

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
Catch results from Friday's games in today's Sports, **Page B1**

THOMASVILLE TIMES

7 more days until Everybody's Day. Find preview story in Tuesday's Times.



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Debate heats up at candidate's forum

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Incumbent House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman (D-NC) and Republican challenger Rayne Brown faced off Thursday during a forum at Piedmont Crossing and offered differing opinions on a variety of topics leading up to their battle for the 81st House District seat in November.

From the gas tax to education, Brown and Holliman often clashed on what direction North Carolina needs to go in order to stay competitive, both economically and academical-

ly, with the rest of the country.

Brown feels spending is out of control in Raleigh and representatives are not being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars.

"State and local governments are encouraged to put back eight percent every year for a rainy day," Brown said. "North Carolina barely puts back five percent. If we had contributed to that rainy day fund like we should, that



Brown



Holliman

would have carried us through this time of economic inactivity. We've got to operate state government like we operate our homes. We're not doing that. Represent-

tatives need to understand that the money comes from the people. That's a sacred trust."

Holliman countered by saying the state votes on a budget every July and that there will always be differing ideas as

to what programs or projects should or shouldn't receive funding. Holliman said the state is operating on a \$19 billion budget and that there is a rainy day fund of \$1 billion that is available in the event of an emergency, like a hurricane.

"We have to have 61 votes to pass the budget," said Holliman. "We have to compromise and get everyone together and support it. It's easy to find an item in the budget and say this is wrong and this is what we should be doing, but you

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Board hopefuls present ideas for job creation, education

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Candidates for county commissioner, sheriff and register of deeds gathered at a Piedmont Crossing forum for a chance to put their best foot forward in effort to sway public opinion leading up to the November election.

Four candidates, including two incumbents, running for county commissioner attended the forum where the economy of Davidson County took center stage. Republican incumbents Billy Joe Kepley and Sam Watford were joined by newcomers Todd Yates and Jason Hedrick.

With Davidson County possessing a double-digit unemployment rate, turning around a struggling economy was at the forefront of many questions raised to the candidates. Yates and Hedrick both felt improving the county's infrastructure was a good place to start in spurring economic growth. Hedrick feels the county should focus its attention on attracting as many jobs as possible, regardless of how many at a time.

"We have to start small," Hedrick, the lone Democrat candidate in attendance, said. "We need to be looking at how to get two jobs, 10 jobs, then it's easier

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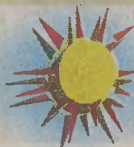
HEAD OF THE CLASS

Thomasville High School class of 1960, the first one to graduate from the school after it moved from Main Street to Unity Street, presented current principal Deboey Beamon with \$3,000 Friday afternoon to help support technology in the classroom. Past graduates were taken on a tour of the school to see how far THS has come in 50 years. THS opened its doors on Unity Street in September of 1959.

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Today's Weather



Sunny, 87/59



Recovery Month looks to raise substance abuse awareness

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

The young man who had just checked into Path of Hope substance abuse treatment facility in Davidson County couldn't believe his eyes.

Attending an event in Winston-Salem celebrating the 21st National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, the young man called his mom and related in disbelief how he and his fellows were enjoying themselves while not under the influence.

"These people were having a ball and they weren't drinking," said Ann House, an employee at Path of Hope, who attended the event. "He said, 'That's one thing I'm learning. I can enjoy myself, I can have fun, and I can remember what I did to have fun.'"

Recovery Month, which spans the month of September, seeks to raise awareness about sub-

stance abuse recovery by not only spreading the word that help is available but also emphasizing that drugs and alcohol don't have to be the fulcrum for a full and enjoyable life.

"Recovery is important," House said. "People need to know that there is hope out there and they can get help. They don't have to stay out there on the streets. They need to know that there's some hope for them out there and that

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TIMES PHOTO/ERIN WILTGEN

Recovery Month looks to help those battling drug and alcohol addiction.

County health survey to serve as national enumeration

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Davidson County has been selected to participate in a national health survey — one of 15 counties across the country chosen to contribute to this year's data.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which will begin data collection in the county on Monday, is a series of studies dedicated to assessing the health and nutritional status of United States citizens. The survey acts as part of the National Center for Health Statistics, which in turn is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In a mix of interviews and physical examinations, the survey will study about 476 individuals in the county.

"It's a combination of the randomly selected and they take a look at which counties demographically would represent the nation as a whole," said Jen Hames, health educator with the Davidson County Health Department, adding that to her

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Remarkable things are happening here.

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