

BOE recognizes Young Georgia Authors

(continued from page 1) she said. SPLOST collections were \$66,084, which is above the budgeted amount, as has been the trend for the past few months. "If we collect around that level in March, we'll have our \$600,000 that we put in the budget and still have three more months of the year, so the SPLOST is doing quite well," Bufford said.

The balance of the SPLOST account is \$509,266.72, with the bond tax balance of \$985,289.01, and \$1,494,555.73 available for the future bond payments.

"Our payment is due April 1 in the amount of \$1,141,862.50, which will leave over \$350,000 in the account once the bond payment is made," the director explained.

There was no change to capital projects, which still has \$52,544 available for future use.

Additionally, Bufford reviewed principals' accounts for each school.

After the report, Chairman Jason LeRoy noted that he sat in on an audit last week and explained that "there were no findings to the system." He thanked Bufford and the financial team for yet another job well done.

In other business, Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light presented a "discipline report" to the board that covered each school within the system for the years 2019-2021.

The report detailed disciplinary referrals for the local system and the state and included a breakdown of offenses such as "classroom dis-

ruptions," "bus conduct," "student incivility," "electronic violations," and other small, yet typical issues.

There were no outrageous cases, and according to Light, roughly one percent of students habitually cause disruptions and commit the majority of offenses.

The board also voted for district legislative delegate and alternate to attend GSBA Delegate Assembly meetings. Chris Heitmann was named delegate and Jim Mattison the alternate.

Next, the board discussed the possibility of implementing new board norms and protocols as guidelines to follow, which were described as being mostly "common sense" by LeRoy.

A Covid-19 update for the Lincoln County School System was given by Light, who presented a chart of exposures and positive cases to the board.

In the month of February, 18 employees were directly exposed with five positive cases and there were 207 students directly exposed with only 12 positive cases.

As of March 9, those numbers dropped with two employees being directly exposed and no positive cases, and 17 students being directly exposed with only one positive case.

"Our numbers are low, we're very blessed," Light said, adding that regardless of the illness, be it Covid, the flu, or anything else, that parents please keep their sick children at home.

Following the update, Light then awarded each board member with a

certificate from GSBA in honor of "school board appreciation week," which is an annual recognition.

In other celebratory news, the superintendent was happy to announce that not one, but two, Lincoln County teachers are the recipients of the WJBF News Channel Six "Golden Apple" award. Pre-k teacher Elizabeth Arthur was awarded last week, and LCHS special education teacher Keri Ball was the recipient this week.

More exciting news was the recognition of the Lincoln County Schools Young Georgia Author system winners for 2021. A child from each grade level was selected as a winner and included Kansas Corey in kindergarten; Bennett Crook, first grade; Cornelius McDowell, second grade; Larsen Turner, third grade; Lillie Bradford, fourth grade; Caden Crenshaw, fifth grade; Janiah Norman, sixth grade; Brooklyn Seagraves, seventh grade; Hannah Norman, eighth grade; Piper Buller, ninth grade; Leslie Turnbull, 10th grade; Charlotte Hodnett, 11th grade; and Reginald Reid, 12th grade.

After Executive Session, the board voted to award contracts to new teachers and administrators at LCES, LCMS, and LCHS for the upcoming school year.

The retirement of Heather Riley was accepted by the board, as was the resignation of LCHS coach Parker Martin.

Mary Wideman was hired as a substitute bus driver and Eldridge Wynn was hired as a substitute teacher.



Drive-through mobile food distribution set for March 25

The Lincoln County Food Pantry held its bi-weekly drive-through mobile food distribution last Thursday, March 11. Volunteers distributed bags filled with a variety of canned vegetables, assorted paper products, bottled water, and orange juice along with a whole chicken, fish nuggets, swiss cheese slices, and cheddar cheese sticks.

The partnership with the Lincoln County School District and Camp Lakeside continues with Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light delivering 150 additional bags filled with kid-friendly items which were distributed to families with children.

The next drive through mobile food distribution will be held from 10 a.m.-noon on Thursday, March 25, at the Firetower Road location.

Board approves Phase 2 of agricultural building

(continued from page 1) manufactured housing and allows for recreational vehicles only. Also removed was that the individual must be an immediate family member. The change would allow for anyone, whether directly related or not, to apply for the permit.

The final change would require that the recreational vehicle be removed within 90 days of the termination of the medical hardship, instead of the previous six-months for manufactured homes.

Seymour indicated that the installation and removal of manufactured housing presents a financial hardship to families, and that the changes will simplify the process for those requiring the permit.

Commissioner's approved the Phase 2 Budget of \$49,000 presented by Seymour for the Lincoln County Agricultural Building, which will cover the cost of completing the second half of the 6,400-square-foot facility. The proposed budget includes electrical, plumbing, HVAC, sheetrock, floor covering, networking and telephones, and painting.

The facility currently houses the Lincoln County Extension Office and 4-H offices. SPLOST funds would be used to cover the cost of finishing out the building.

Seymour pointed out that the approximately \$338,000 in funding for the facility came from state and USDA grants, no local funding has been used until this point.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved the extension of the confinement services agreement with Fort Gordon. The agreement extends the current contract to house and feed Fort Gordon soldiers in the Lincoln County Law Enforcement Center until the end of 2021. According to the contract, Fort Gordon agrees to pay \$70 per day, per inmate.

- Accepted the Federal Transportation Administrations grant in the amount of \$59,958, with the county providing matching funds for Lincoln Leisure Services.

- Approved the purchase of shelving units for the Lincoln County Public Library in the amount of \$7,993.22, which will be covered by the Dova Partridge Fund.

- Hired EMI Engineering Management to provide the Risk Assessments and Emergency Response Plans for the county at a cost, not to exceed \$8,000.

- Approved a special use request from Southern Cleaning Products for a front setback variance and a special use request from Richard Brian Ligon for five campsite privileges.

- Agreed to continue its cooperative agreement with the Georgia Forestry Commission at an annual fee of \$8,158.

- Approved the \$450 membership fee to re-join the National Association of Counties.

- Signed the Joint Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation resolution.

- Agreed to a request by Jeff and Sheri Easter for sponsorship of the annual Homecoming at the Lewis Family Homeplace in May. The \$1,000 donation will come out of the hotel/motel tax.

- Accepted the ACCG-Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund cash return in the amount of \$11,991. The monies will be distributed back to the appropriate departments.

- Signed the COBRA Continu-

ation Coverage Administrative Services Agreement between the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia.

- Voted not to approve the request by Lincoln County Board of Elections Director Lilvender Bolton to pay "hazard pay" to staff and poll workers out of received grant funds.

Commissioners reviewed departmental reports including the Office of Emergency Services report which included calls answered for the month of February, at 96 transports, 48 EMS NPU's, six fires, and two rescues, with an average response time of 10 minutes.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department report indicated that registration for Little League ended on February 26. Justin Ashmore and Steven Warrant have agreed to be the active president and vice president of the Lincoln County Little League for 2021. Paul Bailey has signed on as an active member of the board and Jennifer Cook will act as secretary.

The recreation department has agreed to network with the local Y Food Program to help feed children in the community. The Family YMCA Camp Lakeside will drop off 50 meals every other Friday at the gymnasium beginning February 26. Meals will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

The Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement Office report showed that 5 new single family home permits were issued; three manufactured home move out permits; two commercial; nine alterations/renovation/addition permits; six accessory permits; 10 electrical; eight HVAC; two plumbing;

and two well service/temp pole/irrigation permits were all issued totaling \$7,724.50 for the month of February.

The Public Works Water Report for the month of February showed a total of \$84,855.77 collected, which covers water, sewer, and available customer setup and tap fees.

The department installed four service connections and repaired five leaks on the system; performed continued maintenance on hydrants, valves, and meters; and performed maintenance on the Savannah Bay and Pointe Shores water systems.

The next regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 8.



Ball presented with Golden Apple Award

Lincoln County Middle/High School special education teacher Keri Ball was presented with the Golden Apple Award by WJBF News Channel 6 and partners. Ball's interview aired on Tuesday, March 16 and can be viewed on the WJBF website.



LCES first-graders walk the runway

An "Adjectives Fashion Show" at Lincoln County Elementary School, a product of the first-grade teachers, was a fun way to end a unit on adjectives. Students were required to write a script containing at least five adjectives describing the outfits they chose to model while taking a stroll down the catwalk. Participating in Colbi Dunsmore's class were (front row, l-r) Cayden Schmidt, Hayden McKellar, Memphis Ingram, Alarie Gresham, Joshua Floyd, Hunter Fraley, Jontavious Partlow, Ethan Parton, Davis Dunn, Bennett Crook, Wade Partridge, (back) Lynnley Goldman, Ruby Smith, Madison Crite, Joiyah Tutt, Carly Burton, Ally Wortz, Josie Dion, Karlee De'Angelo, Ansley Martin, and Saylor Newsome.



Students in Jennifer Banks' class included (l-r) Kingston Walton, Ella Jane McDonald, Carmen Leverett, Travon Robinson, Makayla Murray, Aniah Crouse, Audree Colley, Mackenzie Arington, Kolton Kress, Erin Thompson, Adem Hadzic, Bria King, Mason Leech, Mason Dunsmore, Easton Kea, Zander Drake, and Layla Wood.



Students in Lanny Phillips' class were (front row, l-r) Rebecca Gilchrist, Sarai Jones, Neveah Zellars, Trinity McGahee, Chloe McCorkle, Kensley Barksdale, Madison Orr, (back) Emeka Burton, Jase Romines, Kolton Norman, Dravon Goodlet, Levi Lightfoot, Harper Hilton, Chauncey Kinlow, Darren Palmer, and Roman Rivera.



Students in Nicole Williamson's class were (front row, l-r) Michael Howard, Avary Morris, Diamond Brim, McKenzie Reed, Suzi Wallace, Bradford McWhorter, (back) Jackson Kattgat, Rendy Thompson, Hunter Williams, Brayden Moates, Haven McAvoy, John Walker Norman, and Charlie Young.

DPH reports on COVID-19 cases; register for vaccine at ecphd.com

Lincoln County had its twenty-second reported COVID-19 fatality according to the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) website as of Monday, March 15.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County increased to 494 with twenty-two reported fatalities as of the 3 p.m. posting by the Georgia Department of Public Health on Monday.

Neighboring Wilkes County lists 659 cases and seventeen deaths, McDuffie County reports 1597 cases and 38 deaths, Columbia lists 10,665 cases and 155 deaths, and Richmond County reports 18,949 cases and 371 deaths.

Also reported as of 3 p.m. Monday, 836,344 Georgians had tested positive for COVID-19. Of those patients, 57,383 were hospitalized, and 15,918 deaths have been reported.

To register for the vaccine in Lincoln County, go online to ecphd.com [East Central Public Health District] to register. After going through a questionnaire process, you can choose your county or put in a radius from your location. You can then choose your time and place for a vaccine appointment.

The online system gives people the opportunity to see where appointments are available around them so they can choose their preferred travel options. It also provides for email or text confirmations and reminders. There is no waiting for a callback - pre-screening, date and time are all

handled online.

Anyone not meeting the eligibility criteria right now, it will not allow them to make an appointment.

For those without internet access or who are just no computer-savvy, call 706-721-5800.

Thomson Twin Cinema

CLOSED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE
DUE TO
COVID-19

706-595-7317