

**INSIDE TODAY**  
Catch results from Friday night football action in today's sports.  
**See Page B1**

# THOMASVILLE TIMES

Bill Hill discusses the power of prayers in Uncle Bill's Corner.  
**See FOCUS, Page A4**



Saturday, September 25, 2010

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## Lexington company expanding, adding 50 jobs

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Davidson County Economic Development Commission announced Friday that a Lexington company is growing and plans to add dozens of jobs while investing more than \$1 million into the area over the next three years.

Valendrawers, Inc., an Italian-based company that has operated in Lexington for 25 years, is ex-

panding its wood drawer and door manufacturing facility at 555 Dixon St. in Sapona Business Park, and will create at least 50 new jobs and invest \$1.2 million by 2013.

"We are very happy to have chosen North Carolina for the new door production," Piero Della Valentina, president of Valendrawers, Inc., said. "We have been in North Carolina for 25 years and know that we can count on a great community, in

**'We are very happy to have chosen North Carolina for the new door production.'**

— Piero Della Valentina  
Valendrawers President

particular on skilled and dedicated workers. I want to thank all the community leaders for assisting us in putting together this project which I hope will bring a positive impact to the area."

Steve Googe, executive director of the Davidson County EDC, said the company received a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund awarded by Gov. Bev Perdue and economic devel-

opment grants totaling \$101,000 from Davidson County and the City of Lexington.

"We've been working with them for about four or five months on this," said Googe. "The N.C. grant measures jobs over three years, ours is over five years. Fifty jobs will be created over three years and in the last two years, there will be an additional 10 jobs. We're looking at 60 jobs being created over the next five

years." Valendrawers, Inc. is a wood drawer manufacturer that mainly supplies large kitchen and office accounts all the way down to the one-man cabinet shop, said Diane McBride, an administrative assistant at the company. The company recently was awarded a large contract to supply doors to a major kitchen manufacturer that paved

See **JOBS, Page A6**

### Number of unemployed falls in county

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Davidson County's unemployment rate dipped slightly in August as the number of unemployed people fell by nearly 400 workers.

According to statistics released by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, Davidson County reported an unemployment rate of 11.4 percent last month, which is down .2 percent from July and is the lowest rate since January, 2009. Davidson was one of 82 counties across the state that experienced a drop in unemployment in August, but 50 still remain in double-digits.

"Unemployment rates continue to drop in most of the state's 100 counties in August," ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes said.

See **FALLS, Page A6**



TIMES PHOTO/LARRY MATHIS

### Homecoming Queen

Thomasville High School students voted Taylor Gammons Homecoming Queen during halftime of Friday night's game against Asheboro.

### ACH plans foster parent orientation

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

In a society where the family unit seems to decrease in importance by the day, American Children's Home (ACH) in Lexington seeks to continue its mission to bring stable home lives to Davidson County's children through its foster care program.

ACH will hold a foster parent orientation on Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. for individuals or couples interested in helping a child. Established in 1928, ACH is a non-profit organization committed to providing needy children with temporary care.

"I feel like understanding the family dynamic is an important thing in making sure the cycle doesn't continue with the next generation," said Anna Lohr, ACH social worker. "There's a lot to be said for being raised in a family."

Though people interested must be over the age of 21, few other personal requirements are necessary for becoming licensed foster parents. ACH does require more logistical things such as a background check, proof of financial stability and an inspection of household conditions such as a fire inspection, and a water and sewer inspection.

Lohr says that whether a foster parent-to-be is single or in a couple, with children or without, doesn't affect the licensing process.

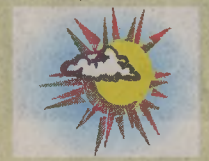
"It really depends on the child," she said. "Some

See **PARENT, Page A6**

### INDEX

- Weather A2
- Business A3
- Focus A4
- Opinion A5
- Obituaries A6
- Sports B1
- Classifieds B6

#### Today's Weather



Mostly sunny, 90/63



### Golf tournament to raise funds for Spanish Immersion Program

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Colin Ulmer sets off to school like any other third grader. He brushes his teeth, packs his backpack and says goodbye to Mom and Dad.

Things appear normal when he gets to school, too. He chats with his friends, maybe runs a little as the morning bell rings. But as soon as Colin steps over the threshold to his third-grade classroom at Hopewell Elementary School in Trinity, his day takes a slight turn towards the abnormal.

His class is entirely in Spanish.

Not a native Spanish-speaker himself, Colin was enrolled in

Hopewell Elementary's Spanish Immersion program as a kindergartner. The program is designed to teach children from kindergarten through fifth grade the Spanish language in a trial-by-fire format.

"When he's in that classroom, he's not allowed to speak English," said Colin's mother, Kelli Ulmer. "His homework is in Spanish, his tests are in Spanish. He's in the third grade, and he can pretty much speak Spanish fluently."

To help support the program — which currently holds 80 students — a parent-formed Spanish Immersion Booster Club will hold a fundraiser golf tournament on Saturday, Oct. 9, at



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Hopewell Elementary School become bilingual through the school's Spanish Immersion Program.

Winding Creek Golf Course in Thomasville.

Ulmer says that 12 teams have already signed up, but she hopes to field 32 teams and is still looking for a few more sponsors. Cost is \$50 for an individual or \$200 for a team, and lunch is included.

Format is captain's choice with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The first-place team will receive a \$500 grand prize, and second, third and fourth-place teams also receive a prize.

See **SPANISH, Page A6**



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