

# Election Day Tuesday

## Early voting turnout light

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Polls will open across the county Tuesday for the DeKalb County Democratic Primary after a sparse turnout for early voting.

The polls in DeKalb's 15 voting precincts will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 1. Those who did not exercise their early voting option can vote at their local polling place. Election Administrator

Dennis Stanley reminds voters to make sure to bring a government issued photo identification (most common is a driver license) with them, adding that since Tennessee is an open state, any registered voter is allowed to vote in the Democratic primary regardless of their voting history.

Tuesday's primary comes after a less-than-stellar start to balloting as projections through the end of early voting Thursday suggest turnout for early voting will be down from the same primary

four years ago when 1,701 cast ballots early. A total of 3,313 voted in the 2014 primary. Stanley noted that typically early voting and election day voting are about 50/50. There had been 711 people vote as of close of polls this past Saturday. Stanley noted that the opening days and closing days of early voting are generally the heaviest voted, meaning there was still hope as of presstime that big days Wednesday and Thursday could bring the early voting numbers back up to

2014 levels.

Anyone who wishes to early vote can do so by going by the courthouse from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today or 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday.

Voters who do go to the polls will get to decide who will represent the Democratic Party in the races for sheriff, circuit court clerk, register of deeds, road superintendent, county clerk and in all seven county commission districts. Voters will also be deciding who will move forward in the heavily contested county mayor race as incumbent Tim Stribling is facing opposition from former mayor Mike Foster and county commissioner Bradley Hendrix.

There is no Republican primary as the party caucused and decided who will represent the GOP in the August general election.

Those who did not vote early and are unsure of their polling place should refer to their voter registration card or call the election office. Those who have moved to another address other than what is shown on their voter card should consider voting early since a change of address request can be filled and your vote cast during the visit without further inconvenience.

"That can save a lot of headaches by doing it at early voting rather than the day of the election," Stanley advised.

# Hit the links



**Jimmy Goad putts on the sixth green Monday morning during the season opening of Smithville Golf Course. The nine-hole course is open to the public. The club is selling memberships but the non-members can play an 18-hole round for \$23, including their golf cart.**

## Smithville Golf Course opens for season

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
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Smithville Golf Course opened for business Monday, the damp overcast day still drawing several golfers who were anxious to play a round on opening day.

The first threesome to hit the course for the season Monday morning were Bob Rice, Eddie Hobson and Daniel Leslie.

"It was a little damp, a little mushy," Hobson revealed as he paused at the turn to start his second nine, noting that the greens were in good shape. "The greens are in good shape but we didn't hit too many."

A round of golf at the Smithville Golf Course will cost you \$23 this season. The Smithville Golf Course is being managed by Ken Lacy and Pete Ferguson, both whom were recently hired to oversee the city-owned club which includes the golf course, tennis courts, and a pool – the latter which is expected to open Memorial Day weekend.

Under the price list approved last week, individual golfers who are not members can play 18 holes with a cart for \$23 including tax, or nine holes with a cart for \$16 including tax. Golfers who walk instead of ride in a cart can play 18 holes for \$14 including tax or nine holes for \$9 including tax. It will cost \$7.50 to replay nine holes. The driving range ball bucket will be \$6.

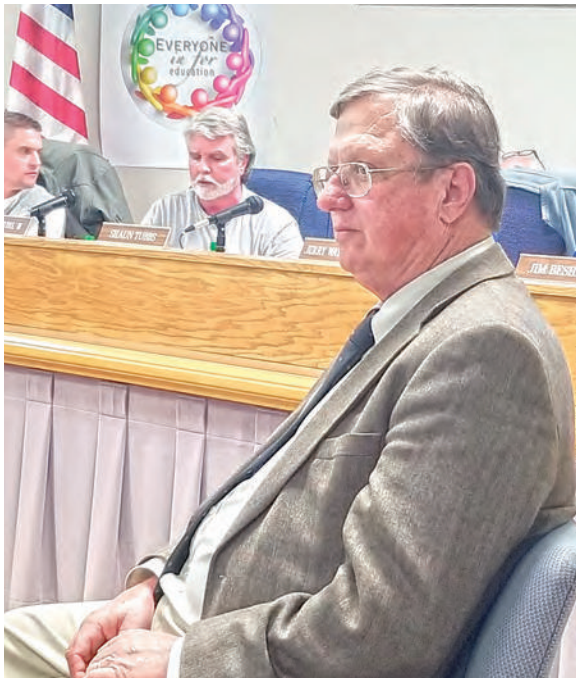
Along with daily visitor rates, a price list for membership to the club was established. Member golfers who play unlimited rounds may play 18 holes with a cart for \$11 including tax or nine holes with a cart for \$7.50 including tax. A replay is just \$5.

Membership fees for a single membership is \$440 including tax or \$550 including tax for a family membership. A single Range membership is \$165 including tax.

Single pool membership fees are \$70 including tax or \$135 including tax for a family membership. Admission to the swimming pool will remain at \$2 per person per day for everyone age 4 and older.

For a combination Golf/Pool/Range membership the price is \$605, including tax for a single membership and \$715 including tax for a family membership. Golfers who wish to use their own private cart can pay a Trail Fee of \$385 including tax.

The fees were set based on the going rate at other courses. They noted that it costs the course about \$16 per round of golf so the price charged to golfers will help offset the upkeep of the facility.



**Derrick Clemow of Upland Design explains the various plans for the school building initiative to members of the school board and county commission during a recent informational meeting. The plans have been narrowed down to three schemes.**

## School construction choices narrowed

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The choices have apparently been paired down to three when it comes to the building plans the board of education is pitching to county commissioners.

The top three, along with a cursory description of other plans, were revealed to members of the county commission who joined the board of education in an informational meeting presented by Upland Design which is drawing up plans for the building project. Derrick Clemow and Brian Templeton explained to those in attendance at the meeting this past week the scenarios of the top three plans.

One resounding theme in all three plans was the abandonment of Smithville Elementary as a school, with Clemow suggesting the building be repurposed for some other use either by the school system or county. All three of the plans come with hefty price tags, something Director of Schools Jason Cripps said is the result of years of not taking action.

"We can't keep doing just one school every 30 years," Cripps told those in attendance. "It has caught up with us."

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# Write-in candidates vie to be Alexandria mayor

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Alexandria went from having no one showing interest in being its next mayor to having a contested mayoral race this summer.

The race will be a write-

in contest, meaning voters will have to write-in the candidate name on their ballot this August in order for it to count.

One of those now putting his name forward is present Alexandria Mayor Bennett Armstrong who had at first indicated he did not intend to seek an-

other term. He has since changed his mind but not in time to make it to the official ballot which closed for qualifying on April 5.

Along with Armstrong, another candidate has stepped up for consideration by the Alexandria voters this August. The

candidate, Donna Davis has told the election commission she wants to get in the mayor's race in the small DeKalb County hamlet.

While seeking office, neither will show up on the ballot. Since they came out after the qualifying deadline they will

be write-in candidates. Actually, only Lloyd Dyer, candidate for Alexandria alderman, will appear on the official ballot. He faces no opposition and is in need of fellow candidates since there are several open city aldermanic posts up for election this year which have no can-

didates.

The pair are on the ballot because they contacted the election commission and told them they wanted their write-in votes counted. Those interested in write-in candidacy can request their votes be counted up until 50 days before election.

