

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, January 2, 2019

CEDARTOWN ♦ ROCKMART ♦ ARAGON

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Paper celebrates 150 years in 2019

Staff reports

It's time to celebrate a big birthday in the newsroom here at the Standard Journal as the paper – in one form or another – celebrates its sesquicentennial year.

Well, technically. Maybe a brief history lesson on newspapers here in town will help clarify matters some.

According to Larry D. Carter's "Polk County, Ga: The First One Hundred Years," the Cedartown Standard began in 1869 under the helm of Dr. William Bradford, who operated the newspaper as *The Advertiser*.

It was sold to D.B. Freeman – a former mayor of Cedartown – turned around and sold it again after a brief stay in town, and moved on to Cartersville. It wasn't until the 1880s the paper was bought by Montgomery M. Folson, changed the name to the Cedartown Standard and began semiweekly publication in 1888.

It changed hands to a young man named Charles Langworthy, then again to W.S. Coleman and E.B. Russell.

The Standard continued in publication over several decades into the modern era and through additional ownership changes, and was in the 1980s eventually made part of the News Publishing Company. It was later bought out several years ago by Times Journal Inc. out of Marietta.

These days, the Standard is a combined edition with the Rockmart Journal, which also wasn't the first paper on the eastern side of the county.

The Rockmart Slate started two decades after the Standard in 1889, and was in competition with *The Rockmart Courier*, *the Rockmart News* and *The Art Craft Free Press*. Many of the papers stuck around though the 1920s and 30s, but eventually the battle came down between *the Rockmart Journal* and *the Rockmart News*. The Journal won out, and eventually also became part of News Publishing Company in the 1980s, and then Times Journal Inc. just a few years ago.

Owners, publishers, editors and reporters have all come and gone from Polk County over the years, but what has remained throughout all the time is a passion for the news business and continued involvement in community affairs of all kind. Though change is inevitable when it comes to how readers get their news as well with the Standard Journal being published both online and in print these days, what doesn't change is the value of being informed in what is happening throughout Polk County.

The commitment to excellence in bringing stories from all corners of the area remains here at the Standard Journal as the staff celebrates in 2019. Join us as we look back on stories from years past published in the papers on a weekly basis throughout 2019.

Readers can also contribute submissions of their favorite stories or items that they thought mattered by contacting Editor Kevin Myrick at kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.net.



Big Cedar Creek next to Goodyear Park in Cedartown was well above its usual banks after rainfall moved out of the area on Friday, Dec. 28. More rain was in the forecast for the start of 2019. / Kevin Myrick

Year closes with lots of rain

Staff reports

No one needs to start building any arks just yet in Polk County, but as 2018 came to an end it sure felt like it might be time to start sizing up the trees in the backyard for a make-shift raft.

Wet weather once again moved into the area for another round of washing out the gullies and sending millions of gallons downstream as the county was on track for maybe not a record-breaking year, but surely one of the wettest in recent memory.

At least that's the case for local weather observer Van McKelvey, who checks his rain gauge for the National Weather Service each morning to record a tally.

"I've been doing this for about 25 years, and I can't remember a year

with this much rain," he said.

After all, based on his measurements as of Dec. 27 before press time, the county was on track to break 80 inches of rain. McKelvey recorded 74.07 inches over the 12 month period, without a single month this year that didn't have some sort of wet weather. Even during some of the drier months of the year, Polk County got at least an inch.

August and November ended up breaking the 10-inch mark in rainfall, with the former getting most of that in just the first two days with nearly 8 inches of rain falling on Polk County as July came to a close and the latter spread out over the month.

The impact of wet weather on Polk County over the year past meant cancellation or rescheduling of

outdoor events, damage of all kinds to property, and of course one big problem: trees falling all over.

When Polk County previously went through droughts, it did irreparable damage to the root systems of many of the trees provide foliage and shade around the area. Now those trees are beginning to tumble down due to wet soil, gusting winds during storms and causing all kinds of problems.

Just last week, a large tree that fell in the middle of Cave Spring Road blocked traffic in both directions near Friendship Road during early morning commutes, forcing drivers to find an alternative path toward work. It's just one of many that were lost to the shift in the weather this year.

SEE RAIN, A2

Stories to look for as new year starts

Staff reports

Ok, there's no crystal ball here in the newsroom of the Polk County Standard Journal. But as 2018 came to a close and 2019 was set to open, it allowed for some time to evaluate some stories that haven't quite finished out during the year as it closed.

What are some things that Polk County can expect to see in 2019? Here's a quick rundown of some items that local residents will likely read about in the months ahead:

Move early in the year for Cedarstream

When Cedarstream set out to move in the latter half of 2017, their goal was to be out of their downtown Cedartown workspace in



Work on Cedarstream's new headquarters in the Northside Industrial Park should be wrapping up as 2019 begins. / Kevin Myrick

late 2018. They broke ground some months later than expected, and then weather got in the way some more throughout the nearly year of construction at the Northside Industrial Park site that will be the printing company's new headquarters.

As the work on the building was wrapping up late in 2018, the company was still printing away into the holiday season downtown and slightly past their target date. January looks to be the month they move according to Cedartown city officials,

probably late in the month depending on how the weather shapes up as the year begins.

No word yet on what exactly plans are for Cedarstream's current home on Main Street.

Popeye's Chicken opening soon

It's probably a no-brainer that the work on Popeye's Chicken in Rockmart is wrapping up, and hopefully will be opening in the early months of the year.

We don't expect the wait to be very long as construction was coming along despite wet weather at a good pace.

Hopes are that they'll open to the customers before the end of the month.

SEE PREDICTIONS, A3

Tallapoosa Circuit Drug Court thanks St. James ladies at annual Christmas party

The Tallapoosa Circuit Drug Court's annual Christmas party saw the ladies of St. James Episcopal Church being honored for their 14 years of volunteer service providing a feast for participants.



Staff reports

In the past years as the Tallapoosa Circuit Drug Court developed first under Judge Richard Sutton's leadership, then under Judge Meng Lim, there was always a common presence from year-to-year during the holidays.

That was thanks to the efforts of the ladies at St. James Episcopal Church putting in the effort and time buying, preparing, and delivering the Christmas party food for drug court participants annually.

In 2018, the drug court honored those who have served

over the past 14 years from the church in helping with the holiday party with a special treat of their own during the Dec. 14 event.

Thank you cards and roses went to Hazl Brumby; her daughter Paige, Francis Gresley, and Beam Sutton for their efforts over the years of providing a big feast at the Goodyear Civic Center in Cedartown for Drug Court participants. The group also gave a special thanks to Vickie Bradshaw for her help as well.

SEE PARTY, A5



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Local gas prices

Cedartown

\$2.00

Rockmart

\$2.09

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AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Need help with the bills during the winter, and are a senior? Tallatoona CAP will begin accepting appointments for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for Senior Households 65 & older and Homebound Households. Appointments for the General Public will be accepted beginning in December. Appointments are provided on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted. Polk County residents who qualify will receive either \$310.00 or \$350.00 toward their heating bill (heating source). To schedule an appointment or to request a homebound appointment, visit our website at www.tallatoonacap.org and click BookNow, or call 770-817-4666.

The Polk County Democratic Committee Meets on the second Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. In the "even" months (February, April, June, August, etc.) the organization meets at The Rockmart Library at 316 N. Piedmont Ave., Rockmart and during the "odd" months (January, March, etc.) they meet at the Cedartown Welcome Center, 609 Main St., Cedartown, GA 30125.

The Care Giver's Support Group is being formed for support for care givers in the Rockmart and Aragon communities. The location

SEE CALENDAR, A8