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Pictured are (from left) Tithi Patel, PCA STAR Student; Joy Sammons, STAR Teacher; and Bhavi Patel

PCA announces 2018 STAR Student and STAR Teacher

Edison, GA (Jan. 29, 2018) Pataula Charter Academy (PCA) is honored to announce our 2018 STAR Student, Tithi Patel, and STAR Teacher, Joy Sammons. Congratulations to both!

Tithi is the daughter

of Bhavi and Sam Patel, of Cuthbert.

The STAR Program is designed to recognize high school seniors who have the highest SAT score in their graduating class and meet all the other program require-

ments. The STAR Teacher is selected by the declared high school STAR Student for having made the most significant contribution to the STAR Student's scholastic development.

American Proteins, Inc. reacts to tax reform, to issue \$1000 Bonuses

Cuthbert, GA (Feb. 5, 2018)—Cumming based American Proteins, Inc. (API) and subsidiaries are awarding employees bonuses of \$1,000, in response to the tax reform package signed into law earlier this year.

"President Donald

Trump and the Republican Congress have reduced taxes for business and individuals and I'm excited what this means for our company and its employees," explained Tommy Bagwell, Chairman of American Proteins, Inc.

American Proteins

was founded by Leland Bagwell I 1949 and has operated under the guidance of Tommy Bagwell and family in Georgia and Alabama for over 68 years. API is the nation's largest poultry rendered and employees over 700 workers.

CITY OF EDISON

Council holds called meeting, addresses Public Defender Concerns

By ANDREW JANSKY

The City Council of Edison met in a called meeting on Monday night, Feb. 3, to discuss three budget requests recently made to the city: raise requests for the city Judge and Secretary to the Police and Municipal Court, and a request from the municipal Judge for a change in the Public Defender arrangement. The result was a change was made to a new public defender, Tammy Payne, with the same arrangement as the previous defender. No decision was made regarding the requested raises.

The special meeting had been called after the requests were made at the regular January City Council meeting, amounting to a \$4,280 increase in the city's budget this fiscal year (which goes through June). From the outset of the meeting, Mayor Reeves Lane emphasized that this amount was not in the city's budget and any expenses not in the budget would compel the city to raise taxes. Approximately 15 Edison citizens attended the meeting, with many of them asking

questions and voicing various perspectives. A number of city employees also attended, including the majority of the police department, police /municipal court Secretary Kathy Johnson and municipal Judge Gregory Williams. Several individual citizens questioned the need for the expenses and echoed the Mayor's budgetary concerns.

Judge Williams elaborated on his request, the permanent securing of a Public Defender (for one to be present at every court). He indicated that the current Defender who has been on contract to serve on an on-call basis has been inadequate and that there have been many cases of miscommunication between clients and this Albany based Public Defender. Williams communicated to the council was that it has become apparent that this Public Defender's services to Edison have not seemed to be reliable and apparently has never invoiced the city for on call services.



Tammy Payne (photo) is the new public defender for the City of Edison Municipal Court. Payne is an attorney with Joshua C. Bell Law Office, Whigam, GA.

Court Clerk Johnson indicated that she has never seen the Defender present in court. Judge Williams expressed concern about this issue as a legal liability for the City. He and the clerk noted that some citizen advocate groups have been increasingly watching small municipalities, including Edison, to verify that they are adequately providing public defender services according to state law. Judge Williams indicated that he submitted his request for a permanent Public Defender based on the apparent unreliability of the current Defender's services. When asked by a citizen why he had not requested this

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Fatal accident at Sutton's Corner

Around 4:15 p.m. on Feb. 5, a fatal accident occurred at the intersection of U.S. Highway 27 south / GA Route 1 and State Road 37. A vehicle driven by Linda Hallman, age 59, was heading west on State Road 37.

At the stop sign inter-

section known as Sutton's Corner, Hallman failed to yield right of way to a tractor trailer truck owned by American Proteins, Inc. (API) and driven by an employee.

The API truck collided with Hallman's vehicle.

According to Georgia State Patrol post 39, Hallman was deceased at the scene and there were three passengers with injuries. The full report and further details on the passengers was not yet available, as of press time.

CUTHBERT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire sweeps through Mobile Home

Cuthbert, GA (Feb. 6, 2018) On the morning of Friday February 2, around 9 a.m., the Cuthbert Police Department called the Cuthbert Fire Department to respond to 53 McWilliams Street, for a reported structure fire.

Upon arrival, the fire department found heavy smoke coming from the rear of a mobile home.

Firefighters attacked the fire from the outside; firefighters made tremendous efforts to contain the fire.

No one was inside the home of the time of the fire. No serious injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time and still under investigation.

Cuthbert Fire Department would like to thank

the following agencies for responding and assisting in extinguishing the fire: Cuthbert Police, Randolph County Fire, Grady EMS, Randolph County Sheriff's Dept., and Cuthbert Public Works.

The family has received assistance from the American Red Cross and other community organizations.



Jackson Stapleton, a junior at Pataula Charter Academy, spent the day on Jan. 29 at the state Capital in Atlanta as a page for Representative Gerald Greene (Georgia House District 151). Pictured are: (from left) Rep. Greene, Stapleton and Speaker of the House, David Ralston.



Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue unveils Farmers.gov at a breakfast hosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Perdue unveils interactive Website for Agricultural Producers: Farmers.gov

(Grand Rapids, MI, February 1, 2018) - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today unveiled Farmers.gov, the new interactive one-stop website for producers maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Farmers.gov is now

live, but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website, launched at a breakfast hosted by the Michigan

Farm Bureau, gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area: The Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Risk Management Agency.

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GAGA IV Exhibit

2-6 p.m.

Sat. and Sun.

The Center

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Lunsford Funeral Home

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(229) 732-2148

www.lunsfordfuneralhome.com

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CUMC Dinner

Theater

6:30 p.m. Thurs-

day, February 15.

Call 229-732-2071

for Tickets