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Second time a charm for Brown in District 81

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

A Republican tidal wave swept across the nation Tuesday evening, and Davidson County was no exception.

Republican Rayne Brown defeated incumbent Hugh Holliman for the North Carolina House District 81 seat, ousting a man who had served the district for five terms and was a House majority leader.

Brown garnered 57.60

percent of votes cast compared to Holliman's 42.40 percent — an unexpectedly wide margin even given the anti-Democrat sentiment nationwide.

"I'm still trying to fathom what happened Tuesday," said Davidson County Republican Chair Lance Barrett, who gathered at the J. Smith Young YMCA in Lexington with Brown and other Republican supporters to watch the results come in. "When I saw the numbers coming up, we were

just walking around pointing at the screen. We were just looking at the screen looking at each other with our mouths open."

Brown garnered 8,688 votes in the General Election, while Holliman only managed 6,395. That more than 2,200-vote margin was almost 1,000



Brown



Holliman

12,972 votes to Brown's 11,592.

In the 2008 election, Brown was a political newcomer and Holliman faced a challenger for the first time in two election

cycles.

And victory this time around sure tasted sweet for the Republican Party.

"It was the end of a successful season," Barrett said. "We were hoping to do a clean sweep, and we did. However, I was surprised by the margins. I didn't expect the margins to be as big as they were. It's probably historical in this county for the margins to be that big."

The main reason for the gap was simple, Barrett said — the widespread

discontent with the party now controlling the White House.

"Looking back on it now a day later, seeing what I'm seeing across the state and country, it was just a bigger wave than anyone saw coming," Barrett said. "A lot of this was directed toward Washington. Local Democrats that got wiped out, they owe it to what's going on in the White House. I think the local

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Grice pulls votes from both sides of the aisle

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Davidson County Sheriff David Grice is taking all the fun out of the election process.

For the second time this year, Grice scored a decisive victory at the polls, but this one really counted as

the incumbent Republican sheriff retained his job following a resounding win over Democratic challenger Tommy Evans. Grice garnered 76 percent of the turnout Tuesday night in outgaining Evans 31,368 votes to 9,580.

"I'm extremely proud of the confidence that

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Grice



TIMES PHOTO/LISA WALL

From left, Cooperative Community Ministry Director Aurelia Sink, Barbara Price, Margaret Cranford and Robin Beck work to unpack some items in the food pantry.

The Perfect Gift

Local woman proves it's better to give than receive

BY LISA WALL
Editor

Eleanor Bradford has seen her share of birthdays. So, when her four daughters asked what she wanted for her 90th birthday on Oct. 25 of this year, "Ms. Ellie," as she's affectionately known, had something in mind other than presents.

"She said, 'I don't need anything, but if you want to do something then I'd like to give back to the community that has given so much to me,'" recalled daughter Margaret Szeliga, who lives in Keswick, Va.

Instead of presents, Bradford asked for her family to use the money to make a food donation to Cooperative Community Ministry — a request they gladly embraced.

In fact, their mother's gesture on generosity came as no surprise.

'She has always wanted to lend a helping hand if she could and was always thankful for what she does have.'

— Margaret Szeliga

"She has always wanted to lend a helping hand if she could and was always thankful for what she does have," Szeliga said. "It was a life lesson that her and my father instilled in us from a young age — that it's better to give than to receive. Lending a helping hand to a neighbor is just something that has always been at forefront of how she raised us and of how she's lived her life."

"What we were so touched

with is that at 90 years old, she is so aware of the true meaning of life. It was so typical of her to say I don't need anything so let's help someone less fortunate. We all thought it was a great idea and not unusual of her to think beyond herself."

Daughters Debbie Everhart of Thomasville, Barbara Jones of Walkertown, and Lea Sedier of Edwin, Okla., along with Bradford's five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a niece, then collected nearly 400 items and delivered them to the ministry.

"It was kind of fun because we put together items that could make a meal out of, such as pasta and sauces, a vegetable and a fruit," Szeliga said.

For CCM, Bradford's act of good will couldn't have come at a better time.

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Results leave no room for bipartisan politics

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Davidson County certainly bled red Tuesday night as local election results rolled in favoring the Grand Old Party.

Though not a surprising turn of events that the four Republican candidates for County Commissioner won the four open spots, the margin of victory across the board of Republicans over Democrats was staggering.

"It kind of went like all the posters said it was going to, didn't it?" said incumbent Republican Sam Watford. "I was very pleased. I think the people have definitely spoken."

Incumbent Billy Joe Kepley sat top of the pack with 18.04 percent of the votes. Newcomer Todd Yates came in second with 17.94 percent, and incumbents Don Truell and Watford took the last two open spots with 17.59 percent and 17.62 percent, respectively.

"I was pleasantly surprised that I won reelection," Kepley said. "I was impressed very much by



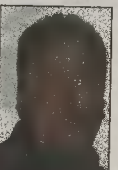
Kepley



Watford



Truell



Yates

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Today's Weather



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