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The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

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JUNETEENTH PROCLAIMED

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GRIFFIN — City commissioners issued a series of proclamations on Tuesday, including one which recognizes June 19 as “Juneteenth Independence Day.”

“We give thanks to you guys for the effort you put forth to make this a diverse city,” resident Donald Driver told commissioners.

This year’s Juneteenth proclamation was the same as the 2021 proclamation drafted by the city’s Diversity and Inclusion Council.

A portion of the proclamation reads, “On this day, in

hundreds of communities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions join hands to acknowledge the extremely painful history and lasting, systemic impact of slavery and racial injustice in the United States.”

Spalding County Commissioners voted 3-2 in 2021 to not move forward with issuing the same proclamation as the city’s.

At a June 2021 county commissioner meeting, County Commissioner James Dutton said he asked for three changes in the proclamation’s wording, with County Commissioner Rita Johnson

adding that she chose not to move forward with any wording changes after talking with the city.

County commissioners approved a revised “Juneteenth Celebration Day” proclamation at their June 6 meeting. Along with the change to the proclamation’s title, the county’s 2022 proclamation left out the word “systemic.”

City commissioners also approved a proclamation marking June as Pride Month 2022.

The proclamation urges all residents “to support efforts to promote equality and

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COURTESY OF THE CITY OF GRIFFIN

Regina Fuentes and family accept a proclamation from City of Griffin commissioners naming July 12 as Loving Day 2022. Fuentes thanked commissioners for the proclamation, adding that she has been honoring Loving Day since coming to Griffin in 2011.



COURTESY OF SPALDING COUNTY

A rendering shows the future Spalding County Aquatic Center. Spalding County commissioners recently approved moving forward with constructing the planned aquatic center even though the low bid came in over budget.

County green lights planned aquatic center’s construction

BY KAREN GUNNELS
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GRIFFIN — Spalding County commissioners recently approved moving forward with constructing the planned aquatic center even though the low bid came in over budget.

Commissioners approved re-allocating \$6 million from the county’s American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the aquatic center’s construction.

The original budget for the aquatic

center’s construction was \$4,690,000, with funds coming from 2016 Special Local Option Sales Tax proceeds.

County Manager Steven Ledbetter said the actual low bid the county received for its center’s construction was \$10,072,000.

“This is substantially more than what was budgeted,” Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter said the county has spent \$492,798.50 on engineering activity to prepare for the aquat-

ic center’s construction, leaving \$4,197,201.50 for use toward construction.

“It’s going to be expensive, but we can use the ARPA funds to supplement the construction (cost) of the aquatic center,” Ledbetter said.

Spalding County has received \$6.47 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and is expected to receive a total of nearly \$13 million in ARPA money, according to Spalding County reports.

City names Poole its ‘strongest link’

BY KAREN GUNNELS
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GRIFFIN — The Georgia chapter of the Public Risk Management Association has named City Risk Manager Greg Poole as the state’s Risk Manager of the Year for 2022.

“We are so excited for Greg and for everything he has done for the city,” Human Resources Director Stephanie Woods said Tuesday of Poole’s state-wide honor.



Greg Poole

City of Griffin commissioners on Tuesday recognized Poole as the city’s Strongest Link in the Chain for May.

“I am excited about this because Greg is so committed to the city, to the employees and to our citizens to do the right thing all of the time,” Woods said of Poole being named the city’s newest Strongest Link.

The state PRIMA chapter named Poole as the Risk Manager of the Year because of the actions he has taken to mitigate claims and focus

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COURTESY OF GSC

Gordon State College named Melissa R. Johnson as the dean of enrollment services, effective June 15.

GSC appoints new dean of enrollment services

BY KAROLINA PHILMON
MARKETING MANAGER
GORDON STATE COLLEGE

BARNESVILLE — Gordon State College named Melissa R. Johnson as the dean of enrollment services, effective June 15.

Johnson’s career spans more than 25 years encompassing leadership roles in college administration, pub-

lic and community relations, marketing and communications, recruitment and student advocacy and diversity management.

“Gordon State has a rich history defined by resilience and an abiding commitment to service. GSC is poised to make even greater contributions across the region, and I am excited to be joining High-

lander Nation at such a pivotal moment,” Johnson said. “The ‘Power of We’ truly defines how everyone works together to support GSC students to success. I look forward to joining these efforts.”

In 2016, Johnson joined the staff of Aiken Technical College as the director of recruitment and student experience, later becoming director of

strategic partnerships, where she worked to expand dual enrollment programming and educational partnerships for the college. She served on various committees for strategic planning and special outreach initiatives and was the campus representative to Carolinas Association

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Deaths

Robertha Johnson



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Today’s weather:
Partly cloudy

94 73
High Low