

**Last Day of School
for McIntosh County Schools
is Wednesday, May 26
Graduation is Friday, May 28**

McIntosh County Schools

COVID-19 Numbers:

Zero!

(as of Monday, May 17)

0 Staff Positive

0 Staff Potentially Exposed/Quarantined

0 Students Positive

0 Students Potentially Exposed/
Quarantined

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10 Pages

ONE DOLLAR

County takes steps to finance \$6.8 million recreation complex

After years of planning and the vote by local voters to utilize SPLOST funds for a new estimated \$6.8 million multi-purpose recreation complex, the McIntosh County Commission took one step closer on May 11 to make that dream a reality.

The complex will be located on property just north of McIntosh County Academy on King Swamp Road and will include baseball fields, multi-purpose football/soccer fields, a playground, walking trails, a gymnasium for multiple uses, a concession stand and parking.

On a motion by Commissioner Kelly McClellan, and a second by Kate Karwacki, and a unanimous vote including Commissioners Roger Lotson and William Harrell, the board agreed to finance through a lease-purchase agreement through the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

Terms of the loan are over a 15-year period with an interest rate of 2.33 percent. There are fees of \$90,000 associated with the loan. Payments will be made semi-annually with interest only payments due in December and principle and interest payments due in June of each year. The final payment will be made on June 1, 2036.

County Manager Patrick Zoucks explained that the annual payments will be approximately \$550,000 a year, and will be made utilizing SPLOST funds.

Commissioner William Harrell questioned what would have to happen, if voters did not approve upcoming SPLOSTs that would carry the payments through June 1, 2035. Zoucks said the funds would have to come out of the general fund, which would possibly require an increase



MCINTOSH COUNTY RECREATION COMPLEX
DARIEN, GEORGIA 31305



in the millage rate to make the payments.

Bids on the complex will be let in June and construction could begin by October, taking 12 to 18 months for completion.

Chairman David Stevens conducted the meeting and called for motions on numerous actions on the agenda.

There was a vacancy on the Blue 'n Hall Trust due to the recent passing of Lottie Ann Hawthorne. The trust was created by the Hilton and Dodge families in the 1920s to provide access to the rivers for the citizens of McIntosh County. The families asked the County Roads and Revenues Department (which is the County Commission) to appoint members to the trust, County Attorney Ad Poppell

explained.

Two members of the community applied to be appointed to the position. McClellan made the motion to appoint Niki Glenn and it was seconded by Lotson. When the vote was taken, Harrell and Karwacki voted no and the chairman voted no to break the tie.

Another motion was called and Karwacki made the motion to appoint Melvin Amerson and Harrell made the second. McClellan and Lotson voted no, and Stevens voted yes to carry the motion.

God's Oceans, LLC, a new seafood processing company located in a portion of the Coastal Regional Commission's building on Hwy. 251, requested \$70,000 from the revolving loan fund, which must be

paid back. Poppell explained that for collateral, the company had placed titles of two vehicles worth more than \$100,000 in the county's hands until the loan is repaid. The company will have a 15-year loan at three percent interest with 180 payments of \$483.41 a month.

Lotson asked of the benefit to the county, and it was explained that the company expects to create 30 jobs in the first 18 months. Lotson made a motion to approve the \$70,000 from the revolving loan fund. It was seconded by McClellan and the vote was unanimous.

Zoucks explained to the Commissioners that the county was in need of a new website.

Zoucks said, "Our

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Delays in construction, equipment, push back opening of Darien's only grocery store

In mid-April, when BLO was closing its doors, Roxane and James McKinzie announced they had negotiated to lease the property and open a new, locally-owned grocery store, The Coastal Market. It was hoped at that time that the reopening could take a month or so.

James said on Monday, May 17, "We are working every day. I have painters, concrete people and refrigeration people going at it. But, we have experienced some problems on lead times on refrigeration equipment that is setting us back.

"Right now, I would say we are four to five weeks behind. The contractors are really busy, so it has proven to be difficult to get them on the job ex-

actly when we need them. Contractors are a couple of weeks out. Everyone is so busy with multiple jobs."

James said, "All in all, we are moving forward. We are doing a lot of painting and redesign on the sales floor. We have removed shelving that our management team and our food wholesaler decided we didn't need. We are redesigning the beer and wine section, as well as the produce section, and we are removing some outdated equipment."

"We have been asked so many times when are we going to open and I wish I could give a really good answer. But we are hop-

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Megan Rist named STAR Student with 1310 SAT; Amanda Nix is STAR Teacher



Megan Rist, left, is MCA's STAR Student and she chose Amanda Nix as her STAR Teacher.

Megan Rist, MCA senior, achieved the honor of being named the STAR Student for scoring the highest in her graduating class of 1310 (610 Reading and 700 Math) on Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). And, the Georgia Tech-bound student to major in Computer Engineering, chose her English Language Arts teacher, Amanda Nix, as her STAR Teacher.

Megan began taking college classes in her sophomore year at MCA and will be able to begin her Georgia Tech studies as a second semester sophomore. Her favorite hobby is computer programming. "I find it fun," she said. She isn't sure she wants to go into computer science or computer engi-

neering. And, why would the math/science wiz choose her ELA teacher as her STAR Teacher?

Megan said, "There are many reasons I chose Mrs. Nix. The first thing that came to mind was how many years I have had her as a teacher—three of the four years in high school. Another reason was when I first came to MCA, English was my absolutely worst subject. I didn't like it very much. Over the years, I have learned to like it a lot more than I used to. Now my worst favorite subject is history. I can't remember dates."

The STAR Student explained further, "My main reason for choosing Mrs. Nix is the

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Weekly Bible Verse

*Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.*

Romans 12:12 NIV

Moon Phases

First Quarter: May 19
Full Moon: May 26
Last Quarter: May 3
New Moon: May 11

High Tide Times

Wednesday, May 19	Saturday, May 22	Tuesday, May 25
1:55 a.m., 2:34 p.m.	4:47 a.m., 5:27 p.m.	7:37 a.m., 8:12 p.m.
Thursday, May 20	Sunday, May 23	Wednesday, May 26
2:52 a.m., 3:31 p.m.	5:45 a.m., 6:23 p.m.	8:30 a.m., 9:04 p.m.
Friday, May 21	Monday, May 24	Thursday, May 27
3:50 a.m., 4:29 p.m.	6:42 a.m., 7:18 p.m.	9:24 a.m., 9:58 p.m.