



Local DAR welcomes new member. **A11**

THURSDAY

Get caught up on your favorite teams. **SPORTS, A8**



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Man shot 11 times Sunday morning

Sheriff's office: Incident 'possibly gang-related'

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The shooting of a man 11 times Sunday morning "is possibly gang related," according to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office.

Beam, deputies responded to a report of shots fired at 418 Ashley Trail in western Spalding County. Upon arrival, deputies discovered Tamunosiki Elvis Ogbo, 24, of 415 Ashley Trail, lying in the driveway across the street at 418 Ashley Trail.

shot 11 times by an unknown person. The sheriff said, "during the initial investigation information was received that the shooting is possibly gang related."

Ogbo was transported to and as of Tuesday morning remains in the Atlanta Medical Center

Tamunosiki Ogbo was transported to and as of Tuesday morning remains in the Atlanta Medical Center because of his injuries.

because of his injuries, according to the sheriff.

According to fire department call logs, the Spalding County Fire Department was

dispatched to 418 Ashley Trail, at 1:45 a.m., Sunday, arrived on scene at 1:46 a.m., and left at 2:21 a.m.

The location is in the Wills Walk subdivision off Vineyard Road. The home at 415 Ashley Trail has been used for a personal care home for the past several years with a home occupation special exception from the county.

Suspect flees traffic stop, then wrecks

Wanted on warrant, man is apprehended after Ellis Road crash

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Charges are pending against the driver who reportedly fled deputies and crashed into another accident scene Monday morning.

According to Spalding County Sheriff Wendell Beam, deputies attempted to stop a car operated by Jason Martin, 40, of Griffin, who was wanted on a warrant for violation of parole from prior burglary charges.

The chase continued on several streets from Meriwether Street to Ellis Road.

Martin failed to stop for the deputies and a car chase ensued, the sheriff said. The chase continued on several streets from Meriwether Street to Ellis Road. Martin was traveling west on Ellis Road and when he approached the intersection of Henry Jackson Road, he struck a box truck, which was stopped on West Ellis Road due to an unrelated accident being investigated by the Georgia State Patrol.

SEE SUSPECT/PAGE A2



Pictured is action from the 2014 youth football season.

JOHN SULLIVAN/THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Rec football to be revisited

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will be reconsidering the football association at tonight's meeting.

At Monday's meeting, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners requested the Advisory Commission review the Georgia Youth Elite Sports Academy Inc.'s football program presentation. Members of the organization based in Henry County spoke during public comments at last month's Advisory Commission meeting, but will make their official presentation at tonight's meeting.

IF YOU GO

- What: Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting
•When: 6 p.m. today
•Where: Senior Center Conference Room, 885 Memorial Drive, Griffin

It is scheduled as an action item, meaning a vote is planned.

At that meeting last month, the Advisory Board voted 2-0 with three abstentions to award the county football

SEE FOOTBALL/PAGE A2



Pictured is action from the 2014 youth football season.

JOHN SULLIVAN/THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Development authority executive director speaks to Kiwanis Club



THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS

Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Executive Director David Luckie spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Griffin Wednesday. Luckie summarized how the development authority presents Griffin in an effort to bring business to the community.

Luckie recaps 2014 for Griffin-Spaulding area

BY THOMAS HOEFER STAFF WRITER THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Griffin-Spalding Development Authority was able to secure five new projects for the community in 2014. Those projects represented 212 new jobs, saved 200 jobs and brought in new capital investment of \$145.5 million.

"2014 was a good year for Griffin-Spalding County," said David Luckie, executive director of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, who spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Griffin Wednesday.

would otherwise be successful. It was 21 years ago that Luckie joined the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, which has since accounted for \$700 million in new capital investment and 5,000 new jobs.

During his presentation Wednesday, however, Luckie focused on how the development authority presents Griffin and Spalding County in an effort to bring new business to the community.

Luckie added that two additional companies ... would soon bring another 84 new jobs and \$18 million in new capital investment to the community.

community.

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Deaths

- Mrs. Laura B. Taylor
Mr. Gerald R. Pointer
Mrs. Becky Sutton
William Edgar Evans Jr.
Mr. Bobby Lewis Dozier



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OBITUARIES



Mrs. Laura B. Taylor

Nov. 30, 1925 —
Jan. 3, 2015

Griffin resident

Mrs. Laura B. Taylor, 89, of Griffin, passed away on Saturday, January 3, 2015.

Mrs. Taylor was born in Fayetteville, Georgia on November 30, 1925. She is preceded in death by her parents, Jewel Smith (who passed away when she was 3 months old) and Effie Lee Smith-Evans; her father whom raised her, W.C. Evans (Big Daddy); husband of 59 years, Douglas O. Taylor; son-in-law, Gerald E. Johnson; brothers and their spouses, Glenn and Evelyn Smith, Sam and Kathryn Smith; brother-in-law and spouse, Chester and Carolyn Taylor; sister-in-law and spouse, Lila Taylor Segraves and Martin. Mrs. Taylor was a member of Lovejoy Methodist Church, played the piano for several years and retired manicurist after 44 years.

Survivors include her daughter, Reba Taylor Johnson; grandchildren, Taylor and Lindsay Johnson, Cooper and Jackson, Trina and Eric Nielsen, Rebakah, Laura and Breann, Todd and Anna Johnson, Anna Grace, Jake and Jared; sister, June Vining;

brother, Gerald Evans; brother-in-law and spouse, Harvey and JoAnn Taylor.

With great appreciation and thanks to Brightmoor Assisted Living, Brightmoor Nursing Center and Brightmoor Hospice for their professional care, love and prayers for Mrs. Taylor.

Visitation for Mrs. Laura B. Taylor will be on Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, a graveside service will be conducted at 2:00 pm at Westwood Gardens. Reverend Med Roach and Reverend Kevin Barnes will officiate. Flowers will be accepted or contributions to First United Methodist Church Amick Fund or the Music Ministry at 1401 Maple Drive, Griffin, Georgia 30224 in memory of Mrs. Taylor.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Laura B. Taylor by visiting www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, Georgia, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Gerald R. Pointer

March 21, 1940 —
Jan. 7, 2015

Griffin resident

Mr. Gerald R. Pointer, 74, of Griffin, passed away Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

Mr. Pointer was born in Carrollton, Georgia on March 21, 1940. He is preceded in death by his

parents, Charles Pointer and Mary T. Pointer; his first wife, Rachel H. Pointer, daughter, Crystal P. Hatchett and a son, Steven Pointer. He was retired from Glass Systems.

Survivors include his wife, Christine Pointer; grandchildren, Matthew and Candie Hatchett, Summer Pointer; great grandchildren, Tyler Hatchett and Lexie Long; nieces and nephews, Mary Hayes, Nathan Pointer and Tracy Pointer; sister, Jimmie Lee Cook; several other nieces, nephews; great nieces, great nephews, and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Visitation for Gerald Pointer will be on Friday, January 9, 2015 from noon until 1:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation a funeral service will be conducted in the chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Reverend Vernon Ritchie will officiate. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Gerald Pointer by visiting www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

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

Mrs. Becky Sutton

March 1, 1951 —
Jan. 7, 2015

Griffin resident

Mrs. Becky Sutton, 63, of Griffin, passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at her residence.

Mrs. Sutton was born in LaGrange, Georgia

on March 1, 1951. She is preceded in death by her parents, Harvey B. Norton and Dester Mae Norton. Mrs. Sutton was retired from Kroger's.

The family would like to say a special thanks to, Ricky Shepherd, Reverend Ralph Dailey and staff of Shepherd Care Hospice for all their care and support.

Survivors include husband Earl Sutton; son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Melody Sutton; daughter and son-in-law, Audrey and Joe Wheatley; daughter-in-law, Dr. Genia Sword; grandchildren, Lindsee, Laurel, Alyssa, Alexis, Devin Wheatley, Heather Sutton, Ryan Sutton and Candice Frasier; brother, Cecil Norton; sister, Agnes Wood; several nieces and nephews

Visitation for Mrs. Becky Sutton will be on Thursday, January 8, 2015 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A funeral service will be conducted in the chapel on Friday, January 9, 2015 at 11:00 am. Reverend Ralph Dailey will officiate. Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Becky Sutton by visiting www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Elder William Edgar Evans Jr., 87, of Barnesville, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in a Spalding County

health-care facility. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in the chapel of Williams Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. Those who wish may view the memorial page and sign the guest book online at www.williamsfh.net. Williams Funeral Home of Barnesville is in charge of arrangements. 770-358-1678.

Funeral services for **Mr. Bobby Lewis Dozier**, 70, of Atlanta, formerly of Williamson, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, in the Davis and Watkins PFS Chapel, 426 Melrose Ave., Griffin. Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to the time of service at the same location. Davis & Watkins Professional Funeral Services (PFS) is in charge of arrangements. 770-233-0750 or 770-567-3004.

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.

SUSPECT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Following the collision, Beam said, Martin's car, a black 2000 Gran Prix, caught fire in the engine area. The trooper and Griffin Code Enforcement helped extinguish the fire, according to various accounts, with the trooper or deputies removing the occupants, either four or five of them, from the car.

According to the State Patrol, the occupants were trapped inside and were removed by the trooper, with four being injured. Two were airlifted and two were taken by ground to the hospital, all with serious injuries, according to the State Patrol.

Beam said there were five occupants in the car, with three airlifted to Atlanta area hospitals and Martin being transported by ambulance to the Spalding Regional Hospital.

The Georgia State Patrol is investigating the accident and charges are pending against Martin, the sheriff said.

According to fire department call logs, the Engine 1 from Spalding County Fire Department was dispatched at 10:34 a.m., and arrived at 10:40 a.m., Monday, to an accident with injuries on West Ellis Road at Henry Jackson Road. They remained on scene until 11:58 a.m.

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FOOTBALL

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

program to South Atlanta Youth Association, which had shadowed the county officials this past season. Of the nine-member board, six were present at the time of the vote, two voted in favor, three abstained and the acting chairman did not vote.

At Monday's county commission meeting, South Atlanta Youth Association President Donald Driver wanted to know why his group was told it had to go back before the Advisory Commission.

"Our board followed the instructions, and shadowed the county staff for the past year," Driver said, "but we was told we have to go back before the Parks and Recreation board. We want to know why?"

The county commissioners discussed the matter at their meeting Monday while making plans for a workshop. Commissioner Raymond Ray said there were concerns "based on the number of votes, the number of abstentions, as well as someone from out of county offering to do it. We have to be especially careful about that, after the last time."

He was referring to Anthony Ramos and Good Samaritans Community Development, that had undisclosed financial backers for the summer and after school program, which the backers closed down

due to declining participation.

That too was a concern shared by County Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor, who said, "they had a vote and allowed them (South Atlanta Youth Association) to run it. Why jump in there and add someone else, especially someone from out of county?"

She also asked if the other group would have to shadow county staff for a year first, and cited concerns that the county would have to then fund the program next season. Football is the only sport the county funds and operates, with next season to be first run by an association, like all of the other sports.

County Commissioner Bart Miller, who ran the football program when he was a county employee, said Monday, "maybe we need to listen to both of them. We've got to come up with money if they pull out."

South Atlanta Youth Association is scheduled to provide an update to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission tonight as well.

There also were some questions last month about the association having enough funding and enough start-up funds to make it work and cover costs, including equipment repair and replacement prior to registration fees coming in. There was about a \$12,500 difference in what Driver said the budget was and what county staff said the costs would be.

CLUB

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Luckie said the authority shows prospects a variety of information pertaining to Griffin-Spalding County — including education, health care, housing, restaurants, retail, the arts, crime and safety, hotels/motels and general interest. That information also includes points of interest in surrounding communities as well as the city of Atlanta.

"The message to prospects is: If you can't find it in Griffin, you can find it in a 30-mile radius," he said.

The development authority lost some projects over the past couple of years, Luckie said, because prospects thought the community wasn't close enough to I-75, I-85 or Port of Savannah. Another reason, he added, was that some communities are willing to give away everything, whereas he believes that when the authority and the prospect shake hands, both sides should feel they got a good deal.

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