



BUSINESS
 Tammy Holyfield discusses how to proceed when business strategies fail.
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THOMASVILLE TIMES



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Suspect in BB&T bank robbery sought

BY ELIOT DUKE
 Staff Writer

A bank robbery at the BB&T on National Highway Friday afternoon forced police to put Thomasville High School and Thomasville Middle School on lockdown while authorities searched for the suspect.

According to a Thomasville Police Department press release, a black male between 6'0" and 6'3" with a dark complexion, weighing approximately 160 pounds, wearing a purple cap, navy winter

jacket and sunglasses, entered the BB&T located at 521 National Highway around 12:45 p.m. Friday afternoon. Video surveillance shows the man noting the bank teller a note demanding money. The suspect left with an undisclosed amount of cash and was last seen walking south on National Highway.

"I don't think any weapons were displayed," Det. Lt. Kim Sebastian said. "People last saw him walking out the door and heading down National Highway. No one really got a good look at him

when he was leaving. We're hoping someone will recognize him and be able to give us some information. We've been out talking to people in the area since we cleared the scene. We've got pictures out to our officers as to what to maybe look for."

Shortly before 1 p.m., police informed both THS and TMS that a man suspected of robbing the bank was last seen in the area and that it was in the best interest of both schools to go into lockdown while officers canvassed the area.

"[Police] were trying to track him down and locked down the school just as a precaution until the chief gave us the all clear," said THS principal Deboey Beamon. "They didn't know where he was and they wanted to make sure he couldn't get into the school if he came this way. Everything was normal and we were safe."

Beamon said teachers went into a Code Red lockdown, which calls for all external and classroom doors to be locked and window blinds closed.



COURTESY PHOTO
 Video images from BB&T bank on National Highway show a man who robbed the bank Friday afternoon.

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DCSO arrests 3 for sexual assaults of children

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Davidson County Sheriff's Office arrested a Thomasville man Wednesday for sexually assaulting a child.



According to a DCSO press release, Jerry Wayne Hickman Jr., 29, of 801 Lot 2 Lower Lake Road, was arrested and charged with two counts of first degree sex offense with a child. DCSO received a report regarding a sexual assault on a child on Oct. 19 and began an investigation. Detectives allege that Hickman did sexu-

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TIMES PHOTO/FRANK RAUCCIO

BATTLE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS

Thomasville halfback Quin Riley escapes tackles and runs in for a touchdown during the first half of the Bulldogs rivalry game against Lexington. The Bulldogs would avenge last years loss, winning 13-6. See game story, Page B1.

County incumbents prevail in election

BY ERIN WILTGEN
 Staff Writer

Incumbents ruled the day in Davidson County Tuesday.

Despite an anti-incumbent and anti-Democrat sentiment that spread across the nation, all three national races that county citizens voted on saw current legislators voted back into office. Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) triumphed in the Senate race, Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC) won the U.S. House District 6 race and Mel Watt (D-NC) prevailed in the U.S. House District 12 race.

"I was pleased that all the Republican incumbents did well," said Lance Barrett, chair of the

Davidson County Republican Party. "It was just a tough, tough year to run as a Democrat."

The Senate race ran closest, as expected. Incumbent Republican Burr took 54.92 percent of the votes state-wide, while Democrat challenger Elaine Marshall won 42.94 percent. Libertarian candidate Michael Beidler captured 2.09 percent.

"Everyone thought Burr would win, we just weren't sure of the margin," Barrett said. "I was still expecting him to win by more than he did. I was expecting more of a 58 to 42 type thing, but 12 points in a state-wide election, that's substantial."

In Davidson County, the race

wasn't quite as tight. Burr collected 70.71 percent of the votes to Marshall's 26.92 percent.

But Marshall did give her Republican counterpart a run for his money.

"If you look at the raw numbers, Elaine Marshall did pretty well," Barrett said, noting that Marshall gathered about 1.13 million ballots while Burr won around 1.45 million.

In the U.S. House contests, races didn't come quite as close to the wire. Republican incumbent Howard Coble beat Democratic challenger Sam Turner 75.31 percent to 24.69 percent statewide.

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Plant closing could bring furniture jobs to Thomasville

BY ELIOT DUKE
 Staff Writer

Furniture Brands International (FBI), the parent company of Thomasville Furniture Industries, announced this week that it's closing its plant in Appomattox, Va., in a move that could bring jobs to the Chair City.

John Hastings, a FBI spokesperson, said the company is shutting down its 800,000-square-foot facility in Appomattox and will be laying off the nearly 200 employees who currently work there. While some of the work from the facility is expected to be sent overseas, Hastings said FBI's Plant C could be receiving the orders that stay in the United States.

"It could, but we're not quite sure yet," Hastings said. "There could be some of the production from Appomattox come to Thomasville. We haven't decided and we're still looking at those options. Certainly, that's a possibility but I can't really comment anymore than that."

FBI makes two types of furniture at its Appomattox facility — ready-to-assemble furniture and a laminant-covered product used primarily by the hospitality industry. The ready-to-assemble furniture is expected to be outsourced to either Asia or Latin America.

"We're not going to make that in the U.S. anymore," said Hastings. "We're going to source that from third-party manufacturers. We're not sure yet and we want to use more than just one company. We'll find the

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Today's Weather



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