



Get caught up with the Jags this summer. SPORTS, A10

WEDNESDAY

Doc Holliday program is Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Griffin-Spalding County Library. For more information, call 770-412-4770.

The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS



Photos by THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS

Local and state officials as well as executives with Otsuka Chemical America Inc. broke ground Tuesday for the Japanese company's facility at the Lakes at Green Valley, which is expected to be in place next year.

Man killed on I-75 in Lamar County

STAFF REPORTS

A 53-year-old Alpharetta man was killed Monday afternoon while changing a tire on his vehicle along Interstate 75 in Lamar County when he was struck by a tire that came from a passing utility trailer.

The Georgia State Patrol is asking for the public's help in locating the vehicle, trailer and driver involved in the incident.

The death occurred at about 12:50 p.m. on I-75 southbound at mile marker 198. A tire on a utility trailer came off the trailer and struck Brian Edward Durst, 53, of Alpharetta, as Durst was changing a tire on his vehicle in the emergency lane. The vehicle pulling the trailer did not stop.

State troopers believe the trailer tire came from a two-axle utility, boat, horse, or box trailer.

Anyone with information on the vehicle, trailer or driver is asked to call the Georgia State Patrol at the Newnan Communications Center at 770-254-7201 or the Lamar County Sheriff's Office.

Teddy Bear Run on Saturday

BY RAY LIGHTNER

STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Southside Riders Association will hold a Teddy Bear Run on Saturday.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., at Truett's Grill, 1455 North Expressway, Griffin, with kickstands up at 9:30

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Otsuka breaks ground at Lakes at Green Valley

BY THOMAS HOEFER

STAFF WRITER THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Local and state officials as well as executives with Otsuka Chemical America, Inc. broke ground Tuesday for the Japanese company's facility at the Lakes at Green Valley, which is expected to be in place next year.

Locating its headquarters to a 35-acre site within one of Georgia's first eco-friendly industrial parks, Otsuka Chemical America, Inc. will manufacture Terraceless titanate friction materials for automotive brake pads and create 32 jobs along the way.

"This is a site you can indeed be proud of," said Gov. Nathan Deal of the Lakes at Green Valley.

Deal took a trip to Asia last year to initiate mutually beneficial relationships between industries in Georgia and Japan, and the groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday was a supreme example of that partnership paying off, he said.

"We are having these (announcements of businesses locating to Georgia) virtually every week, sometimes several times a week," Deal said, adding that Tuesday may not have been the last time he came to Griffin to celebrate good news for the Lakes at Green Valley.

"It's a great day for Georgia. It's a great day for Griffin and Spalding County," he



Gov. Nathan Deal said that Otsuka Chemical America Inc., locating to the Lakes at Green Valley is a sign of the relationships between industries in Georgia and Japan paying off. Listening to Deal's speech are, from left, Otsuka Chemical Co., Ltd. President Takeharu Harashima, Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Chairman Chuck Copeland and Otsuka Chemical America Inc. Chief Executive Officer Hiroyoshi Tosa.

said. "Thanks for being here."

Chuck Copeland, chairman of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, expressed his gratitude toward Otsuka Chemical America, Inc. for choosing Griffin as the place to do business. Copeland

also commended Deal and other state officials helping attract businesses from overseas to Georgia in the first place.

The greatest compliment, however,

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Griffin native publishes book on Psalms

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Having found the Psalms a rich resource for his own life's challenges, Dr. Tim Riordan, senior pastor of SonRise Baptist Church of Newnan, has published "Songs from the Heart, Meeting with God in the Psalms," to encourage other spiritual pilgrims who seek to better know the God of the Bible.

Riordan grew up in Griffin and graduated from Griffin High School in 1980. After attending seminary, he eventually came back to Griffin in 1992 to serve on staff of Crestview Baptist Church before moving to Newnan in 2008.

Excited to share his knowledge about the Psalms to help others ignite their own personal worship through the study, Riordan explains, "One great challenge in studying the Psalms is to force ourselves to move beyond seeing these passages as archaic words that applied to a group of people that lived thousands of years ago and see the relevance of the text to our experiences we may have had this morning."

Created as both a stand-alone, in-depth study of a selection of Riordan's favorite Psalms from the Bible and as an accompaniment to his six-week Psalms summer

sermon series at SonRise, which began the first Sunday in June, "Songs from the Heart, Meeting With God in the Psalms" is divided into two main parts.

The book's first half gives a brief overview and contextual information of the entire book of Psalms and includes a fictional, historically-based application of how a family might have used these particular scriptures in Old Testament Jewish worship.

The second half highlights 30 of the Bible's 150 Psalms in a devotional format and poses related

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Tim Riordan, senior pastor of SonRise Baptist Church of Newnan, has published "Songs from the Heart, Meeting with God in the Psalms," to encourage other spiritual pilgrims who seek to better know the God of the Bible. Riordan grew up in Griffin and graduated from Griffin High School in 1980.

Inside

Table with 4 columns: Category, Page, Category, Page. Includes Abby (A13), Business (A6), Comics (A14), Dr. K (A13), Graham (A13), Horoscopes (A14), Lotteries (A3), Obituaries (A2), Puzzles (A9, A14), Stocks (A6), Sports (A10), Scores (A11), Viewpoints (A4).

Deaths

Table with 2 columns: Name, Page. Includes Mr. Preston A. Pearson, Mrs. Phyllis Meeks, Mr. Marion Kelly Stephens, Master Kayden Head, Mr. Albert Eugene Greer, Mrs. Mary Louise Craver, Mr. John Juro Pritchett III, Master Jaylen R. Jones.



Today's weather: Mostly sunny

85 61 High Low

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## OBITUARIES



### Mr. Preston A. 'Bubba' Pearson

Feb. 22, 1959 —  
July 13, 2014

Griffin resident

Mr. Preston A. "Bubba" Pearson, 55, of Griffin, passed away on Sunday, July 13, 2014 at Reliance Healthcare and Hospice.

Mr. Pearson was born in Troy, Alabama on February 22, 1959. He is preceded in death by his father, Preston Pearson and mother, Virgie Jackson Pearson; grandson, Kevin "Buddy" Moore. Mr. Pearson was a self-employed auto mechanic and a member of Wildwood Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Rowena Jane Pearson; step children, Jerald Leon Hill, Julie Ann Hill, James William Hill; grandchildren, Suzanne Moore, Samuel Moore; great grandchild, Lacy Reynolds; sisters, Kathy Glass, Charlotte Ott, Glenda Tudor, Faye Pearson, Daisy Taylor; brothers, Ray, Harry and Larry Pearson; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Mr. Preston A. "Bubba" Pearson will be on Thursday, July 17, 2014 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm at Wildwood Baptist Church.

Following the visitation funeral services will be conducted at Wildwood Baptist Church. Reverend Gaines Wise and Reverend Ed Lynch will officiate. Interment will follow in Church Cemetery.

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



### Mrs. Phyllis Meeks

Oct. 18, 1939 —  
July 14, 2014

Milner resident

Mrs. Phyllis Meeks, 74, of Milner, passed away on Monday, July 14, 2014 at Brightmoor Nursing Center.

Mrs. Meeks was born in Tift County, Georgia on October 18, 1939. She is preceded in death by her parents, James Whisnant and LulaBelle Allman Whisnant. Mrs. Meeks was a retired Supervisor with Clayton County Board of Education and a member of Orchard Hill Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ernest Meeks; daughter, Felicia Roberson and husband, Mike; son, Ron Meeks and wife, Jennifer; grandchildren, Bennett Meeks and wife, Alex, Ashton Meeks, Ansley Meeks, Emily Roberson, Erika Roberson-Whitnire and husband, Wesley, Ian Roberson; great grandchildren, Colton Meeks, Lilyana Meeks; sisters, Martha Ann Strickland, Judy Peckham; brother, Jimmy Whisnant; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Mrs. Phyllis Meeks will be on Thursday, July 17, 2014 from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, funeral services will be conducted in the Chapel. Reverend Nelson Grist will officiate.

On Friday, July 18, 2014 a visitation for Mrs. Phyllis Meeks will be from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm at Baker's Funeral Home in Moultrie, Georgia. Graveside services will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Moultrie. Reverend Jimmy Voyles

will officiate.

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

### Mr. Marion Kelly Stephens

Feb. 15, 1938 —  
July 14, 2014

Thomaston resident

Mr. Marion Kelly Stephens, 76, of Thomaston, passed away July 14, 2014, at a local hospital.

He was born in Kite, Ga., son of the late I.J. and Eva Mae Stephens. He retired from Dundee Mills in Griffin and was a member of Midway Baptist Church in Barnesville. He loved his family and enjoyed feeding the ducks and playing cards at the nursing home. He had a wonderful personality and always greeted his family, friends and co-workers with a smile. He never met a stranger and was admired by everyone who knew him. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Estelle Stephens, brothers, Willard and Harold Stephens, and sister, Janelle Scott.

He is survived by his wife, Kathi Wright-Stephens; brother, Jack Stephens of Centerville; sister, Saralyn Horne of Thomaston; stepchildren, Bobby Peugh of Griffin and Valerie Dawson of Meansville; and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday, July 19 in the chapel of Moody-Daniel Funeral Home. Friends may visit the family from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday at the funeral home. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

Moody-Daniel Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Master Kayden Michael Head**, 6 months, died on Saturday, July

12, 2014. Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2014, at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, funeral services will be conducted in the chapel at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

**Mr. Albert Eugene "Gene" Greer**, 72, of Griffin, died on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Visitation will be from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, a memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

**Mrs. Mary Louise (Mooke) Craver**, 62, of Williamson, died on Monday, July 14, 2014, at Southern Crescent Hospital for Specialty Care. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 2014, at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, funeral services will be conducted in the chapel at 1 p.m. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

**Mr. John Juro Pritchett III**, 49, of Zebulon, died on Saturday, June 14, 2014. A celebration of life will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2014, at Oak Hill Baptist Church. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

**Master Jaylen R. Jones**, 5, of 1305 Lincoln Road, Griffin, died Monday, July 14, 2014, at Spalding Regional Hospital. Funeral arrangements will be announced. McDowell's Funeral Home Inc., 305 N. Hill St., is in charge of arrangements.

## Four sentenced for prostitution

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MACON — The owner and several employees of a middle Georgia massage parlor have been sentenced on prostitution, conspiracy and money laundering charges.

The Telegraph of Macon reports the former owner of Soft Hands Massage and Spa 51-year-old Hyeon Chae has been sentenced to three years in prison and is ordered to spend another three years on probation.

## GROUND

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

belonged to the community.

"I would like to offer a sincere 'Thank You' to the voters of Spalding County," Copeland said, explaining that without their SPLOST approval there would be no industrial park and, thus, no industries locating there.

Griffin Mayor Ryan McLemore agreed.

"I would like to thank the taxpayers of Spalding County for making us competitive as a community," he said. "Thank you, Otsuka, and welcome to Griffin."

Executives with the Japanese chemical manufacturer were equally excited about the soon-to-be-built facility, which will support an annual

production capacity of over 2,000 metric tons, with commercial production targeted for launch in late 2015.

"I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for welcoming us to Griffin, Spalding County," said Otsuka Chemical Co., Ltd. President Takeharu Harashima, who showed his affection with the state by putting on an Atlanta Braves hat before leaving the stage.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter for Otsuka Chemical America, and it's truly an honor to celebrate with you all," said Hiroyoshi Tosa, chief executive officer for Otsuka Chemical America, Inc. "Thank you for your warm hospitality. We are thrilled to be here. We hope to contribute to this community."

## RUN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

a.m., for the ride down to Lane's Peach Orchard in Fort Valley. Entry fee is \$10 or a teddy bear or other stuffed animal per participant.

Southside Riders has held toy runs closer to Christmas, but this run, billed as the First Annual Spalding County Teddy Bear Run, will be collecting stuffed animals not only for Spalding Regional Hospital pediatric ward at Christmas, but also for local law enforcement, the Department of Family and Children Services, and the Spalding County Sheriff's Office Victim Service Unit.

Those agencies can use the stuffed animals year round when dealing children in traumatic situations, like a car accident, house fire or when children are removed from a home, explained Jimmy Kent

from Southside Riders. Sheriff's deputies and police officers can keep them in the car, Kent said, "so they can give them something to hold on to when they come across kids in those situations."

He said Truett's also has a donation box set up, with all donations going to buy stuffed animals. New is preferred, but Kent said, ones that the kids never really played with, sitting in the attic, will also be accepted.

"We hope to get a lot of them," he said, "there's always a need." The ride is also being supported by FAITH Riders Motorcycle Ministry, which moved its usual Friday bike night at Truett's to Saturday morning to participate in the Teddy Bear Run.

For more information on the ride, contact Jimmy Kent at 770-227-7699 or www.southsideridersassociation.org.

## Carter blasts Deal over ethics memo

BY CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A memo by the head of the state ethics commission in which she claims an attorney for Gov. Nathan Deal threatened her agency during its investigation of complaints against the governor demonstrates a "pattern of intimidation and interference on the part of the governor's office," Democrat Jason Carter said Tuesday.

Carter, a state senator running against Deal in the November election, also renewed his call for a state investigation and appealed to Attorney General Sam Olens to appoint an independent investigator.

"We still don't have answers to what it was that was so bad that they went to these great lengths to hide," Carter told reporters. "We have no one who is willing to apparently investigate the governor's office and what is clear misconduct at a minimum and probably illegal conduct on the part of his staff."

Olens has said he doesn't have the authority to hire someone independent of his office and also does not want to interfere with two other investigations involving the commission. Carter said he disagrees

with Olens' decision, adding he was concerned the memo was not released earlier during civil lawsuits against the commission.

Holly LaBerge, the commission's executive secretary, wrote in the memo obtained Monday from the Attorney General's Office that Deal's chief counsel, Ryan Teague, in a 2012 phone call told her it wasn't in their or the agency's best interest for the cases to proceed to a hearing and said efforts to restore the agency's rule-making authority might not happen if the complaints weren't resolved.

"I responded by expressing my surprise that the threat of rule making being withheld was being used to make the complaints go away," LaBerge wrote in the memo, which was given to the Attorney General's Office in mid-2013.

Deal's personal attorney, Randy Evans, has said the memo proves the contentious nature of negotiations with commission staff and refutes any allegation LaBerge gave the governor a pass. He noted the case went to a hearing before the commission, which dismissed the most serious complaints. Deal paid \$3,350 in administrative fees to settle the rest.

Deal's spokesman Brian Robin-

son has said the memo supports the governor's contention the commission didn't grant him any favors.

The ethics complaints and allegations the governor's office meddled in commission business have been at the center of a handful of lawsuits filed in recent years by former commission employees who say they faced retaliation.

One former employee claimed LaBerge boasted the governor "owes her" for making the complaints go away. Deal has denied knowing LaBerge and has said he doesn't owe her anything. He has also denied any involvement in commission business.

LaBerge, in an interview with Fox 5, appeared to support those claims, saying: "If I'm a puppet put there to make his legal problems go away, why would his legal counsel have to call me up and threaten me?"

Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether federal investigators remain interested in the commission and its handling of the Deal complaints. Late last year, federal prosecutors issued subpoenas for commission documents related to the complaints but have continued to decline to comment.