City OKs new beacon for airport

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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The “leaning beacon tower of Griffin” is being replaced.

Griffin Spalding Airport Director Robert Mobl told the Airport Authority members Monday the “leaning beacon tower” was being replaced. The Airport Authority unanimously approved the contract with ICA Electrical to dismantle the old and install the airport’s new beacon tower. The City of Griffin Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the agreement Tuesday as well.

The replacement of the tower is part of the Airport Improvement Plan 29 for improving the airport’s safety and infrastructure. It is a concrete match and was a budgeted item. The work includes installation of the new rotating airport beacon and tower, demolition and off-site disposal of the existing beacon and tower and the installation of new electrical service and equipment.

The work will be completed with 30 calendar days of the notice to proceed, according to the contract.

The city also approved a resolution related to the airport for the disbursing of the Griffin-Spalding Airport Advisory Board, first formed by a city-county resolution on Oct. 27, 1985, to operate the airport. The Griffin Daily News/Files

Library book sale this Saturday

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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Friends of the Griffin-Spalding Library will be selling books this Saturday to raise money to support the library.

In the second book sale for the Friends of the Library, items for sale include former library materials as well as donated books and videos. The book sale, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, will be in two rooms and the hallway of the library.

“We’ll be in a second room,” said FROGSLIB member Dona Robertson. “Because of so many donations, we had over 3,000 items donated by one person. We had a whole storage unit to clear out.”

FROGSLIB member Nancy Morris said, “We have the widest selection you can imagine.”

Fiction, children’s books and large print books will be in the large room, “with non-fiction, categories,” said Morris, including cookbooks, history, inspirational, biographies.

She said, “AV will be in the hallway,” with CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes of all kinds, movies, education series, biographies, series, operas and concerts.

FROGSLIB is encouraging people to come early, with an early bird sale beginning at 9 a.m. for FROGSLIB members. They also will be accepting membership at the book sale. Membership is $10.

The last book sale held last year and funded the summer programs and seven new programs were added.

Morris said, “We received proceeds from the last book sale. A project they’d like to do is a drive-up book drop, for when the library is closed or when people won’t have to get out in the rain to drop off books. Proceeds this year will depend on the great needs for the library, she said.

The Griffin-Spalding Library, also known as the Flint River Regional Library, is at 800 Memorial Drive, Griffin, across from the cemetery.

Westmoreland visits UGA-Griffin

U.S. District 8 Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Newnan) visited the University of Georgia Griffin Campus on Monday to meet with Dr. Scott NeSmith, left, to discuss pests that affect Georgia’s blueberry and blackberry crops and research being conducted to address the problem.

NeSmith grows new blueberry varieties that are specialized for Georgia’s climate and soils. He conducts most of his research on plots at the UGA-Griffin Campus and has released six patented new commercial blueberry varieties and two ornamental blueberry varieties since 1998. The congressman’s visit included a tour of Dr. NeSmith’s blueberry breeding program. Blueberries have surpassed peaches as Georgia’s No. 1 crop.

Board working on fundraising for shelter

BY RAY LIGHTNER
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To get air conditioning for the Animal Shelter, the Spalding County Animal Care and Control Advisory Board will have to raise money to pay for it.

The Advisory Board continues to work on bids for the project and how to pay for the installation and possibly the costs of operation of an air conditioning system. Cost for installation include not only the units and duct work but electrical work to the building to handle the system.

The county has told the Advisory Board it cannot afford any increases to Animal Control’s budget of $303,326. Employees make up the largest part of the budget at $259,254 for personnel and benefits, contracted services including building and vehicle maintenance make up another $14,658 with gasoline ($14,000), electricity ($12,000) and natural gas ($12,672) making up the largest parts of the $303,017 budgeted for supplies for the shelter.

Advisory Board Chairwoman Cindy Hamblin said the board has put the budget up on the website to accept donations.