

December 21, 2019



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Franklin County Citizen Leader

SERVING ROYSTON, LAVONIA, FRANKLIN SPRINGS, CANON, CARNESVILLE AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



Information sought on noise, emissions from energy plant

By News Staff on Thursday, October 3, 2019

Neighbors of the plant have spoken at length with county commissioners during the board's last two meetings to demand answers and express frustration at noise and emissions from a new renewable energy plant on Highway 198.



A renewable energy plant on Highway 198 is drawing complaints from neighbors for noise and emissions.

Man nabbed for stolen vehicle, 3A

Franklin County Citizen Leader

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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 51 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYCITIZEN.COM \$1.00

On notice County gives GRP 30 days to meet noise, emission levels



By Susan Simmons
PHOTOGRAPH

CARNESVILLE – A Commission during a meeting Dec. 10, 2019, unanimously voted to have created a public emergency where the health and safety of the residents in the immediate vicinity of the Georgia Renewable Power Plant located in Franklin County, Georgia, constitute a nuisance as a result of noise and chemical emissions produced by the operation of the plant are in imminent danger.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners of the Georgia Renewable Power Plant located in Franklin County, Georgia, condition exists where

Se NOTICE
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Relay champs get rings



Cabins for the holidays



Kaleigh remains a Lion



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Boswell retires as Royston principal

By Kasey K. Hines
STAFF WRITER

CARNESVILLE – Susan Boswell look over the position from David Gillies who had been the principal of Royston from 2013-18, when the administrators in Franklin County underwent restructuring.

Susan Boswell Gillies' last principal day was April 26, 2018, and Boswell began the next day.

The school system has already posted an advertisement looking for a new principal.

More information on what the system plans to do in the interim will be available in the coming weeks.



Holiday papers to be published on Tuesdays

The Franklin County 31 Citizen Leader will be published on Tuesday for the next two weeks due to the holidays.

Next week's issue will be delivered in mailboxes and stores on Dec. 24, and the following week's paper will be delivered Dec. 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Deadlines for all news, classifieds, legal and other advertisements will be Friday.



A meeting with the Grinch
LAVONIA – Little Charlotte Kings got an up-close meeting with the Grinch (El Hanley) Saturday at the Lavonia Cultural Center. Breakfast With the Grinch was sponsored by the Franklin Community Players. For more photos from the event, along with letters to Santa from county second graders and photos from the many Christmas events already held this season, see the special A Franklin County Christmas section inside this issue. (Photo courtesy of Amy Burns)



Sweet defeat
LAVONIA – Navy's 31-7 defeat of Army Saturday in the annual Army-Navy football game had consequences right here in Franklin County. Members of Lavonia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5897 and the community gathered to watch the game. After Army's defeat, Commander Jim "Chief" Bright (right), a Navy veteran, paid off a bet with Senior Vice Commander Jason Nichols (left), an Army veteran. Bright got the opportunity to give Nichols a pie in the face.

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Read Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia, Georgia



CARNESVILLE – Franklin County officials have passed along a list of questions and concerns to the operators of a renewable energy plant on Highway 198.

Neighbors of the plant have spoken at length with county commissioners during the board's last two meetings to demand answers and express frustration at noise and emissions from the new plant.

The plant, owned by Georgia Renewable Power (GRP) will burn wood waste, to generate electricity, while using water from the county's water system.

The energy plant is not yet operating, but work to bring it online has drawn the ire and concern of neighbors.

Loud noises akin to the sound of jet engines have been reported to commissioners.

Mark Blalock told commissioners at a meeting Sept. 26 that the noise level has reached about 190 decibels. A level of 85 decibels will damage hearing, he said.

Neighbors have also said that soot is coming from the smokestack of the plant and covering property in the area, along with a burning smell.

Rodney Black told commissioners that the smell is like that of burning trash in a 55-gallon drum.

The citizens also expressed frustration at the commissioners' decision to allow the plant to be built.

"If this plant was behind your house, you would be absolutely horrified," Black said. "But it's not behind your house, it's behind my house."

Donnie Gettys said that reparations need to be made to citizens in the area.

Gettys said GRP and the county to buy any land available within a one-mile radius of the plant to create a buffer zone at full market value, to buy medical insurance for citizens in the area and to provide insurance policies for crops, livestock, wells, trees and other property that might be affected by the plant.

Lavonia, GA 30553

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POPULAR CONTENT >

Today's:

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Power plant a 'nuisance'

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Boswell retires as Royston principal
County gives GRP 30 days to meet noise, emission levels
Lady Lion Jayden Gailey named state's top player for second straight year



Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges told the group at the Sept. 26 meeting that commissioners are taking their concerns seriously.

County Manager Elizabeth Thomas said she had talked with plant officials and urged them to answer questions posed by citizens and to meet with neighbors.

Thomas said Wednesday that she sent the plant officials a list of questions and concerns Monday taken from citizens' statements.

Franklin County Citizen

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