



Eternal Hope Hospice hosts monthly Business After Hours event. PAGE B1

FRIDAY

SHS had tennis, golf and soccer reach Final Four. SPORTS, A10



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

School holds first Student Career Fair



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Moreland Road Elementary School recently held its first Student Career Fair during which students in grades 1 to 5 learned about grade-level specific career clusters...

GSDA helps Norcom expand with bond worth \$10 million

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Griffin-Spalding Development Authority is helping Norcom expand its Griffin operation with a \$10 million bond issuance.

Norcom President Hal Rahn said the Development Authority "continues to support us and we continue to support Griffin."

Rahn thanked GSDA Executive Director David Luckie and Chairman Chuck Copeland for the "great effort."

The \$10 million bond will be used primarily for the purchase of a \$7 million machine that makes value added wire bound spiral notebooks...

Rahn said, "This machine will provide Norcom with the ability to manufacture value added notebooks at a cost level that will continue to keep the Griffin operation as one of the world's most competitive."

The Authority just recently assisted Norcom in the completion of another project providing a rail siding to the Wilson Road facility...

This is sixth such project for Norcom since coming to Griffin in 1998, Rahn said.

SEE BOND/PAGE A2

School system's graduation rate improves by 5 percent

BY THOMAS HOEFER STAFF WRITER THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Griffin-Spalding County School System posted a 63.88 percent graduation rate for the 2011-2012 school year...

While the school system's graduation rate was below the state average of 69.72 percent, it marked an increase from its 58.82 percent graduation rate the year before.

The state department's data, which incorporated only students who graduated within four years, also provided individual graduation rates for the three local high school — Spalding High (77.03 percent),

Griffin High (62.89 percent) and A.Z. Kelsey Academy (21.05 percent).

"We are excited because we did go up," said Assistant Superintendent Denise Burrell. "We are still not where we want to be. Our goal for 2013 is 65 percent."

SEE GRADUATION/PAGE A2

County approves revised airport funding agreement

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The revised funding agreement for the Griffin-Spalding Airport and the Airport Authority has now been approved by both Griffin and Spalding County.

The third version of the agreement, with the latest revised language including

changing the word "shall" to "may," relating to the transfer of airport property and ground leases to the Airport Authority. This change may require another intergovernmental agreement to actually convey the airport property, assets and contracts to the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority.

The County Commissioners voted 4-1 to approved the

agreement with Commissioner Bart Miller, who serves on the Griffin Spalding Airport Authority, voting against the agreement.

The first version was approved unanimously by the Airport Authority and by a 4-3 vote by the city commissioners before being tabled by the county commissioners over language concerns. The city

commissioners then tabled the second version at the request of the county over the county's concerns on property transfer and other language concerns.

The city commissioners voted 6-1 on this version last week with only Cora Flowers opposed. Flowers and Griffin Commissioners Cynthia Ward and Shaheer Beyah were the dissenting votes in the first version.

The agreement formalizes the funding agreement on airport operations between the city and county, which is subject to approval as part of each commission's fiscal year budget each year.

SEE AIRPORT/PAGE A2

Spalding High selected for national honor

FROM STAFF REPORTS

U.S. News and World Report recently released its ranking of high schools for the nation and state. Spalding High School ranked 42nd out of 442 public, charter and magnet high schools in Georgia.

That ranking qualified SHS as a Silver Medal winner nationwide.

Among the statistics considered for ranking were that 25 percent of the Spalding High student body tested for Advanced Placement courses — and 14 percent passed. Ninety-two percent of the school's student body tested

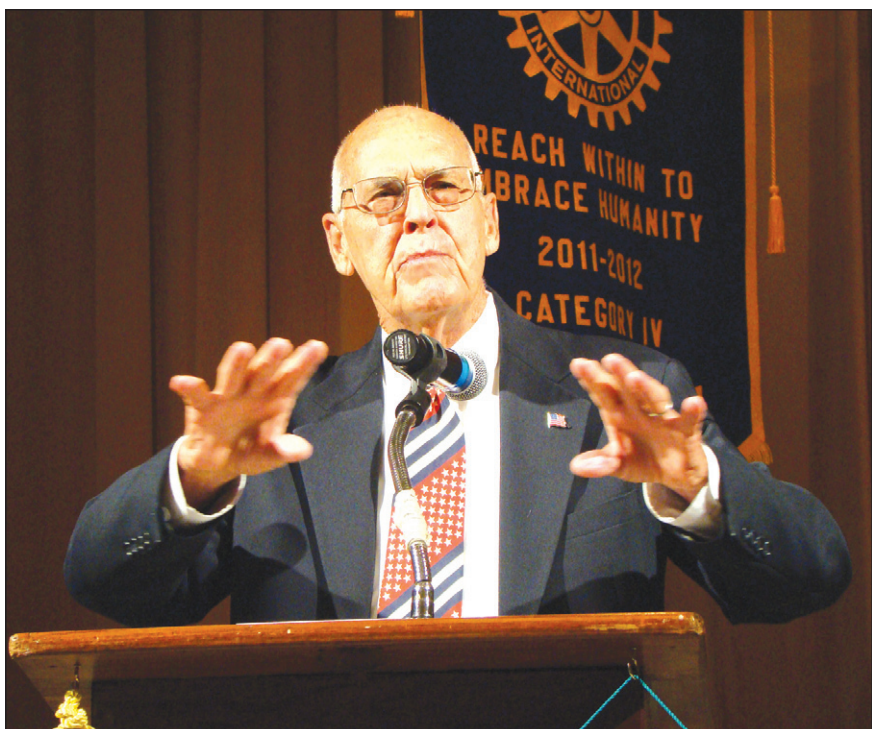
proficient in both math and English.

"We are thrilled with this honor and recognition of the exceptional work of our staff and students," said Spalding High Principal Derrell Jeffcoat. "This is our first national ranking in the school's 10-year history and is an indication of greater things to come from (Spalding High School)."

School Superintendent Curtis Jones said Spalding High has worked diligently to provide quality education for its students.

"I congratulate the students, parents and the staff for the well-deserved achievement," Jones said.

Imes speaks at Rotary Club



Ret. Lt. Col. Allan Imes spoke briefly to the Rotary Club of Griffin Thursday. Imes recalled some moments from his military career, particularly his time during the Vietnam War. He also encouraged Rotarians to come to Veterans Memorial Park on Monday for the annual Memorial Day observance ceremony.

THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS

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Deaths

- Mr. Glenn Edward Smith, Mr. John Franklin Richards III, Mr. Steven Romaine Laster, Mr. Herbert Eugene Downey, Mr. John C. Fields



Today's weather: Sunny

78 High 47 Low

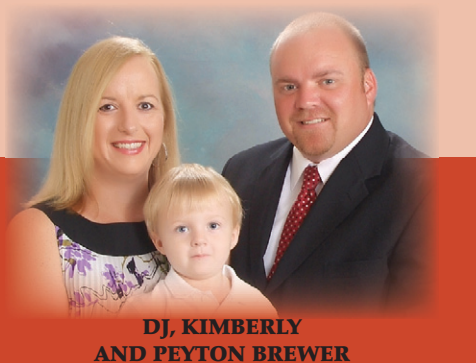
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OBITUARIES



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.

Mr. Glenn Edward Smith

Jan. 3, 1941—
Jan. 22, 2011

former Griffin resident

Mr. Glenn Edward Smith, 70, of Enterprise, Alabama, formerly of Griffin, passed away on January 22, 2011.

Mr. Smith was born on January 3, 1941 to the late Abner Glen Smith and Rebecca Harper Smith Kierbow. He is also preceded in death by step-father, Oman James Kierbow; brother, Jim Kierbow. His wife, Pauline Smith passed away in May of 2011. Mr. Smith was a retired Major in the United States Army, Vietnam veteran, and helicopter instructor pilot.

Survivors include his children, Cheryl Lynn Thomas of Gonsalves, LA, Cynthia Ann Coryell of Medford, OR and Glenn Edward Smith, Jr. of Cumming, GA; grandchildren, Christopher Thomas, Jennifer Thomas, Amanda Coryell, Sarah Fields, Cory Smith, Jerrat Neilson; great granddaughter, Liah Jane Thomas; sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Ray Beasley; nieces and nephews, Michele Wagner, Amy McKemie, Cristi West, John Beasley; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial graveside service for Mr. Glenn Edward Smith will be conducted on Saturday, May 25, 2013 at 12:00 pm at Midway Methodist Cemetery. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

Mr. John Franklin Richards III

July 18, 1937—
May 21, 2013

Griffin resident

Mr. John Franklin Richards III, 75, of Griffin, passed away on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at Christian Ministries Hospice.

Mr. Richards was born in Macon, Missouri on July 18, 1937. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Franklin Richards, Jr. and Hazel Gee Richards; sister, Jane Frances Richards. Mr. Richards was a veteran of the United States Army, E-7, having served in Korea and Vietnam. Mr. Richards started his public service as a firefighter for the city of St. Joe, Missouri. SSGT Richards spent 20 years in the military District of Washington, serving as Farrier, Sentry Dog Vet. Service and Army Medical Corps. While serving Medical Corps, SSGT Richards helped plan the funeral for General Omar Bradley. Upon retirement from the US Army, SSGT Richards continued to serve the United States as a Federal Police Officer. He served in that position until his 2nd retirement. Mr. Richards was a life member of the NRA. As

an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Richards spent many days afield every year, enjoying what he fought so hard to defend. Mr. Richards loved this country outdoors, from a fly in trip to Canada to the west of Wyoming, but above all Mr. Richards enjoyed his Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. He attended New Beginnings Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ann Richards; daughter, Terry Ferrell and husband, Bryan; grandchildren, Nikole Carter and husband, Shelby, Presley Shifflett, Gena Shifflett; great grandchildren, Tristan, Lily and Rosie.

Visitation for Mr. John Franklin Richards III will be on Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, funeral services will be conducted in the chapel at 2:00 pm. Reverend Marty Miller will officiate. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Mr. Steven Romaine Laster, 62, of Griffin, died on Monday, May 20, 2013. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, May 24, 2013, in the chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Rehoboth Baptist Church Cemetery. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Herbert Eugene Downey, 74, of Hampton, died on Thursday, May 23, 2013, at Southern Crescent Hospital. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 26, 2013, at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Following the visitation, graveside funeral services will be conducted at Oak Hill Cemetery. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

Mr. John C. Fields died Thursday, May 23, 2013, at Emory Crawford Long Hospital. A complete list of survivors and funeral arrangements will be announced. Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements.

AMBUCS putt-putt opening with Dollar Day

BY RAY LIGHTNER
STAFF WRITER
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The AMBUCS putt-putt course season opener on Saturday includes a Dollar Day.

The Griffin Chapter of AMBUCS (American Business Club) seasonal opening of its putt-putt course at City Park will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with \$1 specials including \$1 per round of putt-putt, as well as hotdogs, an assortment of chips and soft drinks for \$1 each. There will also be a monster truck themed bouncing area courtesy of Wow Inflatables, for \$1 a visit as well as \$1 per game of corn hole (bean bag toss).

Also part of the seasonal open is a visit from Jojo the clown and What's Your Off Button Entertainment, with disc jockey and owner, Suzanne Gleeson, will be furnishing music for the event.

Also for this year's seasonal opening special, said Anne Hendricks Childress of AMBUCS, the club invites participants who play putt-putt to write down the name of their church. The most entries for a specific church will receive a free night of putt-putt games at the AMBUCS putt-putt course at a date of the winning church's selection.

T.J. Anglin of AMBUCS said the course will remain open until 7 p.m. Saturday which begins the regular daily summer season hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. on Sundays. All days are weather permitting.

The AMBUCS putt-putt course is available to groups and families to rent throughout the year at very affordable prices for birthdays, family reunions and other special events. The AMBUCS putt-putt course is one of the primary sources of fundraising that the Griffin AMBUCS group does to help the Griffin-Spalding County community with the AMBUCS theme of "Shoulders Together!"

AMBUCS is a non-profit service organization consisting of a diverse group of men and women who are dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. Created in 1922, AMBUCS has donated thousands of AmTrykes, a therapeutic tricycle, to individuals unable to operate a traditional bike, as well as awarding scholarships to physical therapists.

Currently, there more than 5,500 AMBUCS members spread throughout more than 130 chap-

ters in over 30 states. AMBUCS chapters provide fun, innovative opportunities for people who want to improve their community.

The Griffin Chapter of AMBUCS meets every Tuesday at noon at Ryan's in Griffin. Proceeds from the operation of the putt-putt course help the club provide AmTrykes and other services locally.

The Griffin Chapter has been serving special needs children since its charter in 1948. The club established a school for special needs children in 1951, paying for the teacher's salary and a bus to transport the children. The putt-putt course was created in 1958 as a funding source for the club. The club which also funded creation of AMBUCS Park on High Falls Road in 1968 on provided for free by Dundee Mills as long it remained a park. The park is now operated by Spalding County Parks and Recreation.

Griffin AMBUCS invites interested individuals to attend a meeting.

For more information see the national website at www.ambucs.com and the national and local chapter on Facebook.

AIRPORT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

each year and provide monthly financial statements within 30 days of each calendar month.

The contract obligates both the city and county to each fund half of the anticipated shortfall in revenues of the approved airport budget. The city and county also agree to pay half each of the local match of the Airport Capital Improvement Program for projects funded the Federal Aviation Administration or Georgia Department of Transportation, so long as those are included in the approved fiscal year budget.

The county's portion of the funding for the airport would be above and beyond what the county has to pay in lease fees for the Sheriff's Office hanger and for Airport Road Park. The contract commences July 1, 2013, and ends June 30, 2023, unless the parties mutually agree in writing to an earlier termination.

Both the city and county also approved two agreements with Michael Baker Jr., Consulting Firm to provide administrative services for grants and for the acquisition of land adjacent to

the airport, the old Hangar One Apartments owned by James McLendon. The building burned down last year but the owner is not allowed to rebuild because of the proximity of the building to the end of the airport runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration determined that to be hazard to safe navigation of the airport along with a shed and trees on the site. The cost is 90 percent reimbursable as part of the airport's 5-year capital improvement plan, which was also approved with the change by both the city and county.

Airport Director Robert Mohl explained "there are specific hoops we have to jump through," for the land purchase, "and the city will front the money for the purchase, once a price has been agreed upon with the owner."

Miller asked about the other property in violation out there. Mohl said, "there is some leeway as we are waiting to move, but we will need to address it and acquiring the first one may allow us some horse trading, if you will, to swap with the other."

The grant agreement with the GDOT for the airport improvement plan, AIP-29, the 29th for the airport includes obstruction removal, replacement of the air-

port tower and beacon and an update to the airport layout plan (the property survey) was also approved by the both the city and county commissions.

Mohl said the city and county will each have to fund 5 percent of the total costs to equal the 10 percent matching funds required for the state and federal grants. The total grant is \$200,109, with \$190.104 from the FAA, \$3,580 from GDOT and \$3,212.50 each from the city and county.

The commissioners also scheduled an "Airport 101" session with Mohl and the Airport Authority for 4 p.m., June 17. Miller suggested having the meeting at the airport, "since we don't know what goes on out there."

Mohl invited Miller to come out for a tour anytime he'd like, but said, if it the session was held at the airport, he'd have to use a hanger to accommodate the number of people. Mohl noted it would be kind of hot and he'd rather hold it somewhere with air conditioning, but was willing to hold it where the board wanted.

The board agreed to have it at the County Annex meeting room. All city and commissioners and Airport Authority member are encouraged to attend. It is open to the public.

BOND

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The rest of this \$10 million bond will be used for smaller purchases, he said.

Norcom is one of the world's largest manufacturers of commodity school supplies and is Wal-Mart's sole domestic supplier, Rahn said, "with 85 percent of the notebooks made here in Griffin."

Copeland said Thursday, "We are particularly excited to participate with Norcom in this important plant expansion. Hal Rahn and Norcom have not only been a great employer for our community, but their involvement with our local school system in providing free school supplies to our teachers and students have made them a leading corporate partner. Norcom is a tremendous example of the trend we are seeing

in our country of retailers supporting 'Made in America' manufacturing."

Luckie added, "we are thrilled to continue to work with Norcom in its many avenues of expansion and growth and look forward to many more. They certainly impact our community in an extremely positive way."

Rahn also pointed out that Norcom is the only large school supply manufacturer that requires

all of their paper components be certified by a third party as coming from a sustainable forest.

Norcom has a strong presence in the Griffin-Spalding community with a 300,000 square-foot manufacturing and distribution facility located in Green Valley Industrial Park and the 200,000 square foot headquarters and warehouse facility on Wilson Road in the Griffin-Spalding Industrial Park.

GRADUATION

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Asked about the impact of A.Z. Kelsey's relatively low graduation rate on the systemwide numbers, Burrell said there is no frustration.

"When we opened A.Z. Kelsey, we knew we were pulling in students who were already behind," she said. "A.Z. Kelsey helps us reach students who may previ-

ously not have graduated at all."

As for plans to further increase the school system's graduation rate, Burrell said both Griffin High and Spalding High will continue the work of their ninth-grade academies. With high school students historically being the most likely to drop out in ninth grade, the academies and their mode of scheduling will help students stay on track, she said.

The school system will also continue to focus on credit repair

and credit recovery as well as prepare students for the Georgia High School Graduation Test and the End of Course Test.

Among surrounding counties, Pike County came in highest with a graduation rate of 86.79 percent, though the county has only one high school. Second was Fayette County with a 85.53 percent graduation rate, followed by Henry County at 75.54 percent and Butts County at 67.31 percent. Clayton County had the lowest graduation rate at 53.61 percent.