

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

I Wonder if They Know?

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



I wrote an article titled, 'Future in the Belly of a Bird,' which was about all the students transported in Blue Bird busses. I thought of that article the other day as I watched the school busses with the bird emblem on the front, all lined up and getting ready to transport children hundreds of miles this coming year. The future is truly traveling in the belly of those birds.

The bus drivers often see me out in the mornings or in the evenings walking Eli, our dog. I wonder if they sense that I am praying for them and those students. I try to remember to whisper a prayer every time I see a school bus.

The education business is a dangerous one, not just on a school bus. There is a mighty team that comes together for a year of learning. Learning is important, but for that learning to take place, there must be safety in all areas, keeping the school clean and proper food preparation, etc.

I am asking all of you, dear friends, to pray with me the following: Father God, First, I am asking that you bless our educational system. I am asking that you give bus drivers the skill they need

to safely transport students. I am asking that you bless our teachers to have wisdom and to teach students that which honors you and, if ever needed, the bravery to protect students from any harm that might come their way. I ask that you bless the entire educational team, custodians, lunchroom workers, counselors, nurses, any teacher assistant, secretaries, parents, all leadership personnel and Board of Education. Father, I am praying this prayer because prayer is the most powerful thing I can do as an individual to call on your mighty power to protect and keep our children and those who serve them. Amen.

I often hear folks lament about the world of today and the many challenges we face. They feel powerless as one individual. There were so many individuals mentioned in the Bible who changed the world. God did not mind choosing someone with garbled speech to become a leader and speak to thousands. God did not mind choosing a teenager to become the mother of our savior. I think God is choosing each one of us to stand up for that which honors him. We can start with prayer.



The Pastor's Corner

A Weekly Column from Lincoln County Clergy

The Word of the Cross

Rev. Tripp Goodwin, Lincolnton Baptist Church



The Bible tells us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. It also tells us that the gospel is the message on which the church either stands or falls. Today, I would like to offer you a short devotion on the gospel. It is always a good thing for believers to rehearse the core tenants of the Christian faith, the good news being the primary tenant. It is also always a good thing for the unbeliever to embrace, by faith, this gospel. I hope and pray that this meditation will stir your heart to faith and your feet to repentance.

1 Corinthians 1:18: For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

In this verse we see that the cross divides mankind up into two groups: There are those who are perishing and those who are being saved. In ancient times the world used various divisions for describing humanity: Romans and barbarians, Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free. We do this very same thing today. We split up humanity into various groups by sex, age, race, and culture. We have the middle-

class single white female. We have the upper-class married male with a wife, two kids, dog, and a house with a two-car garage. Etc., etc., etc.

Paul sets forth the only division that is of ultimate importance. He separates mankind according to the reality of salvation. The dividing line between these two groups is the cross. The cross draws a line right down the middle of humanity. On one side are those who are living in rebellion and wicked unbelief. On the other, are those who are living by faith in Christ Jesus.

The division for Paul is eschatological. That is, the human race is divided up based upon where people are heading. Only those who place their faith in Christ and repent of their sins will receive eternal life and be reconciled to God. Those who do not place their faith in Christ and repent of their sins will perish in their sins and suffer God's wrath for all eternity.

To those of us who are believers: what does this mean for us? When we dialogue with others in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and families we must be very careful

to present Jesus Christ as the only way to God and not one of many ways to God. We must speak of Him as the only sufficient sacrifice for the sinner and not one of the many ways that the sinner can find redemption.

It is important for us to remember that the way in which we articulate the gospel has direct implications on how one understands the gospel. If we articulate the gospel in such way that the door is still open for other religions to be on

par with the Christian faith, then we have stripped the gospel of being absolute and have presented, not a watered-down gospel, but no gospel at all.

To those of you who are unbelievers: what does this mean for you? You must turn from your life of idolatry, self-love, and rebellion. You must take hold of Christ by faith and submit to Him as Lord. This is it for you. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved from your sin!



Georgia state symbols: flowers and wildflower

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service



Some weeks, I have a tough time figuring out what to write about for the Journal. Out of curiosity, I decided to take a look at the Georgia state symbols for this week's article. State symbols are typically adopted after citizens of the state have made a concerted effort to have an item recognized for its significance in the region. Interestingly, Georgia has two different flowers that are specified as state symbols- one generic "flower" and one "wildflower."

The Georgia state flower, designated in 1916 with help from the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, is the Cherokee Rose (*Rosa laevigata*). This species is around 35 million years old and was introduced to the U.S. in 1780 but is native to south China, Taiwan, Laos, and Vietnam. The Cherokee Rose is an evergreen climbing shrub that gets between 16-30 feet tall. It features glossy green leaves and fragrant white flowers. The plant is hardy and blooms in early spring, though it can occasionally bloom in the fall with the right conditions.

The Cherokee Rose has a fascinating backstory. In 1838, native Cherokee people were removed from their land in Georgia and forced to march to Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears". The trail was long and treacherous, with over 4,000 killed along the way. The elder Cherokee called upon their Heaven Dweller who told them where every tear fell on the trail, he would grow a sturdy, thorny plant with seven leaves (one

for each Cherokee clan), a white rose with five petals, and a golden center of the flower, to remind the Cherokee people of the white man's greed for gold. The plant referenced became known as the Cherokee Rose.

The second symbol is the Georgia state wildflower, the native azalea (*Rhododendron S.*) This designation was originally made in 1979 for "azalea" but revised in 2013 to specify the native varieties. There are between 10-15 species of native azalea in Georgia and most have naturally reproduced and crossed for many years, creating hybrids.

Some varieties of note that are present in every county of Georgia include the flame azalea, the plumleaf azalea, the mountain azalea, and the sweet azalea. Each variety can feature a different bloom time from early spring through late summer, with flowers ranging in color from white to reds, yellows, and oranges. They vary in size from 2-15 feet tall, and are deciduous, meaning they lose their leaves in winter. Azaleas are known as the "royalty of the garden" and are an excellent addition to most Georgia landscapes.

The United States is home to a huge variety of plants and animals in different regions and states. Many of these things have been honored as state symbols, reflecting the unique cultural and natural beauty of the area. If you're interested in learning more about Georgia's state symbols, contact us at uge3181@uga.edu.

Fishing This Week

by Albert Moody



A lot of people are unaware that Santa Claus spends a lot of the summer fishing on his house boat on Clarks Hill Lake. While drifting live bream in Lincoln County waters at night just off the bottom in 25 feet of water on a ledge he caught this 25 pound catfish. In the marathon fight with the fish he caught his famous beard in the reel and could not finish landing the monster until he cut 4 inches off the beard.

This should serve as a reminder that when you are on the lake be as nice as you can, there is a man out there in a red pontoon boat that doesn't forget anything. To better your chances of a decent take next Christmas how about grabbing a couple of fishing poles and invite the kid next door to go along?

I went out yesterday with old friends Tim Brown and Bob Hockman. Since we are all old men we got a late start at 730 when we should have been there at 630. We went to the oxygen lines across from the Modoc boat ramp I wrote about last week, positioned our boat over the second line away from the ramp and spot locked ourselves directly over the bubbles. Spot locking is a feature on a trolling motor that uses a built in GPS device to keep you at your exact location until you turn it off.

Through trial and error we found the fish suspended at 40'. If you know these guys I was fishing with you know they are lots of fun. With a bald eagle circling overhead, con-



Santa mauled by Lincoln catfish.

stant laughs, insults, loud upbeat gospel music and jokes we missed about as many fish as we caught. But we still wound up with 18 hybrid and largemouth bass ranging in size from 1-5 lbs.

People that fish understand that enjoying good friends is many times better than the catching of the fish.

Bad fishing joke of the week: Why did Batman and Robin stop fishing together? Robin kept eating all the worms.

This weeks tips from the BBB

With tuition payments, financial aid applications and school supplies, August marks the time for students looking to spend their money on going back to colleges or universities. However, scammers take on this opportunity to sway students who are looking for better ways to manage their money. Whether you're starting school yourself or have kids who are vulnerable to such scams, BBB suggests students watch out for these financial scams before heading into the new semester.

- Fake Credit Cards - It's not a secret that deals which appear to be a quick and easy way to spend money are offered to college students to get them to apply for their first credit card. On top of the fact that this could potentially stir up a credit problem, some of the deals could be a fake gimmick to get access to student's personal information. Do your research on those credit card flyers, emails, promotions and mailers before applying. Read our BBB Tip on credit card scams.

- Too Good to be True Apartments - It's hard to not jump on a convenient apartment so close to campus, especially if it advertises affordable rent. It's tempting to hand over credit card information online to lock in a great spot, but it's always worth seeing the apartment in person prior to a money transfer. This also applies to Craigslist listings of other students looking for roommates.

- Safe Credit Reports - After the age of 18, it's a good idea to start becoming more aware of your credit score and start adapting some healthy money habits. It's also a helpful signifier of any unusual activity and possible ID fraud. While there are multiple traps online trying to snag your social security number with a fake credit score scam, safely check your credit score at annualcreditreport.com.

- Scholarship and Grant Scams

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.

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.

- Phone calls from companies guaranteeing they can help reduce loan payments or set you up with a hefty grant are worth researching. Even searching the company online could bring up scam alerts from other victims. Contact the school's financial aid office for advice on the company's legitimacy or how they can help otherwise. Scholarship scams can affect college students even after graduation; read our tips on scholarship scams.

- Employment Scams - In the last few years employment scams were the #1 culprit for scams attacking 18-25 year olds. Job offerings can be sent directly to school emails, promising flexible hours and a beyond expected pay. There would be no need to send a social security number electronically without knowing exactly who you are sending it to. For more types of employment scams, visit BBB's Tips: Employment Scams.

- Awareness of Current Scams - As tech savvy as current college students can be, a surprising number of scams reported to BBB's ScamTracker are from students who learned their lesson too late. Use BBB's ScamTracker to learn of the latest scam trends and read local reports of specific incidents.

According to 2020's BBB's ScamTracker Risk Report, 57.1% of students reported a loss when exposed to a scam as compared to 45.6% of non-students. Students, who are freshly exposed to managing their own finances, are online looking for ways to save. It is important to be aware of scammers looking to take advantage of others.

Contact BBB at BBB.org if you are unsure of something that could possibly be a scam.

Ty Cobb exhibit

The Thomson-McDuffie Museum, for a short time only, has a special exhibit featuring baseball legend, Ty Cobb; the rare exhibits change often. The museum is free to the public and is located at 121 Main Street. It is open Friday and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum is also open by appointment to groups of ten or more by calling (706) 990-8784. Come, bring the kids, and enjoy the rich history of the Thomson-Wrightsboro-Lincolnton area.

Super Crossword

ALPS	ERA	ALBOM	TRIADS
SERA	VET	LEROI	REDDIT
KNOC	KEDOUT	GOLD	ADOREE
SID	GROMMET	ALIMB	ICE
NUMB	PROBLEMS	ULFUR	
MICE	TIA	TANS	LETTIS
ASTAR	ISBORON	GAE	LS
EMS	BELARUS	ATVS	AGO
PIRATES	OF	THE	CARBON
SEMI	SSE	SIAO	DEFEATS
WRAPS	DOC	DINA	TASTE
ANGELIC	BOA	NIK	CHAT
MINI	YOUR	OWN	BIS
PIEA	TREE	NO	CAND
THARP	BATH	ROOM	MIZING
ALIANA	AURA	HITS	ADDS
PORT	LAND	ARGON	EPIC
LOID	FEITTO	EGOTIS	NE
ONETWO	AIN	DERSON	COPIER
MINOAN	TERSE	UFO	GINA
BETSY	S	ERIES	ROT
			ANTS

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