

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Much needed message, in my opinion!

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Back in the 60's there was a group that captured the entire world with their music.

I remember I memorized every word to every one of their songs. Remembering the lyrics to their songs was somehow much easier than memorizing those multiplication tables. Those guys, after all, were so, so, sexy and cute and from the exotic land of England, how cool! They were so unique with their bowl haircuts hanging in their eyes and when any young girl saw them, why, it was just time to swoon.

Over the years they had many hit songs. I heard one of them the other day. Although the song I heard was written by them many years ago, and a song meant to be a message to a girlfriend during an argument, I listened closely to the lyrics and thought what a powerful message it would be to send to all members of our leadership in Washington, D.C., and every one of our leaders throughout our country!

I hope you enjoy this memory from your past and see if you agree with me: *Try to see it my way, Do I have to keep on talking 'til I can't go on? While you see it your way, Run the risk of knowing that our love may soon be gone, We can work it*

out, We can work it out...Think of what you're saying, We can work it out and get it straight, or say good night, We can work it out, We can work it out...Life is very short, and there's no time, For fussing and fighting, my friend, I have always thought that it's a crime, So I will ask you once again, Try to see it my way, Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong, While you see it your way, There's a chance that we might fall apart before too long, We can work it out...We can work it out.

Most of you know that the group of which I write is the Beatles and the song was written by Paul McCartney and John Lennon. The title of the song, of course, is 'We Can Work it Out.' The Beatles got it right, in my opinion, when they wrote, 'think of what you're saying, life is much too short, and it's a crime to fuss and fight.'

You might expect arguing and fussing between school-age children, but we are seeing childish antics played out by our leadership on every news station. This is embarrassing to us and our nation. Disagreement is healthy and brings out new ideas of compromise, but we can work it out. The Beatles knew this back in the 60's! How 'bout that much needed message?



The Pastor's Corner

A Weekly Column from Lincoln County Clergy

What really counts

Rev. Randy Kanipe, Lincolnton United Methodist Church



Albert Einstein was once asked about the immensity of the universe, the number of stars that exist, and if they could even be counted? He replied; "Not all that is counted, counts; And not all that counts, is counted." Wow.

Once you have taken a moment to unwind that stem winder of an idea, you begin to see not only how brilliant Einstein was, but you see how he as wise than he was smart. What he was saying is this: "Not all that is counted, counts."

In other words, we spend so much of our energy in this life trying to tally up something that in the end, amounts to nothing or truly counts for anything for ourselves. You can spend a life trying to achieve a goal (that may be valued by the world), only to have all that truly matters in this life lost or squandered in the

process.

Similarly, the things in this life that truly matter, that are of eternal significance or consequence, are often dismissed in our pursuit of some artificial goal that ultimately means nothing in the face of eternity. And there are consequences for getting the two confused.

Of the many things Jesus teaches us, this is one of the most important. One thing that will be glaringly obvious when this life is over will be what we have counted, vs. what we have valued and/or dismissed along the journey. That is what is left in the wake of our witness. It is what Jesus spoke of in His parable of the pearl of great price, or the treasure found in a field. It all boils down to one thing; Choice.

God has given us freedom of choice in this life, but not free-

dom from the consequences of our choices. God is no more going to stop us from jumping off a cliff, than He is going to reverse the universal laws of physics so that we float instead of fall. God accepts our decision, but desires earnestly for us to choose wisely and faithfully.

That is why Jesus tells us that what we sow in this life is so important, because there is a time of reaping (accountability) for what we have sown. The Apostle Paul said so as well. What we sow in

this life is a direct reflection of the choices we have made in our hearts long before we take the first step toward sowing.

Galatians 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked for you reap whatever you sow. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do

What's that pest: Fall Army worms
By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service

Unfortunately, it's the time of year that I begin getting calls about defoliated hay fields, sod, and other crops. While not always the culprit, armyworms have been an issue for at least two of our producers this season. If you are not scouting and looking for these damaging pests, this is your call to begin doing so!

The fall armyworm (spodoptera frugiperda) is native to southern tropical climates and is present in almost all states east of the Rocky Mountains. It is most prevalent in the Southeastern U.S. including Georgia. Recently, armyworms were reported for the first time in Africa, so it is now becoming a pest of global proportions.

The armyworm life cycle begins when females lay up to several hundred eggs that hatch in 2-3 days. Once hatched, larvae go through six instars, or periods of development. At early stages, the larvae are small, less than a tenth of an inch in length and aren't as destructive as their more mature counterparts. The older larvae grow to approximately an inch and a half in length and are easy to identify with their brown body, white stripes, dark spots, and white inverted "Y" on their head. The larval stage lasts around 14 days during the summer and 30 during cool weather. The armyworm then undergoes a pupal phase before turning into a small grey moth. Fortunately for us, this species does not tolerate cold weather and does not overwinter in Georgia, but they are good fliers and do migrate into our region each

year nevertheless.

Fall armyworms can cause significant damage to over 80 different crops the most susceptible of which are turfgrasses and forage crops like bermudagrass, bahiagrass, and other grass mixes. Damage from armyworms comes from their larval forms, which will destroy foliage of these species. Young larvae will eat leaf tissue from one side, leaving the epidermis of the leaf intact, but older larvae quickly begin eating through the centers and edges of the leaves. A population of end stage armyworm larvae can defoliate an entire pasture or hayfield in less than a week.

It is essential that producers have an appropriate scouting program so that armyworms are identified when they are less than half an inch in size. At this early stage of development, the armyworms are not causing severe damage and are much easier to control with insecticides. The larvae do not like bright light or heat, so it is best to scout early in the morning. Examining the entire turf or forage crop is essential, and be on the lookout for other indicator species like high bird and wasp populations. Scouting should continue through the end of September and early October. The threshold for treatment of armyworms is the presence of 3 or more caterpillars per sq ft of forage or turf. If you need further assistance with armyworms or insecticide recommendations, contact us at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

Chamber News
Who, what is the Chamber of Commerce?

Local business leaders and community volunteers, just like you, form our Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce Membership. The Chamber promotes, encourages, and inspires community fun and support for our area small businesses, while also partnering with the Georgia Chamber to provide exclusive perks and benefits for our local small businesses through local Chamber Membership.

Chamber membership benefits:

Local Chamber Business Membership includes Georgia Chamber Business Benefits: Chamber Business Health Insurance, Chamber Business 401(k) Plan, discounted Electronic Certificates of Origin, business training/ Human Resource Development, discounted Office Supplies, and free Georgia Rural Federation Membership.

That very same Georgia Rural Federation Membership offers Local and State Chamber Business Networking, Local Chamber Website and State Website Listing, and Network Voice in Local and State Government Issues.

Local Chamber Membership also includes: Lincolnton-Lincoln County community involvement, preferred-choice for Chamber Business Partnerships, access to the Chamber's New online Job Board, local Chamber Member Business Promoting, Marketing and Networking, Welcome Center boardroom access and upcoming Cham-

ber Member-to-Member Business discounts.

Who can join? How much is membership?

Any company, business, or family that lives-in or supports Lincolnton-Lincoln County and surrounding communities can join the Chamber. Volunteers are always welcome!

Yearly Business Memberships include: Utility Company \$350, Government Entity \$300, Financial Industry \$275, Industry \$175, General Business \$90, Non-Profit Organization \$60, and any Additional Businesses \$40 each.

When is sign-up for membership?

New Membership Applications are accepted year-round. Renewal Chamber Memberships are paid by Dec 31st for the upcoming year. Join now at lincolngachamber.org.

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.

Fishing This Week

Eisenhowers

by Albert Moody



As a child one of my many fishing memories was my father yelling at small fish he called Eisenhower's or Bait Stealers. If you saw one small wiggle of your bobber you knew these little pests were causing you to be "fishing on credit" - also known as no bait.

Many names have been attached to these little critters like American Perch, Koon Tail, Lake Perch, Raccoon Perch, Ring Tail, and Striped Perch Their proper name is Yellow Perch or Perca Flavescens.

Stories of how these fish became known as Eisenhowers differ wildly. One story is that Dwight D. Eisenhower had these fish brought to the Savannah River and its dams and lakes. The other story is while golfing at the Augusta National Eisenhower saw a swirl in the pond nearby, went back to get a fishing rod and started catching yellow perch. These are age old tales and I cannot find any confirmation to their validity.

Most of these fish are about the size of a large cigar yet one day while fishing in the river for crappie I caught one that was close to a pound. After several years of learning these fish habits I got to the point that I could catch Perch in the 1 1/2-2 lb. range. On one particular fishing trip my old fishing buddy Doug Poole and I went down the river and I started the trip off with a 2 pound 6oz yellow perch that was later certified by DNR. Within the hour Doug caught a 2 pound 8 oz yellow perch that at that time became the new state record.

I have been an avid yellow perch fisherman ever since. They are great fighters and great on the plate. A really neat fact about these fish as they are not born with their beautiful red fins. That comes from eating crawfish that contain large amounts of iodine.

Just as Flamingos are pink due to their diet that includes brine shrimp.

Late Summer Dock Fishing

Some of the best fishing spots on the lake are docks, for two good reasons. The first is due to the fact that fish do not have eyelids thus making them very sensitive to light. The docks give shade to the fish and relief from sunlight, just like fishing on overcast days or the shady side of a stump or fallen tree. A second reason is similar. The temperature under these docks is much cooler than in direct sunlight.

Dock owners also put brush, old Christmas trees, bamboo, and many other fish attractions beneath the dock. Larger fish are drawn to the bait fish these structures attract.

One way to tell if a dock owner is a fisherman or pleasure boater are obvious clues like chairs, fishing rod holders, and underwater lights. Please remember to be courteous to these dock owners, as they put in a lot of money and hard work to make this a fishing spot for their families and their fellow fisherman.

No Fishing Joke this Week: I floundered while trying to come up with a bad fishing joke this week but rest assured I will mull over before next week.

Aycock benefit fund

A benefit fund has been set up at Farmers State Bank for Laney Aycock to help with medical and other expenses as she battles Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Laney is a lifelong resident of Lincoln County, is employed by Lincoln County OES and Gold Cross Ambulance Service as an EMT.

Donations can be made at Farmers State Bank or mailed PO Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

This weeks tips from the BBB

After a disaster or very public tragedy, people want to help in any way possible, and that often means contributing to fundraisers to help the survivors and the families of the victims. Sadly, with the earthquake in Haiti and the flooding in Tennessee, scammers will certainly take advantage of these moments of vulnerability to deceive donors. In addition, many campaigns set up by well-meaning individuals who may not be able to deliver on promised relief activities.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance urges donors to give thoughtfully and avoid those seeking to take advantage of the generosity of others. Here are BBB WGA's tips for trusted giving:

- **Thoughtful Giving:** Visit Give.org to verify if a charity meets the BBB Standards for Charitable Accountability. Take the time to find out how the organization plans to address either immediate or long-term needs. The first request for a donation may not be the best choice. Be proactive and find trusted charities.

- **Crowdfunding:** Keep in mind that some crowdfunding sites do very little vetting of individuals who decide to post for assistance after a tragedy or a disaster. As a result, it can be difficult for donors to verify the trustworthiness of crowdfunding requests for support. It is always safest to contribute to individuals that you personally know. If the post claims it intends to pass along collected funds to a charity, consider cutting out the middleman and visit the charity's website directly.

- **How Will Donations Be Used?** Watch out for vague appeals that don't identify the intended use of funds. For example, how will the donations help victims' families? Also, unless told otherwise, donors will assume that funds collected quickly in the wake of a disaster or tragedy will be spent just as quickly. See if the appeal identifies when the collected funds will be used.

- **Newly-Created v. Established Organizations:** This is a personal giving choice, but an established charity will more likely have the capacity and experience to address the situation quickly and also have a track record that can be evaluated. A newly formed organization may be well-meaning but will be difficult to check out and may not be well managed. News reports may help identify responding charities but are not a guarantee that the organizations will use donations effectively.

- **Give Money Rather Than Goods.** Donating money is the quickest way to help and provides charities the flexibility to channel resources to impacted areas.

- **Be Wary of 100 Percent Claims.** Watch out for claims that 100 percent of donations will assist victims and/or their families. The organization is probably still incurring administrative and fundraising expenses, even if it is using other funds to cover these costs.

- **Online Caution:** Never click on links to charities on unfamiliar websites or in text messages or email. These may take you to a look-alike website where you will be asked to provide personal financial information or may download harmful malware onto your computer. Don't assume that charity recommendations on social media have already been

vetted.

- **Identify Celebrity Fundraising Plans.** Before donating to a celebrity's fundraising effort, look beyond the fame. See if they identify plans for intended use of funds or whether they are collaborating with a well-established charity.

- **Financial Transparency:** After funds are raised for a tragedy, it is even more important for organizations to provide an accounting of how funds were spent. Transparent organizations will post this information on their websites so that anyone can find out without having to wait until the audited financial statements are available sometime in the future.

- **Government Registration:** About 40 of the 50 states in the U.S. require charities to register with a state government agency before they solicit for charitable gifts. If an organization is claiming to be a charity and they aren't registered with the applicable government agency, that's a red flag. While registration with a government agency does not mean the government is recommending or endorsing the charity, it does signify that the group has filed the appropriate required paperwork. You can also request a copy of the charities IRS 990.

- **Respect for Victims and Their Families:** Organizations or crowdfunding postings raising funds should get permission from the families to use either the names and/or any photographs of victims of the disaster or tragedy.

- **What if a Family Sets Up Its Own Assistance Fund?** Some families may decide to set up their own assistance funds. Be mindful that such funds may not be set up as charities. Also, if collected monies are received and administered by a third party such as a bank, CPA, or lawyer this will help provide oversight and ensure the collected funds are used appropriately (paying for funeral costs, counseling, and other tragedy-related needs).

- **Tax Deductibility:** Not all organizations collecting funds in the U.S. to assist after a tragedy are tax exempt as charities under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donors can support these other entities but keep this in mind if you want to take a deduction for federal income tax purposes. In addition, contributions that are donor-restricted to help a specific individual or family are generally not deductible in the U.S. as charitable donations, even if the recipient organization is a charity. You can check a U.S. organization's tax status with the IRS.

Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@central-georgia.bbb.org

The Lincoln Journal
Established in 1893
The Official Organ of Lincolnton and Lincoln County
(USPS 313-660)
Published every Thursday in Lincolnton, Georgia
SUBSCRIPTION RATE
One year in Lincoln County - \$26.00
Wilkes, Taliaferro Counties - 26.00
Outside three-county area - \$41.00
(includes 8% state and local sales tax)
Periodicals postage paid at Lincolnton, Georgia
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Lincoln Journal, P.O. Box 399
Lincolnton, Georgia 30817
706-359-3229
Email us at: journal@nu-z.net
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