



Dr. David Lipschitz discusses new drug research for malignant melanomas.

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# THOMASVILLE TIMES

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## Oakley honored by city council

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Council voted to name the city cemetery chapel after former council member Danny Oakley.

Oakley, who died of complications from diabetes, not only served on council but also taught in schools. Mayor Joe Bennett says the man played an integral part of the community.

"I think everyone knew Mr. Oakley and the time that he

served on this council and what he did and what he meant not only to the cemetery and the city but also to the citizens of this town," Bennett said. "This is a chapel that is nearing completion, and it would be named in his honor."

And apparently, the idea to build the chapel in Oakley's honor wasn't something spurred by his death. Oakley's wife, Lori, said Nat Walker, cemetery groundskeeper, had words with Danny Oakley about the chapel.

"It's something that's been in the works for the while," Lori said.

She added that her late husband had put his heart and soul into the community, giving it everything he had.

"I think that's great for my husband," Lori said. "He's very well known in the community in many areas."

The council also approved animal control policies and procedure allowing animal control officers to carry a gun in the performance of their duties.

Officers will have to pass a certification course to qualify for the firearm.

"All I'm looking at is making sure we have quality service," said Thomasville Chief of Police Jeff Insley. "If we need to put an animal down, we're just looking for quality service and the ability to protect our folks. We don't want to be in the situation and the officer has to go, 'Oh, hold on.'"

The officer will only be al-

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## Jobless rate continues to see decrease

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

North Carolina's unemployment rate dropped for the sixth straight month in August and is near the national rate for the first time in more than two years.

According to statistics released by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, the state unemployment rate in August came in at 9.7 percent, just slightly above the national rate of 9.6 percent. The last time the two rates have been this close was in January 2008, when the state rate was 4.9 percent, compared to 5 percent nationally.

"The August data showed improvement in job growth," ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes said. "Several employment sectors experienced an increase in jobs. While local education accounted for most of the job growth, there was an increase of 4,800 jobs in the private sector. We are beginning to see growth in the professional and business services and the manufacturing sectors."

Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 18,600 jobs in August, with the largest gains coming in government (13,800). Leisure and hospitality suffered the largest drop in jobs, losing 1,000. In the past year, however, non-farm employment has increased by 36,700 jobs.

"A good sign of recovery and a good indication that the economy is turning around is see-

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## TCS awaits amount of 'Race to the Top' funds

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Now that North Carolina has been selected to receive a significant amount of money from the federally-funded "Race to the Top" program, just how much will trickle down to Thomasville could be determined as early as this week.

North Carolina is in line to receive approximately \$400 million from the "Race to the Top" program that will go toward transforming public schools through innovation initiatives in the classroom. According to Thomasville City Schools Superintendent Keith Tobin, a webinar session will be held today with education leaders that could shed more light as to how much of this money will make it to the Chair City. Early estimates are that TCS could get as much as \$200,000 from the program.

"We're excited about it

See **FUNDS**, Page 6



The S.T.A.R.S. Academy recently graduated 12 middle school students from its 2010 program.

COURTESY PHOTO

## S.T.A.R.S. Academy graduates class

TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Davidson County Education Foundation developed and sponsored a summer day program for rising seventh grade students in 1995. Each year, the program hosts 30-40 students from the six middle schools throughout the Davidson County School System.

The S.T.A.R.S. Academy is proudly located on the campus of Davidson County Community College and provides selected

middle school students the opportunity to build skills in decision-making, self-confidence, leadership, cooperation and community responsibility.

The S.T.A.R.S. coordinator and facilitators bring leadership to small and large group activities, individual conferencing, goal setting and daily evaluation of activities during their time together. All staff members are employees of the Davidson County School system, which has proven

to be an important asset to the program.

Graduates for the 2010 STARS program were: Caramen Michael, Greg Collins and Styrling Tanguusso, all of Central Middle School; Tristan Beck, Margeaux Briggs, Jody Smith, Abigail Bryant, Christopher Day and Carolina Mogollon, all of Ledford Middle School; and Courtney Cervone, Josue Hernandez and Tyler Rucker, all of North Davidson Middle School.

## Annual festival promises action-packed day



FILE PHOTO

The 102nd Everybody's Day Festival returns to the Chair City Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BY LISA WALL  
Editor

Historic downtown Thomasville and the rumble or passing trains will set the backdrop for a fun-filled day of music, shopping and entertainment created for ... well ... everybody. North Carolina's oldest festival returns to usher in autumn in the Chair City on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 102nd Everybody's Festival — organized by the Thomasville Area Chamber of Commerce — gathers more than 130 arts, crafts, and specialty vendors, along with live musical entertainment, amusement rides and a dance stage for a day of fun and excitement for the whole family.

"This is an event that attracts as many as 80,000 people and has a \$62,000 budget, but costs absolutely nothing to attend," said Doug Croft, Thomasville Area Chamber of Commerce president. "There are no turn stalls, just come and have a good time and enjoy some great entertainment."

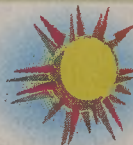
The award-winning festival — sponsored by Thomasville Medical Center — will expand its footprint this year, incorporating the new PACE Park Amphitheater, which will serve as the main stage. Magician and mind reader Erik Dobell will mesmerize the audience with his illusionary skills at 11 a.m., and local favorite, Street Party

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