



Turn clocks ahead 1 hour

Saturday, March 13, 2010

THOMASVILLE TIMES

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Coming Tuesday

Rep. Hugh Holliman host Small Business Forum at DCCC. Find it in Tuesday's Times.

119th Year - No. 70 50 Cents

Man shot after drawing gun on officers

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Two Thomasville Police officers were involved in a shooting Friday afternoon following a traffic stop at the intersection of Julian Avenue and Main Street underneath Hundley Bridge.

The suspect, whose name was not released, was transported to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and placed in intensive care for what authorities say is non-life threatening injuries. Both officers have been placed on

administrative leave pending an investigation.

"Right now, it's still in the preliminary stages," Thomasville Police Department Chief Jeff Insley said. "It was a traffic stop and there was an officer-involved shooting. We notified the State Bureau of Investigation as part of our protocol and they are handling the investigation. Once they finish we will do our internal review to make sure we did everything in the right way."

Neither officer, whose names also were not released,

was injured during the shooting which occurred around 4:15 p.m. TPD received a call from a concerned driver regarding a white, Ford van driving erratically. According to a TPD press release, officers proceeded to investigate the reason for the erratic driving when shortly after they encountered the driver pulling a gun on one of the policeman. The officer fired his weapon in self defense, shooting the suspect. One of the officers was in a

Thomasville Police investigate the scene of a traffic stop that ended with a man being shot by police after drawing a weapon.

TIMES PHOTO/
ELIOT DUKE



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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Brown Middle School science teacher Tricia Creasey helps two students as they analyze blood samples Thursday during the math and science department's crime scene investigation program.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Brown Middle School students use science to solve crime

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Who kidnapped the principal at E. Lawson Brown Middle School?

That's the question seventh grade students have been trying to figure out this week as part of the school's Crime Lab program. For the past seven years, BMS students get the chance to experience the latest forensic techniques used by professional crime scene investigators by analyzing evidence in a wide array of different methods.

On Wednesday, students came to school and discovered principal Randy Holmes was kidnapped. With only a few footprints, blood samples and hair follicles to work with, the three-day objective was to find out who did it.



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Two Brown Middle School students analyze evidence under a microscope Thursday to help find the principal's kidnapper.

"The reason why we decided to do the CSI was because the kids right now are really interested in the crime shows on TV," Tricia Creasey, a seventh grade science teacher at BMS who started the program, said. "We study in seventh grade, science, the human body and genetics. This helps

them connect what they're studying in school to real life situations."

In Creasey's class on Thursday, students practiced blood typing, analyzing samples found at the scene, trying to find a match

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Disturbed man barricades self inside residence

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Thomasville Police Department responded to an incident on Ball Park Road Friday night where a disgruntled man barricaded himself in his house with his infant child, resulting in a two-hour standoff with authorities.

TPD Chief Jeff Insley said the man was experiencing some hard luck and decided to barricade himself in his apartment. The TPD Special Response Team and a negotiator arrived at the scene

and managed to talk the man into surrendering without incident around 8 p.m. Friday night. Dozens of police officers wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying automatic weapons, as well as police K-9s, were at the scene during the negotiations.

"Some things weren't going his way," Insley said. "Today, it all kind of culminated into this. We were fortunate no one was hurt. He worked with us and we managed to get through it."

TPD responded to the

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Golf tournament to honor firefighter who lost his battle against cancer

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Rodney Palmer was a firefighter.

Known throughout the West Lexington Volunteer Fire & Rescue as a good firefighter, Palmer battled with the best of them. But when the rest went home after a hard day's work, Palmer's struggle continued — his struggle against cancer.

Though Palmer prevailed after his first diagnosis, cancer returned. The captain, an active member of the fire department for 20 years, died on June 21, 2009.

In his honor, friends and comrades decided to transform the annual golf tournament, held for the last nine years as a fundraiser for Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's burn unit, into the first Rodney V. Palmer Memorial Golf

Tournament. The tournament will be held May 8 at the Lexington Golf Club, and proceeds will benefit Carolina Cancer Services.

"We'd just like to have as many golfers as possible to come out and support the golf tournament and come out and honor Rodney," said Maurice Hodges, treasurer of the Fireman's Fund for the department and Palmer's close friend.

And it seems Hodges might get his wish. Caron Myers, executive director of Carolina Cancer Services, says firefighters from all over Davidson County and even from Rowan County will be coming for the event.

An avid golfer and one of the original organizers of the golf tournament, Palmer was diagnosed with prostate cancer a few years ago. He fought

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