

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Leave it at The Line!!!

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



"Whoa, whoa, whoa!" I said, "Not so fast! Get all those electronic gizmos out of there! We are leaving them all at the Georgia state line!"

I stood in the doorway of our grandson's room. His suitcase was open and he had his backpack ready to roll. He was coming to stay with us, here in Lincolnton, for a few weeks of his summer vacation. I watched him slowly remove his cell phone, computer, laptop and other items that I did not recognize.

"Have you gotten all your summer homework done?" I asked in my stern teacher voice.

"Spanish is all I have to finish," Christian responded.

I was proud of myself for quick thinking, as I told him to pack his dictionary! "What for?" Christian asked.

"Well, we just might need it," I said.

I was thinking of my very, very rusty two years of foreign language studies over 50 years ago, not dependable for sure. He sounded pretty confident that he could handle the assigned work, but, when we got to Lincolnton, ready to tackle it, I saw we were hitting a snag.

Christian looked forlorn as he read his stories with following questions. Oh, he could fluently read every word, however, there were a number of words of which he did not understand the meaning.

"Well," I said, "Pull out the dictionary."

He began to look up the words. "This is hard," Christian said.

"Well, don't you always have to look up words you do not know?" I asked.

He said, "No, there is an app for that. All you have to do is type in or say the word and the app will translate, but you made me leave all electronics in Florida, remember?"

"Get busy," I said. We struggled through, made flash cards, practiced penmanship and made an organized notebook for a good start in the coming school year. Christian remembered every

definition and I am convinced that the effort of manually looking up each word made an impression.

I was determined he would not miss his newfangled gizmos on his visit.

We picked tomatoes, and peaches, made meals for friends under the weather. He painted the deck and cut the grass with a push mower in the hot sun and moved furniture. He washed and folded clothes and had a few driving lessons.

Don't get me wrong, his parents have done a great job. Christian has impeccable manners and is very helpful. He is kind and considerate and willing to work. He knows Jesus and says his prayers.

He is, however, like other youths his age, immersed in technology. I am glad he has the opportunity to use all the gizmos that are around today, but, there are simple skills one needs to know.

Most young people today would starve if not for the grocery stores. They would go stir crazy if not for the internet. I am not trying to give Russia or China any ideas, but, if they want to take over our country, they could start by ruining our technology vibes!

Oh, wait a minute, they are already doing that!

We need to embrace the future, but we need to teach the past, also. Young folks need to know how to make simple repairs, grow food, and sew on a button, work!!!!

Christian will soon be back home in Jacksonville, Florida. He will prepare his homework with the use of apps, no doubt. But, he will remember the use of the dictionary.

He will remember the sweat on his brow after a hard day of work in the summer sun. He will also remember the delight of the taste of sun ripened tomatoes, watermelon, and peaches.

He will go back to being a city boy, but he will take home feelings of accomplishments of being a country boy, if only for a summer, with his grandparents in Lincolnton, Georgia.



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: What is the difference between a mollypop and a maypop?

A: Mollypop and maypop are both common names for the same plant, *Passiflora incarnata*, a species of passionflower. Mollypop is native to Georgia and the Southeast and ranges northward into Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Pennsylvania and west to Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. It is the state wildflower of Tennessee. It is an exotic-looking flower, and, indeed, most of its passionflower relatives are from the tropics.

The names "mollypop" and "maypop" both derive from the Algonkian name for the plant.

The fruit of the mollypop is edible. Allow it to ripen - it will turn yellow and even begin to shrivel - and eat the juicy flesh surrounding the seeds. This flesh tastes like Hawaiian Punch and is good to add to lemonade. Captain John Smith noted that Indians near the Jamestown settlement grew mollypops for its fruit.

Mollypop is a good choice for a butterfly garden as it is a host plant for the Gulf fritillary found throughout the state and the less common zebra longwing butterfly which sometimes appears in the southern part of the state.

Mollypop is a vine. It can be grown on a trellis or chain link fence or allowed to climb over and among shrubs in an informal setting. Its flowers are purple. There is a pure white variety. It has a suckering nature, which means it may sprout in an area several feet from where the original plant was growing. This is not difficult to control.

If you love native plants, his-

Soccer registration

Lincoln County Recreation Department will hold registration for fall soccer June 14-July 15, for ages 5-7 and 8-10. Cost is \$50 per child. There will be no late registration. Season starts Aug. 24. Pictures will be made Mon., Aug. 23 only.

Contact LeTrellis Glaze at 706-359-2236 for more information.

Clark benefit fund at FSB

A fund to benefit Joy Clark had been established at Farmers State Bank. Donations are needed to help Joy with medical expenses as she has been diagnosed with liver cancer. Donations can be made at Farmers State Bank or mailed to PO Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

Assessors board to meet

The following dates are for the 2021 regular scheduled meetings of the Lincoln County Board of Tax Assessors. All meetings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Lincoln County Tax Assessors Office located at 182 Humphrey Street.

Any changes in meeting, dates, and times will be posted on the bulletin board of the Lincoln County Courthouse, and the front door of the Tax Assessors Office. When time allows, we will also notify the Lincoln Journal.

Tues., Aug. 17; Tues., Sept. 21; Tues., Oct. 19; Tues., Nov. 16; Tues., Dec. 21.

City Council meetings

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

tory, butterflies or unusual fruits, try a mollypop.

Q: What is dryland corn? I heard a farmer say he was planting some.

A: When a farmer says he planted a field of dryland corn or a field of dryland soybeans, he is planting a field of these crops that will rely solely on rain, not on an irrigation system.

Q: What are cabbage sprouts? They look like cabbage heads but are smaller. They are larger than Brussels sprouts and not as hard.

A: The sprouts that arise on a cabbage plant after the main head is cut are sometimes referred to as "cabbage sprouts." These heads are smaller and looser (not as firm and solid) as the primary head. Because they are looser, they are generally cooked rather than being grated into slaw. Try cooking them with liquid (water or broth) and some butter, olive oil or bacon grease. Some people consider cabbage sprouts a real delicacy. They are not commonly available commercially. Check for them at local farmers markets.

Q: I heard a farmer on the news talking about the drought say it was so dry he "dusted in" a crop." What does that mean? He was not referring to crop dusting or dusting with an insecticide.

A: When a farmer says he "dusted in" his corn crop, he means that he sowed the corn seed while the ground was dry. His tractor and equipment may have made dust rise in their wake, hence the term. The farmer sometimes sows seeds in dry conditions in hopes that rain will arrive soon and cause the seed to germinate.

Q: I'm eating a lot of cantaloupes now. The seeds look meaty, and I think birds that eat sunflower seeds may eat them. Can I use the seeds in my bird feeder?

A: Yes. A few of our native birds that will eat cantaloupe seeds are cardinals, catbirds, nuthatches, blue jays, chickadees and mourning doves. Rinse the pulp off the cantaloupe seeds. Let them dry and mix them with your regular birdseed or serve them by themselves. To save cantaloupe seeds for use in the winter, let the seeds dry for about 48 hours and store them in an airtight container. Why not share Georgia cantaloupes with our feathered friends!

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.

Celebrate Recovery Thursday

First Assembly of God hosts Celebrate Recovery every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm with a light meal followed by large group worship at 7 pm and small groups at 8 pm. First Assembly is located on the Thomson Highway. Call the church office at 359-7237 for more information.

Super Crossword

Answers
 UPSET OAF FLAGS MAMMA
 PAULO FRO LORNE ARIES
 SYMBOL FOR SULFUR SILLIY
 AMOBY SKELER GYSTELLE
 THEWASTELANDPOETELLIOT
 GER DOH INTREPTID
 PATH LEAF ALA ALBEE
 IDIOT EXTRANFLPERIODS
 GOMPADRE TRK RSTINHAIT
 SNEEZE MEIR ADOSS DOME
 COLLAPSI BLEBEDS
 OHOH RONA VITTI LETHAL
 LIMEPIE DIAL DTSPROVIE
 GLASSGOWDWEILERS POMES
 GORTA EIN DES MOSS
 CAPRIATI UNS GTO
 GLASSYITENSOFNECKWEAR
 ROLLEDR SOYA AEON
 ANGLEATHETICANTIMALLS
 MEADE ROBLOT NHIL MATTY
 PRESS MEFOWS GOP SNERD

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service



Family Connection summer camp participants also enjoyed attending the MG Sprouts program.

For the last six weeks, Lincoln County UGA Extension, the Lincoln County Library, and Lincoln County Family Connections have been collaborating on a youth gardening program titled "MG Sprouts." The program, which targets 6 to 8-year-olds, was originally designed for the UGA Master Gardener program and combines agriculture and gardening books with fun games and activities.

The MG Sprouts program ran on Tuesdays starting June 8th and ending July 20th. We met in a variety of places, including the Lincoln County Recreation Department and the Outdoor Classroom of the Lincoln County Nature Trail. We had enough students to run two hour-long sessions each week. Lincoln County Extension wants to thank all of our sponsors and supporters who helped to fund the supplies for this program. Additionally, we'd like to thank Mrs. Keri Parton, Mrs. Colbi Turner, and Mrs. Mel Talbert for their help with facilitating this program. After six weeks, we had served a total of 209 students from Lincoln County!

The MG Sprouts program used the following books and activities to introduce students to plants and gardening concepts. Sunflower House by Eve Bunting introduced that plants grow from seeds, and seeds come from flowers; students made seed tapes to take home and plant.

Jack's Garden by Henry Cole discussed how plants grow in a complex and diverse world, and students made watering cans and plant labels.

Compost Stew by Mary McKenna Siddals discussed how plants grow in soil and different components of compost. Students mixed their own planting soil using peat moss, compost, and topsoil.

Next was The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin Charlesbridge, which tied gardening and growing into a conversation on diversity, sharing, and creativity, and also taught students what parts of plants we eat. Students were able to plant garlic this week, and rumors are most of them are growing exceptionally well!

Plantzilla by Jeredine Nolen discussed the responsibility of caring for living things, and students made plant pets (or garden monsters, depending on who you ask!) to take home.

Finally came The Tree Farmer by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta, which talked about natural resources, caring for the environment, and the diversity of goods that can be made from agricultural products.

Our final project was making clay flowers and bugs. We combined these books and activities with a variety of games like decomposer tag (a fan favorite), a sensory scavenger hunt, food chain human knots, and Mr. Wolf!

We had a blast this year with MG Sprouts and think our students did too - and they just might have learned something along the way. Next year we hope to run a similar program, but may try to add some live-stock education into it as well.

Our last summer program is coming up on July 29th, Hands and Hooves! We are keeping it small for this one, but if you have a last minute registrant let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.



Library Director Keri Parton reads a book to MG Sprouts participants.

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This weeks tips from the BBB

While romance scams are becoming a more well-known tactic of con artists, recent reports to BBB Scam Tracker indicate a rise in a new type of romance scam. Typically, a romance scam consists of a con artist tricking an unsuspecting victim into falling in love and then, conveniently, requiring a substantial amount of money due to a "life crisis." The love-stricken victim offers to help financially, with some getting scammed out of tens of thousands of dollars.

Here is how the scam works. An unsuspecting individual looking to find their significant other discovers a dating service that appears legitimate. The site requests the individual fill out a profile, including personal information such as location, age, name and other miscellaneous details that seem standard for a dating profile. A membership fee is required to use the dating service, so the individual inputs their credit card number to pay for the membership.

After spending a few days on the site, you come to realize that the other people you have matched with are not real. The site is full of phony profiles and pirated photos. After canceling your membership, when discovering the hoax, it may appear that all is well, except that you continue to receive a monthly bill, despite the cancellation.

In some cases, the scam dating site requires you to pay to contact other "daters." One victim reported joining a dating service where she bought "coins" to chat with other members.

"I was bombarded with messages from nearly 200 different users in only a few days and without even fully filling out a personal profile," she told BBB Scam Tracker. "I paid for coins three times and was double-charged each time. This site hires operators to steal photos, assume fake identities, and then bombards users with messages to entice them into buying coins to converse with by lying and leading people on."

How to Spot Fake Dating Websites
 • Do your research before you sign up. Research the dating website's

name along with the words "reviews" and "scams" online. Check to see what other people are saying about the site and any issues they may have had, especially when it comes to canceling their service.

• Make sure you understand how the website works. It is not entirely unusual to pay a monthly fee or small fees for individual connections to dating services but be sure the website is upfront about how their payment system works.

• If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. When signing up for a dating service, if you begin to receive numerous messages from people wanting to meet you before even completing your profile, it is probably a scam. If you encounter someone who makes claims of undying love and devotion immediately after messaging you for the first time; it may be both a sign of an illegitimate website along with a con artist attempting a romance scam.

• Use your credit card to pay for online services and memberships. Credit cards have greater protections, and charges are easier to dispute if they were unauthorized or made for fake services. It is much more difficult, if not impossible, to get your money back if you use a debit card or link your bank account to the service via the bank's routing number.

• Never give money or personal information to a stranger. Some con artists will ask you for money so they can buy a flight to visit you or for other "noble" reasons. If someone you have never met in person starts asking you for banking information, government ID numbers or requests money wired to them due to a "life crisis," cut off contact immediately.

Read the BBB Study on romance scams and these romance scam tips to learn more and avoid falling victim.
 If you or anyone you know has encountered a fake dating website, file a report on BBB Scam Tracker at BBB.org/scamtracker. Information provided may make the difference in preventing another person from falling victim.