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The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

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Ecopol facility plans to invest \$38M into Spalding economy

Company will bring 130 jobs

BY KAREN GUNNELS
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GRIFFIN — More than \$38 million will be invested into Spalding County when Ecopol opens its first North American facility in the county, Gov. Brian Kemp said Tuesday.

Italy-based Ecopol manufactures water-soluble and biodegradable film used to wrap everyday products such as detergents, agrochemicals, cosmetics and other con-

sumer goods, according to Kemp's office.

The manufacturing plant will be located in The Lakes at Green Valley eco-friendly industrial park. The company is expected to begin the construction process shortly and plans to be in operation in 2023, said David Luckie, executive director of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority.

"We are very excited about Ecopol coming to The Lakes at Green Valley," Luckie said. "They make an environmentally friendly product and are a perfect fit for our eco park."

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CRYSTAL HOLBERT/DAILY NEWS

The Lakes at Green Valley eco-friendly industrial park is the future site of Ecopol.

County burn ban to take effect

GRIFFIN — Starting May 1, a county-wide outdoor burn ban will take effect until Sept. 30.

"While permits are no longer required for hand-piled natural vegetation, people interested in conducting agricultural, silviculture, vegetative storm debris and land clearing burns must call the local Georgia Forestry Commission Office, (770) 227-5522, prior to doing so," Spalding County fire officials stated.

The Spalding County Fire Department encourages people who plan to burn to be mindful of wind and weather conditions, according to a statement.

The SCFD offers the following tips:

- Must be attended by a competent person at all times (you are responsible for your fire and any escaped fire that may result in damage to neighboring properties)
- Must have on hand an adequate extinguishing agent (garden hose, dirt, sand, extinguisher)
- Must not contain any petroleum based products or anything that gives off black smoke (this includes processed wood from household furnishings)
- Must be located 50 feet away from any structures (including trees) or 15 feet away if in an approved container (55 gallon drum, metal or concrete fire pit)
- Must be out by nightfall

Recreational and ceremonial fires (cooking, warming, religious) are exempt from these guidelines, fire officials stated.

Anyone found in violation of any of the above specified ordinances may be subject to fines or further civil action.

Call (770) 228-2129 for more information.



Above left: The staff at Amazing Crabs mimics a family dynamic. Above right: Jeremy Keene, a server at Amazing Crabs, is holding a cheesecake featured on the restaurant's menu.



PHOTOS BY AMANDA M. LUMPKIN/DAILY NEWS

Swimming into Spalding

Amazing Crabs plans grand opening

BY AMANDA M. LUMPKIN
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GRIFFIN — A new seafood eatery swam into town. Amazing Crabs has opened its doors at 1323 N.

Expressway. A grand opening will be held at noon Thursday, April 14.

The restaurant has been open for about a week, but general manager Edward White said the new business

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Steamed seafood is typically served in a plastic bag at Amazing Crabs.

Rain, rain won't go away: Storms heading for Spalding County

BY AMANDA M. LUMPKIN
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GRIFFIN — More rain is coming to Spalding County, Adam Baker, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Peachtree City office, said Tuesday.

A frontal system coming in from the northwest could bring with it a line of storms

that are moving from the west to the east, Baker said, noting possible slight variations.

From Wednesday night into early Thursday, the area has an increased chance of showers and thunderstorms.

"With that round, we could see some isolated strong or severe storms," Baker said. "Primarily, the main threat would be damaging winds,

and (we) cannot rule out an isolated tornado."

The system should be moving mainly east of Griffin by Thursday afternoon, he said, although there's a possibility lingering rains could exist during this time.

Isolated wind gusts could reach up to 60 mph. Baker recommends securing any outdoor items.

Anticipated high temperatures Wednesday will be in the low 80s, while Baker said temperatures are expected to cool down behind the front Thursday, with daytime highs in the low- to mid-70s.

Friday should be mostly sunny with highs in the upper 70s.

"There is potential that this front could be stalling across

the area, but we're not expecting strong or severe (storms); just mainly a slight chance of a shower or thunderstorm in the afternoon," Baker said of possible Friday rain.

Isolated showers Thursday night flowing into Friday cannot be ruled out, he added.

This weekend's storms

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Deaths

William Earl Rice
Helen Palmore Carter
Henrietta C. Passmore
Stewart Morgan



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Today's weather:
Clouds

80 61
High Low

ECOPOL

FROM PAGE A1

The plant will also bring 130 new jobs to the area. Ecopol will be hiring for positions in production, maintenance, management and administration prior to the completion of construction.

"We're excited to welcome Ecopol as our new Spalding County neighbor," Spalding County Manager Steve Ledbetter said. "Our eco-friendly industrial park is extraor-

dinary. Our ability to attract eco-friendly companies who support a rural look within our community in metro-Atlanta offers a business advantage of traditional industrial parks while using our local resources more efficiently and supporting the achievement of a firm's social responsibility goals."

Construction within The Lakes requires all projects to achieve a certain "eco" rating from the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, which provides a standard rating

system for environmentally sustainable construction, according to Kemp's office.

"Environmental sustainability was a key objective in the development of the Lakes at Green Valley," Chuck Copeland, development authority chairman, said. "We are very happy to welcome another international company to our park whose product and processes align with that vision."

When choosing Griffin as the location for its new plant, Ecopol Chief

Executive Officer Mauro Carbone said the goal was to choose a suitable property with nearby interstate and international airport access, a favorable utility environment, a talented regional labor force and an economic development team that would be supportive of the plant now and in the future.

"With the assistance of our location consultant, we performed a thorough analysis of numerous properties and communities in the southeastern U.S., and we are

confident that we found a great home in The Lakes at Green Valley eco-industrial park in Griffin, Georgia," Carbone said.

Project Manager Kasey Smith represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Global Commerce team on this project in partnership with the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Quick Start and Georgia Power.

"We would like to thank all of our partners, particularly Kasey

Smith from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, for their assistance on this project," Luckie said.

Kemp said he is excited to see the new opportunities Ecopol will bring to Spalding County and to Georgia.

"I want to congratulate the teams in Spalding County who made this project possible by planning ahead and investing in future sites, and I look forward to seeing how Ecopol's new facility will energize the local economy," Kemp said.

