



The Holmes County Herald will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3

Jaguars and Trojans both win by 34 points in the 34th week of 2018 Jaguars beat Bulldogs, 34-18 Trojans whip Warriors, 34-0



Friday, August 24 marked the 34th week of this year as both the Holmes County Central High School Jaguars and Central Holmes Christian School faced off against their opponents on the gridiron last week, each winning by 34 points in their respecting games. Pictured above left, Jaguars senior Robert Jackson (4) runs the ball, leaping over his opponent while defended by senior Quo'Darious Crigler (25) and senior John Mitchell (72) during Friday's game. Pictured above right, Trojans' Peyton Killebrew (27), senior wide receiver, gains yardage against the Deer Creek Warriors during Friday's match up at Hammett Field in Lexington. Central Holmes' record is now 2-0 heading into this Friday's, August 31, game against Winona Christian in Winona. (Jaguars Photo by Warren Hallmon/Trojans Photo by Amy Lindsay)

Talks continue on Deltech's future in Durant, electricity Board of aldermen feel "bullied" amid citizen response to let industry use Entergy

By Matthew Breazeale

A meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, August 29, between stakeholders of polymer producer/manufacture Deltech Corporation and Durant city officials to determine if the company's request to source its electricity from Entergy will be granted.

Deltech Corporation, headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, produces plastic for reuseable sports bottles, cups and similar products.

The company purchased the former GNC/Gripe Bothers building on U.S. Highway 51 in Durant from the county officially on March 13.

Extensive rehabilitation was needed for the facility and is currently in phase three according to county officials, which is establishing electrical utility service.

Phase one was stabilizing the roof, phase two, establishing water service.

Now phase three is on hold

and the initials plans to open the company's manufacturing facility in Durant are uncertain.

A town hall style meeting was held on Wednesday, August 15 at Durant M.B. Church to discuss, among other topics, the issue of Deltech's request to the city. Both Holmes County Supervisor James Young and Holmes County Economic Developer Foster Ellis, Jr. spoke to those in attendance about the matter.

Young had said during the town hall that the board of aldermen's initial reservation was that if the city allows the use of Entergy for Deltech it would have to do the same for AmeriPride and Hunter Engineering.

"The thing about that is Hunter Engineering and AmeriPride (buildings) are owned by the city," said Young. "Hunter Engineering has a 99-year lease on the building and don't pay but \$5,000 a year rent on the

building."

Young said that the board had met to discuss the issue on multiple occasions with one alderman reporting to him that the city was likely not going to grant the request. Young did not name the alderman.

"Mr. (Robert) Elefante (Deltech CEO) said 'What is about to happen now, I'm about to pull up stakes, I won't bring my machines down there,'" said Young. "He said 'I'll use (the building) just for a warehouse. Where I would have employed seventy-five people, I'll only employ ten or fifteen.'...The future of Deltech is in your city officials hands."

Young added that the company would still have to pay for water/sewage usage from Durant and be on the city's tax roll.

Doug Griffin, plant manager for the Baton Rouge facility, said in a later interview with the *Herald*, that Deltech



During the August 21 Durant Board of Aldermen meeting at city hall, (standing, from left) Holmes County Supervisor James Young, Deltech Corporation representative Doug Griffin and Holmes County Economic Developer Foster Ellis, Jr. addressed the city officials on Deltech's request to use Entergy for its electricity needs and not buy from the city of Durant. Deltech CEO Robert Elefante was originally set to appear during the meeting but had a schedule conflict. Elefante was scheduled to meet with Mayor Henry Robinson and the board on Wednesday, August 29 to further discuss the issue, according to Griffin. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

has a 50 plus year relationship with the national utility company.

Ellis also addressed the crowd at the meeting saying he had a conference call with Elefante earlier that same day.

"He told me," said Ellis, "I've never gone through anything like this before."

Ellis later added that in his

position as economic developer for the county his job is to build up the county to outside interests.

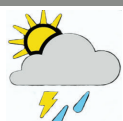
"I need that manufacturing plant," said Ellis. "If we (the Holmes County Board of Supervisors and Ellis) can work together as a team, the community can do the same." Ellis continued that Elefante had implored him

to reach out for community support, to churches, schools and younger citizens.

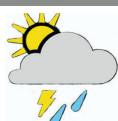
"(Deltech) can garner other companies and corporations to come to Holmes County. I'm going to do everything I can," said Ellis.

Both Young and Ellis encouraged those in attendance to petition Durant city (Continued on page 5.)

50¢ Single Copy



Thursday
Scattered T'Storms
89/71
Precip. Chance
60%



Friday
P.M. Thunderstorms
91/71
Precip. Chance
40%



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
93/71
Precip. Chance
20%



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
92/71
Precip. Chance
20%



Monday
Mostly Sunny
92/71
Precip. Chance
20%



Tuesday
Mostly Sunny
93/71
Precip. Chance
10%



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
93/71
Precip. Chance
20%

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