

Public records, including arrest reports, are in today's edition  
A11

WEDNESDAY

Jags lose at Perry  
SPORTS, A8



# The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR KEITH GREENFIELD AND ALL OF OUR READERS SINCE 1872

VOL. 145, NO. 77 | \$1.50 DAILY / \$2 SUNDAYS

## County rescinds proclamation

BY RAY LIGHTNER  
STAFF WRITER  
RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night, before a standing room only crowd, to rescind the Confederate History Month proclamation.

The 3-2 vote was met with applause from the audience.

Commissioner Don Hawbaker said in an email issued before the meeting that he asked to rescind the proclamation, in part because of grief and aggravation from his neighbors about the proclamation.

"Although the Confederate History proclamation had never, to my knowl-

edge, been opposed or even voted against by a county commissioner in previous years," Hawbaker said in the email. "I now feel that in light of more recent events it should no longer be an item of consideration for our commission. If the state's law pains a large group of our valued and beloved citizens, then it pains me. I see no need for local government entities to pile on and add to their pain."

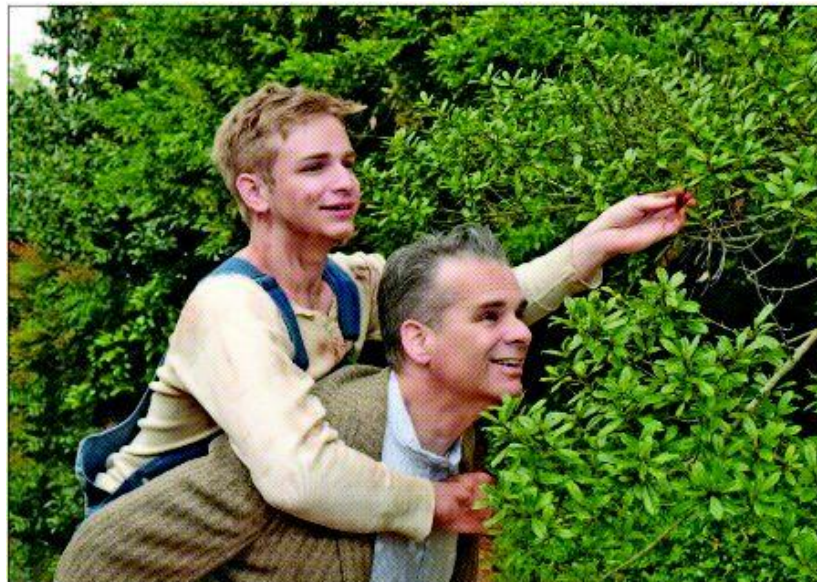
Hawbaker voted with fellow County Commissioner Raymond Ray who made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bart Miller to approve the proclamation at the April 2 meeting.

SEE PROCLAMATION/PAGE A2



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners faced TV cameras and a standing room only crowd Monday night. County Manager William Wilson Jr. is seen heading to the back of the room to pick up the list of those who signed in to speak, with many of those speaking for or against the proclamation that was rescinded.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK BLACKSHEAR

Jack McGinnis (on shoulders) and Christopher Gansel are pictured.

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SUBMITTED

Main Street Players presents "The Diviners" — its fourth production of the 2017-18 season.

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Toppan USA President and CEO Masa Tatewaki said "business is doing very good, in two years, business has almost doubled."

Tatewaki said he's "very confident right now, with continued growth in a very strong market."

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The plant provides products to Toppan's markets in North and South America, Tatewaki said, as well as in Europe. The GL film is used in packaging pouches, replacing cans and glass, mainly in food packaging.

The plant is expanding, with Phase 2 of the development underway and a new production machine arriving in May, he said. It is at full capacity now, he said.

"We will add more shifts to add more capacity," he said.

What this means is more shifts and hiring more employees at the plant, which currently employs 80.

"We're going to add more," Tatewaki said. "I'm pushing to hire more."

SEE TOPPAN/PAGE A2



## OBITUARIES

Joshua  
Casyn Gavel

Baby Joshua Casyn Gavel was born into the arms of angels on April 7, 2018. Born at 38 weeks, he weighed pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 ½ inches long.

Although Casyn never spent any time with us on earth; he gave us a lifetime of love.

He will be sincerely missed by family and loved ones. These include his mommy and daddy, Gudi and Matthew Gavel; maternal grandparents, Oma Brigitte Boykins, Robert Snipes Sr. and his fiancé Mandy Larkin; paternal grandparents, John and Patricia Gavel; great-grandparents, Ur-Oma Gigi Corpuz, Loretta Lewis, and John and Emilia Gavel; aunts and uncles include Flint and Corinne Gavel, Jason and Nichole Gavel, Caleb Gavel, Katie Hoffman, Jurgen and Ashley Corpuz; cousins, Sybille, Derick, Peyton, Bailee, Hunter, Mariah, and Milken; and god-mother, Jeanette Harper.

We would like to personally thank the doctor, nurses, and staff at Spalding Regional for all of their love, compassion, and support during this very tough time. We are forever grateful. Our beautiful baby boy was born still but he was still born. Unimaginable pain and sorrow has been felt, yet as a family we find comfort in our baby boy having met his heavenly Father.

There will be a special memorial service held at Abundant Life Revival Center on April 22 at 3 p.m. at the Barn, 751 Dean Patrick Road, Locust Grove. Pastor Jason Branson will be officiating.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Mr. Cedric M. Wilkerson Jr.**, 22, of 110 Wills Way, Griffin, passed away on Thursday, April 12 unexpectedly in an automobile accident. Funeral arrangements for Mr. Wilkerson will be announced later by Burden's Funeral Home.

## MAN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

to and from persons in Spalding County.

A search warrant was executed, yielding computers and elec-

OBITUARY  
POLICY

Obituaries are published daily in The Griffin Daily News. To have your loved one's obituary placed in the newspaper, contact your funeral home. Information must come from and be verified by the funeral home. The newspaper reserves the right to edit obituaries and death notices to conform with style. For prices, call the Griffin Daily News office at 770.227.3276. Photos may accompany any obituary. Death notices are published free of charge.

Burden's Funeral Home, 847 N. 9th St., is in charge of arrangements. 678-603-1666

**Mrs. Ethel W.**

**Barkley**, 80, of 309 N. 4th St., passed away on Tuesday, April 17 at WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital. Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Barkley will be announced later by Burden's Funeral Home. Burden's Funeral Home, 847 N. 9th St., is in charge of arrangements. 678-603-1666

**Timothy Richard Murphy**, age 66 of Griffin passed away on Friday, April 13, 2018 at his residence. A memorial service for Tim Murphy will be on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 1:00 pm at First Baptist Church, 106 W. Taylor Street, Griffin. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin is in charge of the arrangements.

**Mrs. Diana S. Goins**, age 81, of Griffin passed away Sunday, April 15, 2018 Brightmoor Hospice. A visitation for Diana S. Goins will be Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 11:00 am until 12 noon at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Rd, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.

tronic devices reportedly by Byard.

A preliminary search of the devices was reported to have found evidence of child pornography.

Byard was taken into custody and remains in the Spalding County Jail.

## Local Briefs

From staff reports

## Spirtas to perform in Griffin

The Griffin Area Concert Association presents Kevin Spirtas in his show "Night and Days" at the Griffin Auditorium on Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$20 with a special rate of \$15 for groups of 10 or more. All minor children are admitted free with a paid adult. Tickets are available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and at the Griffin Regional Welcome Center, First National Bank main office and Zebulon branch and A Novel Experience bookstore in Zebulon. Tickets will also be available at the door on the date of the concert at 7 p.m. For more information, visit [www.griffinconcerts.org](http://www.griffinconcerts.org) or call 770-228-3229.

## Advo-Kids CASA looking for volunteers

Advo-Kids CASA, an organization which advocates for abused and neglected children in foster care throughout the Griffin Judicial Circuit, is looking for volunteers. Advo-Kids CASA is currently accepting applications for the next training session which begins April 19. Potential volunteers must be at least 21 years old and pass a thorough screening process. For more information, call 770-228-4174 or visit [advo-kidscasa.org](http://advo-kidscasa.org).

SEE LOCAL PAGE A14

## TOPPAN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Human Resources/Administration Manager Mike Morgan said Toppan USA had a partnership with QuickStart and Southern Crescent Technical College for job training and continuing education.

"We appreciate the local sup-

port," Tatewaki said. "We need more."

With the Griffin plant and the Toppan plant in McDonough, Toppan employs about 300 in the area.

"One of the reasons we found this location," Tatewaki said, was the other facility in McDonough.

He is also happy to see "a lot of other Japanese companies — big companies in Japan — who see a big opportunity in Georgia for

production sites."

Tatewaki was named president and CEO effective April 1 and had been a vice president since the company was established in 2014 in Griffin and when the plant opened in 2016.

Based in Chicago, he visited the Griffin facility earlier this month and said Executive Vice President Harry Suzuki will be responsible for everything at the Griffin plant.

## PROCLAMATION

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

On Monday night, Hawbaker made the motion to rescind the proclamation, seconded by Miller, with Commissioner Rita Johnson voting with them to rescind.

Miller, in his second, asked that the county look into a way, "maybe if it was wrote up differently as a day of remembrance for those who fought and died in the Confederate war. Those people need to be remembered somehow," he said, noting his own service in Vietnam and the treatment of Vietnam veterans when they came home.

Ray and Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor voted against the motion to rescind. Flowers-Taylor said she "voted against the proclamation but wanted to know why now was it being rescinded?"

Ray said the individual commissioners would speak with her privately about their reasons. Flowers-Taylor said she and the standing room only crowd there wanted to know why as well.

"I'm interested to find out why that happened aside from all the hoopla," she said. "I try to support what is approved by the board, even if I voted against it. Three voted for it. Why are we back looking at it?"

Johnson said, "I really appreciate the racial unity and harmony this discussion has generated."

and Heritage Month, Laster noted, "is still a state ordinance, passed in 2009." The local camp, he said, "had our memorial service last Saturday that was totally peaceful. I understand each of you did what you had to do. I hope we can do better next year."

David Melton also spoke against the rescinding, also noting the state law.

"I am very disappointed it was rescinded," he said. "I taught history for a number of years in Griffin-Spalding County Schools — and taught about the Civil War. No one was offended. Georgia and Spalding County were in the war. People here have ancestors who fought and died in the war — on both sides."

Melton said, "once we go down this road, where do we go next? Do we take out the cemetery and the monuments, like other communities have done? Why do all now have to be punished because some guy said some crazy things?"

Don Clair thanked the board for rescinding the proclamation, noting he'd worked for 30 years in the prison systems and "watched men destroy their families. We're still stewing. I want to commend you folks for actually listening. We know history, but we don't want to honor or celebrate that dark history."

Robert Lee Taylor, president of Urban Outreach Association,

Kelly Barrow, a past state commander of the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans, and author of the proclamation that was rescinded as well as the state law, House Bill 27, from 2009 that made Confederate History and Heritage Month, noted "this was not about hate, but honoring a Georgian who was black and fought for the Confederacy."

Two of his books have dealt with blacks who fought for the Confederacy. Barrow also noted two of them are buried in Stonewall Cemetery, both a freeman and a slave who fought and died during the war.

Barrow said the proclamations are each for individual groups.

"I feel by rescinding this, basically those who want to honor their ancestors are being relegated to second class citizens," he said.

He claimed the Confederate army was integrated and provided equal pay for black and white. Barrow is planning a letter to the editor with his full comments, as he, like several others, was held to the 3-minute time limit.

Syntel Brown also spoke, noting the "love represented here. Griffin and Spalding County is not a place where you have to hide your wives and children saying that people of every age and color asked that the proclamation be rescinded. Brown, a history teacher, pointed out the county namesake, Thomas Spalding, a legislator known for working with both sides to

ancestors, but the history does not reflect the savageness, the ugliness of what slavery was about. Why can't you wrap your mind around that, a whole race of people used as animals?"

She hoped "what I heard was dialogue, it is respectful to those who died in battle. I hope this is an opportunity for us to grow, and not that we look bad from the outside, but look at our own self."

Johnson thanked everyone "for coming out and the great dialogue."

Hawbaker while praising a friend for his award nomination, criticized the "prejudice and bigotry toward pickleball."

Regarding the proclamation, Hawbaker noted "the difficulty for some folks to have a conversation. I'm tired of talking about what we thought was the right thing. I passed it. We've done it in the past," noting Flowers-Taylor and her family members on the city commission had voted for it in the past.

"I was here, just sucking my thumb, and voted for it," Hawbaker said. "But because some idiot makes some idiotic statements at the city meeting. I did it. I asked to rescind it. I thought it was the right thing. I didn't want to vote on it on April 2, because of that. There's plenty we don't need."

Hawbaker also was critical of the false accusations.

"One thing — I am not a racist and resent being questioned about it, just because I didn't



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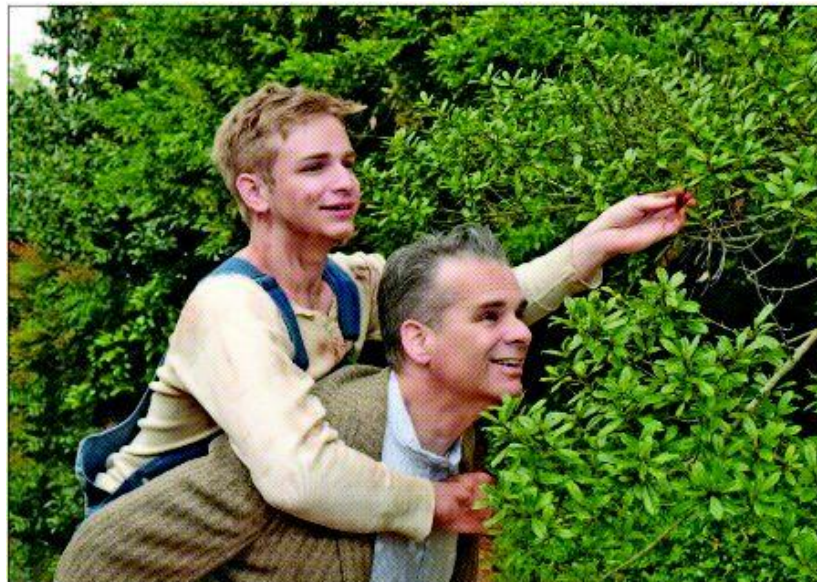
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