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# THOMASVILLE TIMES

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Thomasville takes on Central Davidson on the pitch.  
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## EMS director charged with embezzlement

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Davidson County's Director of Emergency Services has resigned amidst allegations he embezzled money from the Thomasville Rescue Squad over a five-year period.

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation arrested Doug Alan Lowe, 49, of 134 Bay Tree Lane, on Friday and charged him with 21 counts of felony embezzlement by a public officer or trustee,

one count of forgery of an endorsement and one count of uttering a forged endorsement. The SBI is alleging that Lowe embezzled more than \$15,000 while serving as the Thomasville Rescue Squad treasurer.

"There were allegations from the Rescue Squad that were brought to my attention," District Attorney Garry Frank said. "The investigation is totally related to Mr. Lowe's activities with



Lowe

the Thomasville Rescue Squad. The investigation is still continuing and has focused on the last year's conduct. It's a pending matter so I can't comment further due to ethical considerations as a prosecutor."

According to SBI spokesperson Jennifer Canada, an investigation into Lowe came at the request of the Davidson County District Attorney's Office in July. Warrants obtained by the Davidson

County Clerk of Courts Office allege Lowe embezzled funds from the rescue squad over a five-year period from Jan. 24, 2005, to Sept. 10, 2010. Warrants state Lowe "unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did embezzle and corruptly use and misapply U.S. currency, property belonging to the Thomasville Rescue Squad." The warrant also states that Lowe did so "as an officer of that county and in the capacity that had been entrusted with the property."

Lowe also is accused of false-

ly forging an endorsement of L. Scott McCaskill on a check from the Thomasville Rescue Squad account, according to an arrest warrant. The same warrant also states that Lowe "willfully and feloniously did utter, publish, pass and deliver as true a check described as checks on the account of Thomasville Rescue Squad, which contained a forged and falsely made endorsement of L. Scott McCaskill." The war-

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### Local man arrested for assault on girlfriend

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

A domestic dispute over the weekend left a Thomasville woman suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest.

According to Thomasville Police Department Lt. Kimberly Sebastian, Robert Douglas Dunlap, 38, of 308 Foster St. Apt. 11, was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury after he allegedly shot his girlfriend, Thea Omelia Hinson, 35, of Thomasville, during a domestic dispute at the suspect's residence.

TPD received a call

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Dunlap



TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

### THE GREAT PUMPKIN

Eric Kuppel moves some pumpkins at Memorial United Methodist Church., which is having its annual Pumpkin Patch through the month of October. Pumpkins of all sizes and prices will be available from 2 p.m. to dark weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 to 6 p.m. on Sundays. The church is located at 101 Randolph St.

### 2010 ELECTION

### Truell looks to continue service as commissioner

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Don Truell, an incumbent Republican from Thomasville, will compete for one of four spots for Davidson County Commissioner in the November election.



Truell

Serving his second consecutive term on the Board of Commissioners, Truell previously worked for the Thomasville Times, for the Thomasville Police Department, as council member for Thomasville City Council and as Mayor of Thomasville.

During his time on the board — especially in the past year or so with the recession — Truell and the rest of the board have worked hard to bring more jobs to the area. But as Truell, his fellow commissioners and others have pointed out throughout the economic downturn, an increased emphasis on small businesses could very well be the key to turning the economy around.

"I think that is a big portion of economic development," Truell said. "For a long time, we looked at trying to make a home run hit with the big industries, and we've done real good with that, but I think while we looked at big industry we neglected to look at small business. Now, we're going to look not necessarily more at small businesses but just as much as with big in-

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### Today's Weather



Mostly sunny, 85/58



## Council to consider increase in grant funds

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Council will consider a revision in its Governor's Highway Safety Grant application at the regular meeting Monday.

The revision of \$4,999 would bring the project cost request from \$14,530 to \$19,529. The grant money will be used to purchase necessary equipment for the Thomasville Police Department, and the additional funds will allow the Chair City to secure more equipment than originally was thought necessary.

"There was an omission that we needed to approve," said City Manager Kelly Craver. "There was some other equipment that we needed."

The other equipment includes a

generator and a light tower. Toby Smith, project director, said the additional equipment will help make D.W.I. checkpoints completely self-sufficient.

Since TPD partners with other agencies to perform the checkpoints, officers are able to cover a large area and typically both lanes of traffic. The new light and tower would better illuminate such a large area and ensure the safety of the officers.

Council will also hold a public hearing on a rezoning request. Chuck Clark, owner of Central Parts, LLC, at 708 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, requested the property be rezoned from a light industrial district to a heavy industrial district. The 5.4 acre-property serves as a storage area for automobile parts and pieces as well as storage for dismantled cars, scrap metal and other junk.

"He was in compliance with the ordinance until he brought in the junk cars," said Ken Hepler, planning and zoning administrator. "His choices are to close down, relocate or comply."

Hepler said that Clark doesn't want to do anything differently on the property, he merely wants to work in compliance with the city's ordinances. Clark told Hepler he didn't know that the junk cars were against the zoning ordinance, and it wasn't until the city began implementing the business privilege license that Clark became aware of the issue.

"He has a significant investment there," Hepler said. "If we had had the privilege license in place when he started, he would have known and been OK. This action came somewhat as a result of our privilege license."



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