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Council meeting turns to WWI history lesson

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Council took a jaunt back in time Monday night as Jim Little recounted Thomasville's impact on World War I.

Little, dressed in a World War I uniform, presented Mayor Joe Bennett with a copy of his book "Fathers of the Greatest Generation: The Thomasville Blues," a

historical account of the Chair City's N.C. National Guard unit.

"It is not on my behalf, it is to the City of Thomasville," Bennett said of accepting the book. "Jim is an extreme historian of the military and what has taken place, particularly here in Davidson County.

The parade chairman for the Memorial Committee, Little's involvement with Memorial Day

'What I found out has community implications, county implications, state implications.'

— Jim Little
Historian

inspired him to further research his grandfather, 1st Lt. Robert O. Little, who died in 1947 when his grandson was only two years old.

"I thought I would like to find out something about him," Little said. "What I found out has community implications, county implications,

state implications."

Robert Little was a part of a N.C. National Guard unit, called the Thomasville Blues, that existed 100 years ago, from 1909 to 1919. Robert first served on the border with Mexico before being shipped overseas to fight in the world war. That unit — which included soldiers from Lexington, Ashboro and Thomasville — became part of the 120th Infantry, 30th Divi-

sion, which was placed under British command.

And that unit broke the Hindenburg Line, the last line of defenses the Germans built in northeastern France.

"It was the last defense they had," Little said. "There was nothing else the Germans could do. In a sense, our folks from the Thomasville area are the ones who broke the

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Book signing to feature local author

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Phyllis Stump, award-winning author and playwright, will have a book signing of her most recent novel "The Story of a Mountain Midwife" at Monkeez Brew, 32 E. Main St., on Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. Signed copies cost \$14, and \$5 from each book sold will be donated to Communities in Schools of Thomasville.

In her novel, Stump, who taught at four different high schools in Davidson County — Thomasville, East Davidson, Lexington and Westchester Academy — reveals the life of Orlene Puckett, a midwife who helped birth 1,000 children in Carroll, Patrick and Floyd counties.

When Stump, a Thomasville native and Lexington resident, stumbled

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COURTESY PHOTO

TRIP BACK IN TIME

Piedmont Crossing residents, friends and family were entertained with a 'Rock & Roll Favorites' concert performed by the Senior Class Choral Group on Friday. There was a 'Whole Lot of Shakin' Going On' as everyone took a nostalgic stroll back to the '50s and '60s — bobby socks, saddle shoes, rolled jeans and vintage circle skirts — while enjoying the boogie woogie favorites from the Rock & Roll era. Organized in 2007, the Senior Class is composed of 21 members, which includes co-directors, Dennis and Anne Eaton, pianist, Mark Kirkman, a drummer and a guitarist.

Evans has new ideas for sheriff's office

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Democrat Tommy Evans is hoping he can be a fresh new face for a sheriff's office that is coming off a decade some would like to forget.

Evans, a lifetime Thomasville resident, will challenge Republican incumbent David Grice on Nov. 2 for the right to lead the Davidson County Sheriff's Office

over the next four years. With a storied career in law enforcement behind him, Evans feels he is in the right place at the right time in his life to reinstate public trust in a department some feel remains tarnished by the Gerald Hege scandal of 2004.

'I feel I can bring resources back to the county from my experiences that can thrust the sheriff's office forward.'

— Tommy Evans

"I have no disrespect towards [Sheriff Grice]," Evans said. "I feel I can bring resources back to the county from my experiences that can thrust the sheriff's office forward and to a higher level. That's my main goal. I realize there were complications in the sheriff's office and a lot of serious things happened. I would love to be the new face that erases the gray. It's going to be a dif-

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difficult thing to do and given the opportunity, I will work as diligently as anyone in that arena."

Starting his career at Thomasville Police Department in 1978, Evans steadily climbed the law enforcement ladder over the next 30 years, earning recognition from the U.S. Attorneys Office and receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award from the Governor's Office. From his experiences, Evans wants to bring citizens of Davidson County a feeling that they are not alone following a crime. One of Evans' goals should he become sheriff would be to appoint a coordinator for victim relief, giving citizens someone they can turn to in

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2010 ELECTION

Watford brings business experience to the table

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Sam Watford, Republican incumbent from Thomasville, will compete for one of four spots for Davidson County Commissioner in the November election.

Currently the vice-chairman of the board, Watford is serving his second term. He owns and operates Watford Construction Company, and is a licensed plumbing contractor and a private pilot.

"As an incumbent, I feel like we just kind of run on what we have done," he said. "I try to serve my county to the best of my abilities. I try to bring a little common sense to the board, and a little business sense."

Watford already has put that business sense to use. Though the board previously had a system in place to grant incentives to companies looking to invest \$1 million or more in the county, Watford introduced a plan about a year ago to widen that grant program to include smaller businesses.

"I'm a small business man myself," he said. "There's no question about whether we are the backbone of the economy in this country."

Watford's plan changes the standards of incentive grants to include companies proposing less than a \$1 million investment.

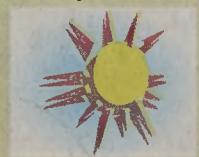
"As far as government goes, that's about all

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Today's Weather



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