

12 days until Christmas!!

The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Luckie part of Georgia delegation to Japan

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

There was local representation in the state's economic development trade mission to Japan.

ment Authority Executive Director David Luckie was part of the Georgia Department of Economic Development's five-day visit to Japan, Aug. 31 to Sept. 4. Luckie said there were only two communities included in the 15-member delegation

— Savannah, because of the deepening of the port, and Griffin, because of the three new Japanese companies located in The Lakes at Green Valley — Marukan, Toppan and Otsuka.

Luckie said the delegation included most of the state

department heads including the Department of Labor, the Department of Driver's Services, the governor's office, Hartsfield Jackson Airport as well as the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, major utilities that have economic development includ-

ing Electric Cities of Georgia, Georgia EMC, Georgia Power and Atlanta Gas Light.

Along with the economic development interests in the state. Luckie said, one of the

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What is a Muslim? What do Muslims believe?

BY SHAHEER BEYAH SHAHEER972@YAHOO.COM

It seems of late that a broad spotlight has been cast on the religion of Islam in America bringing forward many inquiries such as "What is a Muslim?", "What do they believe?" and "Are there any similarities between Islam and other religions?"

But one of the more volatile topics is whether or not Islam condones or encourages terrorism or acts of violent aggression.

My name is Shaheer Beyah and I am a student of Imam Wallace D. Mohammed, a religious leader who has often been described as a philosopher and world renowned spiritual reformer. As a Muslim, my intentions for writing this article are to offer a few answers to some of the questions that have been presented to me and to be a source of information to whoever chooses to read it.

What is a Muslim? A Muslim is one who submits or surrenders his or her will to the will of the Creator. I would like to point out that in order to become a true Muslim, one must willingly take a declaration

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Southside Riders members ring the bell



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Members of the Southside Riders Association were ringing the bells for the Salvation Army kettle drive outside Wal-Mart on Saturday. Pictured with bells in hand are Kenny Hawley and Marla Pittman.



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Cadets from JROTC units at both Spalding and Griffin high schools placed wreaths on the graves of veterans located in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Griffin as part of the national Wreaths Across America event. The cadets worked with members of Veterans of the Foreign Wars Post 5448 for this event Saturday morning. Please see the Wreaths gallery at griffindailynews.com for more photos from this event.

Cadets place wreaths on veterans' graves

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Local JROTC cadets and veterans gathered Saturday at Veterans Memorial Cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of

veterans as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America event.

"Today as we gather here to participate in the laying

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Assistance sought in ministries' Angel Trees project

BY THOMAS HOEFER STAFF WRITER THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Humbly Serving Ministries will once again have Angel Trees at a number of locations and is asking the community to help make the Christmas wishes of about 400 children come true.

"I have not yet ever been to where I have never been able to take care of them," said Faye Schneider, director of Humbly Serving Ministries, which serves Pike, Spalding, Upson and Henry counties.

Schneider said she started the Angel Trees after her son, Kevin Harmon, was murdered in 2011.

"We do this in memory of my son, because I'll never be able to give him another gift," she said, adding that the Angel Trees idea shows how something evil can be turned into something good.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER SHOEMAKE

Humbly Serving Ministries is asking the community for help in making local children's Christmas wishes come true through Angel Trees. Its director, Faye Schneider, is pictured during a recent Santa Claus pictures event in honor of Leland Shoemake, who passed away on Sept. 25 at age 6 due to a rare brain infection.

There's a total of five Angel Trees — in Zebulon at American Pie Pizzeria (this tree being dedicated to Leland Shoemake, who died

in September of a rare brain infection at age 6), The Oink Joint and the Square and

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Inside

Table with 4 columns: Category, Page, Category, Page. Includes Abby (B4), Business (A6), Classifieds (B6-7), Comics (Insert), Puzzles (B3), Stocks (A6), Sports (A8), Scores (A9), Viewpoints (A4).

Deaths

- Mr. Joe Maddox Keadle, Mr. Ray Wesley Brinkley, Mrs. Mary A. Blanton, Mrs. Lottie Mae Jordan, Mr. Randolph Lee, "Randy" Warr, Rita H. Cato, Mr. Willis David Langston Sr., Mr. Samuel E. Walker, Mr. Ed Granger, Mrs. Mozell Hillhouse Wilkie.



Today's weather: Showers

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OBITUARIES



Langston Sr., 83 of Molena, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at Upson Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Langston was born in Hueytown, Alabama on June 6, 1932. He is preceded in death by his parents, John H. Langston and Rena Rollins Langston; his children, Willis David Langston, Jr., Mark Daniel Langston, and Sandra Dee Langston; sister, Betty Roberts. Mr. Langston was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Korea and was a retired welder.

Survivors include his children, Debra Langston, B. J. Lawrence, Earl Langston; grandchildren, Jessica Ellerbee, Christopher Ellerbee, Anthony Lawrence; great grandchild, Dylan Lawrence; sister, June Laxson.

Visitation for Mr. Willis David Langston Sr., will be on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, from 6 until 8 p.m., at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A funeral service will be conducted on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, at 3 p.m., in the chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Rev. Tommy Smith and Rev. Ted Moody will officiate. Interment will follow in Griffin Memorial Gardens.

Please join the family in honoring the life of David Langston Sr., by visiting www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

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

Mr. Samuel E. Walker

July 23, 1931 — Dec. 10, 2015

Jonesboro resident Mr. Samuel Edwin Walker, 84, of Jonesboro, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at Piedmont Fayette Hospital.

Mr. Walker was born in Eastman, Georgia, on July 23, 1931. He is preceded in death by his parents, William Gaynor Walker and Gladys Conley Walker. Mr. Walker was a veteran of the United States Air Force, was a Mason and Shriner. He retired from Clayton County Water Authority.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Ruth Grant Walker; daughters, Valerie Walker, Alison Hill and husband,

Jim; grandchildren, Kaylin and Jacob Hill, Christy Davis; great grandchildren, Jade, Nikki and Gavon Davis, Kyleigh Beard; brothers, W.G. Walker, Joe Donald Walker.

Visitation for Mr. Samuel E. Walker will be on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, from 4 until 6 p.m., at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A funeral service will be conducted on Monday, Dec. 14, 2015 at 1 p.m., in the chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Rev. Gene Luke will officiate. Interment will follow in Jenkinsburg City Cemetery.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Samuel Walker by visiting www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com and posting your tributes and memories.

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

Mr. Ed Granger

July 2, 1926 — Dec. 11, 2015

Griffin resident

Mr. John Edmund "Ed" Granger, 89 of Griffin, formerly of Pike County, passed away Dec. 11, 2015, at Brightmoor Hospice in Griffin. He was born in Molena, son of the late Joseph L. Granger and Willie Pearl Pilkinton Granger. He worked for Motor Convoy for 22 years as a car hauler. After retiring, he worked for Southside Steel and A & A Sanitation. In his younger years he enjoyed fishing, hunting and watching baseball games. He was a family man and especially loved spending time with them. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby Weaver Granger, grandson, Carey, and granddaughter, Cathy.

He is survived by his wife: Azalea Granger; children and their spouses: Ronnie and Juanita Granger of Thomaston, Keith and Linda Granger of McRae, Janice and Bobby Cox of McRae, Tony and Kathy Granger of Griffin, Tim and Tracey Granger of Zebulon, Stanley Granger and Sonja Sears of Griffin, Sam Granger of Hollywood, Georgia; grandchildren Karen, Steve, Lisa, Cindy, Bobby, Misty, Trent, Taylor, Adam and Zachary; brother and sister-in-law:

Bobby and Mauricette Granger of Forest Park; special friend: Dr. Rosa Clemente of Griffin; numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Friends may visit the family on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the funeral home. Funeral services will follow at 3 p.m., in the chapel of Moody-Daniel Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Butler officiating. Burial will follow in Moody Memorial Gardens. Moody-Daniel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

Mrs. Mozell Hillhouse Wilkie, 83, died Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, at Pinehill Nursing Center in Byromville, Georgia. A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015, in Fairview Memorial Garden. Heritage Funeral Home, 1512 Williamson Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Joe Maddox Keadle, 86, of Barnesville, died Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, at his residence. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, 2015, in Bethel Baptist Church in Milner. Williams Funeral Home of Barnesville is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ray Wesley Brinkley, 85, of Barnesville, died on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, at his residence. A funeral service will be conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, at the Barnesville Church of the Nazarene. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 West McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Mary A. Blanton, 74 of 224 Maloy Road Griffin passed Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at Spalding Regional Medical Center. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date by McDowell's Funeral Home, Inc., 305 North Hill St.

Homegoing celebration for **Mrs. Lottie Mae Jordan**, 78, will be held Monday, Dec. 14, 2015, at 11 a.m., at Wolf Creek County Line Baptist Church, 582 Smoak Road. Internment in Griffin Memorial Gardens. Miller's Family Mortuary is in charge of arrangements, 770-228-4077.

Mr. Randolph Lee "Randy" Warr, 78 of Griffin and Pike County, passed away Dec. 11, 2015. A Masonic graveside service will be held Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2:30 p.m., in Westwood Gardens in Griffin. Moody-Daniel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

JAPAN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

big concerns of Japanese corporations is "how do they get a driver's license and what it takes. It has become a big deal. It is a huge issue in Japan. The state does do a good job. They are doing a whole lot better about being user friendly."

Luckie said, "I left on Saturday to be able to get there by Sunday, for meetings Monday morning. It was 25 hours from my house to the hotel room," for the flight with one layover and 13-hour time difference.

The trip, he said was a visit to current companies that do business in the state, as well as visits with others interested. One manufacturing industry, which he was fortunate to be able to make a presentation to on the trip, he said, came to visit Griffin the following week, and remains interested, making another visit, this past week. "They are very much an active prospect," he said.

The first stop on the trip, on a Monday, was Osaka, where the delegation visited with Kubota, which has facilities in Gaineville and Jefferson, "thanking them for their business and hoping to continue it in the future," he said. On Tuesday, the delegation had a briefing from the U.S. Counsel General in Japan on the opportunities in Japan. The day also included a networking luncheon with the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and a visit with an entrepreneur interested in doing business in Georgia, Luckie said. They also visited and toured the Kubota plant.

On Wednesday, they left Osaka on the 200 mile per hour bullet train to go to Hamamatsu, where they visited with Yamaha, which has a location in Newnan. The visit also included a tour of the Yamaha museum, the they took the bullet train to Tokyo.

On Thursday, in Tokyo, Luckie said, they visited Toppan, "one of our companies in The Lakes, and I was given the privilege of giving the Georgia welcome to Toppan," which he said, "has the only printing museum in Japan, and we got to see one of the first off-

set printers known to man."

That afternoon, Luckie said, in between scheduled visits and meetings usually held in the morning and evening "something popped up. The state usually worked out tourist events during the day," but on Thursday, he explained, "a company had shown interest, and an impromptu meeting was arranged. I was asked if I wanted to go and said yes."

He said gave a presentation to that company on Thursday. "They visited The Lakes the following Wednesday. It was totally amazing. They are very much an active prospect," he said, noting they visited again just last Wednesday. "We lucked out to be in the right place at the right time," Luckie said.

Thursday night on the trip was a "thank you" reception for companies that are doing business in Georgia. Luckie said he met with officials from Otsuka, Toppan and Marukan, which are located in The Lakes, as well as with Sumitomo, the parent company of Sumika, which is located in the Hudson Park. I got to see four of our companies in Japan."

Luckie had a direct flight back to Atlanta, "which took about half the time" he said. "It was also the day the typhoon hit Japan. We got out just before the evacuations started."

Of the trip, he said, "the value of my being invited, in addition to networking with state departments was networking in Japan with our four existing companies, a visit to the Toppan plant, and giving a presentation to a new company interested in doing business in Georgia. I was very worthwhile for our community to be included."

Luckie was also amazed by the size of chambers of commerce in Osaka and Tokyo. "Our Chamber has about 700 members. Osaka had 20,000 and Tokyo, 50,000 to 60,000. I'm not sure if businesses are required to be a member."

He has also heard back from the companies here now, "from my being in Japan," Luckie said. "It continues to help build the relationship."

He noted that, "being able to spend a week with state officials, it continues to build relationships. The more people the better."

Mr. Willis David Langston Sr.

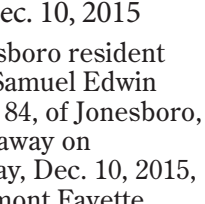
June 6, 1932 — Dec. 10, 2015

Molena resident

Mr. Willis David



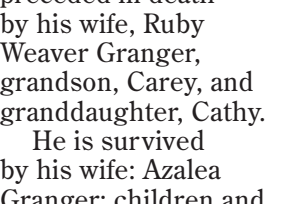
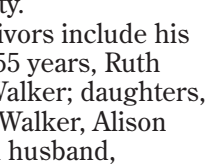
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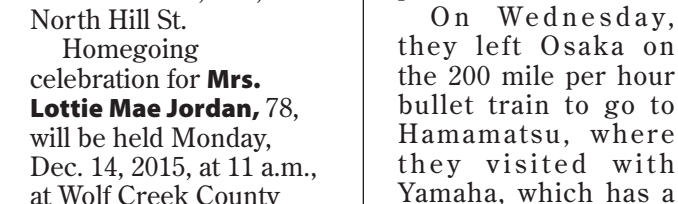
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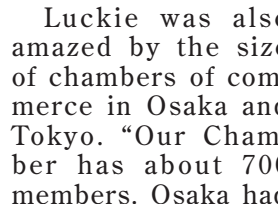


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