



# THOMASVILLE TIMES

**BUSINESS**  
Tammy Holyfield discusses how to take care of your biggest asset.  
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## Woman sees life from different perspective

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Theresa Munyon doesn't consider herself handicapped.

Retinitis Pigmentosa may have claimed her sight some three decades ago, but Munyon, 55, refuses to let her condition be an excuse. She cooks and crochets, and this year has been spent fishing, horseback riding and tubing down a river.

"It's not a handicap for me, it's an inconvenience," Munyon said of being blind. "I can do everything except drive and

read my own mail. Sometimes I do forget to turn the lights on."

Munyon's light-hearted approach toward life shouldn't come as a surprise. Those close to her can't remember a time when Munyon was in a bad mood. As a member of the Denton Lions Club, Munyon stays active with the organization, helping raise funds so others like her can enjoy life as much as she does. Munyon is known for being one of the top ticket dogwood, a recreational facility located on Lake

Norman that serves more than 600 blind or visually impaired campers.

"If we had more Lions like her we could do a lot more," said Gordon McAdams, a member of the Fairgrove Lions Club. "I don't think I've ever seen her have a bad or day or get down. You won't find a nicer human being than Theresa."

Gordon and his wife, Dixie, met Munyon five years ago, and the encounter changed the couple's lives and how they felt toward the visually impaired. The McAdams are heavily involved in

the Lions Club's efforts to assist Davidson County's blind population, and one of their more anticipated endeavors happened just two weeks ago. Lions Clubs from across the state get together every year for an annual fishing trip to North Carolina's coast where volunteers assist hundreds of blind and visually impaired people enjoy a weekend near the water.

"It's great," Munyon said. "I don't usually get down to the shore very often and it's a great vaca-



COURTESY PHOTO

Theresa Munyon stands on a pier at the Outer Banks during a recent Lions Club fishing trip.

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### 2010 ELECTION

#### Watt faces 2 challengers in House race

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

With elections right around the corner, candidates across the nation have begun kicking campaigns into high gear.

In Davidson County, candidates for U.S. House District 12 are taking out a few last newspaper ads and making last-minute changes to campaign websites as Incumbent U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, a Democrat from Charlotte, prepares to face Libertarian candidate Lon Vernon Cecil and Republican candidate Greg Dority.

With the economic recession standing top of the priority list, Watt, a 65-year-old who has served in Congress since 1982, defended his vote for

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COURTESY PHOTO

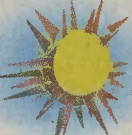
## READY, SET, GO!

TMS-ING Running Club students completed a Culminating Event on Oct. 23 at Oakview Baptist Church in High Point. Twenty-six students, along with two faculty members, participated in the Bonzer/Outback 5K and 1-mile Fun Run to help benefit the WE Foundation. Along with benefiting a national charity, students and faculty made themselves 'better' by fighting obesity.

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#### Today's Weather



Sunny, 63/39



## County unemployment rate falls

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Davidson County's unemployment rate fell last month as it appears more jobs are becoming available.

Statistics released Friday by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina show that Davidson County's unemployment rate dropped to 10.8 percent in September, which is down from 11.6 percent and continues a recent pattern that has seen the number fall steadily since March. The unemployment rate decreased in 97 of the state's 100 counties.

"Unemployment rates decrease in nearly every county," ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes said. "Economic challenges continue to impact communities across North Carolina. We still have more than

'... Our staff continues to step up the effort to find work for job seekers.'

— Lynn Holmes  
ESC Chairman

a third of the state's counties with over 10 percent unemployment. Throughout our offices statewide, our staff continues to step up the effort to find work for job seekers and assist those qualify for benefits."

While Davidson County's labor force shrank by 23, a result of people exhausting their unemployment benefits, the number of employed workers rose by 73 and

the number of unemployed went down by 97 to 1,285. Thomasville's labor force, however, increased by 24 with the number of people employed increasing by 462. The amount of unemployed Chair City workers also dropped by 438.

"It's positive news," said Karen Michael, assistant manager of the ESC office in Lexington. "We're pretty much in line with the rest of the counties across the state and that's encouraging. From what we're hearing from other government offices is that the economy is improving. We're glad to the rate continue to drop."

Michael pointed out that the Lexington office currently has several job openings throughout the area, and wants to remind people that the ESC is there to

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### 2010 ELECTION

#### Coble, Turner battle for District 6 seat

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Seeking his 14th term representing U.S. House District 6, Rep. Howard Coble (D-NC) faces independent Democrat challenger Sam Turner in Tuesday's election.

Serving the district for 26 years, Coble, 79, of Greensboro, pits his legislative experience against the 49-year-old Turner, of Salisbury, who has no previous stints in political office.

Coble hopes to return to Washington ready to reverse the nation into a different direction than it has been headed under a previously Democratic Congress. In opposition of the stimulus packages, Coble will seek to implement more sensible business regulations and formulate partnerships between businesses and government.

"He thinks government has gotten too big and Washington spends too much," said spokesman Ed McDonald. "His idea to improve the economic climate is to come up with a saner business and regulatory system that will allow businesses to flourish."

Turner, a conservative Republican, says that in the context of a government as restricted



Coble



Turner

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I AM A BUSY MOM, STYLIST, PET LOVER, SPORTS FAN. I AM A SURVIVOR

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