



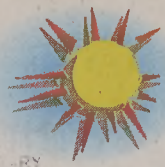
Tony Stewart takes home first win of 2010.

See Page 7

THOMASVILLE TIMES

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Today's Weather



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Tuesday, September 7, 2010

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TCS to relaunch laptop initiative

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Thomasville High School is ready once again to launch its new one-to-one laptop initiative today.



Tobin

THS had planned on introducing the new initiative during the first week of school but administrators discovered software used to block access to certain websites was not performing as hoped. School officials elected to postpone administering the laptops until the problem was fixed.

"They will be handed out starting [today]," Mike Ingram, Thomasville City Schools technology director, said. "We just couldn't get the filter the way we wanted it. It took us a little longer to get the filter how we wanted it than we thought. We're ready to go and will have them all distributed by the end of the week. The good news is the things we learn this year, we won't have to go through next year."

After months of planning and training getting ready for the launch, TCS discovered the flaw on the morning before the launch and decided to push it back. This is the first year of the initiative for THS, and Ingram said some minor bugs were expected. More than 700 laptops are scheduled to

See TCS, Page 6



COURTESY PHOTO

Kate Thornton sleeps comfortably in her bed Friday night after moving into her new home. Kisses4Kate helped raise enough money to move the Thorntons into the new home over the weekend so they could be together.

Angel Gone Home

Kate Thornton loses two-year battle with leukemia

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Kate Thornton's two-year battle against leukemia ended early Sunday morning.

With her parents by her bedside, Kate, a 5-year-old girl who was first diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia when she was only three, finally succumbed to her disease shortly after 6 a.m. Sunday morning at the family's new home.

"Kate is in a better place," Kat Manzella, Kate's godmother, said. "This has been extremely difficult on the entire family. We want everyone in the community to know how much we appreciate all the support. Kate's legacy will live on, and we will continue raising awareness for all the other children who are fighting this

deadly disease."

The Thorntons, following a frenzied two weeks of fundraising by family and volunteers with Kisses4Kate, moved into a new home Friday after the nonprofit organization raised enough money for a down payment. Kate was able to spend two nights in her new room, complete with a canopy bed and wall paintings of mermaids, under the same roof as the rest of her family. Kisses4Kate wanted to get the Thorntons in the same home as soon as doctors informed the family two weeks ago that nothing more could be done for Kate. The family decided not to put Kate through any more chemotherapy and radiation sessions after a unsuccessful bone marrow transplant proved unsuccessful.

"Kate's father wants everyone

to know how thankful he is to have been able to be with Kate at the end," said Manzella. "Had everyone not been so generous and so compassionate, he would have been away from her and gotten a phone call that she has passed. He is very thankful."

Numerous fundraisers helped Kisses4Kate generate enough money for a down payment that allowed the Thorntons to move out of their 1,100-square-foot Thomasville home that was ill-equipped to support Kate's medical needs. When she was released from Brenner Children's Hospital on Aug. 27, Kate went to her grandparents' house in Trinity with her mother while her father and four siblings stayed in Thomasville. Kisses4Kate is still

See BATTLE, Page 6

Ebony Fest celebrates the end of summer

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream has transcended history, so much so that other aspects of his message seem to have gotten lost in the shuffle. The new Ebony Fest, also called the Love Celebration, attempts to bring the community together and collect school supplies for disadvantaged children, embracing other parts of Dr. King's philosophy.

The event — put on by the Martin Luther King Jr. Social Action Committee, Thomasville Medical Center and Minister's United for Christ of Thomasville and Vicinity — will be held Saturday at Myers Park from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We're trying to promote the beloved community concept that Dr. King put forth in the early part of his civil rights activities," said Dr. George Jackson, chairman of the social action committee. "We've done King celebrations and peace conferences for the last decade here in the Thomasville area. We've never really done a back-to-school event."

The event will feature local musicians, jazz bands, vocalists, the Thomasville High School marching band, Cufflinks of Greensboro and DJ Jimmy Jam and Radio DJ K-Fitz. Other events include a three-on-three basketball tournament, kickball and field races. Crayonland bounce houses will be available for kids, and there will be giveaways throughout the day.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Jackson said. "The goal of the event is to bring diverse groups of people together to celebrate the end of summer; good music, good food, fun, games — some-

See EBONY, Page 6



TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

FLIPPING FOR A CAUSE

Saturday evening at MonkeezBrew and Shoppes on Main, fundraisers were held to benefit Carolina Cancer Services (\$100) and Kisses4Kate (\$800). Above, Councilman Raleigh York and his wife Juanita volunteer at the pancake supper.

NCSHakes kicks off season

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

NCSHakes — formerly known as North Carolina Shakespeare Festival — will kick off its 34th 25-week season this month with Shakespeare's final play "The Tempest."

A professional theater company labeled as the state's official Shakespeare company, NCSHakes has been performing in High Point since 1977. The company wows audiences at The High Point Theatre, at summer camps and at a variety of school productions. Aside from the Christmas show, NCSHakes sticks to the repertoire of William Shakespeare.

"He's just been a popular playwright for 400 years," said Paul Siceloff, communications director. "We continue to believe there's a lot of beauty and strength and joy and learning opportunity in the plays of Shakespeare."

"The Tempest" will run from Sept. 18 through Oct. 3 at The High Point Theatre. Jack Wetherall will play Prospero, and Equity actor Nikki Coble will play Miranda. Jim and Debbie Millis will make their debut as producers, providing additional resources to invest in costumes, sets, sound and top-quality professional Equity actors fill the play's more demanding roles.

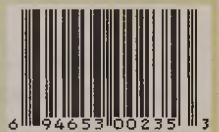
"The Millis' generous support of this production offers us the opportunity to pursue the artistic goals we otherwise could not," said Pedro Silva, NCSHakes' managing director. "The aim, of course, is to have a distinctive production that will captivate and inspire our audiences."

Another aspect of the company, focused on community outreach and education, brings Shakespeare directly to schools across the state. The 2011

See KICKS, Page 6

INDEX

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

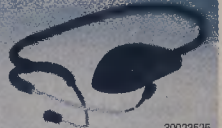


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