

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

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CEDARTOWN ♦ ROCKMART ♦ ARAGON

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**PSD approves safety policy to increase in campus security**

By Sean Williams  
swilliams1799@yahoo.com

The Polk County Board of Education is keeping the well-being of students and staff their top priority, and the group's newly approved safety policy sees a large focus on the prevention of violence and terror.

"This is a brand new safety policy," Superintendent Lauri Atkins said. "It laid on the table for 30 days. We did have one revision and one correction."

In the document, officially known as Policy EBB, the board acknowledges their responsibility in providing a safe learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors who spend time in the district's schools and vehicles. The policy suggests the best way to honor that responsibility is promoting a culture of awareness.

"The most effective action we can take is to create a culture of awareness and a responsibility to report by staff, students, parents, law enforcement community, and mental health providers," the

SEE PSD, A6

**Cedartown approves agreement for new solar farm**

By Kevin Myrick  
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.net

Inman Solar will soon be adding more electrical generating capacity to the City of Cedartown.

Cedartown City Commissioners during their April session voted to approve measures to move forward with an intergovernmental agreement between the city and the Cedartown Development Authority to transfer 21 acres of city-owned property for use as a new solar farm.

The land, adjacent to the former state detention center that remains empty between Sixth and Tenth streets, will be leased for \$25,000 annually.

City Manager Bill Fann said the planned solar farm will be "four times the size of those we've done previously."

"It'll interconnect with Georgia Power's lines on Sixth or Tenth Street, we're not sure about that yet," Fann said.

SEE SOLAR, A2



Kevin Myrick

Polk School District officials, Board of Education members and local community partners all gathered for the official ribbon cutting at the Polk County College and Career Academy Agricultural Facility on April 12, 2019.

**PSD celebrates Ag building grand opening**

By Kevin Myrick  
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.net

There's a new facility for students to utilize within the Polk School District now coming open for business for the first time after months of construction wrapped up and gave officials the chance to see the new Agricultural Facility at Rockmart High School inside and out.

Students won't officially be moved into the building and using it full time until the start of the coming calendar year after the summer

break ends, but that doesn't mean they won't get a chance to enjoy all the space they now have to become better farmers in the future.

Polk School District officials invited community leaders to come and celebrate the opening of the new Polk County College and Career Academy Agricultural Facility on the campus of Rockmart High School during an April 12 luncheon and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Superintendent Laurie Atkins heaped praises upon Board of Education members, the Polk County

Cattlemen's Association, R.K.R. Construction and most importantly of all, the agriculture students who the facility was built to help increase their opportunities in the years to come.

"This building will be a multipurpose building," Atkins said during opening remarks welcoming all to the new facility. "This will not only be a classroom for our students, but a classroom as well for our Young Farmers classes, where

SEE OPENING, A16

**RHI seeks help finding new home after roof leak**

By Kevin Myrick  
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.net

The Rockmart Homeless Initiative should be celebrating their first anniversary this month with continued hopes of success in helping people get back on their feet in the coming year at their Resource Center on South Marble Street.

Instead, they are scrambling to find a new home somewhere in the area as soon as possible in order to continue their mission helping people.

RHI Board Member Victoria Millhollan said the organization has boxed up and covered as much



Contributed by RHI

Ceiling tiles were waterlogged and falling down after a roof leak was discovered at the Rockmart Homeless Initiative in recent days.

of their supplies as they can after a roof leak was discovered the weekend of April 6 and 7 which caused water

damage in key areas of their center. Their bathroom, supply closet and an area they setup for cots to allow for clients at the Resource Center to take daytime naps all saw water leaks from the roof in recent days.

"We're trying to protect everything," Millhollan said. "We've tarped everything, and the tubs of our supplies have tarps covering them as well."

She explained that roof work on a neighboring building pushed water onto the roof of their building during an early April rainstorm, and the leaks came pouring into the resource

SEE RHI, A2

**Judge: Arrest warrants stand against Gamble**

GBI agent testifies all five people in Polk County quadruple murder, including survivor, were shot in head.

By Kevin Myrick  
kmyrick@polkstandardjournal.net

Polk County Superior Court Chief Judge Meng Lim denied a challenge to murder warrants issued for Daylon Delon Gamble during a preliminary hearing on Monday.

Gamble is accused of the shooting five people — killing four — in two homes on January 24. Those killed were Helen Rose Mitchell,

48, and Jaquann Davis, 19, both of 503 Williamson St., and of Arkeyla Perry, 24, and Dadrrian Cummings, 26, both at 319 Rome St. in Rockmart.

After the hearing, Lim ruled there was probable cause in issuing the warrants and enough evidence to proceed in the case during the April 8 court appearance.

During the hearing, GBI



Daylon Delon Gamble

Special Agent Amanda Carter laid out some of the evidence against Gamble.

The 13-year veteran of the GBI provided an account of what happened through questioning from both Polk County District Attorney Jack Browning and Defense Attorney C. Samuel Rael.

Carter stated that Gamble, along with Cum-

mings and Perry and two other witnesses at the Rome Street address, had been at the house together up until around 7:44 p.m. that night. Cummings' cousin, Deandre Cummings, was the last to see the two alive after he left to go get milk for his kids, according to Carter.

All five people, including the lone survivor Peerless Brown, were shot in the head, Carter told the court.

When Carter testified Perry had been shot five

times, a person there who was at the hearing in support the victims stood up and screamed obscenities at Gamble.

Brown was interviewed twice by investigators, including a session with Carter and Rockmart police detectives. He was able to identify Gamble and knew him very well — the accused shooter used to babysit him as a child.

SEE WARRANTS, A2



Contact:  
770-748-1520  
NEWS/SPORTS  
KMyrick@polkstandardjournal.net  
CLASSIFIED/LEGAL  
BEasterwood@polkstandardjournal.net  
ADVERTISING  
SHouston@polkstandardjournal.net  
www.polkstandardjournal.com

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INDEX

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

**AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Join the Second Baptist Church in Cedartown for their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20 starting at 11:30 a.m. There will be free food, bounce houses, egg hunts, and prizes for all age groups of kids. Register and find more information at www.sbc-cedartown.org.

The Ladies Club 2nd Annual Old Fashioned Easter Day event is coming up on Easter Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Cedar Springs Missionary Baptist Church headed up by Pastor James Wright. The Church located at 126 Cedar Hill Street in Cedartown will feature an opportunity for an egg hunt with American Legion Post 524 for younger children, a musical performance, refreshments and more.

SEE CALENDAR, A12

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