



News Observer photo/Glenn Harbison

Several Polk County officials took part in the opening of the Food City grocery store in Ocoee. Among them were, from right to left, Trustee Gina Hatcher, County Executive Robby Hatcher, Third District Commissioner Samantha Tranham, and, at far left, County Clerk Jackie Rogers. In his remarks to the crowd, Hatcher urged county residents to spend their money at the store so the dollars would stay in Polk County.



News Observer photo/Glenn Harbison

Greg Barker, Rick Brooks, and Monica Farrow, all current members of Polk County Industrial and Economic Board, were on hand to support the opening of the new Food City grocery. It was these current board members, who along with Ryan Cooke and Ken Bishop, renegotiated the Food City agreement that will see the grocer pay its school tax portion of property taxes. Shown prior to a ribbon cutting ceremony are, from left, Barker, Road Superintendent Roy Thomason, Farrow, and Third District Commissioner Samantha Tranham.

Hatcher calls for grocery store in East Polk

BY GLENN HARBISON
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The opening of the new Food City store in Ocoee came complete with encouragement for the grocery giant to locate a store in the Copper Basin.

During his remarks at a special event unveiling the

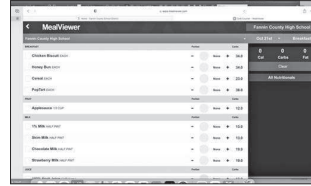
store Tuesday, October 14, County Executive Robby Hatcher told everyone of initial conversations he had with Food City representatives. Those included his efforts to explain the tremendous need for an East Polk store, and the fact the executives did not say no. Hatcher praised Industri-

al and Economic Development Board (IED Board) members for their efforts, and especially the newest board members who renegotiated and convinced Food City to pay its school taxes.

The initial Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program had allowed the grocer to avoid

paying all property taxes for the first 15 years.

Newest IED Board members attending the event from East Polk County were Secretary/Treasurer Monica Farrow and Greg Barker, who is unopposed in his bid to become Copperhill's mayor.



Screenshot

The calories and carbs found in Fannin County school meals can be counted on the system's new app.

App lets Fannin students, parents count meal calories

By MOLLIE MORROW
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Keeping up with allergens and nutrients in school meals is now easier than before within the Fannin County School System.

Families can visit their child's school website, or the district site, to pull up the menu. The MealViewer app can also be downloaded to mobile devices.

There, the month's menu will be available with the ability to click on items to see their nutritional values.

"We're very excited to offer this information to our families — not just to offer food but help educate on nutrients," Director of Nutrition and Wellness Martha Williams said.

She added that this information should be very valuable to individuals with conditions such as diabetes, noting that they can keep track of the carbohydrates they're consuming.

MealViewer also allows for allergens to be chosen, and when picked, it will cross out menu items containing those allergens.

Currently milk, egg, peanut, tree nut, fish, shellfish, soy, wheat and sesame seed allergens are listed.

Williams also used wres-

ting team members as an example saying how they tend to ask for higher-protein options when visiting the cafeteria.

Another feature is a nutrition calculator that allows students to pick each item they've eaten, and it will add up the calories and nutrients. Portion sizes can be adjusted based on whether or not the full item was consumed.

In addition, MealViewer provides meal and a la carte pricing; payments can be made, and balances can be viewed.

Meals are provided free this school year, so payment is only necessary for additional items.

These features can be used to view breakfast, second-chance breakfast and lunch.

Second chance breakfast is offered to students after first block as many students don't make it in time for breakfast, Williams said.

Given that the feature is new and they are continually building on it, Williams encourages input concerning any errors that may be found.

She can be reached by calling the district office at 706-632-3771.



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WHITNEY ARP MAYER



PAUL BIDEZ WALKER



AMY BURNS

Gorby Peters Law announces with pleasure that Whitney Arp Mayer is now a partner in the firm and Paul Bidez Walker has joined its ranks as an associate attorney.

Whitney and Paul have deep ties to Fannin County. They were born and raised in Blue Ridge, and both grew up working in family-owned and operated businesses in the Blue Ridge area.

Whitney attended the University of Georgia for her undergraduate degree and graduated magna cum laude from the Georgia State University Law School. Whitney founded the firm's Blue Ridge office in 2021 after she made the decision to return to her roots during the pandemic. A great judge of talent, Whitney soon hired the firm's Operations Manager, Blue Ridge native Tonya Allen, and senior paralegal Maria Fernandez of Ellijay, who work out of the firm's Blue Ridge office.

"Whitney has quickly established herself as a national thought leader in highly regulated areas of the law," said firm co-founding attorney Mike Gorby. "Whitney has already argued several high-profile cases of first impression in the Georgia Appellate Courts, which is rare for even seasoned attorneys," said Gorby.

A recent Georgia State Law School graduate, Paul Walker will focus his practice on estate documents, estate litigation, contracts, and employment and business disputes. Paul worked with Gorby Peters Law throughout law school and is already popular with the firm's clients. "Paul is not only very bright, he's got a unique gift for clarifying and simplifying hard legal concepts, which clients appreciate," said firm co-founder Mary Donne Peters.

October was a big month for celebrations at the law firm. Partner Amy Burns in the Tucker office celebrated her 12th year with Gorby Peters Law. "Not only is Amy a phenomenal lawyer, but her leadership and mentorship with young lawyers is a huge reason the firm can develop exceptional legal talent," said Gorby. Amy's journey to the firm was a bit unusual. She was a senior attorney within the Georgia Attorney General's office and represented the Insurance Commissioner in matters involving the liquidation of insurance companies. Since Gorby Peters Law gets involved in the liquidation process, Amy was a natural fit. "When we realized how good Amy was, we put the full court press on her and were delighted when she finally said 'yes,'" noted Peters.

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With offices in Blue Ridge, Sandy Springs, and Tucker, Georgia, their experienced legal team is here to help you.