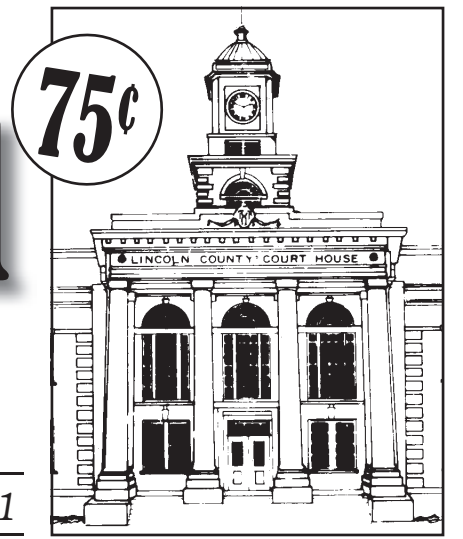


The Lincoln Journal



"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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The Newton brothers Davis (left) and Charles with Brooks Brothers Construction were hard at work last week installing the new automatic meter reading system at a location on Washington Highway. The duo made short work of removing the old meter which Charles has his hand on.

New automatic water meters being installed throughout city

The replacement of all the city's manual-read water meters with an automatic meter reading system is underway with Brooks Brothers Construction providing the installation.

The project received the go-ahead by City Council back in June and should be completed in the next few months.

The close to half million-dollar project includes furnishing all materials and equipment and performing labor necessary for installation of advanced meter reading software and hardware for meter reading. It includes backend compatibility with existing billing software, new handheld computers, training, and necessary appurtenances as specified or necessary to provide a complete system.

According to previous reports by Mayor Henry Brown the new automated meter reading system will improve accuracy and allow the city to read meters quickly.

Brown informed residents that access into homes would not be necessary. Most meter replacements can be performed without the contractor leaving the road



Davis Newton gets ready to install the new meter.

right-of-way.

In some cases, however, water meters are located on private property. In these cases, the City will contact residents to arrange for the contractor to move the water meter off of private property, and to the street right-of-way.

The replacement work, in most cases, will require approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The contractor will attempt to let customers know that the water will be

turned off briefly. If the contractor cannot reach the homeowner, they will check the meter to make sure water is not flowing before the water is turned off.

The cooperation of water customers will be needed to complete the project, Brown said. Any questions customers have should be directed to City Hall at 706-359-3239.

This is phase two of the city's water treatment system upgrades.

'History in the Park' will feature veteran, author Ed Devos Aug. 5

Local author Ed DeVos will return to Lincoln County Historical Society's History in the Park Series Thursday night, August 5, at 7 p.m. when he will speak on his latest book "The Last 100 Yards". This book focuses on his more than 20-year career in the US Army infantry starting in 1969 and highlights his dedication to the infantry soldier. From his initial ROTC training, though his first assignment in Germany, his time as an advisor during the Vietnam War to Battalion Command in 1986, he emphasizes what he learned from great leaders,

from so not-so-great leaders that he declines to name, and from his own rare mistakes.

In 2006, Ed and his wife, Susan, moved to McCormick, South Carolina where he now spends the majority of his time writing thought-provoking Christian historical novels and speaking to church, veteran, and social groups. His four previous works, *The Stain*, a book about the Centurion at the Cross; *The Chaplain's Cross*, a story about a World War II air battle in the Pacific; *Revenge at Kings Mountain*, about one of our most significant



ED DEVOS

Revolutionary War battles; and *Family of Warriors*, a story of five brothers who served in five different locations in World War II; are about strong men who demonstrate integrity and honor; courage and valor. Each of these books is available in local and national outlets.

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District continues with free meals

Keeping tabs on lunchroom bills is a thing of the past for all Lincoln County parents this year, thanks to a USDA decision to continue funding free meal service for all students.

Lincoln County School Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light reports that "the United States Department of Agriculture extended flexibility for school districts to continue offering meal service to children under the Seamless Summer Option."

Under the federal program normally reserved for summer school, the Lincoln County School District will provide free meals to all students for the 2021-22 school year, regardless of family income levels.

For more information contact the Lincoln County Elementary School nutrition program at 706-359-3449 extension 2; Lincoln County Middle and High School nutrition program at 706-359-3121 extension 3240.

BOE debates multiple issues approves SPLOST renewal

By JOHN STONE
editor

A marathon meeting that nearly lasted until the next day saw school board members hear from a large public turnout in support of the performing arts, debate the merits of Advanced Placement (AP) versus Dual Enrollment (DE) Courses, vote for a new 5-year Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), and approve out-of-county student attendance requests among other actions. The meeting finally adjourned after 11pm following an extended closed doors executive session.

Performing Arts Supplement Approved for 2021-22

A room packed with supporters of long-time performing arts teachers Randy Smith and Carolee Hobbins heard local parent and school system employee Shannon Shelton tell board members that the COVID pandemic had largely robbed students of last year's theatre season. "I would like my child to reach his highest potential in the area he is most passionate about and that he wishes to pursue beyond high school," Shelton said. "As it stands right now there is no one waiting in the wings with the necessary experience to run the musical theatre department." Shelton requested that Smith and Hobbins be approved for one more year before turning over the program to new instructors.

High School teacher Thomas Folger said "Randy Smith and

Open House – August 3
First Day – August 5
Team Pictures – August 7

Carolee Hobbins are the most qualified individuals I have come across at the high school level. . . . and a reason I graduated from university with a music degree."

Elementary School teacher Jason Bonds also called for Smith and Hobbins be continued for another year and stressed the need for support of the performing arts similar to the strong support for sports. Fifth grade elementary school teacher Amanda Etheridge said Smith and Hobbins should provide on-the-job training for their replacements this year to ensure a smooth transition for the program. Etheridge says a strong high school program inspires her elementary students to work hard to advance to the high school level.

Lincoln County parent Shea Chamberlain pointed out that performing arts education is an important confidence builder for many young people. Chamberlain also asked whether students would be required to wear masks in the coming year, and if so he would remove his children from the system.

Following the extended executive session, board members unanimously approved a Musical Theatre Supplement Offer of

\$9,655 to Randy Smith and \$6,950 to Carolee Hobbins.

AP v. DE

Board members next debated the role of AP Courses versus the DE Courses currently offered through Georgia Military College at the old high school on the Welcome Mason Campus of Excellence. The discussion centered on the proposed requirements for the annual Magnum Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude honors requirements. The proposed rules would require the higher place Magnum Cum Laude recipient take a minimum two AP courses, while the Summa Cum Laude requirement would be 2 AP or 2 DE courses.

Lincoln County initiated dual enrollment free college courses in 2016 under East Georgia College with unlimited courses available to each high school student, paid by the State of Georgia. But based on the heavy use and cost of the program, the Georgia Legislature has since limited free courses to a maximum 30 hours of credits. Students can take additional courses but must pay tuition.

Many consider AP courses to be more rigorous than DE courses. However the toughness of the AP courses has resulted in a 30% pass rate by Lincoln County students. "1 of 13 students passing AP English Composition doesn't look good on our school," said board member Jim Mattison.

Board members also discussed the complicated rules for college acceptance of credits for both programs. "If a student chose Dual Enrollment, took and passed the course. . . they automatically get the credit at GMC (Lincoln County's current DE partner)," pointed out board member Kyle Reese.

Board Member Jim Mattison questioned the AP program's lack of clarity on whether college credits would be awarded. "Why would we want a student to take an AP class when they could take the college course and get the credit?" Mattison suggested the decision on which program to take should be left to students and parents and recommended that all students try to take the full 30 hours of free college education along with AP courses.

The board decided the issue

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Prospective jurors named for August Superior Court Grand Jury

The Lincoln County Superior Court Grand Jury will convene on Wednesday and Thursday, August 4-5, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lincoln County Courthouse, with Judge Thomas B. Hammond Jr. scheduled to preside. Prospective jurors are:

Jim Lang Aycock
Amberly Kenyanna Barksdale
Blanchard Morgan Boswell Sr.
Peggy Ann Carruth
Pamela R. Carter
Mallie Erin Chalker
John David Curiel
Quiller Elam
Gary Myron Elder
Keith Stanley Etheridge
Tom N. Garland Jr.
John Curtis Harris
Robert L. Hearst
Eleanor E. Heaton
Joyce Elaine Hogan
Crystal Caramy Huffman
Louise Gresham Jones
Willie Joe Jones
Perry Wayne Ketchum
Jill Rigdon King
Regina Ellen Kirby

John Merlin Konter
Curtis Frank Landrum III
Chessie Louise Leverett
James Foster Leverette III
Chris A. Marks
Grant Mathew Morris
Coretta Norman
Deampris Rontae Norman
Teresa Nicole Norman
Katherine Jarrett Quarles
Paige Butler Reed
Becky Danner Reese
Alesia Futch Reid
Charles Dwayne Scott
Jason Christopher Seagraves
Hiawatha S. Sherman
Ernestine Jones Simmons
William Townsend Turner
Vincent Michael Verginio
Quadaddius Dontraz Williams
Jefferson Brice Wright



Dual enrollment courses are offered at Georgia Military College located at the old high school campus.