



17 days until Christmas!

TUESDAY

Area teams in action today.
SPORTS, A8



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

City to hear presentation on hospital sale

BY RAY LIGHTNER
STAFF WRITER
RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The City of Griffin Board of Commissioners is scheduled to hear a presentation on the hospital sale agreement at today's meeting.

The Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority is scheduled to make a presentation to the

Board of Commissioners. Hospital Authority Treasurer Cal Oxford previously made a similar presentation to the Spalding County Board of Commissioners.

Oxford was included in the negotiations between Tenet and WellStar for the purchase of Spalding Regional Hospital, and the Hospital Authority "has

a very specific nine-point contractual agreement with Tenet and WellStar," as part of the sale, according to Hope Health Board Vice Chairman and City Commissioner Dick Morrow.

Also at tonight's meeting, the city will recognize retiring City Commissioner Joanne Todd for her 12 years of service on the board; consider a

budget amendment for forklift training for Water and Wastewater Department and Electric Department; consider a quote of \$16,496.30 for reconditioning of Pump No. 2, Lift Station No. 7; consider a settlement of \$210,000 for a 2012 traffic accident; and hear the annual audit results.

At this morning's workshop,

the city commissioners will get an update on issuing bonds for a portion of the city projects from the 2015 SPLOST; discuss water meter replacement, hear a presentation on Stormwater Utility management activities and consider a closed session to discuss pending or potential litigation and the evaluation of personnel.

Christmas Parade held Saturday



Above: The Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas parade took place Saturday evening along Taylor Street. This year's theme was "Christmas Movies."

Right: The Christmas parade featured once again a mix of walking groups, floats and marching bands.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS



GEORGIA READY FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT

The Lakes is now a GRAD site

STAFF REPORTS

The Griffin-Spalding Development Authority announced that The Lakes at Green Valley mixed-use park has been named a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) by Georgia Department of Economic Development GDEC, the state's marketing and sales arm.

"The GRAD designation for The Lakes at Green Valley means that it can truly compete on a global stage for new industry and the accompanying jobs," said Pat Wilson, executive director of Georgia Allies, and COO of the Department of Economic Development. "I fully believe that the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority's efforts to attain the GRAD status for The Lakes will be beneficial."

The Lakes at Green Valley is a 570-acre mixed-use park with 360 acres for industrial use. It is the only "eco" park in the state of Georgia and has already welcomed three new companies into the park — Toppan, Otsuka and Marukan. The Park was funded by the 2008 SPLOST.

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Sign up now for free breakfast with Santa

STAFF REPORTS

Sign up now for Spalding County Parks and Recreation annual "Free Breakfast with Santa" event which will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 19.

Breakfast with Santa will be held at three recreation centers across the county: City Park Gym, 601 Camp Northern Road; Fairmont Community Center, 241 Blanton St.; and AMBUCS Park Community Center, 1110 High Falls Road.

It is open to Spalding County youth ages 10 and younger, and the first 50 registrations accepted at each site. Register online at www.spaldingparkandrec.com.

For more information, contact the Spalding County Parks and Recreation at 770-467-4750 or www.spaldingparksandrec.com.

Gordon State College to host commencement ceremony for 160 graduates Friday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Diplomas will be awarded to 160 Gordon State College graduates during ceremonies on Friday.

The ceremonies will be held in the Student Activity and Recreation Center arena, starting with graduation at 9 a.m., followed by the pinning ceremony for graduates of the nursing school at noon.

Dr. Lawrence Weill, past president of Gordon State College, will address the graduates.

Weill was president of Gordon State from 2002 to 2012. During his

last year at Gordon, he was a faculty member teaching honors philosophy, ethics and philosophy. He and his wife, Jennie, live in Kentucky, where he is a published writer, artist, avid outdoorsman and gardener.

Keeping with a long-held tradition at Gordon State College, bagpiper Michael Grest will lead the procession of faculty, administration and graduates into the arena. Gordon State College President Max Burns will present the diplomas.

Graduates, their families and friends are invited to enjoy brunch in the lounge area just outside the

arena, starting at 10 a.m. The cost is \$7.22 per person.

A total of 277 students completed their degree requirements during the summer and fall semesters. Degrees to be conferred include associate of arts (68); associate of science (109); associate of science in nursing (32); bachelor of arts in English (4); bachelor of arts in history (6); bachelor of science in biology (15); bachelor of science in health services (17); bachelor of science in human services (21); and bachelor of science in education (5).

Inside

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Deaths

Edna Sharp
Mrs. Ruby M. Kirkland
Ms. Maxie L. Blanton



Today's weather:
Sunny

63 **37**
High Low

It's the personal touches that make a difference.



HAISTEN MCCULLOUGH FUNERAL HOME

WESTWOOD GARDENS & MAUSOLEUM
1155 EVEREE INN ROAD GRIFFIN

> 770-229-4994 HaistenMcCullough.com <

Funerals
Cremations
Pre-Arranged Planning
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Monuments
Bronze Memorials

OBITUARIES

Edna Sharp

Jan. 2, 1923 —
Dec. 5, 2015

Edna Sharp, born Edna Louise Goodson, finally received peace on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 5.

Born on Jan. 2, 1923, in Decatur, GA, she lived and worked there until she married Vance Sharp in 1945. They settled in Griffin, where she and Vance raised two children, were active in the community and owned Sharps Jewelers.

Edna was a member of the Kiwanianne Club and was instrumental in the starting of the Korn Dawg stand at the Spalding County Fair. She

loved to travel, garden and square dance and was a member of the Griffin Squares.

She was an amazing and generous cook to the delight of everyone she knew. Her candy will be missed.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Vicki and Frank Biles of Perry, GA, and her son and daughter-in-law Tony and Jan Sharp of Griffin, GA; grandchildren Kristi Biles Pelot and husband Curry of Alpharetta, GA, and Eric Biles and wife Whitney of Sarasota, FL, and four great-grandsons.

A graveside memorial service for Edna Sharp will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Friends may visit the family from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home.



To pay condolences online to the family, please do so at www.haistenmccullough.com.

Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Ruby M. Kirkland

April 25, 1923 —
Dec. 7, 2015

Jackson resident
Mrs. Ruby Mae

Kirkland, 92, of Jackson, passed away on Monday, December 7, 2015 at Westbury Medical Care.

Mrs. Kirkland was born in Atlanta, Georgia on April 25, 1923. She is preceded in death by her parents, William Agnew and Maude Brumbelow Agnew; husband, James Kirkland; daughter, Sheila Dianne Smith; a sister and brothers.

Survivors include her children Martha and Joe Bramlett of Williamson, David and Teresa Kirkland of Villa Rica, Juanita and William McDaniel of Griffin, Deborah and Richard Juders of Griffin, Steve and Cathy Kirkland of Griffin; numerous grandchildren, great

grandchildren, and great great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Mrs. Ruby M. Kirkland will be on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A funeral service will be conducted on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 11:00 am in the Chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Reverend Gene Luke and Reverend Andy Cunningham will officiate. Interment will follow in Melwood Cemetery, 5170 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Stone



Mountain, GA 30083.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Ruby M. Kirkland by visiting www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of the arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

Ms. Maxie L. Blanton, of 850 Scales St., Griffin, died Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, in Killeen, Texas. Funeral arrangements will be announced. McDowell's Funeral Home Inc., 305 N. Hill St., is in charge of arrangements.

Local Briefs

From staff reports

Donate to Shoes for Griffin through Dec. 9

Field Foot and Ankle is holding its Second Annual Shoes for Griffin Program through Wednesday, Dec. 9. Shoes can be dropped off at Field Foot and Ankle, 730 S. Eighth St., Griffin. Cash and check donations can be made to Spalding Collaborative, PO Box 701, Griffin, 30223. Memo: Shoes for Griffin. For more information, email shoesforgriffin.com.

Archway Partnership holding young professionals networking event

The Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership is holding a networking event for young professionals Dec. 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Safehouse Coffee Roasters, 109 S. Hill St., Griffin. For more information, call Kristen Miller, 706-483-3264.

Moore holding book fair

Moore Elementary School will have a book fair through Friday, Dec. 11 at the school's media center. The times are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. all week and from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday (PTO Night).

Promise Place planning Christmas Gala

The Promise Place Christmas Gala 2015 is Saturday, Dec. 12 at Barnstormer's Grill, 349 Jonathan's Roost Road, Williamson. The event features music from Night Train (18-piece big band), holiday photos, ballroom dancing and silent auction. Doors open at 6 p.m., ballroom dance lessons at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Attire is black tie. Tickets are \$50; advanced tickets only. Reserve tickets by Nov. 30 at www.promiseplace.org.

Daybreak Rotary sponsoring annual tour

The 2015 Christmas Tour is the Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club's 19th annual fund-raiser on Sunday, Dec. 13. Tickets are available at The Chicken House, Griffin/Spalding Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank of Griffin, any Daybreak Rotarian or at the homes/businesses themselves on the day of the tour, Sunday, Dec. 13. Tour names and addresses include The Rev. Roy and Rosemary Walden, 301 Park Chase Court, Griffin, 30224; Joshua Smith and Wesley Stephenson, 915 Maple Drive, Griffin, 30224; Lee and Wanda Cronic Howell, 1706 Quail Drive, Griffin, 30224; The Cookie Jar, 215 South 6th St., Griffin, 30224; The Woods Senior Care, 1401 Macon Road, Griffin, 30224; and Broad Street Mill, 324 East Broad St., Griffin, 30223.

Main Street Players present 'Sanders Family Christmas'

Main Street Players will present "Sanders Family Christmas" continues through Dec. 13. There will be shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Call 770-229-9916 for reservations or visit www.mainstreetplayers.org for more details.

Neighborhood meeting, Dec. 14

A neighborhood meeting will be held, Monday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Griffin Impact Center, 223 Kentucky Ave., with refreshments and a Christmas basket giveaway. Come one, come all. For more information, contact Lisa Fambro at fambro.lisa@yahoo.com.

Young at Heart meets

The First United Methodist Church's Young at Heart meets Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All seniors 50 and older are invited. The Rev. Sonny Sellers, First UMC's associate minister, will present a music program. After the meeting and program, lunch will be served for \$5. Make reservations with your caller or by calling the church office at 770-228-3020 by noon Monday, Dec. 14.

Moose Lodge to host blood drive

The Griffin Moose Lodge No. 1503, 1435 Zebulon Road, is holding a blood drive Thursday, Dec. 17 from 2 to 7 p.m. For an appointment, call Mike Rudderham at 770-228-6705 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: griffinmoose.

Toy Round-up continues through Dec. 18

Griffin Fire-Rescue's Annual Toy Round-up has begun. Firefighters will collect toys at all three city fire stations until Friday, Dec. 18. The toys will be accepted seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Toys are needed for boys and girls of all ages. Checks are accepted and 100 percent of the money received will buy toys. Make checks payable to Griffin Fire-Rescue Toy Round-up, C/O Fire Station 2, 401 North Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223. Toys should remain in their original packaging and should not be wrapped. For more information, call Capt. Mitchell Cardell or firefighter Daniel Cowles at 770-229-6415.

Help kids get bikes

Bobby D's Bikes is holding a series of fund-raisers to help buy bikes for needy children this Christmas. Events are: Buffalo's (Dec. 10 and 17), Griffin Moose Lodge (Dec. 11), and Kevin's Korner (Dec. 5 and 18). All events are from 7:30 p.m. until finished. There will be 50/50 drawings, raffles, and live auctions. Donations can also be mailed to Bobby D's Kids, P.O. Box 1542, Griffin, GA 30224 or you can make a donation at Regions Bank. Please make checks and money orders payable to Bobby D's Kids. For more information, call 678-588-1945.

UGA-Griffin holding United Way fundraiser

UGA-Griffin's holiday fund-raiser for the United Way is Tuesday, Dec. 22 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. with pick-up behind the Stuckey Auditorium. For a \$25 donation, you can choose a Boston butt or half a pork loin, with your selection hot and ready-to-eat at time of pick-up. Tickets are available until Dec. 18 at the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce during regular business hours. For more information, call the Griffin-Spalding County United Way at 770-229-4212.

Free Breakfast with Santa Dec. 19

Sign up now for Spalding County Parks and Recreation annual "Free Breakfast with Santa" event which will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 19, at three recreation centers across the county: City Park Gym, 601 Camp Northern Road; Fairmont Community Center, 241 Blanton St.; and AMBUCS Park Community Center, 1110 High Falls Road. It is open to Spalding County youth ages 10 and younger, and the first

50 registrations accepted at each site. Register online at www.spaldingparkandrec.com. For further information please contact the Spalding County Parks and Recreation at 770-467-4750 or www.spaldingparksandrec.com.

FAITH Riders to collect coats, blankets

FAITH Riders Bike Night at Truett's Grill, 1455 North Expressway, will be Saturday, Dec. 19, 6 to 8 p.m. They will be collecting coats and blankets as well as the best bike contest, games and more. You do not need a motorcycle to enjoy this event. FAITH Riders is a motorcycle ministry of Union Baptist Church, 1405 North McDonough Road, Griffin, 770-227-8725 or ubcg.org.

Have breakfast with Santa

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'Lift Every Voice and Sing'

The Griffin/Spalding Black Heritage Festival Committee presents the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" concert Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Griffin Auditorium. The program will feature Dr. Roland Carter, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga professor emeritus and founder and CEO of Marvel music publishing company. The third annual choral festival will also feature the Griffin High School Chorus and the Spalding High School Chorus. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds benefit choral arts programs in the local school system. For more information, call 770-227-3083. The deadline for participation commitment is Dec. 22.

Walker Hill art exhibit continues through January

The Plein Air Painters of the Griffin-Spalding Art Association has an art exhibit featuring the historic site "Walker Hill" at the Welcome Center Conference Room (143 N. Hill St.) through January. The Welcome Center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Farm Bureau seeking entries for Art & Essay Contest

The Spalding County Farm Bureau is seeking entries for the GFB Art & Essay Contest. The essay contest is open to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students while the art contest is open to ninth through 12th-grade students. The essay contest topic is "Civilization as it is known today could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply." The deadline to submit entries is Feb. 26, 2016. Call the Spalding County Farm Bureau at 770-228-2341 for more details.

GRAD

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The GRAD designation indicates that The Lakes is market-ready. The designation also includes several tools to market the site, including:

- Program benefits on the Georgia Department of Economic Development website;
- Highlighted listings on the industrial site databases of major electric utility websites;
- Continued presence on Georgia Allies electronic newsletter targeted to companies and location consultants;
- Site awareness for statewide project managers and Georgia Allies partners.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for marketing awareness of The Lakes to better represent our community," said Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Executive Director David M. Luckie. "We are proud of the designation and the work that went into it to achieve it, and look forward to continuing to grow the park."

The Georgia Department of Economic Development plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects.

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.