



Top honors at art competition

Three LCHS art students took top honors at an artists' reception held Friday, March 12, in conjunction with the Sixth Annual Juried Student Art Competition, sponsored by the MACK in McCormick. Pictured with Katrina Bowles (far left), art teacher at LCHS, are: (l-r) Chelsey Broom, third-place winner; Chandler Goldman, second-place winner; and Hailee McQuigg, "Best in Show." The paintings will be on display at the MACK for the remainder of the month.

Preachers challenge teachers to a charity basketball game

The pastors of the Lincoln County Ministerial Association have once again challenged the faculty and staff of the Lincoln County School System to a friendly game of basketball – all in the name of charity.

Hopefully, the rematch will tip the scales one way or the other after last year's score of 52-52.

The game will be held Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the LCHS Gymnasium. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Among the All-Stars taking the court for the ministerial association are Rev. James James, pastor of Martin's Crossroads Congregational Holiness Church.

Rev. Dan Rosser, pastor of Lincoln Baptist Church; Rev. Keith Etheridge, pastor of Double Branches Baptist Church; Rev. Tom Smalley, pastor of Jones Chapel; Rev. Dennis Quinn, pastor of First Baptist Church.

Rev. Dave Hinson, pastor of Lincoln United Methodist Church; Rev. Steve Rayner, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church; and Caleb James and Rusty Scott, representing Martin's Crossroads.

The team fielded by the school system includes Kevin Blizzard, P.E.

teacher at LCES and football coach at LCHS; Shawn Davis, graduation coach at LCMS and football and JV baseball coach at LCHS.

Howie Gunby, assistant principal at LCMS; Dr. Becky Barden, LCHS principal and former P.E. teacher and basketball coach.

Chris Smalley, community tennis coach at LCHS; Billy Kirby, paraprofessional at LCMS and LCHS and football and JV baseball coach at LCHS; Kenn Barnett, teacher and football and soccer coach at LCHS.

Eddie Roberts, teacher and football and track coach at LCHS; and Christie Mattison, assistant principal at LCES and former basketball coach at LCHS.

In addition to a unique basketball game, the event will also feature creative halftime activities, under the direction of Rev. Chip Woodall, family ministries pastor at First Assembly of God Church; concessions; a few unexpected twists; and plenty of fun.

According to Rev. James James, president of the ministerial association, "Our goal is to raise funds to help people who are in need. The

money will be placed in our benevolence fund, which is used to pay light bills, water bills, and rent; purchase clothing; cover the cost of temporary housing; buy food; and provide for other needs as they arise.

"The people of Lincoln County have always shown their willingness to help others who are less fortunate. Therefore, we are not charging admission to the game. Instead, we will receive donations at the door."

Rev. James went on to say that he and the ministerial association have confidence in the people of the county. "They have big hearts; they will turn out, and they will give. They have always come through."

In closing, he said, "I would like to thank the Lincoln County Board of Education for allowing us to use the gym as well as all those who have agreed to participate in this charity event. Their generosity of spirit is much appreciated."

Last year, the association raised \$1,500 to help the people of Lincoln County.

For more information about the "Big Game," call Rev. James at 706-359-3996.

LCHS designated as AP Honor School by state superintendent

For the third consecutive year, LCHS has been designated as an AP (Advanced Placement) Honor School by State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox.

The number of honor schools jumped from 80 in 2009 to 125 this year.

"I am proud that more Georgia students than ever are challenging themselves with demanding course work and are successfully mastering the material," said Superintendent Cox. "We recognize that one of the best ways to close the achievement gap is to challenge all students with rigorous work and high expectations. Georgia is making tremendous strides with Advanced Placement."

Advanced Placement Honor Schools are recognized in three categories: AP Challenge Schools, AP Access and Support Schools, and AP Merit Schools.

LCHS is listed among the AP Challenge Schools, schools with 900 or fewer students that offer at least one AP course in each of the four traditional core areas—English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

AP classes and exams are administered by the College Board, which also oversees the SAT. These classes offer college-level learning options to students in high school. In fact, students who receive a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams may receive college credit. AP courses are weighted for HOPE eligibility.

According to the College Board's "AP Report to the Nation," Georgia currently has the 12th-highest percentage of seniors scoring a 3 or higher on AP exams.

Superintendent Cox noted that 17.8 percent of the state's students scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam during high school, which beats the national average of 15.9 percent.

"Moreover, Georgia is tied for second in the nation when comparing the five-year-increase of public school seniors scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam," said Cox.

"When it comes to public school students enrolling in AP courses and taking the exams, Georgia is a national leader," the superintendent commented.

JeRee Dukes to perform with a cappella group at Young Harris College

JeRee Dukes, a 2009 graduate of LCHS and a freshman music major at Young Harris College, will perform at the Third Annual Acapalooza Concert on Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the college's Glenn Auditorium.

Dukes is a member of "Southern Harmony," a 12-voice female cappella group under the direction of Jeff Bauman, associate professor of music and director of choral and vocal activities at Young Harris.

Also set to take the stage are the "Compulsive Lyres," a 12-voice male ensemble, also directed by Bauman. Both groups will perform their own original arrangements of popular tunes. Dukes and Southern Harmony are scheduled to sing "I Will Survive," "Let It Be," "Fields of Gold," "Morning Train," and "Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now."

The ensembles will then come together to delight the audience with songs such as James Taylor's "Lonesome Road" and the Eagles' "Seven Bridges Road."

Dukes is the daughter of Gerry and Jasper Dukes of Lincolnton.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Only one other state in the country had a greater one-year increase in the number of AP exam takers and the number of exams given. The number of AP exams taken by Georgia's public school seniors increased 3.3 percent since 2009, compared to a 1.5-percent average increase nationwide."

In other remarks, Cox stated, "We know in Georgia that we must continue to close the achievement gap, and that's why it is so important that more of our minority students take these rigorous AP courses and do well on the exams."

"The AP report shows that Georgia is a leader in minority test-takers and success. We have work left to be done, but we are making tremendous progress."

More than 23 percent of students who took an AP exam in 2008-2009 were African-American, an increase of almost one percentage point from the previous year.

The AP report further indicated that 11.4 percent of Georgia's African-American high school seniors scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam—almost eight points above the national average.

In her comments, Dr. Becky Barden, principal of LCHS, said, "One of our goals during the last few years has been to increase the number of AP courses we offer. It has been our aim to try to add at least one AP course each year to the curriculum. Our students are also given the opportunity to take AP courses online through the

Georgia Virtual School (GAVS).

"We're very honored to receive this recognition from the state school superintendent and hope to continue increasing our AP offerings," said the principal.

At the present time, the AP curriculum at LCHS features calculus, English Language/Literature, biology, statistics, music theory, psychology, and United States History on campus.

As for the online courses, GAVS offers a wide variety of AP subjects such as art history, biology, chemistry, environmental science, French, macroeconomics, microeconomics, and world history.

In 2007-2008, 578 students enrolled in 20 different online AP courses.

In additional remarks, Dr. Barden said, "Since AP courses usually have fewer students, we feel very fortunate that our board of education has been supportive of our endeavors to challenge our students."

"After spending a semester or two in college, many of these students come back and tell us how much they appreciated the AP courses. Not many Class A schools have the AP opportunities we provide."

Among the other area schools designated as AP Challenge Schools by the secretary of state were Greene County High School, Hancock Central High School, John Davidson Magnet High School, Oglethorpe County High School, and Westside High School.

Group of travel writers take in sights, sample local fare

A group of travel writers visited Lincolnton on Wednesday, March 10, on the first leg of the Clark's Hill Partnership Familiarization Tour.

While in Lincoln County, the group visited Elijah Clark State Park and then enjoyed lunch, catered by the Lincoln County Historical Society, at the Groves-May House in the Lincoln County Historical Park.

Before lunch, the writers toured the park; listened to musicians Little Roy & Lizzy, along with Barney Zellars; and viewed the works of local artist Leonard Jones.

Following lunch, the writers were treated to a presentation on Graves Mountain, which is known all over the world for the quality of its gemstones.

Those taking part in the three-day tour were Christine and G.W. Tibbetts, Bobby Hickman, Renee Wright, Doc Lawrence, Kathleen Walls, John

Nash, Randy Southerland, and John and Billie Trussell.

The writers also visited Wilkes, McDuffie, Warren, and Columbia counties.

Established in 2005, the goal of the regional partnership is to promote economic development by encouraging industrial development and the creation of jobs, marketing attendant tourism and developing new tourist attractions, supporting recreation opportunities, expanding and upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing transportation services in each of its member counties.

"Although the rainy weather failed to show off our area to its best advantage, the travel writers seemed to have a good time and learn a lot about what Lincoln County has to offer," said Ashley Banks, executive director of the Lincoln County Development Authority.

"Hopefully, we'll be seeing some articles promoting our county in the near future. Tourism means jobs and revenue for our community."

Personnel decisions

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Advisory Committee, Student Conduct, and the Student Behavior Code. No changes were made to the policies.

● Voted to enter into executive session to deliberate upon the employment of personnel. After returning from regular session, the board:

● Voted to accept the retirement of Marcia Brown from her teaching position at LCES, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

● Voted to approve Terry Stephens for a teaching and coaching contract at LCHS for the 2010-2011 school year.

The next regular meeting of the board will be held Tuesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. at the board office on Metasville Road.

Waived fees

(continued from page 1)

Lincoln County annual part pass, or rent group shelters at Cherokee Park should contact the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Office at 706-359-5523.

In his remarks, Scott Hyatt, Thurmond operations project manager for the corps, said, "This is a great partnering opportunity for the Army Corps of Engineers and Lincoln County. We look forward to a seamless transition with continued quality service for visitors as well as improvements to the Cherokee recreation area in the future."



Relay team raising funds

With the Lincoln County American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life set for the end of April, local teams are getting busy raising funds for the fight against cancer. The "Lincoln County Party" team sold hamburgers and all the trimmings at the Lincoln County Courthouse Friday, March 12. Pictured helping Bethany Keener (far left) fix a plate are: (l-r) Linda Willgus, Jim Butler, Tawanda Cullars, and Brenda Danner.

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