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WHITE HARDWARE
 1102 21st St. • 808-825-0050

Notice of Public Meeting

USDA Grant/Loan Program for purchase of Firetruck

This meeting will be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the commissioner's conference room on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 2:00pm. The Courthouse is located at 210 Humphrey Street, Lincolnton, Georgia.

The purpose of this meeting is to give the general public an overview of the proposed Grant/Loan project to purchase a firetruck.

Citizens will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and make suggestions.

Attorney Ben Jackson

announces the opening of his office fulltime located at 119 Main Street - Lincolnton "Licensed to practice in Georgia and South Carolina" I look forward to catching up with old friends and meeting with new ones.

To set up an appointment please call

706-359-8885

Office hours

Monday - Friday

9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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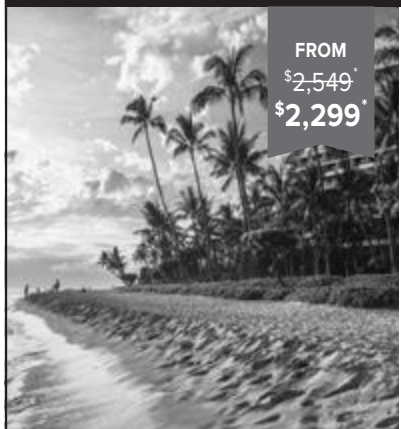
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Community Calendar

Masons to meet

The Lincolnton Masonic Lodge 354 holds its regular meeting on the third Thursday of every month. Dinner is served at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7:30.

AA meeting

There is an Alcoholics Anonymous/Al Anon meeting being held each Tuesday Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Dunn's Chapel Methodist Church located at 6563 Ridge Road in Appling, Georgia.

Mass schedule

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1015 N. bypass W., Hwy 78, Washington, Georgia, is holding Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. and services on Thursdays at noon. For more information call 706-678-2110.

Queen of Catholic Church, 1326 Washington Rd., Thomson, hosts regular services Mondays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Saturday vigils at 5 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. For more information call 706-595-2913.

Substance abuse class

Parks Grove FBH Church is holding a substance abuse class every Monday night from 8-9 p.m. It's open to men and women who are struggling with any type of addiction.

Bible study Tuesdays

Rev. Dr. Anthoni D. McElrath, senior pastor of Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Augusta, will host a weekly bible study on Tuesday nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln County Public Library.

Library hours

The Lincoln County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. - noon. Computer labs are shut down 15 minutes before closing.

Jones fund at FSB

A fund to benefit Derek Jones has been established at Farmers State Bank to help with medical expenses. For more information, contact Teresa Jones at 706-359-5920 or 401-0434.

City council meetings

The Lincolnton City Council meeting dates for 2021 are as follows: July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Foster care agency seeks families

Neighbor To Family Inc. is a sibling foster care agency with a unique approach to foster care. We provide sibling groups with a nurturing foster home that enables brothers and sisters to stay together while in care. We are always looking for Foster Parents. Find out how to become a foster parent and change the world one sibling group at a time.

For more information, please contact Tamala Thompson at 706-284-3267 or tamala.thompson@ntf.org.

Silver Lining anniv.

As we approach the sixth anniversary of the Silver Lining Foundation of Newberry Missionary Baptist Church we would like to thank you for your past support. As we continue to help those going thru cancer treatment, we hope that we can depend on your generosity this year.

The Silver Lining Foundation is a foundation that provides financial assistance to help cover travel and meals for patients that are being treated for cancer, in need of financial support. Please consider

making a pledge of \$2 - \$5 per month or any other amount will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Silver Lining Cancer Foundation, c/o Newberry Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 173, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

Midway cookbook

Midway UMC's "Midway to Heaven" cookbook is now available from Tommie Henderson (Henderson Logging); Brenda Danner McGahee (tag office); in Washington from Betty Sue Bunch (REA) or Linda Anthony (706-678-7616).

In addition to recipes group photos from 1930, 1950's, 1964, 1999 and church history data are included. Makes a wonderful gift. \$15.

AA/Al Anon meeting

Freedom Group meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights at Faith Community Church Fellowship Hall located at the Thomson Hwy. (Hwy. 43) and Leathersville Rd., Lincolnton, Ga. The sign will read, "The Good Shepard Home."

Join Lincoln County 4-H

Lincoln County 4-H would like to reach out to private school or home school students in grades 5th-12th who are interested in joining Lincoln County 4-H. Please stop by our 4-H office at 2080 Rowland York Rd, Lincolnton or call our office at 706-359-3233.

Lincoln Ladle available

Lincoln County Extension 4-H still has Lincoln Ladle Cookbooks available. These are re-prints of the first edition and they are \$20 each and make great gifts. The cookbooks can be purchased at the Lincoln County Extension Office at 2080 Rowland York Rd.

For more information contact the office at 706-359-3233.

Library summer program

Tails and Tales Learning Programs being held at the library include:

- June 23 - Stuff animal sleep over, 12-1 p.m.
- June 24 - Magic Poodle show, 12-1 p.m.
- June 30 - Storytime Safari, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- July 8 - Ann Sprinkle & her therapy dogs, 12-1 p.m.
- July 15 - Party at the Splash Pad!

Football tickets on sale

Reserved seats for the 2021 Lincoln County Red Devil Football season will be on sale at the high school beginning July 12-July 22. The ticket window will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. Please bring a credit/debit card, no cash or checks will be taken.

All reserved seat ticket holders must come during this time also. Afterwards, all unsold reserved seat tickets will be made available to the public.

Season ticket packets (6 games) are \$60; general admission tickets are \$8.

Divorce care group

Are you divorced or separated? Need Godly guidance with others who are struggling also? Faith Community Church is starting a DivorceCare group starting on Sept. 2 that will meet for 13 weeks. It will be on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Childcare is available. Please email Lee.haskins7@gmail.com for more information or see church's website.



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Grant spurs expansive work to conserve rare Ga. plants

Plant conservation in Georgia just got a lot more promising.

A partnership led by the state Department of Natural Resources has been awarded nearly \$780,000 to sample, grow and save 14 imperiled plant species. The federal grant will also boost capacity to preserve the plants at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Atlanta Botanical Garden and the Chattahoochee Nature Center, while spreading that expertise and support to others in the nationally recognized Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance.

DNR senior botanist Lisa Kruse calls the impact "expansive." And that's not only for the targeted plants, which vary from swamp pink to hairy rattletweed and are all federally listed as endangered or threatened.

"The grant is going to fortify (the Georgia alliance's) main partners and build the diversity and number of botanical gardens that can help preserve rare plants," said Kruse, referring to the network of 50-plus universities, agencies, nonprofits and companies that have combined their clout to conserve plants.

Plants often play second fiddle to efforts to recover rare animal species. But Georgia's five-year project landed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Challenge grant on the strength of its plan to safeguard the 14 plant species and add Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance members who can do the work.

Jenny Cruse-Sanders, director of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, said conservation horticulture is the cornerstone of the alliance, which is coordinated at the Athens garden, a part of the University of Georgia.

"It takes careful observation of natural habitats, experimentation and horticultural expertise to safeguard imperiled plants," Cruse-Sanders said. "Georgia is a leader in identifying critical habitat, imperiled species and the conservation action needed to preserve our precious natural heritage in the southeastern U.S., one of the most botanically diverse areas of our country."

Safeguarding refers to a complex practice that varies from protecting a species' genetic stock to propagating the plants in a nursery and planting them back in the wild. Combined with protecting and restoring habitats, safeguarding is crucial to saving populations of at-risk plants.

The roles for Atlanta Botanical Garden, based in Midtown, include providing seed-banking expertise and facilities, leading collections for six of the target species, and managing a statewide safeguarding database.

President and CEO Mary Pat Matheson said safeguarding imperiled plant species is at the heart of the Atlanta garden's mission. "And support for that strengthens the coordinated efforts of our Southeastern Center for Conservation," Matheson added. "Those efforts, in turn, go a long way toward educating the public about threatened species and the importance of connecting people with plants."

Work supported by the grant has already begun. Chattahoochee Nature Center, co-coordinator for the project in northwest Georgia, has collected tissue samples from Morefield's leatherflower and Alabama leatherflower. In Georgia, the species are known from only one site each. Sampled plants have been tagged. Root cuttings may be next. There are also plans to collect seeds to bank at Atlanta Botanical Garden and grow at the nature center.

"Chattahoochee Nature Center has been working to preserve endangered Georgia plant species for over three decades, thanks in part to the passion of our senior director of operations, Henning von Schmeling," said DeAnn Fordham, senior director of development and marketing at the Roswell center. "We are honored to be a part of this incredible endeavor and partner with leaders in plant conservation from across the state."

The focus on the grant's 14 species is important, yet the need to conserve plants is great. Georgia has 443 plant taxa — or group of related plants — rated critically imperiled in the state; 83 of those are imperiled globally.

Though often overlooked, plants purify air and water, provide raw materials and stunning beauty, shape cultures and economies, prevent erosion and play vital roles in our heritage. Kruse noted, too,

that conserving plants involves restoring natural habitats, which improves the outlook for animals "up and down the food chain."

Grant at a glance

•U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Challenge grant: \$779,734 (plus \$284,814 non-federal match)

•Focus: Enhance the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance's capacity to safeguard 14 imperiled plant species.

•Partners: Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Chattahoochee Nature Center

•Plants: Alabama leatherflower (Clematis socialis); black-spored quillwort (Isoetes melanospora); Canby's dropwort (Oxypolis canbyi); Coosa (or Mohr's) Barbara's buttons (Marshallia mohrii); dwarf sumac (Rhus michauxii); fringed campion (Silene polypetala); hairy rattletweed (Baptisia arachnifera); mat-forming quillwort (Isoetes tetraginiformis); Morefield's leatherflower (Clematis morefieldii); pondberry (Lindera melissifolia); smooth purple coneflower (Echinacea laevigata); swamp pink (Helonias bullata); Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (Xyris tennesseensis); Virginia spiraea (Spiraea virginiana)

•The 14 targeted species are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act; 11 are globally ranked imperiled to critically imperiled.

Hairy Rattletweed how it works

Using hairy rattletweed as an example, here is how the grant-funded project will work.

Hairy rattletweed is pine flatwoods perennial that sports cobweb-like hairs and seed pods that rustle when dry; thus, the name. The species is federally listed as endangered and found worldwide only in southeast Georgia's Wayne and Brantley counties. Also not good: Too few of the plant's 15 known populations are protected.

To guarantee hairy rattletweed survives, DNR ecologist Jacob Thompson and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia will collect seeds and leaf tissue from each population to capture the genetic details. The process involves strict protocols to ensure plant populations are not harmed.

Work with the material collected will take two paths.

•The State Botanical Garden will grow plants from the seed. The homegrown plants and seeds will be shared with other Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance gardens. Over the five-year grant, the hope is to have all 15 populations represented at multiple gardens, some of which may be new alliance members.

•Atlanta Botanical Garden will use the leaf tissue to analyze the DNA and document each population's genetic diversity — which can help determine hairy rattletweed's available resources for adapting. The plan is to collect and analyze three populations a year, covering all 15 over the grant period.

Then Thompson and partners will take some of the plants grown in-house and plant them in appropriate habitat on protected lands. As part of the grant, partners are aiming to start two populations in the wild.

DNR senior botanist Lisa Kruse considers this the crowning goal: "to not only have populations protected at the gardens, but to bring the plant back in the wild and have it thrive."

"Hairy rattletweed is a really unique part of Georgia's heritage, and it represents a very unique ecosystem," Kruse added. "This project will help us ensure that it stays in Georgia's landscape."



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