

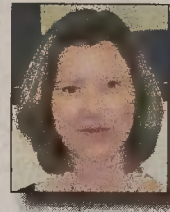
SPORTS
East Davidson
defeats Thomasville
in three sets.
See Story
Page 7

Thursday, October 7, 2010

THOMASVILLE TIMES

www.tvilletimes.com

THOMASVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
14 RANDOLPH STREET
THOMASVILLE, NC 27360



BUSINESS
Columnist Marilyn
Taylor discusses the
role of autonomy in
our 'Drive' to work.
See Page 3

120th Year - No. 3 50 Cents

Cuts in road funds curb improvements

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

A large part of any city's funds for road maintenance ironically comes from the sale of gasoline. Anyone who has taken the time to read the small print on pumps while filling up their gas tanks knows that a portion of the money is taxed. The state then collects that money and disperses it back to cities in the form of Powell Bill funds to help care for roads not maintained by the Department of Transportation.

In another strange twist,

whenever the price of gasoline goes up, especially during tough economic times, the money cities get actually comes down. In the past few years, Thomasville has seen these Powell Bill funds dwindle substantially, forcing city officials to make some difficult decisions when it comes to what roads get repaved.

"We've seen a steady decline, and a very significant decline of funds coming to us," Thomasville City Manager Kelly Craver said. "Gasoline is near \$3 a gallon and the economy is depressed. Barrels of gasoline have dropped, hence we've seen

TOWN HALL TOPICS

a trending downward of Powell Bill funds coming to the city to maintain the same number of streets and the same miles with virtually the same population."

Powell Bill funds not only pay for repaving projects. The money helps maintain the day-to-day operations of Thomasville's street department. Taking away more than \$100,000 from these funds is causing the city to choose between paying for potholes or paying employee salaries.

"That has been a great source of income for the City of Thomasville to help maintain streets," said Craver. "However, we've seen a decline from \$661,000 this year where it was around \$830,000 three years ago. These funds pay for salaries, and buys trucks and asphalt. It's our day-to-day operating money as well as for repaving projects. It's a tremendous hit. Our cost of doing paving and buying asphalt are based on petroleum products and those prices are escalating and our dollars coming in

See CUTS, Page 6

Server crash leaves TCS staff without e-mail access

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

So much of what people do these days revolves around the Internet, especially when it comes to sending and receiving e-mails.

When phone calls fail, e-mails are one of the most reliable forms of communication. For the past week, employees with Thomasville City Schools have been left out of the cyber-loop thanks to a rare system-wide computer failure that cut off access to both e-mails and documents.

During Tuesday's monthly meeting, TCS board members were told that efforts are being made to restore e-mail access to school system employees following a Sept. 27 server crash that rekindled memories of days before the Internet.

"We literally had a hardware failure," TCS Technology Director Mike Ingram said. "It was all internal e-mails and internal documents. We just have not had access to e-mails for a week."

Ingram said a piece of hardware called a blade enclosure crashed and the vendor failed to honor a four-hour warranty that would've fixed the problem that same day. Instead of replacing the hardware, Ingram said the vendor attempted to send individual parts that did not correct the issue.

"They were making us jump through all sorts of hoops," said Ingram. "They couldn't live up to the warranty. We just finally said that's it. I'm

See E-MAIL, Page 4

2010 ELECTION

Switzer outlines priorities for Davidson County

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Jeff Switzer, a Democrat from Lexington, will compete for one of four spots for Davidson County Commissioner in the November election.

Switzer, who also ran for commissioner four years ago, has decided to re-enter the political game in an attempt to move Davidson County into the future.

A large part of that future rests on economic development, especially as the county pulls itself out of the recession, slowly but surely. And as small and independent businesses have over and over again been heralded

See SWITZER, Page 6



COURTESY PHOTO

FULFILLING THE BUCKET LIST

Friendship Elementary is excited about its new character education initiative for the 2010-11 school year. It is based on the book, 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids,' written by Carol McCloud. The theory of the bucket and the dipper is that everyone has an invisible bucket, which is constantly emptied or filled, depending on what others do. It is an exceptional honor to be able to not think about yourself, but in turn, think about other people's feelings. Pictured are bucket fillers from the week of Sept. 27: Evan Goodwin, Grace Scott, Colton Hudson, Jacob Taylor, Abby Lane, Connor Wishon, Austin Wood, Sheldon Payne, Samantha Gordon, Ashley Jones, Evie Holt, Levi Dixon, Sila Luwate, Michael Daniello, Monica Looz, Megan Miller, Ryan Woempner, Jennifer Tran, Noah Glover, Jason Petro, Rachel Martin, Brandon Fergerson and Emilee Scott.

Creativity, passion earn English teacher award

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — Paul Piatkowski felt at home from the first moment he set foot in North Davidson High School.

Fresh out of Appalachian State University, Piatkowski came in 2004 to interview at North Davidson and a school in Kannapolis, and the Davidson County vibe just seemed to click.

"I just felt good here," said Piatkowski, affectionately called Mr. PK by students and staff alike. "I felt like there was an amount of freedom for me to become the teacher I wanted to be."

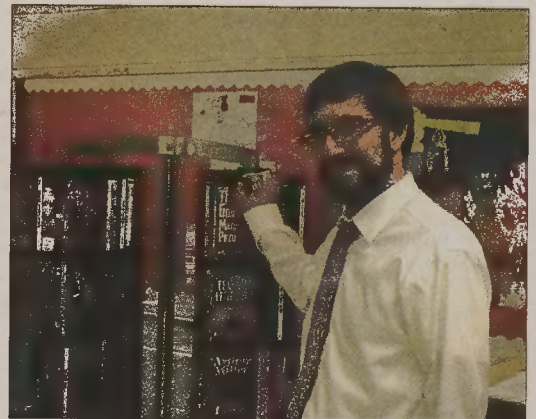
Apparently that freedom allowed the English teacher to soar. After being runner-up in 2009, Piatkowski received the Davidson County Schools'

2010 Teacher of the Year award.

"It was really kind of an overwhelming thing," Piatkowski said. "Davidson County is a big county, but it seems kind of small. I feel like it's close-knit, and to feel everyone sort of direct their attention at me was a little surreal."

Piatkowski, who teaches 11th-grade honors English and senior English, began teaching at North Davidson in 2004. He graduated from Appalachian State University and is currently working on a master's degree at UNC-Greensboro.

The Teacher of the Year award requires a number of steps. First, each school votes on one of its own staff members as school teacher of the year. That teacher then prepares a portfolio to be handed in to DCS over



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

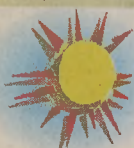
English teacher Paul Piatkowski stands in his classroom at North Davidson High School.

See TEACHER, Page 4

INDEX

- Weather 2
- Business 3
- Focus 4
- Opinion 5
- Obituaries 6
- Sports 7
- Classifieds 10

Today's Weather



Sunny, 78/48



Advanced technology
(and babies) delivered daily.



Thomasville MEDICAL CENTER
Providing People Durable Medicine

207 Old Lexington Rd • Thomasville, NC
www.thomasvillemedicalcenter.org • (336) 476-2725