

Public records, including arrest reports, are in today's edition
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WEDNESDAY

No. 10 Jags prepare to take on No. 1 Woodward Academy
SPORTS, A8



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Copeland named GEDA Volunteer of the Year

STAFF REPORTS

Charles "Chuck" Copeland, chairman of the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, was named the 2015 Volunteer of the Year by the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA).



Chuck Copeland

Working for economic development efforts for many years, Copeland is being recognized for his outstanding service to the Spalding County residents.

Selected by GEDA's Board of Directors, here are some of the highlights from Copeland's nomination:

- Since 2008 he has helped with \$353,013,000 in new capital investment and 1,087 new jobs created by both new and existing industries;
- Under his leadership, the authority won GEDA's 2011 Deal of the Year Award for an expansion of Caterpillar;
- Copeland helped on a joint project with the University of Georgia to create a Food Technology Center on the UGA Griffin Campus;
- He championed the passing of a 2008 SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax) to create the Lakes at Green Valley, which has become the first mixed use "eco" park in Georgia;
- Under his leadership with the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce, the community had its first intergovernmental retreat, which included the City of Griffin and

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County asks state for review of Tax Assessors Office

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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The Spalding County Board of Commissioners is asking the Georgia Department of Revenue for a performance review of the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors and the Assessors Office.

Chief Appraiser Don Long made the request to the Board of Tax Assessors

on Nov. 10 and that board unanimously recommended it to the county commissioners.

"I know the commissioners considered it when I first got here," Long said, adding that in that time "got the tax digest to the tax commissioner by July 1, which had never been done before."

During his first nine months, Long said, "there have been some areas of

concern," and he noted in the request for the performance review, that Board of Assessors, "is now aware of these areas of concern because when discovered, the board, as well as the county attorney and county manager are informed instead of previously being left in the dark."

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SUBMITTED/GRIFFIN BALLET THEATRE

The Griffin Ballet Theatre will present the town with its annual Nutcracker performance, Nov. 27 to 29. This year marks the 21st anniversary of this classic.

Griffin Ballet Theatre presents 'Nutcracker'

Performances begin Nov. 27

STAFF REPORTS

The Griffin Ballet Theatre is preparing the annual "Nutcracker" performance, Nov. 27 to 29.

Griffin Ballet Theatre's "Nutcracker" has become the hallmark of the Griffin Holiday season, and this year marks the 21st anniversary of this classic. That makes it the longest consecutively running annual arts event in Griffin.

"The Nutcracker" performance includes approximately 100 local dancers as well as many professional dancers.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Mitch Flanders as well as Ballet Mis-

tress Ashley Barnes, the Griffin Ballet Theatre brings big city caliber performances to Griffin for a fraction of the cost of going into Atlanta, said Paul Riceman of Griffin Ballet Theatre.

"Come celebrate with us this season as we follow our favorite characters into a magical world where anything is possible," said Riceman.

SEE BALLET/PAGE A7

Kindergartners present to Rotary



RAY LIGHTNER/THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

The kindergarten classes at First Baptist Church of Griffin shared a poem and song for veterans at the Rotary Club of Griffin meeting last week. The teachers for the kindergarten classes are Crystal Hardy, Sandra Statham and Jan McLean. The Rotary Club meets in the auditorium at First Baptist on Thursdays.

Leadership Development Institute



Spalding County Board of Commissioners recognized the six county employees who participated in the 2015 Griffin Leadership Development Institute. Pictured are Betty Browning, Randy Keen, Richard Gray, Dunstin Milner, Wanda Smallwood and Willie Lyons.

RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

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Deaths

- Ms. Sandy Sullivan
- Mr. Charles Raymond Fleegle
- Mr. George R. Patterson
- Ryleigh Lynn Roberts
- Mr. Herbert Franklin Stubbs



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snowball throw, Frosty's flurries, penguin pass and "The Santa Zone" featuring s'more making, games, and prizes. Treats including hot chocolate, coffee, soft drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos will be available from the local 4-H club. Airport Road will be closed to all vehicle and foot traffic beginning at 5 p.m. Shuttle buses will be provided with parking at the Roses Shopping Center. For your safety, the county asks that patrons ride the shuttles and do not walk. For more information, call Spalding County Parks, Public Grounds and Leisure Services at 770-467-4750.

Riders filling Christmas morale boxes for soldiers

FAITH Riders Motorcycle Ministry is collecting items and will be filling morale boxes for soldiers. It will cost about \$14 a box to ship. Items and donations can be dropped off at Ultimate Power Sports, 3336 North Expressway, through Nov. 24, Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All cash donations must be left with sales personnel at the counter. Donations will also be collected at the next FAITH Riders Bike Night, Nov. 28, 6 to 8 p.m., at Truett's Grill, 1455 North Expressway.

Lions Club to 'wine' down

The Griffin Lions Club is inviting you to our Holiday "Wine" Down on Nov. 28 at the Kiwanis Building. The event is being held to say "thank you" to our community for supporting the club's fundraisers. Tickets are \$5 per person, which includes refreshments (wings, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, veggie and cheese trays and dessert, cash beer/wine bar and dancing, 6 p.m. to midnight. Call

Baptist Church for a down-home holiday celebration before the boys ship off to World War II. This good, old-fashioned hoedown is just the thing to put you in the holiday spirit.

The play will be presented from Dec. 3 to Dec. 13. There will be shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Call 770-229-9916 for reservations. Log on to www.mainstreetplayers.org for more details.

Chamber hosting 'Eggs & Issues'

The Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce is holding an "Eggs and Issues" legislative breakfast Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 a.m. at Southern Crescent Technical College. Breakfast is \$10. For more information, call the Chamber at 770-228-8200.

GCA presents 'A Jubilant Christmas'

Griffin Choral Arts presents "A Jubilant Christmas" Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5 4 p.m., at Griffin First Baptist Church, 106 W. Taylor St. Special guests will be Macon's Barrister Brass on Thursday and the Spalding High School Chorus (Brett Duncan, director) on Saturday. Tickets are \$15 general admission (all ages) at the door or in advance in Griffin at Artistic Flowers and Gifts, Safehouse Coffee Roasters, and First United Methodist Church, in Barnesville at Goggans Florist, and in Zebulon at A Novel Experience bookstore. More information is on the Griffin Choral Arts website at www.griffinchoralarths.org or call 1-888-SING-1-88 (888-746-4188).

Heritage collecting for Toys for Tots

Heritage Funeral Home, 1512

is to provide a new pair of athletic shoes for each Griffin student in the program. Shoes can be dropped off at Field Foot and Ankle, 730 S. Eighth St., Griffin. Cash and check donations can be made to Spalding Collaborative, PO Box 701, Griffin, 30223. Memo: Shoes for Griffin. For more information, email shoesforgriffin.com.

Promise Place planning Christmas Gala

The Promise Place Christmas Gala 2015 is Saturday, Dec. 12 at Barnstormer's Grill, 349 Jonathan's Roost Road, Williamson. The event features music from Night Train (18-piece big band), holiday photos, ballroom dancing and silent auction. Doors open at 6 p.m., ballroom dance lessons at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Attire is black tie. Tickets are \$50; advanced tickets only. Reserve tickets by Nov. 30 at www.promiseplace.org.

Toy Round-up continues through Dec. 18

Griffin Fire-Rescue's Annual Toy Round-up has begun. Firefighters will collect toys at all three city fire stations until Friday, Dec. 18. The toys will be accepted seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Toys are needed for boys and girls of all ages. Checks are accepted and 100 percent of the money received will buy toys. Make checks payable to Griffin Fire-Rescue Toy Round-up, C/O Fire Station 2, 401 North Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223. Toys should remain in their original packaging and should not be wrapped. For more information, call Capt. Mitchell Cardell or firefighter Daniel Cowles at 770-229-6415.

guests. The Saturday matinee has a special deal for students, 50 percent off all seats, said Riceman.

Patrons can buy tickets online at www.gbttickets.com or at the box office in the lobby of the auditorium on the day of performance.

COPELAND

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Spalding County, Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, Griffin-Spalding County School System, and local colleges (UGA-Griffin and Southern Crescent Technical College).

Copeland was present at GEDA's November luncheon in Atlanta to receive the Volunteer of the Year award. More than 250 economic developers from around the state attended the luncheon to honor Copeland and others.

The Georgia Economic Developers Association is a nonprofit association of professionals, volunteers and supporters. The association provides networking and professional development opportunities for its members, and supports public policies that promote quality job creation and sustainable economic development throughout the state.

For more information, visit www.geda.org.

Corner of Hill & Tinsley St.

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