



THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS

UGA President Jere Morehead speaks to guests Monday during a dedication ceremony for the Food Technology Center at UGA's Griffin Campus. The ceremony was followed by a symbolic ribbon-cutting and a tour of the new facility.

UGA-Griffin's FoodPIC viewed as driver for research, economy

BY THOMAS HOEFER
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The ribbon had long been cut when guests were still lining up Monday to get an inside look at the new Food Technology Center on the University of Georgia's Griffin campus on Experiment Street.

Minutes earlier, those guests — local and state representatives as well as UGA officials, faculty, staff, graduates and friends — were part of a dedication ceremony for the Food Product Innovation and Com-

mercialization Center (FoodPIC) that featured numerous well-known speakers.

UGA President Jere Morehead, who praised the "remarkable turnout" for the event, lauded the facility as a great example for the collaboration of the public sector, industry and higher education — all of which contributed financially to the project.

Morehead also said he considers the FoodPIC a valuable source of economic development for the state of Georgia,

with hands-on opportunities for UGA-Griffin students and area high school students.

"The Food Product Innovation and Commercialization Center is an outstanding example of the University of Georgia using its resources to help strengthen our state's economy," Morehead said. "We are grateful for the support we have received for the new Food Technology Center, and we are excited to expand the reach of

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Fairmont Homes gets a little library

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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Reading promotes literacy, and the little libraries provide the opportunity to read and the opportunity for groups to come together.

Brett Bell is leading the little library effort for the Spalding Collaborative, which has a goal of putting up at least one a month around the community. The first one officially opened with a Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting Tuesday afternoon at Fairmont Homes.

The little library was put up outside 211-A Quincy Ave., which is the home for the CHARMS after-school program. Eula Redding, who started CHARMS (Caring Helpful Active Residents of Meriwether Homes) at Meriwether Homes before moving to Fairmont Homes, emphasized the importance of reading every day.

"Reading will lift you to the top," Redding said.

She said the children

free libraries, Bell said, are handcrafted structures filled with constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by persons of all ages and backgrounds.

He has community support for the little libraries with community, civic and business organizations all helping out. First National Bank will be a drop-off site for books.

Andrea Dunson of First National said this a project of the leadership class. She said this is an opportunity to read and an opportunity for groups to work together.

The little library was put up outside 211-A Quincy Ave., which is the home for the CHARMS after-school program.

WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital is holding a book drive, encouraging employees to bring in books for the little

libraries, and may consider being a drop-off site for books as well.

The goal, Bell said, is to "give kids that don't have books the joy of reading," and putting them in neighborhoods and other county parks, since children can't get to the library on their own.

with honors from Griffin High School, Spalding County, in 1957. He attended Emory at Oxford before joining the U.S. Navy May 11, 1959, and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer after 31 years of service. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Christ since 1979.

Richard J. Adams. Survivors include children, Mark Adams, Brian and Pamela Adams and Debbie and Brian Vaceluke; grandchildren, Brian Cody Adams and Bobby Shane Adams; and great-grandson, Noah Adams.

A memorial service for Mrs. Arlene Adams

Mr. Jeffrey M. Johnson, 43, of Stockbridge, died on Monday, Jan. 30, 2017. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017, in the chapel of Heritage Funeral Home. Heritage Funeral Home, 1512 Williamson Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements.

and short forms will be processed. All tax-related records will be required to complete proper forms. The Spalding County Senior Center is at 885 Memorial Drive, Griffin. To make an appointment, call the Senior Center at 770-467-4384.

Bell to speak at neighborhood meeting

The next Neighborhood Meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Community Center. Guest speaker is Brett Bell.

Main Street presents 'The 39 Steps'

The Main Street Players presents "The 39 Steps" Feb. 9 to 19 with shows Thursday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale now, and reservations are encouraged. You can reserve your seats by calling the box office at 770-229-9916. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students, with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For tickets and more information, call 770-229-9916.

Veterans issues to be discussed

DSPII (Discovering Soldiers Potential the Second Time Around) is hosting a DSPII Veteran Summit Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UGA-Griffin Student Learning Resource Center Room 104, 1109 Experiment St. Working lunch is \$5.

Group to hold Founders Day Observance Feb. 11

The Griffin Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. has announced its 104th Founders Day Observance on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church, 1247 D.F. Fuller Drive, Griffin, at 1 p.m. Minister Sonia Milner Adams, of Blossoming Vines Ministries in Atlanta, a Griffin native, will be the guest speaker. She is a Griffin native. The event is free. For more information, email Gwendolyn Morris at griffin_area_alumnae@yahoo.com.

FOODPIC

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

FoodPIC within the global food industry."

The 14,500-square-foot facility marks a \$7.4 million project, made possible by the state of Georgia with a \$3.5 million allocation and additional funds from the University of Georgia, the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

"We anticipate seeing a tremendous return on our investment," said Chuck Copeland, chairman of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, which contributed \$1 million to the FoodPIC.

The facility, under the direction of Kirk Kealey, will put an emphasis on helping food entrepreneurs with product development, packaging, food safety, consumer acceptance and marketing. It is designed for short-term partnerships between those entrepreneurs and UGA scientists.

Like Copeland, Georgia District 130 Rep. David Knight (R-Griffin) reminded the audience that the idea for the Food Technology Center goes back a long time.

"It's been 15 years in the making. I want to thank the people who knew and saw the need for this facility," said Knight, crediting UGA and the University System of Georgia's (USG) Board of Regents for their ongoing commitment to the local campus. "This

campus cannot continue its cutting-edge research in facilities that are decades old."

While many ride by the UGA Griffin Campus every day, Knight encouraged a strong push to let people know what's going on inside of it.

"Folks, let's not keep this a secret anymore," he said. "This campus has reached so many lives through its research. We are leading the world in so many ways in agriculture."

The guests that day also heard from Pike County STEM Academy student Nikki Dodson, a high-school student who completed an internship with UGA-Griffin and has received early admission to UGA. Dodson shared her experience researching at UGA-Griffin and the lessons she learned as a result of it.

Dr. Tommy Hopkins, chairman of the USG's Board of Regents, echoed many of the thoughts that previous speakers had about the FoodPIC.

"This is going to be a real research and economic driver for Georgia. The (UGA-Griffin) campus is an economic driver," he said, pointing to the approximate 350 people it employs. "If this wasn't here, there would be a lot of professionals who wouldn't be in our community."

Hopkins added that people can obtain a regular UGA degree while attending the UGA Griffin campus exclusively.

"Let's remember that," said Hopkins, "and pass the word on."

repayment will begin in 2020.

• The Harry Simmons Water Treatment Plant was built in 1929. Engineering for a \$30 million upgrade is planned to start in 2021 and could take two or more years. Construction on the project is scheduled for 2023 and could take two or more years. Debt on this project

• The Potato Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was last upgraded in 1973. A \$19.1 million upgrade is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

• The Flint River Pump Station was built in 1929. A \$8.275 million upgrade is ongoing, and debt repayment starts this year.

its Jan. 25 workshop and meeting was to increase water rates 9 percent and a sewer rates 3.5 percent for the next five years, totaling an average blended rate of 6 percent per year.

While the commissioners approved the rate increase by a vote of 6-1, some commissioners did not feel comfortable with the increase.

INPUT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Jan. 24 workshop.

The projects include:

• The Cabin Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1934. A \$16 million project was included in the

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The Griffin will be condu Citizens' Poli nights from 6 April 13. In th citizens will H see the inner Police Depart in open forur encouraged to interact with learning how operates.

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40 Days fo from March right-of-way i Women's Hea Parkway, For to 8 p.m. ever information, 770-467-0910 More inform: 40daysforlife.

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