



**BUSINESS**  
 Tammy Holyfield discusses how to improve work performance to help avoid a layoff. See Page B8

# THOMASVILLE TIMES

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## Thomasville Express gears up for transport

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
 Staff Writer

Getting from point A to point B just got a bit easier in the Chair City.

Davidson County Transportation (DCTS) will begin its new Thomasville Express fixed bus route on Jan. 3. With 36 stops, the bus — painted white with an outline of a bulldog — will run Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be free to all passengers.

"I'm well satisfied the way it's going," said Commissioner Don Truell, who has been working with DCTS on the project for about six

to eight months. "It's a win-win thing. I hope people will take advantage of it."

The route begins at the Davidson County Administrative Building on Colonial Drive, loops around down Randolph Street to WalMart, over the railroad tracks and down Salem to the park-and-ride lot and back again. To keep the bus on time, Truell says designers have the route using the overpass and the underpass to avoid crossing railroad tracks.

The entire loop takes 40 minutes, meaning if an individual gets dropped off at 1 p.m. she can expect the bus to return to that spot

at about 1:40 p.m.

"Our target was a turnaround time less than an hour," said George Hodges, transportation manager. "Studies have shown that anything more than that, you see negative returns in ridership."

Funding for the bus came through High Point Transit Authority, stipulating the money be used in the Thomasville-half of the county.

"Thomasville is part of the High Point Transit Authority's Metropolitan Planning Organization," Hodges said. "They received some stimulus funds, and we were able



Commissioner Don Truell stands next to the Thomasville Express Friday.

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## State ranked No. 1 in jobs lost in month of November

BY ELIOT DUKE  
 Staff Writer

North Carolina led the country in job growth in November, only it was on the wrong end of the economic spectrum.

Statistics released by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina Friday reported the state's unemployment rate rose slightly to 9.7 percent in November. The latest numbers show that North Carolina ranked first in the United States in terms of job loss, as the number of unemployed people across the state increased by 4,886 workers.

"We've obviously had better months this year," ESC spokesperson Larry Parker said. "But this is a snapshot of November. We're going to have months where we lose jobs. It's going to happen. Unfortunately for

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Carson Myers from Quality Hardware on Randolph Street fills up a 100-pound propane tank as Wes and Don Creasey look on. The price of propane is now \$3.41 a gallon.

TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

## Bringing the Heat

Home heating costs on the rise, just in time for winter

BY ELIOT DUKE  
 Staff Writer

With December shaping out to be one of the coldest in recent memory, Chair City residents have started heating their homes a little earlier than normal this year.

Before winter officially begins on Dec. 21, Thomasville residents can take a few steps to ensure their home stays warm while saving a few dollars in the process. Doug Hunt, co-owner of Palmer's Heating and Air at 802 Bryan St., said one of the easiest things a homeowner can do is preventive maintenance, meaning having a professional check out the house's heating system to see if everything is working the way it should.

"It's the number one thing people can do," Hunt said. "Also make sure to get your duct system inspected and checked for air loss. That could save you quite a bit of money."

Hunt also recommends hav-

ing a home's insulation checked, both underneath and above the house. For those with a little extra money, Hunt said adding insulation inside walls is another way to increase one's savings during winter months.

**'For homeowners to run the temperature up and down is costing them a ton of money.'**

— Doug Hunt  
 Palmer's Heating and Air

"Insulation is probably one of the biggest money savers a homeowner can put into their house," Hunt said. "It's a little costly putting insulation in the walls, but with the money you save, you get paid back pretty quick."

Keeping the thermostat set on a

comfortable temperature, rather than changing it on a daily basis, also will lead to savings on heat. Hunt advises people to decide on a temperature for the home and leave it there. It's also a good idea to close all crawl spaces and unused vents, and replace air filters throughout the home.

"For homeowners to run the temperature up and down is costing them a ton of money," Hunt said. "Especially with heat pumps."

Modern heat pumps are being used in many of the new homes, but some people still rely on oil and propane. Wes Creasey spent part of Friday afternoon at Quality Hardware on Randolph Street filling up the 100-pound propane tank he uses to keep a guest bedroom warm in case of an emergency. Filling up the tank cost Creasey \$84.51, which was considerably higher than last winter. The price of propane jumped from \$3.19 to \$3.41 a gallon in the

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## Board tables Farmland Protection Plan Tuesday

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
 Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — Davidson County Commissioners voted to table a proposed Davidson County Farmland Protection Plan for 90 days after much criticism and debate at its Tuesday night meeting.

The board voted 4-3 to set the plan aside and requested the Davidson County Voluntary Agricultural District Board — which developed the Farmland Protection Plan — to meet with stakeholders and redesign a document more specific to the area.

"I don't see this as a Davidson County plan," said Commissioner Fred McClure, the key board member in tabling the issue. "I think we need to get the stakeholders that are represented in this plan already and we need to get those stakeholders together and look at what's in here. We need to focus this plan and make it Davidson County's plan."

Designed as a tool to promote the county's agricultural and forest industries, the Farmland Protection Plan highlights local conditions and recommends actions to improve the future of those fields.

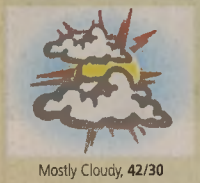
"One of the key reasons that the Voluntary District Advisory Board chose to develop the plan is to improve the county's opportunity to obtain funding and support for projects that may provide infrastructure for these particular agricultural industries," said Andy Miller of the Soil and Water Department. "There are some gaps in the state Right to Farm ordinance that can leave producers

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