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A12

FRIDAY

Bears sweep Bulldogs, 14-3
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RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Those cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the Toppan USA plant in Griffin on Thursday were Toppan USA President Sumio Ezaki, Toppan Printing Company, Ltd., President and Representative Director Shingo Kaneko, Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta Takashi Shinozuka, Director of Global Commerce for the Georgia Department of Economic Development Scott McMurray, Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Chairman Charles Copeland and Kajima Corporation Managing Executive Officer Shigeru Tomoda.

Toppan celebrates grand opening

BY RAY LIGHTNER
STAFF WRITER
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Toppan USA celebrated the grand opening of its plant in Griffin which is its first production facility outside of Japan for its GL barrier film.

The 103,771 square-foot plant is at 603 Rehoboth Road on two lots in the Lakes at Green Valley industrial park. The plant will primarily produce GL film, a transparent barrier film used in packaging for food, drink, medical care, pharmaceuticals and industrial materials.

Shingo Kaneko, president and representative director of Toppan Printing Company, Ltd., through a translator said Toppan GL barrier film is used in 15,000 products in 45 countries, to extend the shelf life of food products. Kaneko said about a third of all food, about 1.3 billion tons is disposed of each year. GL barrier film he



RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS

Grand opening ceremonies at the Toppan USA plant in Griffin included a sake barrel opening and a toast given by Naiyuki Matsuda, managing director of the Living & Industry Division of Toppan Printing Ltd. Also in ceremonial kimonos for the toast were Toppan USA President Sumio Ezaki, Toppan Printing Company, Ltd., President and Representative Director Shingo Kaneko, Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta Takashi Shinozuka, Director of Global Commerce for the Georgia Department of Economic Development Scott McMurray, Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Chairman Charles Copeland and Kajima Corporation Managing Executive Officer Shigeru Tomoda.

said, is a solution to this food loss. "Until now," Kaneko said, through a translator, GL barrier film was all produced in Japan. The Griffin plant, is the first outside of Japan.

With the Georgia base, Toppan will be able to expand its barrier film distribution in North and South America and Europe. Kaneko and several others each thanked

all of those involved in the project, from Gov. Nathan Deal, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Griffin-Spalding

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County tax commissioner corrects tax information

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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Wednesday night, Spalding County Tax Commissioner Sylvia Hollums sent out an email to correct statements made by a county commissioner about back taxes at Monday night's meeting.

Hollums said there was a change in state law, approved in 2015, that she and fellow tax commissioners requested, which allows tax commissioners to send a final bill on appealed taxes for the additional amount due, without interest.

"The taxpayer will have an additional 60 days to pay, without interest, once the final bill has been processed and mailed," Hollums said. "After 60 days, interest will begin to accrue at the rate proscribed in law."

SEE TAX/PAGE A11

Benefield named Library Media Specialist of the Year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Leslie Benefield has been named the Griffin-Spalding County School System's (GSCS) Library Media Specialist of the Year.

The recognition for Benefield, who is a media specialist at Futral Road Elementary School, was the result of a competitive process, as it rewards individual excellence in the library media field through services to students, teachers and community at the K-12 level, the school system announced in a release.



Leslie Benefield

SEE BENEFIELD/PAGE A12

April 10-16 declared Telecommunicators Week

BY RAY LIGHTNER
STAFF WRITER
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The Spalding County Board of Commissioners designated next week, April 10-16, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Congress designated the second week in April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week as a time when citizens can thank public safety employees who respond to emergency calls

and dispatch emergency professionals and equipment during times of crisis. Americans can show gratitude to 9-1-1 call takers, dispatchers, technicians that maintain radio and emergency phone systems, communications staff trainers, communications center personnel, and other public safety telecommunications staff across the country who work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to help

residents during emergencies. In Spalding County the E-911 Center has 21 full-time telecommunicators, one communications manager, and one administrative staff person to serve over 64,000 citizens.

Commissioner Raymond Ray read the proclamation and presented it to E-911 Communications Manager Barbara Lights.

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Spalding County E-911 Communications Manager Barbara Lights accepted a proclamation from County Commissioner Raymond Ray at Monday's meeting. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners declared next week as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

RAY LIGHTNER/DAILY NEWS



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Vena Grey
Mrs. Mary Berry

Mr. Wayne Kenneth English
Ms. Carrie L. Finley
Mrs. Rose Taylor
Mr. Joseph Britt



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Sunny

65 40
High Low

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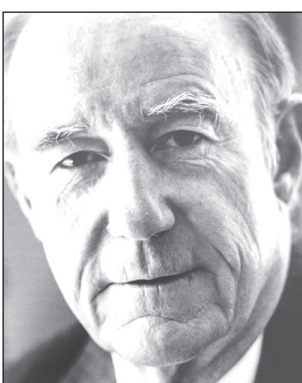
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Funerals
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Pre-Arranged Planning
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OBITUARIES



David Robert Cumming Jr.

Died April 6, 2016

Griffin native

David Robert Cumming Jr., 88, died peacefully at home in Atlanta on April 6, 2016. "Bob," the son of Laura Bailey Cumming and David Robert Cumming, was a native of Griffin, GA. After graduating from Griffin High School and serving a year in the U.S. Army, Bob took a train north to Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1950. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia Law School in 1953. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the Student Editorial Board of the Georgia Bar Journal and graduated first in his class. Bob then joined the firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan of Atlanta. A pioneer litigator and leader of Sutherland's litigation practice for many years, he was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and served as Chair of the Antitrust Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Bob married the love of his life, Beverly Owens, of Albany, GA, in 1954, and together they raised four daughters and nurtured 11 grandchildren. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Bob loved spending time with his family at home and in Highlands, NC. He enjoyed sailing, tennis, walking in the woods, and playing the piano. He instilled in all of his children a love of music. An avid reader and a lively conversationalist, Bob loved telling stories, laughing and learning. His eyes always sparkled with light and kindness. He is survived by his wife Beverly Owens Cumming; his four daughters and their families: Beverly Cumming Cline, her children Mary Shafer (Allen, daughter Emma), David (Katie), and Jack; Laura and Jim Szyperski, their children Bobby (Heather), Laura, and Caroline; Mary and Frank Heald, their children Robert, David, and Mary Emma; Caroline and Larry Wilson of Charlotte, NC, their children Alex and Sarah Bailey; sister, Mary Cumming Fitzhugh of Griffin, GA; brother-in-law, Dr. Robert Douglas McKenzie of Bozeman, MT; and many nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by

sisters Laura Cumming Northey of Charlotte, NC, and Jane Cumming Smalley of Griffin, GA; and brother-in-law, Judge Wilbur Dawson Owens of Macon, GA. The family would like to thank Ms. Barbara Hall and Ms. Cynthia Giddens, who showed Bob such loving kindness in the last years of his life. A service to celebrate the life of David Robert Cumming will be held at St. Anne's Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to St. Anne's Episcopal Church or Good Samaritan Health Center.



Vena Grey

July 28, 1956 —
April 5, 2016

Griffin resident

Vena Grey, 59, of Griffin, passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Vena was born in Griffin, Georgia on July 28, 1956. She is preceded in death by parents, Norman Jimmy Tyson and Annette Maude Perdue Tyson. She was 1974 graduate of Griffin High School and formerly worked at Griffin Christian Day Care. Vena was a member of Faith Fellowship Church.

She is survived by son, John Grey, Jr.; sister, Judy Sikes and fiancée, Wesley Spinks and her son, Rob Sikes and his daughter, Savannah, Wesley's son, Michael; the grandchildren of Ronnie Tiller, Madison, Brianna and Hailey Dodson; aunt, Wanda Putman and her husband, Scott; their daughter Missy and Tommy Wyatt and their daughter, Charly, uncle, James Perdue and wife Linda and family, uncle, Billy Perdue and wife Kathy and Family, uncle, Ronnie Perdue and family, aunt, Ruth Perdue and family; aunt, Louise Spoon and her family; and special cousin, Karen Clark and family; numerous other Tyson and Perdue family and close friends.

Visitation for Vena Grey will be on Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A funeral service will be conducted Monday, April 11, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the Chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Pastor Mark Wesley

and Tracy P. Goodman will officiate. Interment will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery.

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

Mrs. Mary Berry

Died April 4, 2016

Williamson resident

Mrs. Mary Berry, 79, of 40 Little St., Williamson, passed Monday, April 4, 2016, at Spalding Regional Hospital. Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Berry will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2016, at New Hope Baptist Church, Georgia Highway 36, Milner. Pastor Robert Releford will officiate. Interment will follow in Westwood Garden. Public viewing will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Her remains will lie in state at the church one hour prior to the service. The cortege will assemble at 10 a.m. at the residence.

Sympathetic service rendered by McDowell's Funeral Home Inc., 305 N. Hill St. www.mcdowellfuneralhome.org.

Mr. Wayne Kenneth English

July 1, 1947 —
April 4, 2016

Flovilla resident

Mr. Wayne Kenneth English, 68, of Flovilla, passed away Monday, April 4, 2016, in Griffin. He was born on Tuesday, July 1, 1947, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his father, John E. English.

Wayne proudly served his country in the 173rd Airborne Brigade Separate 2nd Battalion in Vietnam from 1965 until 1966. The 173rd was the first Army ground combat unit in Vietnam. His favorite saying was, "We didn't leave anybody behind," because his unit did not leave a man behind. For 28 years, Wayne helped veterans maneuver through the VA. He helped veterans with PTSD transition into a society that did not understand the disorder. From 1988 to 2002 Wayne spoke to Linda's U.S. History Classes about Vietnam.

Wayne is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Linda White English; children, Tracie English King, Jennifer English Ford, Jessica English Teitelman, Elaine Harvey, Becky Law; mother, Marie Euston; brothers, Stanley English, Doug English, Edwin English, Mike Euston; sister, Barbara Boyette; 12 grandchildren; aunt, Irma Gooden; best bud, Joe Cloud; and several loving nieces, nephews

and cousins.

Funeral services for Wayne English will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2016, at Sherrell Memorial Chapel with Mr. Rudy L. Mangham officiating. Interment will follow in the Fullerton Memorial Cemetery in Hillsboro. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday. Those who wish may sign the online guest registry at www.sherrell-westburyfh.com.

Sherrell-Westbury Funeral Home, 212 E. College St., Jackson, is serving the English family.

Ms. Carrie L. Finley

Died April 5, 2016

Forsyth resident

Ms. Carrie L. Finley, 56, of 3791 Georgia Highway 42, Forsyth, Georgia, transitioned on Tuesday in the Navicent Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Shield of Faith Christian Center. Bishop Christopher Clark will officiate and interment will be in Griffin Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends at 423 New 10th St., Griffin. Trice Funeral Home Inc. of Barnesville is in charge of all professional services.

Ms. Finley leaves to cherish her memory her mother, Mrs. Elesina (Joe) West of Griffin; one daughter, Ms. Lamonica Maddox; a son, Mr. Paul Maddox; a grandson she raised as her own, Mr. Jamarcus Maddox; Ms. Ruth Finley, and Mr. Michael Finley, all of Griffin. Six grandchildren also survive. Also surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Shirley (Henry) Travis of Forsyth, Mrs. Maryann (Aldophus) Johnson, and Mrs. Lisa (Kelvin) Henderson, both of Griffin; four brothers, Mr. Leroy Starks, Mr. Early (Cynthia) Starks, Mr. Nathaniel (Tammy) Starks, and Mr. Herman Starks, all of Griffin. Also surviving are a brother-in-law, Mr. Lionel Jones of Alabama, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends who will miss her presence.

Trice Funeral Home Inc., 149 Mill St., Barnesville, is in charge of arrangements. 770-358-2381.

DEATH NOTICES

Mrs. Rose Taylor, of 203 Lexington Ave., died Thursday, April 7, 2016, at her residence. Funeral arrangements will be announced. McDowell's Funeral Home Inc., 305 N. Hill St., is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Joseph Britt, of Griffin, died April 6, 2016, at Eternal Hope Hospice. Funeral arrangements will be announced. Miller's Family Mortuary Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

WEEK

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The proclamation recognizes that "the prompt response of law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics is critical in the protection of life and preservation of property" and the safety of those first responders "is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Spalding County Communication Center."

The proclamation recognized that the telecommunications "are the single vital link for our law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics in monitoring

their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety and appropriate response." And it also recognized that they have "exhibited compassion, empathy understanding and professionalism during the performance of their duties and have contributed substantially to the apprehension of suspects, suppression of fires and treatment of patients."

Lights thanked the commissioners for recognizing the hard work and dedication of the telecommunications. The commissioners are scheduled to tour the facility and attend a thank-you luncheon for the telecommunications next week.

TOPPAN

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Development Authority, Spalding County, the City of Griffin and Griffin Electric.

"Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated," Kaneko said.

He and others also expressed sincere thanks to the design and construction company, equipment manufacturers "and everybody else that made this possible."

Takashi Shinozuka, consul general of the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta, said "the project shows the relationship with Japan and Georgia. Today's grand opening is another great day in that partnership."

Shinozuka said Toppan is one of the leading companies in Japan in the printing industry. He praised Deal for showing strong leadership in attracting Toppan, and was very grateful for the work of Scott McMurray, director of global commerce for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Chairman Charles Copeland, for encouraging Toppan to come here and their support once here.

Shinozuka noted there are about 40 Georgia companies located in Japan, and 640 Japanese companies in the Peach State. He said he was "very proud of the new plant which represents the future. It is an investment in opportunity in everyone here and in the future world."

McMurray said Japan is the No. 1 foreign investor in Georgia. He said he's been showing industries from other countries sites at the Lakes of Green Valley, but so far only Japanese companies have chosen to come here.

"That shows one thing," McMurray said, "Japanese companies are the smartest companies."

McMurray said these projects each have code names and this one was project red star, because the location was indicated by red start on the map. Toppan purchased lots N and O, he said, "but we didn't want to change the name to project 'NO' so we switched the letters around to 'ON' which sounds like the Japanese word for support and encouragement."

Copeland said it was "a truly special day." He noted the economic development process can be a long and arduous process. He praised the work of the staffs at the city and county, state economic development, "the team at Toppan and Ezaki-san," (Toppan USA President Sumio Ezaki), noting "it moved at an unusually rapid pace."

What usually takes 18 to 24 months from first contact, Copeland said, "Toppan committed within four months of visiting the site."

He presented the joint city-county proclamation declaring April 7, 2016, as Toppan Printing Ltd., Day and a print of a painting of the original Imperial Theater by Joyce Perdue Smith. The Development Authority offices are off the Imperial Theater Park.

Along with the ribbon cutting outside, ceremonies included a sake barrel opening, both with Ezaki, Kaneko, Shinozuka, McMurray, Copeland and Kajima Corporation Managing Executive Officer Shigeru Tomoda, whose firm was the designer and builder for the plant. There was also a toast given by Naiyuki Matsuda, managing director of the Living & Industry Division of Toppan Printing Ltd.

Matsuda gave the toast in English, then apologized saying it was the first time he'd done it in English. He then gave a simple toast in Japanese, inviting everyone to join him in saying "kanpai!"

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