



Anne Street students "Dress for Success." A15

TUESDAY

Skipstone Warriors have splendid season in 2014. SPORTS, A8



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Spalding site of Otsuka Chemical HQ

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Gov. Nathan Deal announced Monday that Japan-based Otsuka Chemical Company Ltd., will establish a North American headquarters on one of Georgia's first eco-friendly sites, The Lakes at Green Valley, creating 32 jobs.

of-the-art chemical company has chosen Georgia to establish its North American headquarters," said Deal. "We have a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship with Japan, and our top-ranked business climate will continue to carry global companies such as Otsuka Chemical toward success."

The project was first initiated from Deal's mission to Asia

in 2013. The Otsuka Chemical America Inc. headquarters, located on a 35-acre site within The Lakes at Green Valley industrial park on Georgia Highway 16, will put the company geographically closer to its customers.

The facility will manufacture titanate friction materials for automotive brake pads, an extension of their existing

chemical production businesses and one that the company intends to expand in the United States.

"As a leading manufacturer of titanate friction material for the automotive industry, we are thrilled to announce the establishment of our new production facility in Georgia," said Otsuka Chemical America Inc., Chief Executive Officer Hiroyo-

shi Tosa. "We look forward to contributing to the local community while working to meet the needs of our customers across the world through Otsuka Chemical's environmentally friendly product offerings."

Otsuka Chemical is a diversified Japanese chemical manufacturer that offers products for

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School board chooses Beckett as Orrs' AP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education named Shavon Beckett as the new assistant principal of Orrs Elementary School.

Beckett currently serves as the academic coach for Anne Street Elementary.

Prior to joining Griffin-Spalding County School System, Beckett was at West Clayton Elementary School in Clayton County for eight years.

During those eight years, she served as the Reading First literacy coach, lead instructional teacher and first-grade teacher.

Beckett earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Alabama A&M University

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Shavon Beckett

Inspiring poets



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Anne Street Elementary had eight students participate in the Inspirational Messages of Peace contest, sponsored by the International World Peace Rose Garden located at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta. Students wrote short poems that expressed their views about peace. Students who participated were presented with a certificate and a T-shirt. The poems of two Anne Street students were selected as winners. The students were presented with a copy of a plaque that is currently on display at the Rose Garden. Pictured on the bottom row are Robert Sullivan (kindergarten), Zadaiah Freeman (fourth grade), Tequila Coggins (first grade) and Ethan Geibel (fifth grade). On the top row are Shavon Beckett (academic coach), Anijai Willis (fourth grade), TJ David (International World Peace Rose Garden representative), Arnijae Crowder (fifth grade), Zanyiah Vaughn (fifth grade), Sylvia Villalobos (representative) and Channing Buckner (fourth grade).

Terri Hardwick-Byrd (right) went to see Cher in style Monday. The concert was one of the final wishes for the home hospice patient, pictured with her sister Jean Pilkinton (left) outside the limo that took them to dinner, then took Hardwick-Byrd to the concert at Philips Arena.

RAY LIGHTNER/DAILYNEWS



Hospice patient attends Cher concert

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Terri Hardwick-Byrd went to see Cher on Monday night in Atlanta.

Hardwick-Byrd had beaten cancer once but it has returned. She is a home hospice patient at Brightmoor

Hospice, and one of her last requests was to go to the concert.

She got to go in style, in a stretch limo, stocked with her favorite beverage, Dr Pepper.

The limo was provided by Peachtree Transportation, owned by Rick Sasser, whose family also was going to the

concert. Hardwick-Byrd got a big send-off at home from the staff at Brightmoor Hospice and her nurse, Lynn Andrejko.

She rode with her sister Jean Pilkinton to Margo's for dinner, then up to Atlanta, where she met her other sister at the concert.

Crews working night and day on U.S. 19/41 projects

STAFF REPORTS

Construction related lane closures on U.S. Highways 19/41 are scheduled to continue day and night for the next three weeks.

The Georgia Department of Transportation has been notified by the contractor of day and night time single-lane closures on Georgia Highway 3/U.S. Highways 19/41 north and southbound, between Georgia Highway 92 (McIntosh Road) and Laprade Road.

Weather permitting, the closures will affect the inside lanes north and southbound through Sun-

day, June 1. The daily lane closures will be scheduled Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Nightly lane closures will be from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., and weekend lane closures will be allowed 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The lane closures are related to the construction of new north and southbound lanes and the widening Georgia 3/U.S. 19/41 to four lanes in each direction with a 6-foot raised median, according to GDOT.

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Deaths

- Mrs. Betty Slagle Stephens
Mrs. Virginia G. Manley

- Mr. Fred O. Miller Jr.
Mr. Lonzie Kellam
Mr. Aston T. McKoy



Today's weather: Isolated storms 87 High 63 Low

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OBITUARIES

Mrs. Betty Slagle Stephens

April 19, 1933
— May 11, 2014
Griffin resident

Mrs. Betty Slagle Stephens, 81, of Griffin passed away on Sunday, May 11, 2014, at Spalding Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Stephens was born in Griffin, Ga., on April 19, 1933. She is preceded in death by her parents, the Rev. G.L. Howard and Nellie M. Howard; her first husband, William (Billy) Slagle and second husband, Carl Stephens; and a brother, Ronnie Howard. Mrs. Stephens was a member of Highland United Methodist Church.

Survivors include brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Juanita Howard; sister-in-law, Betty G. Howard; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Wanda and Gordy Solomon, Sue and Wayne Trice, David and Pura Slagle; and several nieces and nephews. The family would like to give

special thanks to the staff and personnel of Pike Manor.

Visitation for Mrs. Betty Howard Slagle Stephens will be on Tuesday, May 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, May 14, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. The Rev. Dale Fuller will officiate. Interment will follow in the Westwood Gardens.

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

Mrs. Virginia G. Manley

Aug. 30, 1916
— May 10, 2014
Griffin resident

Mrs. Virginia Greene Manley, 97, of Griffin passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at her residence.

Mrs. Manley was born

in Henry County, Ga., on Aug. 30, 1916. She is preceded in death by her parents Walter Talmadge Greene and Evie Kendrick Greene; husband, Joe P. Manley Jr. Mrs. Manley was retired from State Probation Office and she was a member of Union Baptist Church.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Brightmoor Hospice Nurse Christy, caregivers, Diane and Shelina.

Survivors include sons, Joseph P. Manley III and his wife, Sandra; Milton K. Manley and his wife, Margaret; Kenneth G. Manley and Brenda; grandchildren, Chris and Tammy Manley; Jeff and Jackie Manley; Kenneth G. Manley Jr.; Timothy H. and Rhonda; Jennifer M. and Rick Trice; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, David K. Greene of Gulf Port, Miss.; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held on Monday, May 12, at 11 a.m. in Manley Family Cemetery on Hwy 155, Griffin. The Rev. Jack Landham officiated.

Conner-Westbury

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

DEATH NOTICES

Mr. Fred O. Miller Jr. died May 6, 2014, in Jacksonville, Fla. Viewing will be at 5 p.m. May 20, at the funeral home. Services will be at 11 a.m. May 21 at Cecil Field Chapel. Holmes Glove Solomon Funeral Directors Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Lonzie Kellam died on May 8, 2014. Watkins Funeral Home-McDonough Chapel, 234 Hampton St., McDonough, is in charge of arrangements. 678-884-5177. www.watkinsfuneralhomeinc.com.

Mr. Aston T. McKoy died May 11, 2014. Watkins Funeral Home-McDonough Chapel, 234 Hampton St., McDonough, is in charge of arrangements. 678-884-5177. www.watkinsfuneralhomeinc.com.

Political elite meet behind closed doors

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — For a few days in March, the American Enterprise Institute welcomed scores of business and political leaders to a private annual meeting at a resort on the Georgia coast.

But only those who attended know what issues were discussed, strategy planned or promises made. That's because the ground rules for the invitation-only meeting required the participants' confidentiality — even if some were elected leaders, discussing the public's business.

An impressive array of power attended the conservative think tank's World Forum 2014, according to a printed program first disclosed in late April by the Center for Public Integrity: House Speaker John Boehner and other Republican congressional leaders; potential 2016 GOP presidential hopefuls like Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker; Apple CEO Tim Cook; beer magnate Pete Coors; TD Ameritrade founder-turned-billionaire-conservative activist Joe Ricketts; and executives from multiple venture-capital firms.

Similar events occur across the political spectrum giving powerful people with deep pockets face-to-face exchanges with national and state leaders that the average American cannot match.

Last month, a group of liberals held closed sessions in Chicago under the banner of Democracy Alliance to talk political strategy for progressive causes.

Conservatives complained that the gathering included top environmentalists like billion-

aire Tom Steyer, though a spokeswoman for Steyer told The Associated Press he did not attend.

And in early May, state lawmakers from around the country convened privately in Kansas City, Mo., with business leaders as part of the corporately financed American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC.

The group's task forces met to write recommended bills on topics from education and tax law to environmental regulation, labor law and criminal justice that ALEC's legislative members will sponsor in their states.

Organizers and participants say the closed sessions allow public and private sector titans to discuss candidly topics ranging from foreign affairs and intelligence gathering to tax policy and elections strategy.

But some open-government advocates say the events reduce confidence in the democratic process.

"This just creates more ways for mega-donors and elected officials to get together and talk about public policy behind closed doors," said Miles Rapaport, the president of Common Cause, a national group that advocates for less concentration of political power.

Boehner — who is an ALEC member according to the group's website — told The Associated Press that such events are "very educational." House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, who attended the AEL forum in Georgia, said they promote "a free exchange of ideas."

Rapaport, of Common Cause, said open sessions — like meetings of the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures — don't have to prevent candor.

CHEMICAL

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

a wide range of applications, including the automotive, construction and pharmaceutical industries. It is part of Otsuka Holdings, one of the largest healthcare and chemical companies in Japan, making a variety of pharmaceuticals, as well as energy, vitamin, and other drinks, including North America's No. 1 best-selling vitamin brand — Nature Made.

Founded in 1950, Otsuka Chemical is based in Osaka, Japan with production facilities and offices in nine countries throughout the world. The company engages in the research, development, manufacture, and sale of organic, inorganic, fine, and specialty chemicals.

Its products include titanate and titanate derivatives, polymerization initiators, resin compounds, resin additive agents, hydrazine derivatives, foaming agents, flame retardants, and anti-odor agents for aldehyde.

"It has been a pleasure working with the company officials of Otsuka in the planning of this project," said Chuck Copeland, chairman of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority. "They have selected a very

attractive site within our Lakes at Green Valley eco-development. We are confident they will be constructing a first-class facility and creating quality jobs for our community."

The location of the Otsuka Chemical America headquarters and manufacturing facility is considered the first eco-park in Georgia and resulted from a partnership between the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority and Georgia Tech.

"Georgia Tech is committed to sustainability and the support of manufacturing in Georgia," said Stephen Fleming, vice president of the Enterprise Innovation Institute at Georgia Tech. "By utilizing our leaders from different areas across campus during the development of The Lakes at Green Valley eco-industrial park, we are helping to create opportunities that support new business growth and the creation of jobs throughout the state."

In order to create sustainable site development and building construction on the once privately-owned farm, the Development Authority developed the land to be green-friendly from the ground up and created, with the assistance of Georgia Tech, the first green-rating system to ensure that the construction of the Otsuka Chemical American headquarters, and all future companies,

will be friendly with the environment.

"We are very excited to welcome our first company into The Lakes and look forward to a long partnership with them as they gear up for success," said David M. Luckie, executive director of the Development Authority. "We are also very appreciative of our partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development which worked tirelessly on this project."

Scott McMurray, director of the international investment team the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDECD) and Joseph Huntsman, project manager on the international investment team assisted the company on behalf of the State of Georgia.

"Otsuka Chemical could have chosen anywhere in the world to locate its newest business, but it chose Georgia," said GDECD Commissioner Chris Carr. "The company is already benefitting from our high-caliber labor pool and top-notch university research. I have no doubt that our booming manufacturing environment will help this company's newest operations grow."

Luckie and Copeland were meeting with another prospect Monday and were unable to comment further on the announcement from the governor's office.

BECKETT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Lesley University.

She received her education specialist in curriculum and teaching from Nova Southeastern University and her education specialist in educational leadership from the University of West Georgia.

"I am looking forward to this new position and the opportunity to make a difference every day at

Orrs Elementary," she said. "I am very passionate about instruction and am excited to share my knowledge of curriculum and provide support to the teachers and students at Orrs."

School Superintendent Curtis Jones said Beckett is a driven educator committed to empowering and supporting both students and staff.

"I am confident that her knowledge and experience have prepared her for this leadership role," he said. "I look forward to seeing Orrs continue to succeed and excel."

PROJECTS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

This is the McIntosh Road intersection with U.S. 19/41 by the Wal-Mart and North Griffin shopping centers.

This is a work zone and extreme caution is necessary, GDOT emphasized. Motorists

are advised to reduce speeds as they travel through this construction work zone. Drivers should be aware that personnel and equipment will be operating in close proximity to travel lanes.

Message signs, barrels and cones will be utilized to alert the public of the upcoming changes to traffic patterns, according to GDOT.

Energy savings bill fails amid politics

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A widely popular, bipartisan energy savings bill fell victim in the Senate on Monday to election-year politics and the Obama administration's continued indecision on the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

A procedural motion to end debate and bring the measure to a floor vote without amendments fell five votes short of the 60 votes needed for approval.

The legislation would tighten efficiency guidelines for new federal buildings and provide tax incentives to make homes and commercial buildings more efficient. It easily cleared a procedural hurdle last week but stalled after Republican demand for votes on the Canada-to-Texas pipeline and on new administration-proposed greenhouse gas limits for coal-burning power plants.

Republicans are united in favor of the pipeline and against the new power plant regulations, while Democrats are deeply divided on both. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., used a parliamentary maneuver to block

Senate votes on the pipeline and power plant rules as part of the energy savings bill.

Reid said Monday that Republicans were "still seeking a ransom" on the energy bill by insisting on the Keystone amendment and other votes. He said he had agreed to a long-standing request from pipeline supporters for a separate vote on the pipeline if its supporters would let the efficiency bill sail through unamended.

Minority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, called Reid's maneuver disappointing. "The Senate used to be a place of great debate and accomplishment. Now it is run like a dictatorship shutting out the voices of millions of Americans," he said.

Election-year politics loomed on all sides.

Democrats said Republicans were unwilling to hand a victory on the energy efficiency bill to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., a co-author of the bill who is facing a re-election challenge from Republican Scott Brown, a former Massachusetts senator who now lives in New Hampshire. Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio

also co-authored the energy legislation.

Shaheen and Portman both said they were disappointed at the defeat of a plan they said would create almost 200,000 jobs, reduce pollution and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

"People in New Hampshire and across the country lost out today because of election-year politics," Shaheen said, while Portman called the vote "a disappointing example of Washington's dysfunction."

Partisan discord was so strong that three Republican senators who co-sponsored the energy legislation voted against it Monday to protest the exclusion of amendments. Among those voting no was Sen. John Hoeven, a North Dakota Republican who has been the Senate's chief GOP supporter of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Democrats also said the GOP wants to deny political cover to Sen. Mary Landrieu, who faces a tough re-election fight in Louisiana and to other Democrats in energy-producing states who have pushed for the pipeline's approval during their campaigns.