



University of Georgia back in the SEC chase

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Lady Blazers volleyball falls to Flagler College

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THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

50 Cents

Candidates pack the house

Valdosta City Council candidates voice opinions in political debate held at Mathis

BY MALYNDA DORSEY The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Residents from all over the city gathered Tuesday night in the Mathis City Municipal multi-purpose room to do their homework as they observed Valdosta City Council candidates square off in a political forum.

The forum featured Mayoral Candidates Incumbent John Fretti and Ron Borders, At-Large Candidates Incumbent John Eunice, Dexter Sharper and David Dempsey, District 1 Candidates Incumbent James Wright and Wade McCrae and District 5 Candidates Incumbent David Sumner and Tim Carroll. The forum was sponsored by the local graduate chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. as well as 100 Black Men of Valdosta. Brandy Peterson of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, moderated the political debate at Mathis Auditorium Tuesday evening. The Candidates are, from left: David Sumner for City Council District 5, Tim H. Carroll for City Council District 5, James R. Wright for City Council District 1, Wade S. McCrae for City Council District 1, Dexter Sharper for City Council At Large, John A. Eunice for City Council At Large, David L. Dempsey for City Council At Large, John J. Fretti for Mayor, and Ron M. Borders for Mayor.



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Brandy Peterson, of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, moderates the political debate at Mathis Auditorium Tuesday evening. The Candidates are, from left: David Sumner for City Council District 5, Tim H. Carroll for City Council District 5, James R. Wright for City Council District 1, Wade S. McCrae for City Council District 1, Dexter Sharper for City Council At Large, John A. Eunice for City Council At Large, David L. Dempsey for City Council At Large, John J. Fretti for Mayor, and Ron M. Borders for Mayor.

participation in the Historic Preservation Commission for 20 years and the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission for 15 years. He stated that he would bring new leadership, fresh ideas and innovative approaches to the city government.

Next in line were the District 1 candidates. As Wright approached the audience, he exclaimed his campaign slogan, "Improving our communities and investing in our future." He expressed large concern with environmental issues as well as lowering crime rates in Valdosta. He later added that he supported random drug testing and has worked with the school systems to put truancy officers in the schools in an effort to keep students in school and out

of jail. Wright's opponent, McCrae, who kept audience members applauding for much of the evening, introduced himself as a bishop and a church man. He said that although some believe that politics and religion do not mix, he begs to differ and has a desire to turn a good city into a great city.

At-Large Candidate Sharper, who also kept the crowd on its toes, described three types of city council members: the ones that are proactive, the ones that are reactive and the ones that are inactive. Sharper added that he planned to be a proactive council member by supporting better pay for nurses and middle class citizens, supporting health programs and small

businesses and helping to ensure that law enforcement treats everyone justly.

Eunice expounded on various positive projects that he has overseen since he was elected into office, such as work with the Industrial Authority to secure more jobs and funding for law enforcement and firefighting technology. He added that since he entered office four years ago, millage rates have stayed the same or lowered. Dempsey emphasized that this is his fourth campaign. He took a stance against making Patterson and Ashley Streets one-way streets and expressed a concern that SPLOST dollars are

DEBATE | 4A

Child hit by vehicle

11-year-old girl sustains leg injuries; driver not at fault

BY MALYNDA DORSEY The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — An 11-year-old girl was hit by a car Tuesday on the corner of West Gordon and Hightower Streets.

Valdosta police officers and other emergency units were dispatched to the scene shortly after the incident, which took place at around 3:45 p.m. The child, who sustained leg injuries but no lacerations, was transported to South Georgia Medical Center for treatment, according to Lt. Bobbi McGraw.

Cmdr. Brian Childress added that it appeared that the child ran out in front of the vehicle, which led to her being struck. Traffic investigators have determined that the motorist is not at fault for the incident.

"The child's parents were contacted immediately following the incident," Childress said. "We are relieved and fortunate that the child is alright."

Authorities urge that parents and children be careful before walking along a road or crossing a street.

Emergency notification system approved

BY KELLI HERNANDEZ The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Citizens of Lowndes County will soon have the comfort of knowing that in the event of a natural or man-made disaster or a local emergency, they will be able to receive immediate information via a telephone message system capable of reaching every resident in less than two hours.

Lowndes County Commissioners approved a request for \$26,500 to implement the Code Red emergency notification system at the regular meeting Tuesday. In evaluating the emergency management plan and the needs of emergency personnel to conduct large scale emergency notifications quickly and efficiently, it was determined that a system such as Code Red would be the most effective option, according to Ashley Tye, emergency management director.

Several types of systems were evaluated — including a siren or audible alarm system — based on factors including cost, ease of use, and redundancy, according to Tye and County Manager Joe Pritchard.

Pritchard added that technology has greatly surpassed siren systems and the Code Red system allows for greater capability in reaching citizens with pertinent information.

SYSTEM | 4A

Commission to nominate members

Several express interest in filling open Lowndes Planning Commission seats

BY BILLY BRUCE The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Nominees to fill seats of three members whose terms are expiring or have expired on the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission are to be considered by the advisory panel when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

The commission meets at the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners building at 325 W. Savannah Ave. and has a fairly light agenda of city and county rezoning requests to review.

Their choice of preferences for the three open commission seats may top the news from their Monday regular session.

Several citizens have thrown their hats in the ring, hoping to be picked to serve on the 10-seat planning commission. The advisory panel is made up of four city of Valdosta appointees, three Lowndes County appointees, and one appointee each from the cities of Hahira, Lake Park and Dasher.

The planning commission elects a chairman from those 10 members. The chairman can only vote in case of a tie

Candidates Candidates who have expressed interest and who will be submitted as nominees to the City Council and County Commission at those bodies' next meetings are:

- Gary Moser's seat: Moser, Dick Saeger and Craig Cardella. ● Tim Carroll's seat: Bill Slaughter, John Mitchell and Kevin Coggins. ● John Bailey's seat: Only Bailey has announced intent for the seat to date.

vote. Members serve five-year terms. Expiring terms to be filled include:

The term of current commission Chairman Gary Moser expires on Nov. 21. Moser, a city of Valdosta appointee, is seeking reappointment to another term.

The term of county commissioner appointee Tim Carroll expired Oct. 7. Carroll has served on the commission for more than 14 years and is not seeking reappointment because he is seeking election to the Valdosta City Council.

The term of Hahira appointee John Bailey III expires Nov. 14. Bailey is seeking re-appointment.

At a previous session the commission discussed extending expiring terms until January, but has not yet reached a deci-

sion on that suggestion, according to County planner Jason Davenport. The planning commission meets twice in November but has no meeting in December because of the holidays.

At a work session Monday night, the planning commissioners were asked by Lowndes County Planner Jason Davenport and Valdosta Planning and Zoning Administrator Anne-Marie Wolff to vote at next Monday's regular session on nominees they'd like to see submitted to the Lowndes County Commission and Valdosta City Council.

The elected bodies have authority to make appointments to the commission for county and city seats.

Candidates who have expressed interest and who will be submitted as nominees to the City Council and County Commission at those bodies next meetings are:

- Gary Moser's seat: Moser, Dick Saeger and Craig Cardella. ● Tim Carroll's seat: Bill Slaughter, John Mitchell and Kevin Coggins. ● John Bailey's seat: Only Bailey has announced intent for the seat to date.

Once the planning commission makes its recommendations Monday, the City Council will consider the nominations when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 8. The County Commission will consider

SEATS | 4A



Thousands flee homes as wildfire rages on

Walls of flames running all but unchecked consumed hundreds of homes across Southern California.

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INSIDE

Artist of the Month

Ann Johnston has been named the Southern Artists League's Artist of the Month.

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Shuttle blasts off

Discovery and its crew of seven thundered into orbit, setting off on the most challenging mission yet.

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Where to fill up

Check out real-time gasoline prices on The Valdosta Daily Times' Web site.

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FORECAST

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