

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Nostalgia Season

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Do you remember the smell of school? Not necessarily a bad smell, just the smell of it. The building had been closed for the most part for a few months and had a musty smell. There was also, the smell of new textbooks, the fresh print, the glue, and then there was the smell of floor cleaner. Janitors were busily pouring cleaner all over the hallways and buffing those tiles for a good first impression for open house when parents and students would have a meet and greet with the teacher for the year. I remember the mixture of those smells which were distinctly school. I miss that.

I remember the lists of school supplies taped to the door or handed out at open house. No computers or cell phones were available to pass the requirements along so parents would almost have to come to the school to get the needed information. Now there are websites for everything, but not back then.

I remember the lists of parent information; how the teacher planned to grade the students, requirements for homework, etc. Teachers would get student information, bus numbers, any health issues, things like that, all written down on a sheet of paper and put in a file in the file cabinet by the teacher's desk. Students were so excited, even if they pretended not to be. Teachers and parents were the same.

I miss that. I miss the excitement of meeting students for the first time and trying my very best to entice them about the upcoming year of learning. Believe it or not, a fellow teacher and I actually took our entire classrooms of students to the beach

for a day! That will get a student's (and parent's) attention real fast!

Our beach trips required a lot of planning the entire year. We went on a Saturday on a school bus in the spring of the year so as not to disrupt the instructional day. We went to Edisto State Park, saw sea turtles and every child collected a large bag of shells and went crabbing thanks to Dwaine, my husband, making every child a crab line.

There is a lot more I could say here about those trips, but I miss those, the excitement and thrill of many students seeing the ocean and hearing it for the first time. I miss checking the roll each morning and using a blue ink pen to check off the name of each child. If a teacher made a mistake back then, in the roll book, it was grounds to be fired on the spot (at least that is what we were told). Talk about pressure!!!!

I miss the wonderful educators with whom I worked, (I include custodians, lunchroom workers, and bus drivers, everyone who made the school year a year of learning).

I always have a spell of nostalgia this time of year. It is bittersweet, the memories, because I know today is a different day.

God knew what he was doing when he allowed me to retire. It is a different world. The tablets of today are not the tablets of my past. Chalk, paper, pencils and pens have turned into keypads and computers. The set of encyclopedias on the back shelf has turned into the worldwide web with the touch of a finger; a different world in so many ways.

God bless the education of our nation!!!

Fishing This Week

by Albert Moody



I guess everybody noticed how hot it is outside. As a matter of fact my wife quit looking behind the seat in our car to see if a kidnapper was hiding there.

So what does an angler do when the water temperature rises, the fish become lethargic and go deep?

Lately Tropical Bob Hockman and I have been going out late in the evening. We look for a shallow sloping point, anchor our boat in 14' of water, cut blue back hearing into small pieces and throw the pieces in a circle around the boat as far as we can.

We then throw a Carolina rig with a 2 ounce egg sinker and a 3/0 circle hook into the chum field. Now sit back and hold on. Normally hybrid and striped bass show up about the time the sun touches the trees. A short time later the catfish arrive and stay a few hours. Then the garfish come and it's time to go home.

Professional guide Andrew Tubbs* takes a different route. He meets his customers around 5:00 AM at the dock. He recently took a group of six and by 7:00 AM all six had reached their ten fish limit. That's 60 fish in just over an hour!

They were fishing mid lake off a primary point on the main channel 20-30' deep with live blue back hearing. Remember to check your bait more often than usual in this high heat period to ensure the hearing is not weakened or dead.

Regardless the approach you take in this heat, finding the right spot to start is key. Keep in mind the old saying that if you want to find a college boy look for them at the nearest all girl's college. They don't live there but they will show up before long. The same principle applies to fish: find where the baitfish are gathering and the strippers and hybrids will be along shortly.

May you catch so many fish that when you tell about it later you don't have to lie.

Andrew Tubbs (803) 507-5083

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.



Fishing tournament at Cox Farm

A fishing tournament was held at Cox Farm on Saturday, July 17, for Woodridge Youth and First Assembly Royal Rangers group. There were 23 participants, and a total of 79 fish were caught. Top prizes went to Khyler Williams - first fish caught; Abel Scott - most fish caught (11); Josh Eubanks - smallest fish caught (3.5 inches); and Hayden McKellar - largest fish caught (17 inches). The Cox family would like to give special thanks to Dwayne Scott and Cliatt's Crossing for their help at such short notice.

Leon Cox loved hosting this tournament every year, and although he is in Heaven now, we know he was looking down and smiling on all the kids and teens enjoying themselves.



The Pastor's Corner

A Weekly Column from Lincoln County Clergy

Escaping Ourselves

By Rev. Dr. Randy Kanipe, Lincolnton United Methodist Church



Easter Island Moai

ancient ingenuity.

The overwhelming size of the statues means that they can be seen far away from shore, from any point at sea. Their features are serious and scary enough to intimidate any troublemakers thinking of landing there.

So, I had always assumed that the old stone-faced sentinels faced toward the ocean for that very reason. But guess what? They don't! All of the statues face inland, toward the center of the island, with their backs to the sea.

History writes that the Moai believed they were so far removed from any 'civilization' that the chances of encountering anyone off the Island were slim at best. So, if there were any bad people in the world that could do them harm they would most likely come from inside the island - not from the sea! They were more afraid of themselves and what they might be capable of than they were of anyone or anything that could come from the great beyond.

In all our efforts to get away from it all - there we are, bearing within ourselves the very things we want to get away from. Selfishness, bitterness, resentment, anger, betrayal, are not things we can hide from, or hide from other people or from God. All the things we find detestable in others that would make us want to get away from it all...we

carry within ourselves wherever we go, no matter how far away that may be.

People of faith understand there is nowhere we can go to hide our own sin from God. Therefore, life is a daily inner struggle for all of us, between the forces of good and evil. That is why attention to the inner life - the spiritual life - is so important. The forgiveness which comes from Christ, for the things

that we do, for the darkness we harbor in our hearts, for the things within us that are the worst of us, Christ gave his life to forgive, for our sake.

The Poet James Adams must have known something about Jesus when he penned the words; "There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us."



Hands and Hooves

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service



Lincoln County Extension and Agricultural Agent Robyn Stewart shares her love of horses with students during the Hands and Hooves program.

My horse obsession started with pony rides at a county fair and the gift of horseback riding lessons on my 8th birthday. From those first lessons to today, it's been almost two decades of all things horse - from riding, teaching, showing, and hands-on experience to two degrees in equine science and a career that involves educating people on horses and their management. Last week, I was able to share my knowledge and love of horses with students during our Lincoln County Extension Summer Program titled "Hands and Hooves."

Hands and Hooves had three participants from Lincoln County - we intentionally kept our class size small due to the hands-on experience we wanted to provide. Lincoln County and McDuffie County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agents Robyn Stewart and Sarah Cranston instructed. The highlight of the class was purebred Arabian gelding Webb Cyte RW, who was used for hands-on instruction and experience. The class ran from 8-4 p.m. at the Lincoln County Agriculture Center.

Our day started with introductions - our students told us who they were, their comfort level with horses, and what they wanted to learn; our instructors told about their experiences with horses; and students met Webb and learned about his breed, age, and experience. After we were acquainted, our group talked about how horses are split into different "types" - hot blooded, warm blooded, and cold blooded; and about how different breeds are characterized by "type" and by specific characteristics.

We then learned about the three base colors of horse - bay, chestnut, and black - and about some modifications and markings that horses can have. Students got to observe horse behaviors like resting behavior vs alert behavior, and learned about other body language cues and things

to look for when working with horses.

Next, Webb got a good grooming session, where students learned the parts of the horse and different types of grooming equipment and how to use it. Once he was all clean, participants practiced haltering and leading Webb around, weaving through trees, and practiced stopping and starting. Our morning ended with a discussion of equine movement and gaits, demonstrated on a lunge line. Two of our participants chose to lunge Webb themselves!

Our afternoon kicked off with a pizza lunch while we watched videos of different disciplines, or styles of riding, and a discussion of horse anatomy and nutrition. We talked about how much hay/grass a horse needs and when a horse might need grain or other supplements. Students learned that how much water a horse needs to drink and some tricks for encouraging water intake.

We gave Webb a quick bath since it was so hot outside, before learning all about tack and equipment for riding and how English and Western styles differ. Students got to play a game using bridles to see what a bit feels like in the horse's mouth, how the rider influences it, and how snaffle and curb bits use different pressures.

After we discussed equipment, we talked about equine first aid, checking temperature, pulse, and respiration, and ongoing health management of feet, teeth, and vaccinations. We also talked about common health ailments, and when to call the vet. Finally, we had a short braiding demonstration before our arts and crafts session of decorating horse shoes.

Lincoln County Extension had a great time hosting our first Hands and Hooves day and we hope to do more with youth equine education in the future! If you have any questions, let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

This weeks tips from the BBB

Students and parents are gearing up for back-to-school season as the summer break comes to a close. With the emphasis on in-person instruction resuming, shopping for back-to-school supplies is expected to be vastly different this year than it was during the 20-21 school year.

According to the National Retail Federation, almost half (49%) of parents with school-aged children said their kids are most excited about shopping for back-to-school clothing this year. Additionally, 61% of consumers plan to purchase their back-to-school supplies around major sale events. With the majority of consumers turning to online marketplaces for their shopping needs this year, it is important to exercise caution before making an online purchase.

Between May-July 2020, consumers lost an average of \$50,000 per month to online purchasing scams, according to BBB Scam Tracker data. Many of those who lost money to online clothing stores found the business through an advertisement on social media, a common tactic that scammers use across the nation. One consumer reported more than \$500 lost to an online seller who "takes your money when you order his merchandise but never sends anything that was purchased. When I tried to message him about the missing order, he blocked me and told me I couldn't make him do anything."

It is important to exercise extreme caution when dealing with online sellers, even if the advertisement appears to be for a well-known company. Scammers know how to make websites and advertisements look legitimate. They know the shopping trends of American consumers and, right now, the trend is for back-to-school supplies and clothing. If you encounter an advertisement on social media, be sure to check with the official website of the company to verify it is a valid offer.

To assist back-to-school shoppers this

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.

season, Better Business Bureau offers the following tips to save money and avoid scams:

Check around your home

Start back-to-school shopping right at home by making a list of everything that you need and then taking stock of everything that you may have stored in desks, drawers, closets or storage areas. Some supplies may still be stored from last year, saving you from purchasing the same item twice.

Research expensive purchases

Before purchasing expensive items such as computers, laptops, or a refrigerator for a dorm, be sure to spend some time to research the brand, reviews of the product, warranty and prices at multiple locations. Universities often have rules regarding the size and placement of appliances in dorms. Check with the housing office at the college or university on whether an energy-efficient appliance is required or not.

Ask for student discounts

Stores and software companies often offer discounts to students that have either a student ID or a valid .edu email address. Even if a discount is not advertised, it never hurts to ask.

Shop in bulk

If purchasing standard items that are needed at the beginning of each school year, such as binders, notebooks or writing utensils, purchasing items in bulk is a great way to save money.

Shop safely online

- If purchasing school supplies online, verify that the URL starts with "https" and includes a lock symbol. The "s" in "https" stands for secure and includes additional encryption and security measures than a "http" website.

- If purchasing from a lesser-known website, make sure to take the time to read reviews and feedback from previous customers. The lowest price may not always be the best route. If the company's contact information is not clearly listed, or they only have an email as the point of contact, that is a red flag. You may want to shop elsewhere.

- BBB strongly recommends against using unprotected payment options when interacting with online marketplaces. If the seller asks for payment via wire transfer or a gift card, that is a sign it may not be a legitimate business. Using a credit card is almost always the best option when purchasing online due to the additional protections they have to dispute and resolve charges when purchased products are not received.

For more tips for back-to-school shopping, visit BBB.org.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Information provided may prevent another person from falling victim.

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