

THE POLK COUNTY  
STANDARD JOURNAL

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PROGRESSIVELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF POLK COUNTY SINCE 1869

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CEDARTOWN ♦ ROCKMART ♦ ARAGON

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## PSD's budget up with state funding the teacher raises

By Kevin Myrick  
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Tentative budget figures for FY 2020 are being considered and are increasing this year to allow for additional educator pay increases for the coming school year.

Superintendent Laurie Atkins thanked the members of the Polk County Board of Education for working with school district administrators to ensure that for the coming year, the \$79.3 million in revenue and expenditures — which includes a \$10.4 million fund balance left by June 2020 — will be spent on increases in salaries across the board.

"There are some things that we have been able to do since we've not been able to touch since 2008, and things that have been dwindling away," she said.

Atkins said now is the time to spend smart and build back what was lost to the years of the recession and recovery and match the efforts of the state to retain educators in the classroom with the help of salary increases.

The system is going above and beyond what Gov. Brian Kemp promised and the state legislature passed in the FY 2020 budget for the state when it comes to educator and support staff salaries for the coming fiscal year.

Along with the \$3,000 raise for each teacher in the district and across the state, the budget for FY 2020 also includes a increase of four percent for classified employees, along with pay scale increase for bus drivers, the Polk School

SEE PSD, A6

## Waste Industries appealing to injunction

New hearing date set for May 22, case heading to the Court of Appeals

By Kevin Myrick  
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A hearing date has been set to give Waste Industries the opportunity to seek a stay order on the temporary injunction approved by Judge Adele Grubbs in the lawsuit filed by Polk County over the operations of the Grady Road Landfill.

Unless Grubbs chooses to reverse herself, it will likely be up to the state Court of Appeals to determine whether the Grady Road Landfill will require six inches of daily soil cover to be left in place. Waste Industries is currently complying with that order, and will continue to do so according to attorneys for the company.

SEE LANDFILL, A11

## Camp Antioch is ready to hold June Jubilee fundraiser

"Something new and old" returns to the schoolhouse grounds in the Antioch community

By Kevin Myrick  
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An event is coming up next month that is sure to bring back fond memories of years past as Camp Antioch is putting together a June Jubilee.

Mark calendars now for the upcoming Christian Music Festival and Corn Boil on Saturday, June 1 with gates opening at 11 a.m. to bring back a longtime tradition in the

Antioch community. Billed as "something new and old at Camp Antioch," the forthcoming music festival will feature Scarlet Wool, Weaver Believers, Starr Phips and other local church and community groups during the event, which is planned to last through the afternoon. Admission donations are being accepted at the gates and are encouraged, but not required.

SEE JUNE, A5



Kevin Myrick

The Cedartown High School Boys State Champion Tennis Team were among the groups honored during at the Polk County Board of Education's May work session.

## School board celebrates champs

By Kevin Myrick  
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The Polk County Board of Education were all smiles last week when students who have shown off great talent and hard work to prove themselves to be champions at the highest level across the state.

Students from Cedartown Middle and High, and Rockmart Middle and High schools packed out the board meeting room on May 7 for the evening session to stand and be recognized by their peers, faculty and staff, and especially their parents.

Among those were several members of the SkillsUSA team, the Rockmart High School boys tennis team and an honor for Yellow Jacket wrestler Griffin Pace.

Pace was the 2019 Class AA state champion for the 182-pound weight division for the season and set a new Rockmart High record for 200 wins during his career in wrestling.

The board also honored members of the Rockmart High School state champion tennis team, who won out on their home courts for the first tennis title in school history of Early County. Their win came just in time for the team to be honored, alongside coaches Barry Owen and Kent Mathis.

See more in this week's sports section on the title win for 2019.

The May 7 board session also gave opportunity to recognize honors on the academic level, and those SkillsUSA teams and individuals heading onward to national competition after big wins of their own.



Kevin Myrick

Wrestling state champion Griffin Pace was honored by the Polk County Board of Education for his achievements at Rockmart High School, setting a wrestling win record for the Jackets during his four year career. He was joined by Coach Drew Lindsey, Board Vice Chair Kristy Gober, and Superintendent Laurie Atkins.

First, the board got to honor Cedartown High sophomore Evan Holder as this year's Governor's Honor Program participant for the district. He'll be headed off during the summer break to concentrate on gaining even greater skills in Music, specifically a focus on percussion.

SkillsUSA students honored included

first place winners Josh Cole and Wesley Culberson for Additive Manufacturing — better known as 3D Printing. Individually, Emmanuel Cornejo received honors for a first place in carpentry and Harmony Shaw took a first place state title for cosmetology.

SEE CHAMPS, A6

## County shows appreciation for foster parents

### Staff reports

An annual ritual continues within Polk County to make sure that those who are opening their doors and hearts to children are getting the due thanks deserved them every day of the year.

During the May 7 session of the Polk County Board of Commissioners meeting, Commission Chair Jennifer Hulsey took time out at the opening of their regular meeting to bring together members of the Polk County Foster Parent Association and the Department of Family and Children Services in Polk and Haralson counties to celebrate foster parents during the month of May.

The commission voted unanimously to approve an annual proclamation

that honors foster parents locally and across the country for their efforts to help children separated from their parents for a variety of reasons have a loving and structured home.

SEE FOSTERS, A8



Missionaries came and made repairs in June 2018 to Camp Antioch, and now this June an event is coming up to help raise money for additional renovations and upgrades to the facility.

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### AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Free Notary Training is coming up this Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in a session from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Polk County Courthouse with officials from Polk County Superior Court Clerk Stacie Baines office. Those who are interested are asked to RSVP to the clerks office no later than May 14, 2019 at 3 p.m. by calling 770-749-2114. They cover the training for prospective and current notaries. All are welcome.

Give a child a safe place to go after school and learn valuable lessons about community, life and academics by getting involved in the Boys & Girls Club of Northwest Georgia in Cedartown. Visit their center at 321 E. Queen St., Cedartown from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on weekdays and bring your children ages 5-18 for afternoon activities. For more information on how to participate or volunteer, call our office at 770-749-0869 or email asams@bgenwga.org.

The Rockmart History Museum on South Marble Street in downtown Rockmart is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Saturday 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Museum welcomes visitors and group tours. Contact Pat Sampson at 678-764-5201 for information. RHM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and volunteers are welcome and encouraged to take part.

SEE CALENDAR, A12