

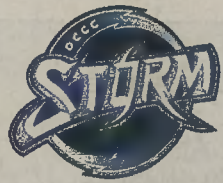


MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Guest Columnist Josef Walker adds a little humor to hymnals. See Page 3

THOMASVILLE TIMES

SPORTS
DCCC slams Rockingham Community College in straight sets. See Page 3



Thursday, October 14, 2010

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TOWN HALL TOPIC



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Three-year-old Trent Tow plays on the playground equipment at Doak Park Wednesday. The park is one of many in Thomasville that will benefit from donations to Partnership for Parks.

Economy impacts park upgrades

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Public parks are a vital part of any community. People use them as a source of fun and relaxation, whether it's letting their children play or simply enjoying lunch outside on a pretty day.

Thomasville has nearly a dozen such parks across the city, and responsibility for maintaining them falls on Parks and Recreation to make sure they are safe for public use. Like any other city department, Parks and Recreation relies solely on funds generated by tax revenue dollars to provide basic upkeep and purchase new equipment. While most people would love to see their neighborhood park sporting the latest playground equipment, tough financial times leads to difficult decisions when it comes to spending

taxpayer dollars. "The city can't do more than what they can do," Billy Freeman, Thomasville's Park and Recreation director, said. "Right now, there are some things that are

'Right now, there are some things that are higher priority than playground equipment.'

— Billy Freeman
Parks and Recreation Director

higher priority than playground equipment. The city is taking in less tax revenue, and that's money that is not there. I think a lot of people don't understand how expensive it is to replace play-

ground equipment."

During a recent town hall meeting, several citizens expressed concerns that the city wasn't doing enough for their parks by not updating playground equipment, particularly at King's Row Park. Freeman points out that King's Row Park actually was the latest park to see any funding, as the city recently added a new \$29,000 piece of equipment there, despite the fact it is only used by a few citizens compared to others that serve a larger portion of the community.

"People get frustrated when they see a little bit show up," said Freeman. "Obviously, they want more and we want to give it to them. We have an adequate budget for maintenance but to add equipment, those are capital proj-

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Save-A-Lot to bring 40 jobs to Lexington

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — One of the country's leading discount grocery chains is building a distribution center in Lexington that will bring more than 40 jobs to Davidson County.

During a press conference at Davidson County Community College Wednesday afternoon, Save-A-Lot, Ltd., announced its plans to construct a new 325,000-square-foot distribution center at Lexington Business Park that will create 43 jobs and invest more than \$24 million into the area over the next three years.

"Putting deals together like this is not easy," Rick Myer, Save-A-Lot's vice president of development and construction, said. "This was done in a highly professional and respectful way. This really is a culmination of a long run. We looked at this a few years ago and the timing didn't work out for us, and here we are, finally. [The center] initially will employ 40 folks and will employ probably two or three times that eventually because we know this facility will be successful. It's all part of a grand plan."

Save-A-Lot, a St. Louis-

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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Rick Myers, president and CEO of Save-A-Lot food stores speaks to the crowd at DCCC Wednesday.

Early voting for Nov. 2 election begins today

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

The 2010 General Election is in full swing.

Early voting for the Nov. 2 election begins today at the Davidson County Board of Elections office, 912 Greensboro St., in Lexington. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and will hold special hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the last day of early voting, Saturday, Oct. 30.

Two satellite locations — Thomasville Public Library, 14 Randolph St., and Midway Fire Department, 228 Midway School Road — will open for early voting on Monday. Those locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 30.

"Hopefully we'll have a

good turnout," said Ruth Huneycutt of the Board of Elections.

As of Oct. 1, 108,822 people had registered to vote in Davidson County, up from the 101,093 people who had registered by early voting for the 2010 primaries.

Both parties are working diligently to get their constituents out to the polls, holding meetings, putting on rallies and encouraging early voting through word of mouth.

"Votes that are voted during the early voting period, they're like votes in the bank," said Lance Barrett, chairman of the Davidson County Republican Party. "You don't know what's going to happen on Election Day. You could be sick, there could be a terrible weather sys-

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Today's Weather



Showers likely, 67/47



Dockham to reconsider benefit of economic incentives

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — Though running unattested for the North Carolina House District 80 seat, incumbent Republican Jerry Dockham joined in spirited debate at a candidate forum held at Davidson County Community College Tuesday.

"It's been an honor for me to represent you in the North Carolina General Assembly for the last 20 years," said Dockham, who will begin his 11th term after the 2010 election. "We're at a crossroads in the state, we're at a crossroads in our nation. We've got to decide if we want more government intervention or if we want to go the other way and have less government, fewer regulations,



Dockham

more personal responsibility. That is what I favor."

The forum — sponsored by Communities in Schools of Lexington/Davidson County, Smart Start of Davidson County and the Lexington and Thomasville area chambers of commerce — provided a stage for Dockham and the two candidates for N.C. House District 81, Hugh Holliman and Rayne Brown, to discuss issues facing the county as well as the state.

Senator Stan Bingham, a Republican running unattested for North Carolina Senate District 33, was invited but was unable to attend.

After an opening statement, each candidate addressed a series of 10 questions, which, in a reflection of the

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