

Bulldogs take the court against rival Lexington.

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# THOMASVILLE TIMES

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## State jobless rate at historic high

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

North Carolina's unemployment rate reached a historic high in December.

According to the latest statistics released by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, the unemployment rate spiked nearly half a percent to a record 11.2 percent last month. This is the highest registered unemployment rate since the ESC began using the current methodology in 1976.

After several months of actual

job gains and relatively no change in the unemployment rate, employment fell by 31,338 workers in December. May's unemployment rate of 11.1 percent was the previous record.

"The effects of a national recession continues to impact our jobless rate," ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. said. "Clearly, too many people are without a job, which is why we are working hard to provide job search assistance — among other services — for job seekers, and unemployment benefits to thousands of people."

Since December 2008, employ-

ment has decreased by 191,258 workers, causing the unemployment rate to climb from 8.1 percent to more than 11 percent. Unemployment also rose by 19,022 workers to 505,939.

"It was a little bit of a surprise," said ESC spokesperson Larry Parker. "There hadn't been much movement in the rate in the past several months, and we had actually seen some job creation lately. For this to happen was a little discouraging."

A slight increase in unemployment was expected in December

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## Red Cross offers ways to help Haiti

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Robert Ziegler has worked with the Red Cross for more than two decades and understands the fact people want to help when a natural disaster like the earthquake in Haiti happens.

Since the Jan. 12 quake that has left an estimated 200,000 people dead, Ziegler, the executive director of the High Point-Thomasville Chapter of the Red Cross, said concerned citizens have been calling his office wanting to lend assistance any way they can.

"Our part to play is to raise money so the Red Cross can provide direct assistance to the people of Haiti affected by the disaster," Ziegler said. "The best way to help is by giving a financial contribution. Giving to the Red Cross International Disaster Relief Fund lets us purchase supplies in bulk from our national partners. We get huge discounts when we buy in bulk and we get help getting shipments out."

While Ziegler appreci-

ates those who want to donate water, food and other vital necessities, financial donations are able to be used much more efficiently by the Red Cross, leading to more people getting aid who desperately need it.

"We are able to leverage that money so much more effectively by making bigger purchases than if someone goes to the store here with the same amount of money and tried to buy food to drop off at our door," said Ziegler. "We can be so much more efficient with a donated dollar."

The High Point-Thomasville Chapter of the Red Cross has been recommending any donations be made online at redcross.org or 1-800-RED-Cross, making it difficult to determine the amount of money raised locally.

"We are receiving a lot," Ziegler said. "But so much more has gone from this area to the online donation locations. I don't know how much money has been raised. Eventu-

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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

## GUN SHOW RETURNS TO CHAIR CITY

Vendor Gray Potts gets ready for showtime. For the second time in three months, the Triad Gun & Knife Show will be held in Thomasville. The event, formally known as the Lexington Gun & Knife Show, will take place today and Sunday at 1618 National Highway, bringing hundreds of vendors to Thomasville. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and 9-4 Sunday.

## Family-owned pharmacy closes doors after 50 years

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Thomasville Pharmacy spent nearly half a century in the Chair City, providing prescription drugs and health care products to citizens for generations.

When the time came for owner Joe Greeson to retire, his logical successor seemed to be his daughter Amy, who had worked at Thomasville Pharmacy for much of her adult life. With 48 years of quality service behind it, the chances of the family-run business making a smooth transition under new leadership appeared quite good.

A situation arose, however,

'I just felt that at this time in my life, having to devote that much time to something wasn't what I wanted to do.'

— Amy Greeson

when Amy Greeson declined her father's offer to take over the family business, ending Thomasville Pharmacy's long standing relationship with its community.

"This was one of the hardest decisions I've had to make," Amy said. "I just felt that at this time in my life, having to devote that much time to something, wasn't what I wanted to do. It was difficult. I would be remiss if I didn't say that it has been the highest honor for me to have worked so closely with my parents, and side by side with my father."

What made the choice so hard for Amy was her educational nonprofit called Healing Seekers. Amy has dedicated her life to the organization that explores the world looking for new medical cures and treatments for dis-

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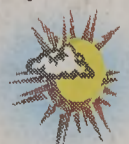
TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Pharmacist Amy Greeson stands in front of her family's drug store, which was recently sold to Rite Aid.

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