



EARLY VOTING
Early voting offered now through April 30 at the Thomasville Public Library.

THOMASVILLE TIMES



Inside Today
East Davidson girls soccer team faces rival Salisbury on the pitch.
See **SPORTS**, Page 7

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Council approves business license

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Council voted 6-1 to approve a business privilege license at its Monday night meeting, with Councilman David Yemm dissenting.

The ordinance will become effective July 1, and billings will begin October 1. Fees — which vary from \$2.50 to \$50, depending on the type of business — will not be prorated the first year.

“We’ve worked long and hard to try to find an ordinance that would be acceptable by the people in this community, including the business community,” Councilman Scott Styers said.

Styers said that while businesses may not like the extra fees, a business privilege license helps to ensure that the city government knows what types of industries operate within the city limits. It becomes a matter of public safety, he said.

“There are some concerns, as

much as we don’t want to admit it,” Styers said.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ron Bratton cited an instance a few years ago when the Chair City was contacted by police departments from all across the country about a Thomasville furniture company that was charging people for furniture and then not sending it.

“We didn’t even know that it existed,” Bratton said. “It’s important to know what businesses are in Thomasville so

that we can protect not only our citizens, but people all over the country. Whether it makes money or not, we need it for public safety.”

Styers also pointed out that, unlike neighboring municipalities such as High Point and Winston-Salem, the Thomasville privilege license would not require a business to disclose how much money it made the previous year.

See **LICENSE**, Page 10

Fishing trip on Yadkin River ends in tragedy

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

A Saturday on the Yadkin River turned tragic when a father and son drowned while fishing near High Rock Lake dam.

Davidson County Sheriff David Grice said Phothy Chanthahevang, 39, of 1241 Windover St. in Albermarle, and his son Blu Chanthahevang, 14, of the same address, both drowned Saturday evening near the Bringle Ferry Wildlife Access area after Blu fell in the water while trying to retrieve his fishing pole. Phothy jumped in after his son but could not save him and also drowned.

According to a Davidson County Sheriff’s Office press release, Phothy and his two sons, Blu and 10-year-old Vin Chanthahevang, were fishing on a small aluminum boat under the bridge on Bringle Ferry Road near High Rock dam when Blu dropped his rod and reel into the water. Blu, a special needs child with ADD who couldn’t swim and was not wearing a life vest, bent over to retrieve his equipment and fell into the water. Phothy jumped in without a life vest, but also didn’t know how to swim.

“There are two people dead and we want people to know the importance of life preservers,” Grice said. “There has to be a life preserver on the boat for each person, even if you’re not wearing it. I think children under 13 must have a personal floa-

See **TRAGEDY**, Page 12

TPS gives back to ‘Smart Bear’ program

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Marie Bentley has spent almost 30 years encouraging children to read through her Smart Bear program without ever asking for anything in return.

With the help of friends and volunteers, Bentley has managed to visit schools across the state — and even some in other countries — every year hoping to inspire another generation to read more by packaging a book and a bear together in a program supported by charity and donations.

On Monday morning, one of those schools affected by Bentley’s Smart Bear program decided to give back. Thomasville Primary School presented Bentley with a \$200 donation, money raised from the students who benefit from an idea that is now more than a quarter cen-

See **BEAR**, Page 6



TIMES PHOTOS/LARRY MATHIS



A DAY FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Area children enjoy the attractions at this year’s Itty Bitty Kiddie Festival Saturday at the Davidson County Fairgrounds. The annual festival, sponsored by Smart Start and Thomasville Medical Center, offers parents information about local child services while children engage in a variety of activities.

Nationals await Ledford HOSA students

BY LISA WALL
Editor

With lab coats around their shoulders, the high schoolers had game faces on.

Members of the Ledford Senior High School Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) club practiced routine medical procedures such as blood pressure, moving patients onto a stretcher and weighing infants.

Ten of the 220 HOSA members at Ledford recently placed in the top three in their various medical-related events at the HOSA state conference and currently are preparing for the national conference in Orlando, Fla., on June 23-26.

“I think it’s very noteworthy,”

WANT TO HELP?

To help the Ledford High School’s HOSA club raise money for the national conference, contact Tona Turner, R.N. and HOSA advisor, at 769-9671.

said Tona Turner, R.N., HOSA Advisor at Ledford High. “I’m certainly very proud, and I think our school is very proud of what these young people have accomplished.”

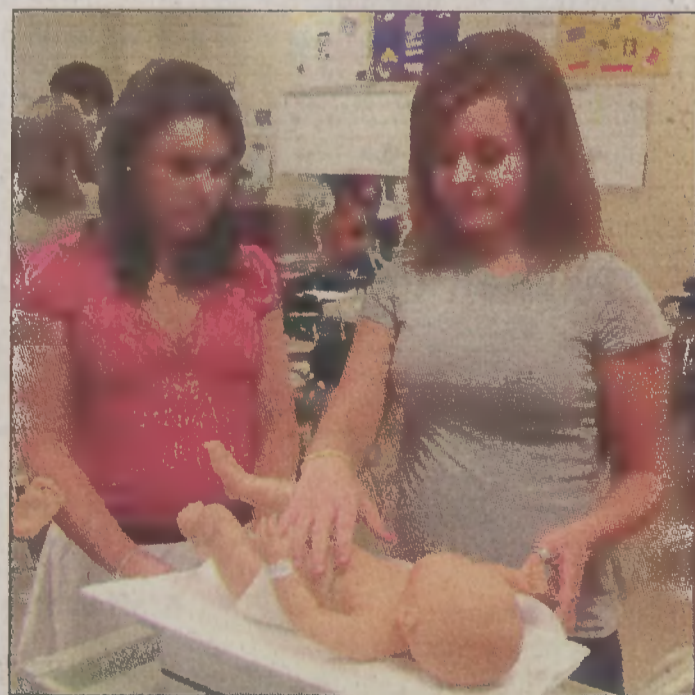
HOSA is a national, student-led organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE. The organization seeks to encourage health

career opportunities and to enhance the administration of quality health care.

HOSA chapters at schools provide various courses for students looking to go into health care, and the national HOSA organization organizes regional, state and national conferences for students to compete in medical-related events as varied as medical terminology, dental assisting, community awareness, sports medicine and CPR.

“These students are involved in the classroom and an organization with the high school that is very civic-minded, students that are the future of health care providers” Turner said.

See **HOSA**, Page 6



TIMES PHOTO/ERIN WILTGEN

Ledford HOSA students (from left) Lauren Mallory, who took third in extemporaneous writing, and Elizabeth Bradley, who took second in health education, practice a health exam of a child Friday.

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Today’s Weather



Mostly Sunny
70/46
Full Forecast Page 2

What’s Inside

- Weather 2
- Health 3
- Focus 4
- Opinion 5
- Obituaries 6
- Sports 7
- Classifieds 10

