



BACK UP
Kesean Green and
Quin Riley play big
roles in the
Bulldogs backfield.
See SPORTS,
Page 7

THOMASVILLE TIMES



BUSINESS
Columnist Marilyn
Taylor discusses
what 'Drives'
people to work.
See Page 4

Thursday, September 30, 2010

THOMASVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 119th Year - No. 145 50 Cents

www.tvilletimes.com

THOMASVILLE, NC 27366

Officials break ground on I-85 Improvement Project

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

The rain and the dampness may have tried to slip into Wednesday's ceremony celebrating the Interstate-85 Corridor Improvement Project, but gathered officials remained all smiles, hugs and handshakes.

After a long journey beginning in 2004, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Gov. Bev Perdue and local elected officials broke ground

for the I-85 project, which will bring comprehensive upgrades to the corridor in two parts. Phase 1, led by contractor Flatiron Constructors Inc., will widen 3.3 miles of the interstate, replace eight bridges and create about 200 jobs.

With work already underway, construction will begin in October and the project is slated for completion in January 2013.

"It's a beautiful day to build a bridge," said Ralph Womble, member

'I have been driving over that bridge for years. Every time I cross it, I pray that it's not my car. It's dangerous.'

— Gov. Bev Perdue

of the NCDOT. "The I-85 bridge project is the state's top mobility priority."

Interstate-85 is the busiest corridor between Atlanta and Richmond, Va., with more than 60,000 cars passing over each

day, and NCDOT anticipates that number will jump to 112,000 vehicles daily by 2025. Given how many people use the highway, updating the corridor was a priority not just on a local level but nationally as well.

"This is a critical project for the entire eastern seaboard when you talk about economic development and the movement of freight," said Pat Ivey, NCDOT division engineer out of Winston-Salem.

But besides the high-volume traffic — and partially because of it — a major reason for improving the corridor came down to safety.

"I have been driving over this bridge for years," said Gov. Perdue. "Every time I cross it, I

pray that it's not my car. It is dangerous. Nobody likes it. People worry about it, and the big 'if' is if traffic moves at all. The condition is unacceptable."

The improvement project will widen I-85 from four lanes to eight, solving problems with an overly narrow corridor, and will straighten the curve just before the I-85 Yadkin River bridge, allowing travelers to see

See GROUND, Page 6

Wallburg approves Project Plus incentives

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

WALLBURG — Manufacturing is coming back to Wallburg.

That was the message Wallburg Mayor Allen Todd stressed Tuesday night after town council members unanimously voted to approve an incentives package for TIMCO Aviation Services, bringing hundreds of jobs to the area and putting a new company into an empty building.

"This is a great day for Wallburg," Todd said. "A lot of work has gone into this. We'll have new people eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores. This can only be a positive for the community and its future."

Council members agreed to the economic



Gov. Bev. Perdue and Kevin Carter, TIMCO's Wallburg Plant Chief Executive, enjoy a moment of laughter in one of the company's new product lines after the job announcement Tuesday at DCCC.

TIMES PHOTO/ERIN WILTGEN

TIMCO news comes at perfect time for area

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

WALLBURG — Timing really is everything.

In 2009, Wallburg Town Council was in the early stages of building its new town hall when Tyco Electronics announced declining sales would force the company to close its plant on Gumtree Road, leaving many without jobs. A year later, council members approved an economic incentives package for TIMCO Aviation Services that will bring an estimated 500 jobs to the former Tyco building as the new town hall nears completion less than a mile up the road. With the town hall paid for and the \$25,000 in incentives not scheduled to affect the budget until 2012, the timing couldn't have been more perfect for Wallburg.

"The timing really worked out good," Mark Swaim, council member and town finance director, said. "If this had been a year ago, and we were in the middle of the building project, it would have been hard to do. This is really coming at a good time for us to slide right into it. You've got a big empty building sitting there and for us to fill that building in less than a year, in this economy, is unbelievable."

Just how much TIMCO's move to Wallburg will stimulate the local economy remains to be seen, but Swaim feels anytime more people are spending money in town it's a good thing.

"As far as true numbers we don't really know," said Swaim. "From a sales tax standpoint, when people go to local restaurants to eat or they shop here, we're going to get a por-

FLYING HIGH

TIMCO bringing 500 jobs to Wallburg, Davidson County

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

The calendar may have read Sept. 28, but in Davidson County it seemed Christmas had come early.

Local elected officials gathered at Davidson County Community College Tuesday for the announcement of TIMCO Aviation Services' expansion in the Town of Wallburg. The company, which will move into the former Tyco Electronics plant on Gumtree Road in Wallburg, plans to invest \$2.75 million in the facility in addition to a \$5 million investment in machinery. TIMCO also committed to create 275 jobs over the next five years and 225 additional jobs in the next two, totaling 500 new positions in seven years.

As one of the world's largest independent aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul providers, the Greensboro-based company celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, an achievement to be proud

of, said Kevin Carter, chief executive of the new Wallburg plant.

"That is a great achievement," Carter said. "And today marks the beginning of another successful chapter in TIMCO's history as we announce a partnership with Davidson County and with Wallburg, not just to move but to expand. We

'... We're announcing a new initiative today to produce innovative furniture for the world's aircraft.'

— Kevin Carter
TIMCO Chief Executive
Wallburg Plant

find ourself today in a region that is known for producing high quality furniture for the world's living rooms, and we're announcing a new initiative today to produce in-

novative furniture for the world's aircraft."

Known for the past 14 months as Project Plus to county and town officials, TIMCO will receive about \$3 million in incentives from Davidson County and Wallburg combined in addition to a JDIG grant and a One NC Grant from Gov. Bev Perdue.

"You folks in Davidson County ought to be turning flip flops, you should be so excited," Perdue told the crowd Tuesday. "A lot of us remember about this time last year, how hard it was when Tyco Electronics just up and said they were closing down. About 400 folks lost jobs and very few of them had any kind of hope about where it was that they were going to go."

With unemployment lower than ever at this point last year, Perdue said that those individuals were faced with tough times, as many have been in the struggling economy. But things are looking

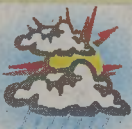
See TIMCO, Page 6

See TIME, Page 12

INDEX

Weather	2
Business	3
Focus	4
Opinion	5
Obituaries	6
Sports	7
Classifieds	12

Today's Weather



Showers likely, 77/57



Remarkable things are happening here.

Thomasville MEDICAL CENTER
Remarkable People. Remarkable Medicine.

336-475-7148

www.thomasvillemedicalcenter.org



Thomasville, North Carolina • Your Town. Your Times.