

AREA NEWS

THS seniors seek funds for caps and gowns, class trip

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Such a picture perfect moment — gowns waving in the breeze, diplomas in hand, grins from ear to ear — as this year's high school graduates will join the thousands before them, tossing their caps to spiral high in the air.

But at Thomasville High School, a lack of funds may leave a few students tossing baseball hats instead of the traditional cap and tassel.

The senior class typically raises money for those students who can't afford their cap and gown or the funds for the senior trip, as well as to leave a senior legacy. Last year's graduating class raised between \$500 and \$600. This year, seniors have raised only a little more than \$200.

"This year the senior class is having a little problem getting that done," said Teresa Billie, THS senior counselor. "They've pretty much been on the ball from the beginning. I don't want to say that the economy is the reason, but it very well could be one of the reasons people just don't have money to give like they have in the past."

Senior class president Jauraz

Crosby and vice president Naya-sha Ray have worked hard to raise the funds with so-far-disappointing results. The first fundraiser was a juniors versus seniors and sophomores versus freshmen basketball game in early December, which raised \$52. Because the game landed on a Saturday and another basketball game was already scheduled for that day, Crosby says the fundraiser didn't garner as much as it could.

A fashion show in November raised approximately \$200, and the class will hold an alumni basketball game after spring break in mid-April. Crosby says they also plan on putting buckets out in the community to collect loose change.

"If they need help, I want to help them," Crosby said of his classmates.

Though the exact number of students requiring funds hasn't come in yet, Billie says that if the senior class' effort falls short, the school will step in and help out. Sometimes even parents will become volunteer sponsors.

Part of the reason for the effort to raise funds stems from a strong desire to create unity.

"Most of the kids in this commu-

nity have been together since they were either in kindergarten or first grade," Billie said. "The whole unity piece of we're together and we want to look like we're together — we're big on that, making sure that graduation is a distinguished ceremony."

Even though the senior class trip — this year to Carowinds in Charlotte — may seem like an unnecessary piece to the high school graduation process, Crosby says that after a stressful year filling out college and scholarship applications, visiting schools and finishing up grueling senior year academics, the graduates need a breather.

"It'll be a break for us because we'll have that time to spend together," Crosby said.

It might also be the last time many in the class get to hang out.

"When graduation comes and the actual graduation takes place, everyone goes their separate ways and doesn't see each other," Crosby said. "We want to have some way that we can bond. It'll be a very key memory."

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OFFICERS

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unmarked minivan and was assisted by an officer in a standard TPD squad car. The van had North Carolina tags and the name Lifetime Exteriors Specialty Contractors written on both sides.

"The officers were unharmed and will be on administrative leave until further notice from the chief," said Capt. Darren Smith. "The suspect is currently being treated and is in intensive care. The matter is still under investigation. It was a little unnerving until I found out everyone was alright. It's the nature of the business and you just

have to be prepared for it."

SBI agent Scott Williams said one of the officers heard popping sounds during the shooting and took off his jacket to see if he had been hit. Williams said he was unsure if the suspect was from Thomasville. The suspect, who was alone, did not fire at the officers, and Williams said a taser was used during the exchange.

"I think he's going to be fine," Williams said of the suspect.

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DISTURBED

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scene around 6 p.m. and were notified of the situation by a neighbor, causing them to back off and re-evaluate what to do. Insley said the suspect didn't realize the child was in the apartment at the time.

"We found the baby in the crib unharmed," said

Insley. "The baby is now with its mother and is fine. The medics checked her out and she is fine."

The suspect, whose name was not released by press time on Friday night, was living with his girlfriend and their baby.

"Right now, we're looking at trying to get him some help," said Insley. "That's our biggest concern. Any charges will come later."

POLICE REPORTS

All entries in the section are based on information provided in police reports from the Thomasville Police Department.

Feb. 18

- Toma Jonier Scott (BM, 35) arrested on charge of communicating threats at 1131 W. Green St.
- Olivia Storm Kinley (WE, 18) arrested on

charge of larceny at 1585 Liberty Drive.

- Joey Dwayne Justice (Wm, 22) arrested on charge of obtaining property by false pretenses at 3576 New Cut Road.

Feb. 19

- Ronald Solicitor Bratton (BM, 33) arrested on charge of possessing a controlled substance at 502 Gail St.

- Steven Skeen (WM, 31) arrested on charge of assault and battery at 388 Meadow Lary Lane.

- Deanthony Smith (BM, 22) arrested on charge of assault with a deadly weapon at 1234 Duffy Place in Raleigh.

- Thomas James Anderson (BM, 53) arrested on charge of possessing with intent to sell a con-

trolled substance at Middle Avenue.

Feb. 20

- Christopher Steven Hauser (WM, 28) arrested on charge of DWI at 303 Pineywood Road.

- Robert Henry Grey (WM, 25) arrested on charge of city ordinance violation, dog at large.

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4 Tax Tips That Could Save You Thousands

AMY MCANARNEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TAX INSTITUTE AT H&R BLOCK

Each year many taxpayers miss out on thousands of their own hard-earned dollars, simply because they are unaware of the many tax deductions and credits they are legally eligible to receive. Here are some of the recent tax law changes you need to be aware of, courtesy of Amy McAnarney, Executive Director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block.

Capital Assets: Thinking of selling an appreciated capital asset such as stock or a vacation home? You may even want to consider giving the asset to a child or grandchild who is in a lower tax bracket. He or she may be able to sell the property and have all or most of the gain taxed at 0%. However, be careful of "kiddie tax" rules which may tax some of your child's income at your rates.

New Homebuyers: If you bought a home in 2009 or plan to in 2010, you may get some tax relief. First-time homebuyers can get a tax credit of up to \$8,000, and repeat homebuyers may be eligible for a credit of \$6,500. Existing homeowners must have lived in their current home for five of the last eight years to be eligible in 2010 for the \$6,500 homebuyer credit.

New Vehicles: Did you know that you can deduct the sales tax paid on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of a new vehicle bought in 2009? This is helpful particularly if you do not itemize and instead take the standard deduction on your tax return. In that case, remember you can add the sales tax to the standard deduction. In order to deduct the sales tax paid on the purchase of a new vehicle, the auto must have been purchased between Feb. 17, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009.

Business Vehicles: If you own a small business that bought an SUV or other vehicle that weighs over 6,000 pounds in 2009, and it's used for business, you may be able to deduct up to \$25,000 of the cost this year, plus take a 50% depreciation deduction on the remaining cost of the vehicle. For example, if your new SUV cost \$75,000, you may be able to take a tax deduction of \$52,000 on your 2009 business return.

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