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FRIDAY

Annual Ross
Invitational at
Griffin High
on Saturday
SPORTS, A8



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

White completes fire inspector course



Spalding County Fire Department Lt. Rocky White has completed the fire inspector course to become a fire safety officer. The course is composed of two 40-hour modules covering the details required for fire inspections, including the utilization of resources such as the Life Safety Code along with other codes and ordinances adopted by Spalding County. The course concluded with a comprehensive exam process to successfully complete the course. Spalding County Fire Chief Kenny West acknowledged, "the dedication of Lt. White to successfully complete this course exhibits his passion for the job. Additionally the community will benefit from the insight, knowledge and education that Lieutenant White can bring to his current role in the department."

NAACP asks employers to 'ban the box'

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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The local NAACP is asking the county to "ban the box" on employment applications that asks applicants if they have been convicted of a crime.

Jewel Walker-Harps, president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said "this is not going to guarantee employment, it is simply going to get the applicant through the door for an interview."

Walker-Harps told the county commissioners she is simply asking that people who have been convicted of a crime not be penalized for the rest of their life for one mistake.

"These individuals have paid their debt to society and they should be given an equal opportunity for consideration for employment and not be disqualified during the application process," she said. "We are asking that they be given an opportunity to be interviewed."

Walker-Harps noted that the federal and state governments have removed "the box" from their application process and is asking that Spalding County do the same. County Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor asked that this be placed on the county commissioners' retreat agenda for discussion. The retreat will be held March 29.

The owners of the Five Points Station told the city commissioners earlier this month they are one of the few that hires ex-cons, and pointed out the need for jobs in the community. The City of Griffin has removed that question from employment applications, at the request of City Commissioner Cora Flowers.

Walker-Harps is also encouraging private employers to do this, noting the current box bans apply only to government jobs and doesn't carry over to the private sector.

"Many of these persons are imprisoned for minor non-violent crimes and the cost to incarcerate is much greater than the cost to rehabilitate."

—Jewel Walker-Harps
president, NAACP local chapter

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Toppan USA to recruit manufacturing associates in Griffin next week

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Georgia Department of Labor will help Toppan USA recruit manufacturing associates to fill several positions for its new facility in Spalding County.

The recruitment will be held Tuesday, March 1 from 3 to 7 p.m., at Southern Crescent Technical College, 501 Varsity Road, Griffin. Department of Labor staff will be on site to help screen the applicants.

This is the first phase of hiring to staff the new facility, which is expected to eventually employ about 80 workers. The company produces transparent barrier film

LEARN MORE

For more information about these jobs, or the recruitment, call the GDOL's Griffin Career Center at 770-228-7226.

and other packaging solutions for manufacturers of food, medical supplies and electronic equipment and its grand opening is scheduled for April 7.

The company will be recruiting maintenance technicians, material handlers, process engineers, production operators, purchasing coordinators, quality assurance supervisors and warehouse associ-

ates. Salaries are based on position and experience and will be discussed with company representatives.

Due to U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, all applicants must be at least 18 years old. Applicants are encouraged to bring a resume and dress appropriately to improve their opportunities for jobs.

Job seekers planning to attend the recruitment are encouraged to visit www.employgeorgia.com to create an account and upload or create a resume. Having an Employ Georgia account and resume expedites the interview process.

GPD responds to shots fired on West Broad Street

BY THOMAS HOEFER
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The Griffin Police Department (GPD) responded to a residence on West Broad Street Saturday at about 7:30 a.m. in reference to shots fired.

According to a GPD incident report, the 46-year-old female victim stated to police that two white males knocked on her front door at around 7 a.m. that day. The victim further stated that one of the two males began to ask her if a Freddie or Frettie — who had allegedly stolen money from them — was there so they could get it back.

The victim advised that she only opened the front door but left the glass storm door closed. However, she added, one of the males opened the glass storm door but remained outside while holding the door open.

After advising the two males that no Freddie or Frettie lived at the residence, the victim called out for

her son, who was reportedly asleep at the time. The males then told the son that Freddie or Frettie had stolen money from them and was driving a grey Chevy Impala "with some kind of rims."

The son advised officers that he told the males that no one by the name of Freddie or Frettie lived at the residence and that no one who live at the residence was driving a grey Chevy Impala. He then saw the two males leave on foot, heading west on West Broad Street.

Somewhere between two and five minutes later, he heard five to seven gun shots very close to his house, the son stated.

Police then made contact with the victim's sister, who stated that she heard gun shots coming from outside the home. Another woman, who lives across from the victim's home,

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First Baptist honored for 175 years



The City of Griffin Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation declaring March 6, 2016, as First Baptist Church Day and urged citizens "to pay homage to vibrant and vital community ministry." Commissioner Doug Hollberg, a member of the church, read and presented the proclamation to (from left) Alice Blake, Sandra Burkhalter, Bonnie Brown and the Rev. Brian McCartney. Please see this Sunday's paper for more on the monthlong 175th anniversary celebration.

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Deaths

Mrs. Viola "Note" Dorsey
Adrian Manuel Cardona
Mrs. Mary Lizzie Vaughn
Mrs. Donna Weaver Brown



Today's
weather:
Sunny

52 30
High Low