



**SPORTS**  
Catch results from Friday night's high school football action.  
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# THOMASVILLE TIMES



**BUSINESS**  
Columnist  
Tammy Holyfield discusses ways to better communicate with others.  
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## TMC, TFD fire safety efforts recognized

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Thomasville Medical Center and Thomasville Fire Department pulled their collective resources in an effort to increase awareness about the importance of fire prevention in the home.

With the help from DavidonLinks volunteers, TMC and TFD reached out to hundreds of area homes that were literally an accident waiting to happen. More than 250 smoke alarms were installed throughout Thomasville as part of the Remembering When fire and fall prevention program for older adults.

"The City of Thomasville has one of the finest injury prevention programs in the state," Kelly Randall, deputy director with the State Fire Marshall's Office, said. In North Carolina, our biggest problem is people either don't have working smoke alarms, don't change the batteries or have smoke alarms that are too old. This program is responsible for saving lives."

Trained volunteers accompanied members of TFD going door-to-door throughout the Chair City to homes where fire prevention education was needed the most. Often times, Randall said, senior citizens are extremely vulnerable to fires as they don't tend to ask for a smoke detector when they need it. Seniors also are susceptible to falls, and part of the program included making homes safer for elderly people to move around in safely.

"The great thing about this program is we come up with the model and you apply it to make it

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From left, Jacob and Justin Kohler Friday take turns reading parts of Lyndon B. Johnson's speech from the back of the red caboose near the depot station on Main Street.

## Reliving History

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

As the late afternoon sun shone over a bustling Thomasville downtown, the fiery and patriotic words of Lyndon B. Johnson flowed out over the railroad tracks.

Almost 50 years from the day the former president — then a senator and vice president hopeful — addressed Thomasville citizens from the back of a train on Oct. 10, 1960, Thomasville Tourism commemorated the moment in a reenactment and playing of the speech.

"This is a very special time in the history of the celebration of Thomasville," Mayor Joe Bennett told the gathered crowd. "Back then, Thomasville was at a peak of manufacturing. A gentleman that was running for vice president of the United States

thought it would be very proper and fitting to stop here."

At the height of his power as Senate leader, Johnson had run for the Democratic nomination

**'You people here who are known as being makers of fine furniture ... I want you to look at us as makers of good government and weavers of a fine destiny.'**

— Lady Bird Johnson

for president but lost to John F. Kennedy. He surprised the nation when he joined the Democratic ticket and accepted the

vice president seat.

Just weeks before the General Election, Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, went on a Special Tour of the South or Special Southern Swing, traveling by train to Culpepper, Va., Gastonia, N.C., Thomasville and New Orleans, and made several whistle stops in undocumented cities. The campaign spanned Oct. 9 through 14, and the party stopped in Thomasville on Oct. 10.

After addressing the crowd, Johnson hopped atop the Big Chair and waved to the crowd. Thomasville officials presented Lady Bird and Johnson with a replica of the Big Chair to be shipped to their house in Washington.

"You people here who are known as being makers of fine

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*Thomasville commemorates Lyndon B. Johnson's 'Southern Swing'*

## 2010 ELECTION

### Hedrick highlights political platform

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Jason Hedrick, a Democrat from Lexington, will compete for one of four spots for Davidson County Commissioner in the November election.



Owner of Hedrick Creative Building LLC, Hedrick a home building company, Hedrick finished top of the pack with the most votes in the Democrat primary during his first foray into politics.

And like most of his comrades, a large part of Hedrick's focus lies on economic development. Any and all types of businesses have helped the county rise above the recession, but small businesses seem to have a renewed focus. Hedrick says that about three fourths of the U.S. labor force works for a small business, and as such Davidson County needs to do all it can to support those companies.

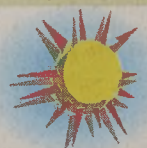
"I think small businesses are one of the biggest keys we've got to grow in our economy," said Hedrick, who added that while incentives to small companies were a good start, the county still could do more. "We also need to reach out and help small businesses grow or help them with problems by putting them in touch

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### Today's Weather



Sunny, 82/50



## Cumpton earns TCS 'Teacher of the Year' honors

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Ira Cumpton may be in enemy territory when it comes to college basketball, but as far as the classroom goes, the Thomasville Middle School science teacher is right where he wants to be.

Cumpton, a Kentucky native and proud supporter of his home state Wildcats, was named Thomasville City Schools Teacher of the Year earlier this week. Known as a tireless worker who has been in the Chair City school system for more than two decades, the social studies turned science teacher hopes to be in Thomasville for many years to come.

"This is very humbling," Cumpton said. "There area lot of great teachers

and just to be considered is an honor. My whole career has been right here in Thomasville. I love it here. I have great people to work with and wonderful kids. I just really enjoy being in Thomasville. I've gotten to know a lot of people and am starting to teach children of my former students. That's kind of neat. This is home away from home."

Cumpton is in his 21st year as a Thomasville educator and spends his days teaching sixth and eighth grade science. When not in the classroom, Cumpton also teaches driver's education and coaches the girl's track team at Thomasville High School. While he started out teaching social studies, the move to science has allowed him to do and expe-

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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Thomasville Middle School's Ira Cumpton in his science lab Thursday at the school.



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