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PROGRESSIVELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF POLK COUNTY SINCE 1869

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# GDOT hosts locals for bridge meeting

Replacement of North Main Street bridge still several years off as opening comments are being gathered

By Kevin Myrick

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Officials from the Georgia Department of Transportation were joined by several from the City of Cedartown as well as the public came out to hear from officials themselves on plans for replacing the bridge on North Main Street.

It's still several years away from the start of construction, but the goal of the session was to start a process of figuring out the best way to detour around the construction, yet also allow access to local businesses for customers long acquainted with filling a prescription at Bradford Drugs on one side of the construction, or grab-

bing a pie at Pizza Hut on the other when the project starts.

Officials at the meeting from GDOT reported the replacement project isn't in their budget until the 2023 cycle, giving the city and state four years of planning and staging the bridge replacement ahead.

SEE BRIDGE, A8



Kevin Myrick

Local citizens talked with officials like Cedartown Commission Chair Matt Foster during an evening event organized by the Georgia Department of Transportation to provide information and comment time on a forthcoming North Main Street bridge replacement project.



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Cedartown  
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## Here's places to find fireworks tonight and Thursday night

Staff reports

This week marks the celebration of the nation's independence, and the extravaganza of fireworks, barbecues and more started over the weekend with fun in and around Polk County.

But the local fireworks won't be popping until later in the month when the annual Home-spun 2019 wraps up on Saturday, July 20. So where's someone to go when they want to watch the spectacle of the bombs bursting in air? Here's a quick rundown of where to go today and tomorrow around Polk County:

### In Rome tonight:

The free Independence Day celebration in Rome — Patriotic Party in the Park — is scheduled from noon to 11 p.m. today, July 3, in Ridge Ferry Park.

The Armuchee Ruritan Car Show, food vendors and inflatables area will open first. Craft vendors will be set up by 3 p.m. and registration for the games starts at 4 p.m. The hula hoop and cornhole contests begin at 5:30 p.m.

After the inflatables area closes at 6:30 p.m., the

SEE FIREWORKS, A8

## Aragon man dies in reported accidental fire

By Kevin Myrick

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The office of the Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner for the state reported a fire that killed an Aragon man was started by accident.

The agency reported that around midnight Wednesday, June 26, Polk County Fire Department responded to a residential fire at 11 E. Third St. in Aragon. When emergency personnel made their way inside the home, they found the body of Robert Eugene Brinkley, 83, of Aragon.

According to the release, the fire originated in the living room where it is believed the victim was smoking while oxygen was in use.

The home suffered extensive damage from the blaze.

Polk County Coroner Tony Brazier said Brinkley was pronounced dead on the scene by Chief Deputy Coroner Marty Robinson shortly after 2 a.m. last Wednesday.

The intensity of the flames were such that firefighters were unable to make entry into the home and attempt to rescue Brinkley.

They found his body when they were able to contain the

SEE FIRE, A3



Kevin Myrick

Local and state officials gathered with contractors to celebrate the official start of the Cornelius Moore Field Runway Extension project.

# Airport work ready for take off

County, state leaders gather to celebrate start of runway extension project

By Kevin Myrick

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When all is said and done, Cornelius Moore Field will have a full 5,000 feet of runway for planes to fly in and out of Polk County in a project that began last year with an announcement from former Governor Nathan Deal.

More than a year later, the money Deal promised to help Polk and 10 other airport projects around the state is being put to use. Local and state officials gathered with contractors to mark the official start of Polk County's project in a groundbreaking ceremony held on June 25.

The project proposed by the former governor in early 2018 saw Deal coming to Cornelius Moore Field to sign an amended state budget to include some \$25 million in funding to go toward the projects around the state.

Polk County's runway extension is set to cost around \$8 million, most of that coming from

"We're excited to see what's going to happen with Polk County's economic development and what the future holds for us," Hulsey said. "This project is the combination of federal, state and local funds and all those entities working together to make it happen."

She added that none of it would have been possible without the help of several state officials, including



Kevin Myrick

A mix of local and state officials listened in as Commission Chair Jennifer Hulsey talked about the positives to come from the runway extension at Cornelius Moore Field.

Deal's decision in his final year to earmark money for runway improvements not just in Polk County, but at several others around the state and mainly targeting rural areas.

That sentiment was echoed by State Representative Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown) who spoke about the positive aspects of the project and how it will allow new opportunities to arise locally.

"As we have already seen throughout the community, progress has been made to improve economic development. The extension of the runway here at Cornelius Moore Field will certainly only add to that," Kelley said.

He added that ahead of the ceremony, he spoke with a local business he

didn't specifically name at the event and found them excited by the prospect of a longer runway that will accommodate most business-sized jets, like those from Gulfstream or Learjet.

"We have a great story to tell in Polk County, and by allowing new types of transportation to land at our field it allows us to touch down here," he said. "It will open Polk County up to the world and help us better tell our story, and all the progress being made in Polk County."

Kelley added he was also thankful to work with local officials to "get this project done."

SEE RUNWAY, A7

# Bradford Drugs owner celebrates 30 years

Staff reports

Bradford Drug and Gifts has been around Cedartown in one form or another for decades, whether it be in their original location downtown on Main Street or where it resides today at the corner of North Main Street and Girard Avenue can mark it as a landmark.

Through all that time, the drug store has seen different owners come and go. For the past 30 years as of Monday after press time for the print edition, Bill Brewster has been that man in charge.

The Cedartown native who came back home took ownership of the store on July 1, 1989, and it remains a decision he was thankful he made.

"I always had a desire to buy a store like this," Brewster said. He added that it was his chance to "get an independent store like this one" and in his



Kevin Myrick

The staff of Bradford Drugs and Gifts in Cedartown gathered for a photo to celebrate the 30th anniversary of ownership by Bill Brewster.

SEE BRADFORD, A2

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### 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.

The First Baptist Church of Cedartown is hosting a Patriotic Celebration Worship Service on Sunday, June 30 at 11 a.m. Blessed is the Nation whose God is Lord, and the church plans to live in that spirit as they will recognize servicemen from each branch of the service. Come and be a part of this Patriotic Service!

Summer Fun Day is coming to One Door Polk for local families and youth on Thursday, July 11, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., specifically tailored toward children birth to third grade. Want to volunteer? Contact admin@polkcouncil.com for more information.

Vacation Bible School is coming up at First Baptist Church of Cedartown on July through July 12. This year's theme is "In the Wild." The ending celebration of VBS will be held during Sunday morning services on July 14. Register at fbccedartown.org.

SEE CALENDAR, A10