



Griffin, Spalding soccer teams in action.
SPORTS, A9

TUESDAY

Recap of the Sprint Cup race in Phoenix.
SPORTS, A10



The **GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: ATLANTA OZONE NON-ATTAINMENT AREA

County closer to coming off list

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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Spalding County is closer to being removed from the Atlanta ozone non-attainment area.

Spalding County was designated to be one of 20 counties in the metro Atlanta non-attainment area several years ago by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This designation was because the state and federal air quality standard for ozone was not being met in large parts of the region.

Spalding County contracted with Joe Tanner & Associates, a governmental affairs consulting firm with environmental expertise, to help the county make the case to EPA and EPA that it should come off the non-attainment list. This is possible, county officials said, since Spalding

County contributes only a small portion of the pollutants that form ozone in the region.

Spalding County Board of Commissioners Chairman Gwen Flowers-Taylor, with the consultant's assistance, wrote to EPA on Feb. 17, making a number of technical points as to why Spalding County should not be included in the non-attainment area. The county announced Monday that the effort paid off. EPA sent

a proposed non-attainment area list to EPA on Feb. 29, which excludes Spalding and several other suburban counties.

"The first hurdle has now been crossed," said County Manager William Wilson Jr. "Now EPA and our consultants will work to convince EPA to drop Spalding County from the non-attainment area list."

The federal decision will be made by May 29, 2012.

"We are optimistic about our chances," said Flowers-Taylor. "We have good air quality here in Spalding County."

If the county were to remain in the non-attainment area, Wilson said in January, residents would be required to get annual emission tests like residents in other metro Atlanta counties.

"It also hampers recruitment for new industries," Wilson said. "It means their costs are higher."

E-waste to be collected this week

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In an effort to protect the community and environment, all city of Griffin and Spalding County residents will have the opportunity to participate in the city's annual e-waste collection event this week.

The yearly event helps focus on electronic recycling, said Griffin Central Services Director Phill Francis. This is the fifth year the city has held such an event to focus specifically on e-waste, Francis said.

The Griffin Regional Recycling Center, at 1515 Industrial Drive, off U.S. Highway 19/41 South, accepts electronics items for recycling year-round, "but we take this time to focus on it," Francis said, "to raise awareness."

"We can't pick (e-waste) up at the house," Francis said, but during this week, the Recycling Center will have customer assistance available for anyone that needs help lifting or unloading the items from their vehicle from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Friday.

E-waste items include computers, keyboards, monitors, copiers, TVs, DVDs, VCRs, stereos, typewriters, printers, fax machines and adding machines, cellular phones, and rechargeable batteries.

Francis said the e-waste drives "have

SEE E-WASTE/A2

Rep. Westmoreland visits UGA-Griffin



SUBMITTED PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga., center, recently visited the UGA-Griffin Campus and met with Assistant Provost Gerald Arkin, back left, as well as faculty and staff of the Food Innovation and Commercialization Center, to discuss the importance of the center's mission of assisting food entrepreneurs and companies in developing new food products and improving processing, packaging and branding. Also at the new test kitchen, which is in UGA-Griffin's Melton Building, were University System of Georgia Board of Regents member Tommy Hopkins, left, and Griffin Board of Commissioners member Dick Morrow, back right, as the group was watching Sandra Walker prepare samples of crepes made of peanut flour. According to UGA-Griffin, it is anticipated that some of the center's clients may locate their food-related businesses in the nearby Lakes at Green Valley industrial park.

Three-dimensionality



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jaylen Muhammad and Quentin Foster, fourth-grade students at Orrs Elementary School, created 3-D shapes during a class with their teacher, Jennifer Stone.

GPD responds to assaults

STAFF REPORTS

Among a number of incidents that took place over the weekend, the Griffin Police Department (GPD) responded to two aggravated assault incidents Saturday and Sunday.

The Saturday incident occurred in the area of 13th Street and West Poplar Street, police officers learned from the victim, an 18-year-old white male from Griffin, who was treated at Spalding Regional Medical Center for a swollen black eye with scratches around it.

According to a GPD incident report, the victim told police that

he had gotten into an argument with a 21-year-old white male from Griffin who put him in a choke hold during the course of the argument.

The victim said that when he threw a punch to be released from the hold, the other male started gouging his right eye. After a brief struggle, during which the victim threw more punches, the other male released him and eventually went back to his residence.

The victim was taken to the hospital by his mother but did not want to press charges against the other male.

In the Sunday incident, police were dispatched to a residence on

Kentucky Avenue, where the victim — a 42-year-old black male — was treated by EMS personnel for a swollen lip.

The victim said that at about noon that day, he was outside talking to another black male who he only knew as "Farris." The talk turned into a verbal altercation, and as a result, Farris struck the victim with an empty 22-ounce beer bottle. The victim stated that after he fell to the ground, Farris began kicking him in the back but left before officers arrived.

Police officers were unable to make contact with Farris, and the victim was taken to Spalding Regional Medical Center.

Man airlifted after hit-and-run

STAFF REPORTS

The Griffin Police Department (GPD) responded in emergency mode to a hit-and-run involving a pedestrian Friday evening at the intersection of North Hill Street and East Quilly Street.

According to a GPD incident report, EMS personnel were working on a 48-year-old male patient lying in the roadway when police officers arrived at the scene. The victim was eventually airlifted to Macon Medical Center. The victim was in stable condition

and did not have life-threatening injuries, officers learned from the hospital later that night.

Police made contact with the victim's girlfriend, who stated that she was talking to him on the phone when she heard the sound of squealing tires, followed by his phone cutting off.

The girlfriend also stated that the victim had left her house on Bourbon Street at about 8:45 p.m. that night, having consumed a small quantity of vodka. She added that he was struck by the vehicle at 9:33 p.m.

After the victim had been flown out of Griffin, officers found several pieces of what appeared to be a black cellphone. The pieces were collected as evidence.

Among a large crowd of people at the scene shortly after the incident, officers also identified two eyewitnesses who stated that the victim was struck by a green Ford Ranger, which sped off after the incident. As of Monday afternoon, the GPD had not yet identified a suspect due to some conflicting witness statements. However, the case remains active, police said.

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Deaths

- Mrs. Mary H. Jett
- Preacher David L. Gooden
- Mr. Buford Hall
- Mr. Tarus Tyrone Wellmaker



Today's weather:
Sunny

58 38
High Low