

## Griffin City Commission District 2 Q&A

BY RAY LIGHTNER  
STAFF WRITER  
RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

There are two candidates for the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners District 2 election.

Both have previously held the office, with the incumbent, Cora Flowers, seeking her third term and challenger William Evans seeking his second term. Flowers, 32, is a flight attendant. Evans, 62, is retired from the Griffin Police Department and works part time at Food Depot.

Both candidates were asked the following questions. Their answers are listed in the order in which they were returned to the paper.

What is the biggest challenge facing the City of Griffin, and how would you address it?

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## School system seeks input on calendar options

BY THOMAS HOEFER  
STAFF WRITER  
THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Griffin-Spalding County School System is looking for input from community stakeholders on the school calendar for the 2016-2017 school year.

Two different options are currently being considered, and people can vote on their preference online until Oct. 19.

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SPLOST 2008

## Where did the money go?

BY RAY LIGHTNER  
STAFF WRITER  
RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Voters are being asked to approve another special purpose local option sales tax, but many want to know where the money

went from the last SPLOST in 2008.

The 2008 SPLOST was limited to 24 calendar quarters (six years) and was estimated to bring in \$54 million. Because of the downturn in the economy, actual col-

lections were only at 92 percent of projections, according to County Manager William Wilson Jr., and all pay-as-you-go projects were cut by 8 percent across the board.

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## Special Friends Day at the Fair



THOMAS HOEFER/DAILY NEWS

The Kiwanis Club of Griffin and Belle City Amusements teamed up Friday to host the traditional Special Friends Day at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds. For the event, the Spalding County Fair opened early and exclusively for special needs children, as they got to go on rides and were fed afterward, with the Kiwanianne Club providing free Korn Dawgs. Pictured are special-needs students from Beaverbrook Elementary School enjoying lunch.

Former NFL linebacker and Griffin native Jessie Tuggle recently visited Beaverbrook Elementary School for the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. Tuggle played college football at Valdosta State and spent his entire NFL career with the Falcons, retiring in 2000. He is a member of the Atlanta Falcons "Ring of Honor" and his number, 58, has been retired. Nicknamed "The Hammer" because of hard-hitting style, he played in five Pro Bowls and one Super Bowl.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Tuggle visits Beaverbrook Elementary



## Man robbed, kicked after deal goes wrong

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Griffin Police Department was dispatched to North Third and Jefferson Streets on Oct. 4 about 6:45 p.m. in reference to a robbery that had already taken place.

When officers arrived at the scene, they made con-

tact with the 54-year-old male victim, who — according to a GPD incident report — had the strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from him, had slurred speech and was swaying while standing or walking.

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# SPLOST 2008

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The bonded projects could not be cut, as the bonds were issued and had to be paid back in full, Wilson explained, and the bonds all have been paid back from the SPLOST revenue. The county issued bonds for the project totaling \$15,252,749.56, Wilson explained, for the Lakes at Green Valley industrial park.

It was listed on the ballot as for the acquisition, construction and development of property for the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority. The Development Authority also received 17.5 percent of the SPLOST proceeds after the bonds, getting about \$19,550,000 total, Wilson said.

David Luckie, executive director of the Development Authority, said there's about \$4.8 million left unspent from the total allocation, but \$4.3 million is committed to go to the City of Griffin for capacity expansion of the city's Cabin Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves the Lakes at Green Valley. The city and the Development Authority have an intergovernmental agreement for the expansion of capacity at the plant.

"There has been a total of \$140 million in new capital investment in the park with three companies, so far. We spent almost \$20 million to get \$140 million, not including the new jobs, property and sales taxes," Luckie said. "That's a pretty good return on our investment."

The land was first bought in 2008, after the bonds were issued. "We started design, bidding and grading. Each parcel was a separate grading

## EARLY VOTING

Early voting for the Nov. 3 election begins Monday and continues through Friday, Oct. 30. Registered voters can vote Monday through Friday 8 a.m., to 5 p.m., at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration located at 825 Memorial Drive. Photo ID is required. Call 770-467-4245 with questions.

job," Luckie said. "The last segment didn't finish until 2012."

Luckie said, "We had the first deal in 2014. The average time on deals is 18 to 24 months from first contact to groundbreaking. We're pretty close to on schedule."

The second project listed on the ballot was acquisition, construction and additions to Griffin Technical College. Initially projected at \$7 million or 19.622 percent of the \$54 million total, Griffin Tech, now Southern Crescent Technical College received \$6.44 million and has spent \$565,835 so far buying the Ellis Crossing parcels that will become the Georgia Film Institute at Southern Crescent Technical College.

The remainder is committed to the project for design, equipment and construction of the facility to be housed primarily in the old Winn Dixie. The purchase included all of the parcels north of the old Wal-Mart all the way around to, but not including, the NAPA Auto Parts.

"We're already teaching the courses," said SCTC President Randy Peters. "We're hoping for the Georgia Film Institute to be open by the fall 2016."

Part of that construction will be raising the roof on the existing building to 35 feet high for the movie production sound stage, so students can "get used to being up there to do that work," Peters said. There will also be a mezza-

nine level around the sound stage for observation, he said, with the other parcels being used for offices and classroom space.

Luckie and Peters are having conversations now to figure out how to leverage the Georgia Film Institute for other standalone jobs, as a source of revenue for the facility, and to attract industry here. Part of any outside agreement could include requiring use of students in the program, so they can get experience, for the outside entity to have access to the facility, Peters said.