

This weeks tips from the BBB

Being picked for jury duty can be stressful. Receiving a call from someone claiming to be with the local police department or district attorney's office who says you missed jury duty and are facing arrest is downright terrifying. Reports from consumers suggest that this type of fraud is again on the rise.

The scam works like this: a consumer receives a phone call or voice mail from someone claiming to be with their local police or sheriff's department, district attorney's office or the county courts. The caller states that the consumer has missed a jury duty summons and could be arrested if they don't pay a fine. The caller may even claim that a warrant has already been issued for the consumer's arrest.

If the consumer responds to the caller; they are instructed to send money to the scammer to pay a fine in order to avoid arrest. The consumer is asked to provide a bank account number, wire money, use a cash app, or put cash on a prepaid

debit card or a gift card and send it to the scammer. In some cases, the scam may be used to trick a consumer into providing sensitive personal information such as a Social Security number, date of birth, or credit card or debit card number.

This scam preys on consumers' fear of law enforcement and unfamiliarity with how the jury duty summons process works. The caller may appear to be very legitimate -- with Caller ID showing a local number with police department information and an official-sounding voice on the phone. To help consumers see through these tricks, here are some red flags to spot these scams:

- Courts almost exclusively contact consumers about jury duty or missed jury duty by postal mail, not by phone or email;
- Court officials or police departments will never shake you down for payment or personal information over the phone;
- If the call comes in the evening or at night, it's a red flag. Real

court-related calls should only come during normal business hours;

• If the caller claims to be part of a "warranty amnesty program," it's likely a scam. Such programs typically require consumers with outstanding warrants (such as for failure to appear for a court date) to reach out to the courts on their own;

• Asks to pay via wire transfer or prepaid debit card (such as MoneyPak, Venmo, iTunes, or similar cards) are almost always a sure sign of fraud.

Concerned that you may have missed a jury duty summons or court date?

Contact your local courts directly by looking up the phone number online or in the phone book and calling them yourself.

Consumers should be aware that the jury duty scam is not exclusive to phone calls, either. Scammers have been known to send threatening emails or texts, purportedly from the local court, in an effort to get a consumer to send money, provide sensitive personal information (which can lead to identity theft) or install malware.



LCFP volunteers participate in annual training

Lincoln County Food Pantry volunteers (l-r) Evelyn Norman, LCFP Treasurer, Ella Norman, LCFP Vice President Gyp Hearst Jr., Lula Crite, Paula Drew, and LCFP President Naomi Cobb participated in the required annual Golden Harvest training session via Zoom recently. Also participating but not shown Jim Stopper.

Mccastle, Wheeler earn degrees from VSU

Valdosta State University is proud to announce the members of its graduating class of Summer 2021. This includes the following area residents:

Crystal Mccastle earned the Education Specialist in Teacher Leadership and Donald Wheeler earned the Education Specialist in Coaching Pedagogy in Physical Education.

More than 550 students completed their degree requirements during Summer Semester 2021.

"I am incredibly proud of our graduates for having the dedication to overcome countless obstacles, including this ongoing global health crisis, and to finish strong and reach this significant milestone," said Dr. Richard A. Carvajal, president of VSU.

"I am similarly so proud of the world-class faculty and staff who supported these students through life-changing teaching, mentoring, advising, research, community engagement opportunities, and much more on their journey to this special day."

Established in 1906, Valdosta State University is a premier comprehensive university that offers both the extensive academic, cultural, and social opportunities of a major university and the small classes and close, personal attention of smaller institutions.

VSU boasts more than 100 degree, certificate, and endorsement programs on campus and online for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a full menu of extracurricular activities, from national championship athletic and academic teams to honors organizations, sororities and fraternities, intramural sports, educational and service clubs, a symphony orchestra, art and theatre, research opportunities, and more.

GACD is now accepting scholarship applications

Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) awards an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to encourage study and careers in soil and water conservation related fields.

Awards will be given to students majoring in, or intending to major in, a soil and water conservation related area. Acceptable areas of study include, but are not limited to, agricultural education, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, and agricultural communications. The applicant may be a high school senior, or a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student from Georgia at any accredited college, school, or university in the United States. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.75 and be in need of financial assistance. There will be no discrimination on basis of race, sex, or religion. The Scholarship Committee will determine the recipient of the annual scholarship. The scholarship winner will be recognized at the GACD Annual Meeting in 2022. Disbursements will be made in two payments of \$500 paid to the student upon receipt of proof of satisfactory completion of each of two semesters of full-time academic work.

Applications and a current transcript must be received by December 31, 2021. Please contact GACD with any questions: info@gacd.us.

The mission of GACD is to advocate for the conservation of Georgia's natural resources by providing organization, leadership and a unified strategic direction to the Conservation Districts of the state. For more information on GACD or to explore opportunities on how you can support our efforts, please visit us online at www.gacd.us or on Facebook @GACDConserve.

Ice cream social

Upcoming events at American Legion Post 194:

- Columbus Day Community Ice Cream Social, Mon., October 11, 2 p.m.
- Veteran Day Appreciation Dinner, Thurs., November 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- American Legion Holiday Arts & Crafts Boutique, Sat. & Sun., Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Post 194 events

The American Legion Post 194 announces its fall calendar of events:

- Wednesdays, 4 p.m. - Martial Arts Classes
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. - "Sit and Sew" class.
- Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. - Community happy hour.
- Fridays - Karaoke night with extended hours for Red Devil Football home game nights.
- Saturdays - Karaoke and dancing (music by request).

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 2021-15 DODGE DART RALLEY SPORT #221211C, 6 SPEED SPORT MODEL, GAS SAVER, NOW ON SALE FROM \$11,295	 2021-19 RAM 1500'S, 2500'S, LARAMIE'S 4X4 CREW CABS #221573A, 5.7 HEMI V-8'S, LEATHER, SUNROOF, NOW ON SALE FROM \$34,920	 2020 KIA TELLURIDE LX #221580A, FACTORY WARRANTY, LOW MILES, 1 OWNER CARFAX REPORT, REAR A/C, 3RD ROW SEAT, LEATHER, ON SALE FROM \$37,992	 2021-19 AUDI Q7 55 PREMIUMS PLUS QUATRO #221178A, HEATED COOLED LEATHER, 3.0 LITER, SUNROOF, LOW MILES, WARRANTY, NOW ON SALE FROM \$43,747
 2021-18 RAM CREW 4X4 LARAMIE NEW BODY STYLE #221092A, ECODIESEL, DUAL EXHAUST, 8.4 SIRIUSXM, NAVI, LEATHER, PWR SEAT, BED LINER, LOW MILES, ON SALE FROM \$41,922	 2021-20 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITEDS 4X4'S, SAHARAS, SPORT 2RDS #221635B, LEFT AND RIGHT HAND DRIVEN, HARD & SOFT TOPS, FACTORY WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM \$35,427	 2020-16 TOYOTA CAMRY SE #221756B, LEATHER, ALL POWER EQUIPMENT, GAS SAVER, NOW ON SALE FROM \$14,990	 1998 DODGE RAM 2500HD 4DR SLT #221788A, 5.9 16 CUMMINS, TURBO DIESEL, LOCAL, ONE OWNER, CLEAN CARFAX, ON SALE \$19,590
 2021-19 DODGE CHARGER R/T, SXT'S #221654A, 23K MILES, 6.2 V-8, SUPERCHARGED HEMI, WARRANTY, ON SALE FROM \$27,392	 2020-17 TOYOTA TUN-DRA CREW SR #221785A, PACKAGE, LOW MILES, WARRANTY, NOW ON SALE FROM \$26,797	 2021-18 JEEP TRAILHAWK'S #221681A, 4X2'S, 4X4'S, COMPASSES, CHEROKEES, RENEGADES, LATITUDES, LEATHER, NAVI, SUNROOF, NOW ON SALE FROM \$21,990	 2021-18 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI 4X4 CREW CAB #18376, 6.2 ENGINE, LOW MILES, NOW ON SALE FROM \$52,857
 2021-17 RAM CUMMINS DIESEL 4X4 CREW CAB BIGHORNS #221591C, LOW MILES, WARRANTY, NOW ON SALE FROM \$54,991	 2021-17 GMC YUKON DENALI #221791A, DVD, 3RD ROW, LEATHER, NAVIGATION, LOW MILES, NOW ON SALE FROM \$51,884	 2021-20 DODGE CHARGER R/T PLUS #221709A, FACTORY WARRANTY, LOW MILES, COOLED/HEATED LEATHER SEATS, CROSS BLIND SPOT PKG., HEATED REAR SEAT, ON SALE FROM \$30,390	 2021-16 NISSAN TITAN XD SL 4DR CREW 4X4 #221610D, LEATHER, NAVIGATION, ON SALE FROM \$36,927

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