

THE POLK COUNTY
STANDARD JOURNAL

A Combined edition of the Cedartown Standard and the Rockmart Journal

PROGRESSIVELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF POLK COUNTY SINCE 1869

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

CEDARTOWN ♦ ROCKMART ♦ ARAGON

Volume 150 ♦ Number 26 ♦ 75¢

Pay study work to delay budget

By Kevin Myrick
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.com

The Polk County Commission will be pushing back when they'll approve a 2020 fiscal year budget to their August meeting in order to finish up work on a change in the pay scale for employees that began in 2018.

A long-awaited pay study remains in draft form from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, but it getting close enough to completion for Commissioners to begin discussing how to implement their proposed new pay scale for employees and where funds will come from to ensure the county budget can cover the price tag of between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million.

Those figures proposed by County Manager Matt Denton during a June 11 budget work session set to discuss the pay study doesn't include the additional money that would be needed to fund increases for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

For now, the county will operate under a continuing resolution as they have in the past few years to settle budget numbers for the coming year, and to figure out whether a millage rate increase will be required as well for the coming tax bills.

Commissioners settled on a plan to

SEE STUDY, A15

Aragon council approves new attorney hire

By Sean Williams
swilliams1799@yahoo.com

As Aragon bids farewell to long-time city attorney Zachary Burkhalter, they welcome Frank Beacham in his place.

The Brinson, Askew and Berry attorney out of Rome is a partner in the law firm with long experience within the legal system including a stint as a clerk for the Honorable Harold L. Murphy, United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Beacham was given unanimous approval from the city council during their recent regular session following Burkhalter's departure. This marks the third attorney the council has employed since 2014. Previously, Vickey Atkins held the post of city attorney.

It should be noted that, while neither Beacham nor Burkhalter were present, Mayor Garry Baldwin and the council members did have supervision from a guest attorney during the June 20 meeting to ensure legal ethicality.

SEE ARAGON, A6



Sean Williams

The Mobile Dairy Classroom was brought out to Chick-fil-A in Rockmart for Ag Day on June 21.

AG DAY HELD AT CHICK-FIL-A

Rockmart restaurant hosts fun for youth, camp out

By Sean Williams
swilliams1799@yahoo.com

The Georgia Farm Bureau and Chick-Fil-A Rockmart recently joined hands to make Community Ag Day a reality in Polk, and dozens of locals gathered at the restaurant for a day of educational activities and lessons.

The events were held across five different stations- each focused on a different aspect of agriculture and livestock. As children zipped between each, they got a chance to learn about the life cycle of chickens, make their own butter, learn how to plant seeds, take a food safety tour inside of Chick-Fil-A, and watch a cow get milked inside the Mobile Dairy Classroom.

Volunteers and staff from the bureau were present to teach about the various topics, but the kids also got hands-on, practical experience at each station. Instead of



Sean Williams

Indoor learning activities were part of the fun for local youth at Ag Day at Chick-fil-A on June 21.

just watch the butter be made, children could be seen shaking and stirring it on their own, and there was even a chance for families to sit inside a few farm-based vehicles.

SEE AG DAY, A6

Meeting coming up Thursday for public comment on Cedartown bridge replacement

Staff reports

Plans will be available for view and people will be allowed to record their comments for the record in an upcoming session being hosted by the Georgia Department of Transportation's plan to replace the bridge on North Main Street.

The public detour open house to discuss the Georgia DOT's additional need to flow traffic around the proposed construction project off Main Street and on to other corridors available



Contributed

The area above marked out by the Georgia Department of Transportation accounts for the full area of road and bridge the state intends to replace and will require a detour around.

to drivers. The event is scheduled for Thursday,

June 27 from 5 until 7 p.m. at Cedartown City Hall, located at 201 East Avenue..

Local residents interested in learning more about the proposed project are encouraged to attend the meeting and express their thoughts and preferences.

"We would like to hear the viewpoints and concerns of all area residents," says Grant Waldrop, district engineer at the Georgia DOT office in White in a press release.

SEE BRIDGE, A2

Pair found dead at Cleo Street home in Cedartown

By Kevin Myrick
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.com

Neighbors gathered around the last house on Cleo Street in Cedartown last Wednesday evening after a woman was found dead inside a home and a man out in the yard.

According to a release from the City of Cedartown, Stephanie Lopez, 22, and Tevin Frazier, 25, both of Cedartown died of gunshot wounds at 1019 Cleo Street on Wednesday, June 19. Both were pronounced dead on the scene by personnel from the Polk County Coroner's Office around 6 p.m., Coroner Tony Brazier reported.

Both Lopez and Frazier's

bodies were transported to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab for autopsies, Brazier added. Funeral arrangements weren't available at the time this story was completed. The city's release reported that an investigation is ongoing as law enforcement officers continue to piece together the sequence of events that lead to the deaths. However, Newsome explained that due to the circumstances no suspects were being sought following the shooting by police. Newsome said that a call was placed to Polk 911 at approximately 6 p.m. in reference to a woman being



Kevin Myrick

Women console each other while police investigate after two people were found dead — a woman inside and a man outside — a Cleo Street home in Cedartown around 6 p.m.

SEE SHOOTING, A3



Contact:

770-748-1520

NEWS/SPORTS
KMyrick@polkstandardjournal.com
CLASSIFIEDS
BEasterwood@polkstandardjournal.com
LEGAL ADS
SJLegals@polkstandardjournal.com
ADVERTISING
SHouston@polkstandardjournal.com
www.polkstandardjournal.com

Local gas prices

Cedartown
\$2.39

Rockmart
\$2.49

© 2019 Times-Journal Inc.

INDEX

A4	Commentary
A7	Obituaries
A10	Lifestyle
A12	Events Calendar
A14	Entertainment
B1	Sports

AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Cedartown Farmer's Market has a new location and time for the 2019 season. Market-goers are invited to come out to the corner of Ware and South Main Street in Cedartown starting this past Tuesday, June 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. Contact Five Cedars Farm to participate at 678-246-1216 to learn more about becoming a vendor.

Fairview Baptist Church of Rockmart is hosting their one-day "Moose on the Loose" Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome to join in the celebrations at 881 Fairview Road.

The 100 Black Men of Rome-Northwest Georgia is set to hold their 25th anniversary gala on Saturday, June 29 at the Forum River Center in Rome starting with a social hour at 7 p.m., and a program from 8 to 10 p.m. A grand party concludes the evening at 1 a.m. featuring musician/saxophonist Mike Philips. Gala tickets are \$100 and includes dinner and the grand party following. All proceeds will go towards our programs such as Mentoring, Health & Wellness, Foundation Camp, Education, Robotics, and Economic Empowerment. For more information, sponsorships, or tickets contact Rayford Horne at 678-231-5361 or James Lee at 706-936-6159 or go to <http://www.100bmor.org/gala.html>.

SEE CALENDAR, A12