

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 22, 2018

LIFESTYLE

B

ON THE TOWN

Looking for something to do? "On the Town" is a column featuring events taking place weekly across the area. It runs in each Saturday's edition of The Griffin Daily News. If you have an event you would like listed, send the information to Karen Gunnels at karen@griffindailynews.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

- Families are invited to have a free breakfast with Santa from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Griffin-Spalding County Library. Santa will share stories, children will have the opportunity to make an ornament craft and City Church will provide a light breakfast.
- The Christmas Clash for Kids, a UCW wrestling event sponsored by The Sellers Law Firm, will be held at St. George's Episcopal School Gym in Milner. The event will feature wrestlers Johnny Swinger, Christ Masters, Santa Claus, Priscilla Kelly, Buff Bagwell and Wes Brisco. Doors open at 7 p.m., and bell time is at 7:30 p.m.
- Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band will perform at 8 p.m. at the Infinite Energy Center in Duluth.
- Tonight is the last night to see "Million Dollar Quartet" at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre at Oglethorpe University. Return to Dec. 4, 1956, the only time Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins made music together.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

- Tonight is the last night for "Ho, Ho, Home for the Holidays", from the Actor's Express. Expect holiday classics and novelty tunes as singer and funny lady Libby Whittemore is joined by the 31st Lady of County Music.
- Tonight is also the last night to see "Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley" at Theatrical Outfit. Catch up with bookish middle sister Mary in this witty sequel to Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."
- Drive through the more than one mile of magical light at The Rock Ranch at 6 p.m. today and tomorrow night.
- The Gate City Brass will be performing holiday standards, holiday jazz and many favorite Christmas tunes at 4 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church.
- It's time again for the annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday at 9:45 at First United Methodist Church in Griffin.
- Pictures with Santa will be available at the French Market and Tavern in Locust Grove. The event will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- See Santa and the Grinch in residence at 11 a.m. today at Ponce City Market

MONDAY, DEC. 24

- Tonight's the last night to see "A Christmas Carol" at the Alliance Theatre at Cobb Energy Center. The musical, multicultural adaptation is directed by Rosemary Newcott with David de Vries as Scrooge.
- Tonight is also the last chance to see the Atlanta Ballet's performance of "The Nutcracker" at The Fox Theatre.
- A Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Griffin.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26
Ride the Pink Pig at

SEE TOWN/PAGE B2



Frankie Goldstein, left, and Dan Dunham are pictured during a tournament match.

PICKLEBALL POWER

Spalding County packs a punch in regional tournament competition

SUBMITTED

This was the second consecutive year for the 2018 USAPA Pickleball South Regional Pickleball Tournament held at the Spalding County Pickleball Complex in Wyoming Tyus Park, drawing 319 participants from 22 states.

While about 50 percent of the participants were from various communities around Georgia, Florida, Alabama and North Carolina provided the tournament's most participants. Even California was represented in the tournament.

Spalding County provided 28 participants.

"Darn good representation of our community! This little county in the south metro Atlanta area packs a lot of power," said Peter Phelps, president of the Spalding County Pickleball Association.

The Atlantic South Region is one of 11 USA Pickleball Association Regions across the nation. The 2018 tournament was the sixth annual event for the USAPA Atlantic South Regional. Previous events were Mobile in 2016; Concord, North Carolina in 2015; and Naples, Florida in 2013 and 2014;



Pam Koon and Sheila Phelps capture the gold during the latest tournament.



Ben Johnson won the gold in men's singles.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPALDING COUNTY PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

Phelps explained. Spalding County far exceeded any prior years participants achieved in and former venues. The

SCPA was proud to have secured this tournament offering for our community. The resulting sports tourism and economic impact is genuine and substantial," Phelps said.

Phelps said this was another great tournament and accomplishment for Spalding County pickleball.

"Thanks to Bill Hess, USAPA regional director, for bringing this tournament to Griffin-Spalding County for the second consecutive year. Spalding County pickleball is truly a game changer for our community," Phelps added.

As SCPA president, Phelps thanks "the hard-working SCPA Board of Directors — Lindsay Lancaster, Steve Stevenson, Sheila Phelps, Dave Main, Gayle Hawbaker, Chuck Blackshear, Kathy Ethridge and Rheba Conner."

"I would also like to thank our very valued and appreciated volunteers for their many, many hours of support for this and other tournaments. You cannot succeed without volunteer support. Thanks also to Spalding County Parks and Leisure Services for

SEE POWER/PAGE B2

Phelps receives pioneer award

BY KAREN GUNNELS
STAFF WRITER
KAREN@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Spalding County's pickleball project began in 2015 and it has proven to be tremendously successful, said Spalding County Pickleball Association President Peter Phelps.

Phelps and his wife, Sheila, received the 2018 Pioneers Award for their work in developing and growing pickleball in Georgia and the Southeast region.

"Sheila and I are truly privileged to be honored by the USAPA Atlantic South Region," Phelps said. "We hope that the Griffin-Spalding County community is proud of the recognition given to Spalding County pickleball. Our work is all about serving our community and doing our best to improve the quality of life in Griffin-Spalding County."

Phelps became interested in pickleball when he retired after a 38-year career with the state of New York.

"We decided we wanted



Peter and Sheila Phelps, from left, receive the Pioneers of the Year award from USAPA Regional Director Bill Hess, far right.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER PHELPS

to live in an active 55 community with great amenities. We also knew we wanted a warmer year-round climate and a more serene culture," Phelps explained.

Phelps said the couple looked at several southern communities before settling on Georgia.

After playing pickleball socially a few times since 2010, Phelps said he was hooked on the sport after his first tournament. He has played in tournaments since 2013.

"Our new community offered pickleball and tennis among other amenities. In my first two years or so, I played pickleball more socially, on a recreational basis. I tried my first tournament at the Marcus JCC in Dunwoody. I was hooked. I have played in over 30 tournaments since and medaled in many," Phelps said.

Phelps is quite proud of Spalding County's pickleball facility in Wyoming Tyus Park.

"I couldn't be more proud of what we have accomplished in Spalding County," Phelps said. "I was a lead proponent for the Spalding County Pickleball Complex — and it has been a tremendous success. We are acclaimed as one of the best facilities with one of

SEE PHELPS/PAGE B2

Pretty holiday cookies that don't taste like cardboard

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Making holiday cookies—the rolled, cut-out, and glazed butter-cookie variety—is everyone's favorite December activity. Unfortunately, these cookies either look good but taste like cardboard or have buttery, rich flavor but lack visual appeal.

We wanted a simple recipe that would produce cookies sturdy enough to decorate yet tender enough to be worth eating. Superfine sugar helped to achieve a delicate texture, and using the reverse-creaming method—beating the butter into the flour-sugar mixture—prevented the cookies from air pockets and produced flat cookies that were easy to decorate.

Looking to make our dough a bit more workable without adding more butter—at 16 tablespoons, we'd maxed out—we landed on the addition of a little cream cheese, which made the dough easy to roll but not too soft. Baking the butter cookies one sheet at a time ensured that they baked evenly. Do not reroll the scraps more than once; it will cause the cookies to be tough.

This recipe can easily be doubled. You can decorate the cooled cookies with Easy All-Purpose Glaze

(recipe follows) for a sweet, festive touch.

FOOLPROOF HOLIDAY COOKIES

Servings: 36
Start to finish: 2 hours
2 1/2 cups (12 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour
3/4 cup (5 1/4 ounces) superfine sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
16 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces and softened
1 ounce cream cheese, softened
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, mix flour, sugar, and salt on low speed until combined. Add butter, 1 piece at a time, and mix until dough looks crumbly and slightly wet, 1 to 2 minutes. Add cream cheese and vanilla and beat until dough just begins to form large clumps, about 30 seconds.

Transfer dough to counter; knead just until it forms cohesive mass and divide in half. Form each half into disk, wrap disks tightly in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 days. (Wrapped dough can be frozen for up to 2 weeks. Let dough thaw completely in refrigerator before rolling.)

Working with 1 disk of dough at a time, roll dough 1/8 inch thick between 2 large sheets of parchment paper. Slide dough, still between parchment, onto baking sheet and refrigerate until firm, about 10 minutes. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 375 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment. Working with one sheet of dough at a time, remove top piece of

parchment and cut dough into shapes with cookie cutters. Using thin offset spatula, transfer shapes to prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 1 inch apart.

Bake cookies, one sheet at a time, until light golden brown, about 10 minutes, rotating sheet halfway through baking. Let cookies cool on sheet for 3 minutes, then transfer to wire rack. Let cookies cool completely before serving.

Easy All-Purpose Glaze:

Makes about 1 cup

We decorate our Foolproof Holiday Cookies with this easy-to-make glaze, but feel free to use it, dyed or not, on any flat cookie that could use a festive flourish. The cream cheese in the glaze gives it a slightly thicker consistency that's good for spreading, and it cuts the sweetness of the glaze with its tang. **2 cups (8 ounces) confectioners' sugar**
3 tablespoons milk
1 ounce cream cheese, softened
Food coloring (optional)
Whisk all ingredients in bowl until smooth.

For more recipes, cooking tips and ingredient and product reviews, visit <https://www.americastestkitchen.com>. Find more recipes like Foolproof Holiday Cookies in "The Perfect Cookie."

America's Test Kitchen provided this article to The Associated Press.

POWER

FROM PAGE B1

their ongoing support," Phelps added.

The SCPA will now start planning for 2019. Phelps said the association hopes to maintain a robust program and

tournament schedule.

Fellow residents and Griffin-Spalding businesses are invited to support this venture, Phelps said. Those who can volunteer or contribute money to support SCPA programs, activities and events, contact Peter Phelps.



Gwen Milner from Spalding County sings the national anthem prior to the tournament's beginning.

PHELPS

FROM PAGE B1

the best pickleball crews in the nation. Thank God we had local leaders that had the vision and the courage to pursue the venture — and thank God the Spalding County residents/voters/taxpayers agreed by approving the SPLOST referendum in November 2015."

When not playing or advocating for pickleball, Phelps has been involved in community service and civic affairs for his entire life. More

recently, he has served as president of a homeowner's association Tennis Club and president of the Spalding County Pickleball Association.

"I have never accepted compensation for any of this work. I love serving my community, wherever life takes me. Don't know who said it, but I do like this — you rise by lifting up others. I am also extremely proud to be known as the husband of Sheila Phelps, my love and my partner in all things. Sheila is so deserving of the Pioneer Award. I could not have done this without her," Phelps added.

TOWN

FROM PAGE B1

Macy's at Lenox Square through Jan. 6. The Macy's Pink Pig has been an Atlanta tradition for more than 50 years.

• Come see the electrical extravaganza at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, featuring spectacular lights throughout the Garden, including the new high tech Nature's Wonders. The lights run through Jan. 6, 2019

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

• Gucci Mane and Friends will be in concert beginning at 8 p.m. at The Fox Theatre.

and sound show and appearances by Santa and SCUBA Claus

• Join the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame's Deck the Hall event through Jan. 4. Take pictures with Fumble the Elf. Check dates and time for availability

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

• Pro Wrestler and OG Bullet Club Member Drew Holliday comes to Doc Holliday's Saloon for an evening of road stories, tall tales and laughs from his almost two decades of traveling around the world. He will be joined by Munch Wade, Austin King and Tim Gonzalez. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. It's a 21 and

• "Christmas in the South" is the theme for this year's Hometown Holiday's Parade in downtown Forsyth. This is the event's 29th year.

• Through Dec. 30, catch Synchronicity Theatre's production of "A Year of Frog and Toad." This is a rare family musical that speaks to adults and children. Follow cheerful Frog and grumpy Toad through a year of misadventure all the way to Christmastime.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

• Ring in 2019 with Widespread Panic during a three-night run at The Fox Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. today and Sunday and at 9 p.m. Monday.