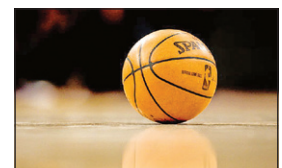


Public records, including arrest reports, are in today's edition.

A12

WEDNESDAY

A look back at hardwood seasons of Bears, Jags. SPORTS, A8



The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Tax incentives included in deal

New Dollar General store to bring 530 jobs

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The 1 million square-foot Dollar General distribution center on Jackson Road is projected to bring 530 jobs to the area.

Located on 150 acres on the county line between Spalding and Butts counties between Jackson Road and Interstate 75, the project will be owned by the Joint Development Authority of Butts County and Spalding County and leased to Dollar General, according to the Memorandum

of Understanding signed by all parties at a special called meeting last week in Jackson.

The JDA will work with the Georgia Department of Labor and Georgia Quick Start to provide a readily available supply of qualified personnel to cover initial

and ongoing employment needs of the company. Jobs goals are also included in the agreement.

In year 1, the first year the facility is open, and no later than 2018, the jobs goal is 200 jobs, with a \$30 million investment goal. In year 2, the jobs goal is 400 jobs, with an investment goal of \$60 million. For years 3 through 20, the jobs goal is 530

jobs with an investment goal of \$85 million.

The company, Dollar General, has an exclusive option to buy the site at its expense, obtain title to the site and then convey title to the Joint Development Authority at closing, provided, that with the Joint Development Authority's

SEE DEAL/PAGE A2

Pickleball courts going in at Tyus Park

Soccer lights also to be installed at park

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER RAY@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The pickleball courts will be behind the ball fields at Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park.

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to put the pickleball complex behind the ball fields at Tyus on the site currently used for overflow parking. The complex, with 18 courts, six of them covered and a concession stand, office and restrooms, is one of the bonded projects in the 2015 SPLOST.

The current president, vice president, a past president and a referee and coach of Griffin Youth Soccer Association each spoke at Monday's meeting thanking the county for including the project, something they said has been proposed for around 10 years. They also praised the county staff's efforts to get the project done and encouraged the commissioners about the bids on equipment and installation, noting more than 500

The complex, with 18 courts, six of them covered and a concession stand, office and restrooms, is one of the bonded projects in the 2015 SPLOST.

Commissioner Bart Miller had concerns about the traffic and parking at the park already.

"We need to look at ways to get in on Vineyard," he said for a possible second entrance to the park.

Miller also asked that pickleball work with the baseball and soccer associations "so they are all not having events at the same time. It's bad enough out there now."

Commissioner Don Hawbaker made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for the location. Flowers-Taylor said, "there's no money budgeted to buy property. We have some other options and should work with the school board to create an easement, but we need to move this project forward."

The Griffin-Spalding County School System owns property adjacent to the park behind the Cowan Road schools and access has been discussed during recent workshops. The county is also moving forward on another bonded SPLOST project at Tyus, the soccer lights.

children have signed up already.

That action took three separate votes Monday night. The first was for the county to join the National Joint Powers Alliance, which county manager William Wilson Jr. explained was a purchasing group like the state contract, only with federal prices.

Membership, Wilson said, will allow the county to get this bonded project done by the end of the calendar year. The pricing for the project, which came in about \$22,000 under budget, is with the prices from NJPA.

Membership is free, Wilson said, and when asked why the county hadn't done this before, Wilson said, "it was just brought up to us. The company made us aware of this because their prices through this are lower than their regular bid."

The commissioners then voted to approve the contract with Musco Lighting for the equipment, which would light fields 2 through 7, instead of just the three initially proposed. Parks and Grounds Manager T.J. Imberger told the commissioners this would allow for remote control for the lights at all seven fields, and online monitoring and free bulb replacement for all of the new lights to go up at fields 2 through 7.

SEE PICKLEBALL/PAGE A2



JIMMY DAY/SPECIAL TO THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

The Chick-fil-A Dwarf House is seen before the demolition.

EXCHANGING OLD FOR NEW



A crew was at the Chick-fil-A Dwarf House on Tuesday to demolish the building. In September, the Griffin Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a rezoning request from Chick-fil-A. The rezoning of a residential parcel at 486 South 16th St., adjacent to the Dwarf House on Taylor Street, includes combining it with the two lots at 1000 and 1006 West Taylor St. The rezoning made one larger lot to accommodate parking and a drive-through for a new free-standing Chick-fil-A restaurant on the site.

ANTHONY RHOADS/THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Ellis promoted to fire captain

Spalding native began career with county department in December 1989

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Spalding County Fire Chief Kenny West announced the promotion of Lt. Mike Ellis to captain.

West said a panel-style interview process was conducted with Ellis being named to the position. Ellis was born and raised in Spalding County, began his career with the Spalding County Fire Department in December 1989, and worked his way through the ranks.

Ellis was promoted to lieutenant in 1996. Throughout his career, he has worked to obtain advanced certifications in fire investigations and attained technical levels in hazardous materials



Spalding County Fire Chief Kenny West congratulated Lt. Mike Ellis on his promotion to captain. West said a panel-style interview process was conducted with Ellis being named to the position.

SUBMITTED/ SPALDING COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIND OUT MORE

For more information, call the Spalding County Fire Department at 770-228-2129.

currently an active member of the Georgia Search and Rescue Team.

Kenny West acknowledged Ellis's technical skills, saying "his attention to detail will serve this department and the community well. Mike has been and will continue to be a valuable part of the Spalding County Fire Department."

Inside

Table with 4 columns: Category, Page, Category, Page. Includes Abby A11, Business A6, Classifieds A15, Comics A10, Graham A11, Horoscopes A10, Lotteries A3, Obituaries A2, Puzzles A5, A10, Stocks A6, Sports A8, Scores A9, Viewpoints A4.

Deaths

- Mr. Marcus L. Lovelady Sr.
Mr. Emmett Lee Bishop
Mrs. Pat Long
Mrs. Alice Virginia Sims
Robert Lee Rogers



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**OBITUARIES**



**Mrs. Pat Long**  
July 6, 1949 —  
Feb. 16, 2016  
Griffin resident

Mrs. Patricia Ann "Pat" Long, age 66 of Griffin, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at Eternal Hope Hospice.

Pat was born in Spalding County on July 6, 1949. She is preceded in death by her parents, Sam Henderson, Sr. and Grace Woodruff Henderson; her husband, Wilson Pruitt Long, Jr. She was a member of County Line United Methodist Church. Pat was a great volunteer having volunteered at school's that Jeff attended, her community, the food bank and anyone that had a need.

Survivors include her companion, Tom Bunns; children, Stacey and Holly Long, Jeffery Long, Deanna and Michael Goodson; grandchildren, Stacey Jr, Katlyn, Tanner; great granddaughter, Abbie Michelle Long; sister and brother-in-law, Lynn and Kenneth Middlebrooks; brother and sister-in-law, Danny and Rickie Henderson; several nieces, nephews and extended family.

Visitation for Pat Long will be on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. A

funeral service will be conducted on

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 11:00 am in the chapel. Reverend Gene Walton and Reverend Ed Lynch will officiate. Interment will follow in County Line United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Pat Long by visiting [www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com](http://www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com) and posting your tributes and memories.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Rd., Griffin is in charge of the arrangements.



**Mr. Emmett Lee Bishop**  
March 31, 1964 —  
Feb. 15, 2016

Mr. Emmett Lee Bishop, age 51 passed away on Monday, February 15, 2016 at his residence.

Mr. Bishop was born in Newnan, Georgia on March 31, 1964. He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Ann Bishop. Mr. Bishop was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Meriwether County.

Survivors include his wife Dyana Bishop; sons Bruce Bishop and Robert Bishop; daughters, Cassie Kesner, Candy Ann Kaylor, Lacey Wolf; his father, Bobby Bishop; sisters, Teresa Bishop, Diane Hill and Renae Feltman; brother, Ronald Bishop; 8 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Mr. Emmett Bishop will be on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 from 5:00pm until 7:00pm at Conner-Westbury

Funeral Home. A funeral service will

be conducted on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 1:00pm in the chapel of Conner-Westbury. Interment will follow in Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery.

Please join the family in honoring the life of Emmett Lee Bishop by visiting [www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com](http://www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com) and posting your tributes and memories.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.



**Mr. Marcus L. Lovelady Sr.**  
Aug. 1, 1942 —  
Feb. 13, 2016

Mr. Marcus LeRoy Lovelady, Sr., age 73, of Milner, Georgia passed away Saturday, February 13, 2016 at Spalding Regional Hospital.

Mr. Lovelady was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in August 1, 1942. He is preceded in death by his parents, Edgar Dyer Lovelady and Gustavia Marie Holmes Lovelady; brother, Eddie Lovelady. He was a member of Rock Springs Church, retired Inspector and Trainer for the Georgia Department of Labor, and past president of NARSA.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Rose Stokes Lovelady; sons Marcus (Red) Lovelady, Jr. and his wife Donna, Christopher L. Lovelady and his wife, Marylyn, Henry H. Lovelady and his wife, Amber, Timothy D. Lovelady and his wife, Quinette; 13 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren; brother, Vaughn Lovelady; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Marcus L. Lovelady will be on Friday, February 19, 2016

from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, Griffin, Georgia. A funeral service will be conducted at 1:00 pm in the chapel of Conner-Westbury. Dr. Benny Tate will officiate. Interment will follow in Lamar Memory Gardens.

Please join the family in honoring the life Marcus L. Lovelady of by visiting [www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com](http://www.conner-westbury-funeralhome.com) and posting your tributes and memories.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.

**DEAL**

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

consent, the company may arrange with the seller of the site to convey title to the site directly to the Joint Development Authority at closing.

Prior to closing, Dollar General is conducting its due diligence, which according to the Memorandum of Understanding, includes an environmental site assessment, at the company's expense, as well as, if needed, a Phase II environmental assessment, also at its own expense.

The project includes an investment of \$85 million in the project, which JDA member and Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Executive Director David Luckie said will be in the form of bonds issued by the Joint Development Authority. The JDA will enter into a bond lease agreement with the company for the project.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, those bonds "shall not be a general obligation of the JDA, but shall be a special and limited obligation payable solely from the payments (actual or constructive) received under the bond lease and other pledged security. Neither the JDA, Butts County, Spalding County, the State of Georgia, nor any other public body shall have any obligation or liability for repayment of the project bonds."

Dollar General shall also apply for, and use its best efforts to obtain, all permits, licenses, authorizations, and approvals required by all government-

tal authorities in connection with the acquisition, construction, equipping, operation, and use of the project. Butts County, per the intergovernmental agreement creating the Joint Development Authority, will have the right to conduct plan reviews and issue permits for the project.

The Joint Development Authority, per the memorandum of understanding, "agrees to use its best efforts to cause Butts County to provide one-stop permitting for the project, whereby all permits can be applied for at one time, and permits will be reviewed concurrently to expedite plan review and the issuance of the required permits," and will assist the company in permitting process, with it being a closing condition on bond lease, that, "to the extent they are obtainable by closing, it shall have obtained all permits, licenses, authorizations, and approvals required by all governmental authorities in connection with the acquisition, construction, equipping, operation, and use of the project."

The Joint Development Authority, "in partial consideration of the public benefit to be received by the JDA," will provide payment or waiver of the following fees associated with the project — 50 percent of the Butts County building review fee for the development of the project; 50 percent of the Butts County electrical and plumbing permit fee; 50 percent of the Butts County building permit fees; 50 percent of the Butts County land disturbance fees; and the Butts County impact fee.

SEE DEAL/PAGE A7

**PICKLEBALL**

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Field 1 currently has lights and remote control will be added, but not monitoring, Imberger explained. All of the lights would be "dark sky" he said and are designed specifically so light remains in the area with no bleed over.

The estimated cost in the SPLOST was \$460,000. The Musco bid for the equipment and materials is \$346,000, with installation by another vendor, Middle Georgia Outdoor Lighting, at \$92,000.

Imberger said splitting the bid helped save cost, noting Musco does not install and would have subcontracted it out. Middle Georgia Outdoor Lighting is also a soccer lights installer on the NJPA, he said.

In response to concerns by Jewell Walker-Harps about the Fairmont/Heritage Park project, which is also a bonded project, Wilson told her work was bid out for asbestos abatement at last month's meeting, one of the first SPLOST projects approved.

"There's lots of interest in what's being done and when it's being done," Walker-Harps said, "noting the great need in the Fairmont community, and time sensitive nature due to the deterioration of some of the buildings.

"We'll be doing an open meeting for the public to give them information," she said, to be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb.

27, at Eighth Street Baptist Church, 408 Palace St., Griffin.

Along with the locations and priority of projects, the status of the road projects at North Hill and Northside Drive and McIntosh and North Hill will be discussed, she said. The meeting is a rescheduling of the Educational Prosperity Initiative meeting, with EPI combining with the local NAACP to host the meeting at which only SPLOST items will be on the agenda, she emphasized.

In a related matter, the county commissioners also directed the county attorney to draw up a contract with the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children for use of the former county jail at 230 East Broad St. EPI is part of the Collaborative, which includes 21 organizations that provide services in the county.

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor proposed letting the Collaborative use the building as it does not have a place to meet, and it "would allow the organizations to be accessible by the public on a daily basis."

Wilson said the building is vacant now, and a building of that age and size deteriorates quickly without a tenant. He proposed a lease where the Collaborative pays for the utilities, which the county currently pays for at between \$300 to \$500 a month.

"They would do their own inside maintenance," he said, "and the county would maintain the outside, which has to be done to National Historic Registry specs."

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Mrs. Alice Virginia Sims**, age 86 of Griffin, passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2016 at Eternal Hope Hospice. A funeral service will be conducted on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 1:00pm at Eighth Street Baptist Church. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Rd., Griffin is in charge of the arrangements.

**Robert Lee Rogers**, of Griffin, GA, passed away on Sunday, February 14, at Spalding Regional Hospital. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, February 17, at 2:00 PM, at The First Presbyterian Church of Griffin, 1349 Macon Rd, Griffin, GA 30224. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Rd., Griffin is in charge of the arrangements.

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