always back up the content on your computer. If you back up your files, ransomware scams will have limited impact. If you are targeted, you can simply have your system wiped clean and reload your files.

- Change default passwords on devices connected to your network. Some hackers troll the Internet looking for easy access to devices that still have the default passwords. Take the time to change any factory default passwords to a stronger unique password that cannot be easily guessed.

Victims of ransomware scams can file complaints with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) and find trustworthy computer repair shops at BBB.org.

### 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.

### Coffee, classic cars June 12

American Legion Post 194 will host a "Coffee and Classic Cars Series on the second Saturday of each month series

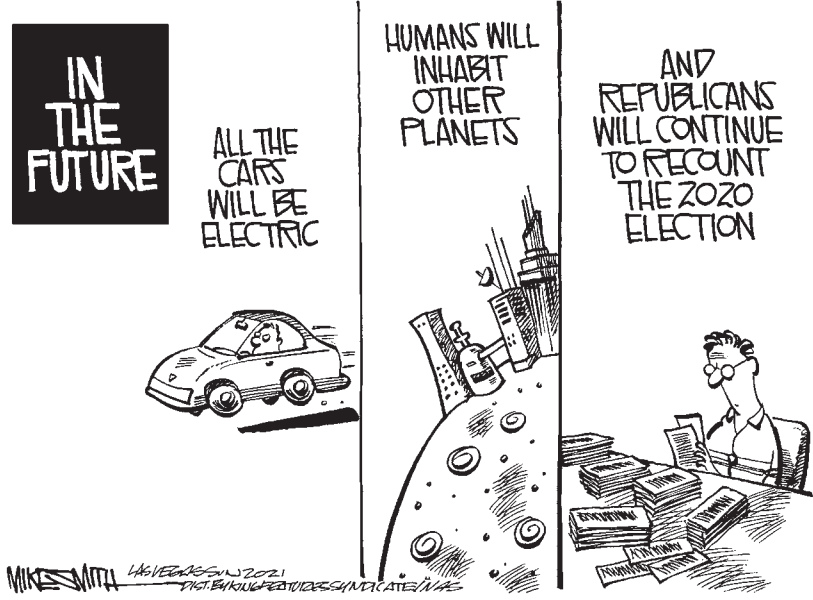
The event is free to enter and will start June 12, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., at the Post home located at 1121 American Legion Road.

The Legion will offer coffee, teas, juices, pastries, bagels and a variety of cream cheeses for sale in this fundraiser.

Oldies and classic country music is provided by Al Ewing Entertainment.

The general public is welcome to participate in this free event as a vehicle owner or just a classic carsenthusiast.

For more information contact event coordinator Al Ewing at 706-359-3445 or 661-666-3749



## Consumers get answers from Dept. 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: In mid-May I saw a beautiful large shrub/small tree blooming in Fernandina Beach, Florida. The flowers are red and surround the stems like a brush. I was told it is called "crimson bottlebrush" and is also called "lemon bottlebrush." Its botanical name is Callistemon citrinus. Is it hardy in Atlanta?**

A: The bottlebrush you saw in Florida is worth trying along Georgia's coast and in our southernmost counties, but it is not considered hardy in Atlanta. However, there is another variety of red bottlebrush known as "Woodlanders Hardy" that is fully hardy in Atlanta and even farther north. It is also durable, drought-tolerant and easy to grow. Its flowers may not be quite as large as Callistemon citrinus, but it is still a show-stopper when in bloom and an attractive shrub when out of bloom. We have reports of two other bottlebrushes that may be hardy enough to try in Atlanta and other parts of Georgia: the red "Clemson" bottlebrush (Callistemon rigidus "Clemson") and a pink-flowering hybrid of Callistemon paludosus.

**Q: White clover has taken over my lawn. I love it, but my husband calls it a weed. It doesn't require fertilizer or extra watering, and it is living, which is more than I can say for the grass we have been reseeding and struggling with for years. Is it all right to have a clover lawn?**

A: Yes. A lawn consisting entirely or partially of clover is fine. There is no rule that says a lawn

must be grass. In fact, many years ago seed companies and garden centers used to sell clover seeds for lawns. Some are now doing it again.

**Q: My 'Moon and Stars' watermelon plants are spotted yellow. What is wrong?**

A: Nothing is wrong. The foliage of this old fashioned watermelon is naturally speckled with yellow. The fruit is also speckled. 'Moon and Stars' gets its name because the rind has a large yellow spot (moon) and numerous small yellow spots (stars). The flesh is not speckled. There are red and yellow-fleshed strains of 'Moon and Stars.' The yellow-fleshed strain is not quite as sweet as the red strain.

**Q: How many different kinds of vegetables are grown commercially in Georgia?**

A: It is not possible to give an exact number, but here are some of the vegetables grown commercially in Georgia: arugula, asparagus, Lima bean, snap bean, wax bean, beet, bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrot, cauliflower, Swiss chard, collards, Indian corn, sweet corn, cucumber, dandelion, edamame, eggplant, garlic, horseradish, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mache, mizuna, mustard, okra, Vidalia onion, parsnip, English pea, field pea, peppers (numerous kinds of hot, sweet and in-between), Irish potato, pumpkin, radicchio, radish, rape, rutabaga, spinach, summer squash, winter squash, sweet potato, tomatillo, tomato, turnip, watercress and watermelon.

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](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov)) or visit the department's website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

### Sit, Sew classes

The American Legion is hosting additional classes: "Sit & Sew" classes, meet monthly on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday morning, from 11:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

"Quilting Classes" are monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7-9:30 p.m. Call Linda Buesching/Instructor at (706) 359-1572.

Sewing and quilting stations are appropriated spaced and masks are required.

All levels of quilting welcome. The cost is a "donation" to the American Legion.

### Scholarship fund

The 10th Annual Jennie L. Garnett Scholarship Fund Program of Newberry Missionary Baptist Church will not be held this year. However, contributions may be made to Newberry Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 173. The program is sponsored annually by the Jennie L. Garnett Inspirational Choir.

The late Jennie L. Garnett was a strong supporter of education. She often shared with others her struggle to get an education.

We appreciate your support and generosity. Willie J. White, pastor.

**UGA extension**  
Well Water Odors  
By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service

In the past week or two, we've had several clients call our office with questions about mysterious odors in their water. These clients have all been on well systems and have had questions about the source of the odor and water safety for general use in cooking, cleaning, and so on. In these cases, a water test is often a good starting point to help rule out any major problems, but unfortunately, is not always able to identify the cause.

The first objective when water smells off is to determine the source of the odor. There are a few simple guidelines on how to determine the location of an odor in your water system. First, does the odor occur in all faucet or is it localized? If it only happens in some faucets, and it goes away after a few minutes, the cause of the odor is likely in those fixtures or pipes supplying those faucets. If the odor occurs in all faucets on the property, there are additional questions to be answered.

If the odor goes away after the water is run for a few minutes, the odor is in the plumbing system itself. If the odor does not go away when you run the water, it is likely an issue with the water source (well, in this case) or a combined issue with the water source and the plumbing. For my clients last week, they checked the water at the wellhouse itself and noticed the odor there, which tells me it was an issue with the water source itself.

After you determine the odor is an issue with your water source, and not an issue in your plumbing or fixtures, we can make some inferences about its cause and how to treat it. There are four general classes of odors we look for.

The first is bleach, chemical, or medicinal odors. In well systems, this is most often due to shock chlorination, where we intentionally add chlorine bleach to the well in order to kill harmful bacteria. The bleach smell will stop when the chlorine dissipates, typically after the system

is flushed by running outside faucets until the smell is gone.

The second class of odor is sulfur, decay, or sewage-like odors. In the case of odor at the water source (well), this is typically because of bacterial growth in the well itself. Bacteria may grow in the well for a few reasons - the natural groundwater chemistry may support bacterial growth, there may be leeching from a defective or improperly placed septic system, or you may have another contaminant present. We recommend a bacterial water test for those suspecting bacterial contamination of their water. You can also proactively shock chlorinate the well as mentioned above to kill any bacteria.

The third common type of odor is musty, moldy, earthy, grassy, or fishy. These odors are usually harmless but may be unpleasant for household use. Typically, these odors come from pollution of well water from surface drainage pollutants, or the growth of algae and fungi in warm weather. Getting rid of these odors is typically a matter of cleaning the reservoir/pressure tank/hot water heater and shock chlorinating the well.

The last type of odor is petroleum, gasoline, turpentine, fuel, or solvent-like smells. These odors are typically due to a leaking fuel tank, discharge from nearby factories or landfills, or agricultural runoff. These odors should be taken seriously and can cause significant human health issues. If you have this smell, do not use the water, report it to our health department, and contact us for further assistance.

Identifying the cause of an odor can be tricky for our well users, but it is not impossible. In most cases, shock chlorinating the well can help decontaminate the water system and ensure its safety for use. If you need help with an odor or shock chlorination procedures, please let us know at [uge3181@uga.edu](mailto:uge3181@uga.edu) or 706-359-3233.

## DENTAL Insurance

Medicare does not cover dental care! That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket. Get Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It helps cover over 350 procedures - from cleanings and fillings to crowns and dentures.

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