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SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM – The Fulton County Summer Feeding Program held their first pick-up day last week, as the team packaged 4,620 meals for children in the community, that consisted of shelf-stable items, freezer options, and cooler selections. The meals were picked up by families throughout Fulton County. To support delivery, the yellow school bus and the big red truck with its trailer was fully loaded with meals, fresh strawberries, juice, and boxes of cereal. The dates for future pick-ups are June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, and Aug. 6 at Jeff Green Memorial Park and Hickman City Hall in Hickman, Ky., Cayce Methodist Church in Cayce, Ky., and Fulton First Baptist Church and Fulton Police Department in Fulton, Ky. (Photos submitted)

Fulton Police Chief announces his retirement

The following was posted on Fulton Police Chief Allen's Poole Facebook page on Fri., May 29:

On May 21, 2026, I received a Notice of Suspension from the City of Fulton, later amended to a suspension with pay. The Notice rested on two allegations: that I used my City-issued police cruiser across state lines for personal reasons, and that I "berated" a commissioner and pounded my fists on a table after being asked to leave. I deny these allegations, and I am releasing this statement so the public has the facts.

Allegation One: Use of the City Cruiser

My purpose for the trip to Union City was not for personal reasons. I traveled there in my capacity as Chief of Police, to address the inter-

rogation request and the investigation matters discussed below.

Even if the trip were treated as personal, my use of my assigned cruiser fell squarely within the City of Fulton's own written Personnel Poli-

See **POOLE**, page 6



Poole

Obion Co. Board of Education approves school budgets, administrative appointments, security measures

Megan Dame

The Obion County Board of Education approved a wide range of personnel appointments, budgetary matters, grant amendments and operational items during its regular monthly meeting Mon., June 1 at the Board of Education office.

Board Chairman Fritz Fussell called the meeting to

order, followed by prayer and roll call. Vice chair Keisha Hooper, chair pro tem Barry Adams, board members Tim Britt, Shannon Graham, Jared Poore and Chris Akin were present, along with Obion County Director of Schools Tim Watkins.

Board members approved the agenda as presented and unanimously approved minutes from the May 4 meeting.

The board also approved the consent agenda, which included the monthly substitute teacher report recognizing Michael Abbott and Makenna Naugle, along with the system's monthly financial report.

One of the evening's major items involved recognition of administrative and principal assignments for the 2026-27 school year. Wat-

kins announced the following change of appointments: Candace Thweatt as assistant principal at Hillcrest Elementary School; Melissa Merritt as principal at Lake Road Elementary School; Eric Lipford as assistant principal at South Fulton Middle/High School; JB Suiter as principal at Obion County Middle School; Maria Matheny as assistant principal at Obion County Middle School; and Linda Crigger as assistant principal at Obion County

Middle School.

Watkins noted that these are only the positions that will change for the upcoming year all other school administrations will remain the same as the last school year. The appointments are part of the district's administrative leadership structure for the upcoming school year.

Board members approved annual appointments to the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority as required under Board Policy 6.317.

The appointments, recommended by Dr. Greg Barclay, include Greg Barclay, chairperson; Kimberly Jackson; George Leake; Sandy Simpson; Dawn Robinson; JB Suiter, high school administrator representative; and Krista Vise, elementary administrator representative.

The appointments are for one-year terms and are subject to future reappointment by the board.

See **BOE**, page 6

Railroaders open 2026 OVL season

The Fulton Railroaders have gotten off to a less than ideal start to the 2026 Ohio Valley League, dropping their first three games with losses to the Henderson Flash, Hoptown Hoppers and Paducah Chiefs.

FULTON.....3
PADUCAH.....7

The Railroaders lost to the Paducah Chiefs 7-3 on Sun, May 31 at Brooks Stadium.

An error put the Chiefs on the board in the bottom of the second.

The Railroaders captured the lead, 2-1, in the top of the seventh after Ca-

leb Warren singled down the right field line, and the Railroaders scored on a passed ball, each scoring one run.

Troy Dooley flew out, which helped the Chiefs tie the game at two in the bottom of the seventh.

The Chiefs erupted for five runs on three hits in the bottom of the eighth to take the lead, 7-2. The biggest blow in the inning was a grand slam to left field by Brett Haas that drove in four.

Luca Dickinson started on the hill for the Railroaders. The starter surrendered

three hits and one run (zero earned) over five and one-third innings, striking out five and walking one.

Avery Starks stepped on the hill first for the Chiefs. The starting pitcher allowed two hits and one run over six and one-third innings, striking out six and walking two.

The Railroaders' Chase Cameron, the number eight hitter, led them with two hits in four at bats. Steven "Bugs" Meadows and Warren each drove in one run for Fulton Railroaders. Ful-

See **RRers**, page 3



LITTLE DEVILS FOOTBALL CAMP – The South Fulton High School football team recently hosted their very first Little Devils Football Camp. The team worked so well with the Middle School players. (Photos submitted)

Former Fulton resident receives Peabody Award

Rachel Coleman, a former resident of Fulton, Ky., is part of a team who was recognized in Los Angeles in May at the 86th annual Peabody Awards.

Coleman worked as a photojournalist and editor on KMBC's Restrainted investigation that scrutinized restraint chair use in jails and prisons across the

United States.


She currently works in Kansas City, Mo. as a news photojournalist at KMBC. She graduated from Graves County High School and went on to earn a degree in journalism from Murray State University. She began her career at WPSD before moving to Kansas City in 2006 where she went on to win three Mid-America Regional Emmy's.



Coleman


See **COLEMAN**, page 2






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