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**BATTLE OF THE BULLDOGS**  
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# THOMASVILLE TIMES



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Saturday, September 11, 2010

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## Crash leaves six students with minor injuries

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

A pair of crashes Friday morning on Old U.S. Highway 64 — one involving a school bus — left several students with minor injuries and one man in serious condition.

At about 7:35 a.m., a school bus traveling east on Old Hwy 64 was rear-ended by an SUV, and a pickup that stopped behind the collision was rear-ended soon after.

"The school bus from Reeds Elementary School had just picked up a student and had started to move forward and was rear-ended," said Sgt. Ben Stalvey of N.C. Highway Patrol.

The driver of the Ford Explorer that struck the school bus was transported to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Stalvey said the man was in serious condition at the time but did not know his status Friday

afternoon. Of the 30 students on the bus, six were brought to Lexington Memorial Hospital, said Meredith Palmer, director of communications for Davidson County Schools.

"There were six students transported to the hospital for precautionary checking, none of whom had serious injuries and none of whom were admitted," she said.

All of the students were released to their parents Friday.

Stalvey said that although the preliminary report on the accident won't be released until Monday, the main cause for the accidents seems to be the sun.

"It's possible that both drivers were blinded by sunlight since they were driving directly into the sun, both driving east-bound," Stalvey said. "They've still been charged with failure to reduce speed."

The accident occurred about a half-mile west

of where Old Hwy 64 intersects with N.C. Highway 150. Witnesses reported that the SUV's front end smashed in when it crashed into the school bus, and the driver climbed out of the car to lie down in the road. A few other witnesses, including the driver of a 2007 Chevrolet pickup, Gene Klump, stopped to call for help or assist the Explorer's driver.

As soon as Klump got out of his car, his vehicle was struck by a 1998 Ford

Contour. Kristin Jarvis, 18, a senior at West Davidson High School, was driving the car. Jarvis escaped without serious injury, sustaining only a scratch on her thumb.

Davidson County Schools staff was present both at the scene of the accident and at the hospital to ensure the safety of the students on the bus.

"We were able to get plenty of people there," Palmer said. "We work so hard to be safe, and we will continue to do that."

### Ministry for youth needs aid to keep doors open

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

When Andre Marinelli first met pastor Ed Shortt, he was a 14-year-old boy whose parents were going through a divorce. He had started experimenting with drugs and alcohol and his life slowly spiraled out of control.

All that changed when Marinelli walked through the doors at Whirlwind Ministries on Sedgehill Drive and finally found the family he felt he never had.

"I saw so many qualities in Ed that reminded me of my father," Marinelli, 19, said. "He gave me the family I always wanted. Now, I have a wife and children of my own, and I don't know if that would have happened without Whirlwind Ministries."

Marinelli's story is one of many. For the past five

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A's		B's		C's		D's	
Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA
100	4.000	92	3.350	84	2.500	76	1.500
99	4.000	91	3.375	83	2.375	75	1.500
98	4.000	90	3.156	82	2.250		
98	4.000	89	3.125	81	2.125		
96	4.000	88	3.000	80	2.000		
95	3.875	87	2.875	79	1.875		
94	3.750	86	2.750	78	1.750		
93	3.625	85	2.625	77	1.625		

THOMASVILLE PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE  
Thomasville High School Principal Deboy Beamon stands next to a grade-to-GPA conversion chart at the school. Beamon is pushing students to work toward a GPA high enough to compete for college entry.

## RAISING THE BAR

THS Principal holds high standards for students

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Thomasville High School Principal Deboy Beamon doesn't believe in making excuses. He realizes the challenges some of his students face on a daily basis, but using that as an excuse to not try or not succeed is simply unacceptable.

"The worst thing I can do is make excuses for failure and not trying," Beamon said. "I can sit here and say this kid doesn't have a father in his life and doesn't know how to behave, but at the end of the day, the world doesn't care. When you apply for jobs, you can't give all these reasons for why you didn't do something. Somebody else is going to come in with their Ts crossed and get the job. We love these kids but we hold them to a high

standard." Some may call this tough love, but for Beamon, hearing students talk about just "getting by" makes the hair on his arms stand up. Beamon's background

**'The worst thing I can do is make excuses for failure and not trying.'**

— Deboy Beamon  
Thomasville High School  
Principal

is in the Ohio steel industry and he saw first-hand what happens to people who brush school off in favor of the local mill or plant, especially when those

jobs are no longer there. "In 1976, I worked in a steel plant that had 10,000 employees," said Beamon. "When I left in 1999, there was 2,000. I've seen it. You get out of high school, you work in the plant. That's gone. What is happening at Thomasville Furniture Industries, I saw in the 1980s. When I hear a student say 'well, I'm passing,' and they're passing with a 70 and not studying, it drives me crazy."

Entering his second year as THS' principal, Beamon is feeling more comfortable by the day. THS has made AYP and high growth under his leadership, and the school is finally moving forward with its one-to-one laptop initiative. For Beamon, this is only the beginning. As the required grade point average for students hoping to attend college continues to climb, Beamon

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### Bridges of Hope helps children cope with grief

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Songs, arts and crafts, and animals aside, Bridges of Hope doesn't exactly emulate a typical day camp.

The event — offered by Hospice of Davidson County on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — will help grieving children in first through eighth grade cope with the loss of a loved one. The camp will be facilitated by experienced pro-

#### BRIDGES OF HOPE

**WHAT:** A day camp for grieving children

**WHERE:** Hospice of Davidson County

**WHEN:** Sept. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**FEE:** \$10 cost.

For more information, contact Hospice of Davidson County at (336) 475-5444.

professionals and is open to the community at large.

"We're really excited," said Director of Communications and Development Laura Owen of the first-time event, adding that the need arose in the community as more children had to deal with death. "Our patients are getting younger and younger, and their children are getting younger and younger."

Bridges of Hope is funded mostly through a dona-

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Today's Weather

Mostly Cloudy, 82/64

Remarkable things are happening here.

Thomasville MEDICAL CENTER  
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80th ANNIVERSARY 1930-2010