



Photos from recent Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours are in today's edition. **A3**

TUESDAY

Find out how Bears, Jags did in spring scrimmage **SPORTS, A8-9**



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SCSO investigating shooting



KAREN GUNNELS/DAILY NEWS

Spalding County Sheriff's Office deputies investigate the scene of a shooting that occurred Monday afternoon at Beaverbrook Elementary School.

Incident occurs in school parking lot

BY KAREN GUNNELS
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The Spalding County Sheriff's Office is investigating a Monday afternoon shooting in the parking lot of Beaverbrook Elementary School, which left one person injured.

According to Spalding County Sheriff Darrell Dix on the scene, the injured man was taken to WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital and was

being prepared to be flown to the Atlanta Medical Center.

The incident reportedly involved two adults and one child. The child was not injured, Dix said.

Deputies and investigators were at WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital talking to a person who stated he was shot in Beaverbrook's parking lot, according to SCSO information. Investigators also talked with school

SEE SHOOTING/PAGE A14

Dollar General celebrates grand opening Saturday

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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The Dollar General Distribution Center celebrated its grand opening Saturday with its employees, their families and local dignitaries.

The grand opening of the 1,001,234 square-foot facility on the Spalding and Butts county line included bounce houses, face painting, gifts for employees, catered lunch and a ribbon-cutting by company executives, who also served the lunch to the employees. Mario Tort, the senior director of the Jackson Distribution Center, said "500 new careers were created at this distribution center."

The "state-of-the-art facility," he said, "is pretty amazing. But it is our people that make this place work. You are Dollar General's competitive advantage in this area," Tort told the employees.

He's served in similar positions at other Dollar General distribution centers, but said, "we built the best team here in Jackson. I'm excited to celebrate with you here today."

Dollar General Senior Vice President of Global Supply Chain Mike Kindy said, "I'm very excited. I'm pleased to say you've adapted to our



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Cindy Pryor, from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, (center) presented checks for \$7,500 each to the Butts County and Griffin-Spalding school systems, with officials from each accepting the checks.

process." Kindy said, from the day the distribution center began receiving, it has supported about 750 stores in the Southeast.

"I'm really excited you brought your families to enjoy our grand opening. We are one big family," he said.

He also provided from statistics about the building, which will hold nearly 1,000 pallets, which from end to end would go from Jackson to Marietta. The distribution center is protected by more than 12,000 sprinkler heads, and the 400,000-gallon water

reservoir tank for the fire sprinkler system, he said, holds enough water for every person in Jackson to the daily recommended volume of water for 160 days.

SEE DOLLAR/PAGE A14

Residents discuss future plans for city

BY KAREN GUNNELS
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KAREN GUNNELS/DAILY NEWS

Toussaint Kirk, Griffin's director of planning and development, and Paul Jarrell, planner with Three Rivers City Commission, facilitated visioning sessions for the city's comprehensive plan.

Several Griffin residents attended one or both of the sessions held Thursday to discuss updates to the city's comprehensive plan.

The sessions were facilitated by Toussaint Kirk, Griffin's director of planning and development, and Paul Jarrell, planner with Three Rivers City Commission.

Attending residents gave opinions and input on topics such as economic development, tourism, housing, and quality of life.

SEE FUTURE/PAGE A7

Today is election day

ON THE WEB

For more information on voting, including voter identification requirements see http://spaldingcounty.com/voter_registration_information.php. To get a copy of your personal sample ballot, visit the My Voter Page on the Georgia Secretary of State website at <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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Today is the general election and primary, and all 18 precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The ballot includes statewide and local races, as well as the City of Griffin charter amendment, asking "Shall the Act providing for a mayor and mayor pro tem for the City of Griffin be approved?"

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Deaths

- Horace Paul Brooks
- Rita Minter
- William Morgan Harvill Sr.
- Otis J. "Pop" Martin
- Mrs. Crystal Renee Bridges
- Mrs. Ruby J. Whiddon
- Mr. John Hartnest
- Mr. Randy Kurt Hutcheson



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SHOOTING

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

staff and processed a crime scene where the shooting occurred.

Dix said that even though the shooting took place in the school parking lot while an awards ceremony was being conducted inside Beaverbrook, the shooting does not appear to be school-

related at this time. No students or school staff members were reportedly targeted in the shooting, he added.

"The students are safe and not in danger. School was dismissed as normal," Dix said.

Since there are two or three differing accounts of the incident being reported, Dix said deputies are actively investigating how and why the shooting occurred.

A Griffin-Spalding County School System spokeswoman,

Laura Beaber, issued the following statement, "Beaverbrook Elementary School administrators are cooperating with law enforcement as they continue their investigation on campus. The safety and security of students, staff and parents remains our top priority and we are grateful for the Sheriff's Department's immediate response to this matter."

More details will be reported as more information becomes available.

DOLLAR

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Dollar General CEO Todd Vasos told the employees, "each of you make a tremendous impact," and said "the strength of the workforce fits our growing company."

Vasos said there are plans for 900 new stores, and "plenty of opportunities to advance and grow careers. I look forward to growing together."

He also thanked the state and local officials, saying success was not possible without their support and focus on jobs and economic development. He thanked Gov. Nathan Deal "for his support and leadership, and all our partners. We are so glad to partner with the Jackson community."

Tort thanked several key partners who made this possible including the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Lindsey Martin, representing Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson, said, "this is the first time I've seen families at a grand opening."

Tort also thanked Laura Hale Sistrunk, executive director of the Butts County Development Authority, and from the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, Executive Director David Luckie



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Cindy Pryor, from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, (center) presented checks for \$7,500 each to the Butts County and Griffin-Spalding school systems, with officials from each accepting the checks.

and Chairman Chuck Copeland, for creating the environment.

"This why Georgia continues to be No. 1 for economic development," she said. "We look forward to bigger and better things for Dollar General."

Sistrunk said "in economic development, it's like survivor — the last one standing." She remembered the six-month long process where they did not know who the project was, operating only with the project code name Project Buffalo.

Once they found out it was Dollar General, "I was thrilled," she said. When we opened for the job fair, there were 6,000 in attendance." Sistrunk also noted what a community partner Dollar General was, offering to be a staging area for Hurricane Irma response, "which thankfully was not needed."

The state of Georgia also awarded Butts and Spalding counties with the Deal of the Year award for the Dollar General project because of the size and scope of the project. "We look forward to a great relationship, working together in the future."

Copeland said, "it's truly a great day for the hundreds of people employed here. This project represents a collaboration at its best, collaboration and cooperation of the local governments and the willing-

ness of Dollar General to make an investment."

Copeland said, "much of the credit goes to David Luckie's years of experience. We believe our communities are ideally located, we believe strongly in our work force, and the Griffin Region College and Career Academy."

Copeland closed his comments saying, "I'm so proud to have Dollar General and Butts County as our neighbors."

Dollar General's Literacy Foundation also made presentations of \$7,500 each to the Butts County and Griffin-Spalding school systems.

"We believe education is the key to success," said Cindy Pryor from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. "We look forward to a long partnership with you here in Jackson."

Tort closed the ceremonies thanking the family members of the employees, "by supporting them you are an important part of our team. Thank you for all you do to support Dollar General."

JONES SPEAKS DURING EXCHANGE CLUB MEETING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cindy Jones, executive director of the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce, was recently the guest speaker at the weekly Exchange Club meeting. She talked about the goals and focus of the Chamber for the remainder of 2018 and events that are coming up later this year. Some of those events include the Community Business Expo scheduled for July 31 at The Kiwanis Center and a "Taste of History" progressive dinner to be held in August. She also shared about regular programs that are hosted through the Chamber like Business at Lunch and the Industry Roundtable meetings. Exchange Chairman David Dunson, and Fundraising Chair Patrick McEwen are working hard to name sponsors for the upcoming Corn Hole Tournament that will be held in conjunction with the Griffin Downtown Council's June Jam Saturday, June 2.

Edward Goss
Spalding Commissioner District 5
VOTE MAY 22nd
Paid for by Edward Goss • Goss1770@bellsouth.net

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