



John Henson and the Tar Heels take down Kentucky.

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THOMASVILLE TIMES

Lifelong Health

Dr. David Lipschitz talks nutrition in his weekly column. See Column, Page 3

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TPD issues hundreds of charges in raid

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Thomasville Police Department raided a local club late Friday night, resulting in more than a dozen arrests and hundreds of charges.

According to a TPD press release, officers arrested 18 individuals and issued 396 charges following a sting at La Estrallas Night Club, located at 802 Midland Ave., Friday night, where police allege numerous drug violations were taking place.

TPD has yet to release the names of all the suspects arrested, but police reports state Eladio Ornelas-Miranda, the club's 49-year-old owner, is charged with one count of maintaining a dwelling for a controlled substance. Alicia Pacheco Munoz, 28, and Rosaura Garcia Martinez, 47, also are charged with maintaining a dwelling or vehicle for a controlled substance. Corey Michael Fain, 21, and Carmen Gonzalez, 43, are charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Gonzalez, Carla Denise Keiffer, 50, and Kevin Jermaine Cooper, 21, are charged with selling or delivering a controlled substance.

"[The investigation] had been going on since September," Capt. Darren Smith said. "We got information from people who got arrested. They would start telling us about things going on at that bar. When someone gets arrested and they want to alleviate some of their problems, they'll give information. It kind

of originated that way. This was solely based on drug violations."

Leading up to the raid, TPD received numerous calls for service on and around La Estrallas Night Club for violations such as vandalism, fighting, sale of alcohol to a minor, shots fired and warrants served, prompting an investigation by undercover officers, who attempted to purchase drugs inside the establishment.



TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

Several suspects were held by the Thomasville Police Department for questioning after the raid.

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Driver charged with hit and run

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Thomasville Police Department investigated a hit-and-run accident on National Highway in which left a utility pole split in half and an outburst of small grass fires.

Thomasville Fire Department, which was already responding to a fire nearby, received the call Monday afternoon. A 30-foot truck clipped a pole in front of the Thomasville Inn, at 407 National Highway, according to passerby accounts.

"The driver was going northbound and failed to see a utility pole," said TPD Sgt. J. Elgin. "The driver struck the pole on the right side."

Elgin says the driver didn't stop, but continued on to two other sites before being spotted by a patrol officer. The driver was then brought back

to the scene.

"The driver is charged with failure to remain at the scene, basically a hit-and-run," Elgin said.

Elgin says the driver's name could not be released due to a pending investigation. Duke Power came out to the site to check the lines.

After being struck, the utility pole tugged on a power line across the street, which set the brush in an abandoned lot on fire.

"We still have power on this block, which is good," Elgin said. "When the line hit the ground, it ignited the grass. That's why the fire department's here. But you have to cut the power off before you can put water on it."

Elgin says the accident caused about \$4,000 in damage and would take about three hours to fix. Police and firefighters



TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

A chunk of a pole is missing on Monday after a truck struck it and left the scene on National Highway.

See RUN, Page 4

Watford to chair County Board

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON — Davidson County Board of Commissioners officially kicked off its new regime Monday as it swore in its new members at an 8 a.m. ceremony.

Newcomer Todd Yates took his oath separately from incumbent winners Billy Joe Kepley, Sam Watford and Don Truell, who swore in as a group. Register of Deeds David Rickard also took his oath at the meeting.

Commissioners then voted to appoint a chair and vice chair.

Kepley and Watford were appointed for chair — Watford won narrowly with a 4-3 majority.

"We thought Max [Waller, former chair] had run off with the gavel," Watford joked. "Thank you for your support."

Commissioners Larry Potts and Cathy Dunn were nominated for vice chair. Potts won, again by a close 4-3 vote.

Watford has been nominated three or four times before for commission chair and served as vice chair during his last term.

"This is the first opportunity that I've ever had to serve as chair," Watford said, adding that while he knew he would receive a nomination, the chances of an actual appointment seemed up in the air. "You never know, you really don't."

Watford says he will follow the trend of previous boards, focusing on job creation as the local and national economy struggles to recover.

"The whole time I've served on the board, that's been a No. 1 priority," said Watford, currently beginning his third term. "And it's going to continue to be."

With the addition of Yates, the board now boasts five members who daylight as small busi-

'This is the first opportunity that I've ever had to serve as chair ... You never know, you really don't.'

— Sam Watford
DC Board Chair

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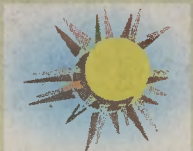
TIMES PHOTO/ERIN WILTGEN

Commissioners (from left) Don Truell, Sam Watford, Billy Joe Kepley swear in for the new term.

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Today's Weather



Sunny, 36/19



Weekend wreck leaves Chair City man, Trinity woman dead

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

A traffic accident apparently caused by Saturday's snowstorm claimed the life of a Thomasville man and a Trinity woman.

Greg Ingram, a traffic safety information officer with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, said on Monday that Joseph Beeson, 35, of Thomasville, and Kimberly Dawn Stanford, 38, of Trinity, died at the scene Saturday afternoon when their vehicle hit an ice patch in the road, slid into oncoming traffic and was struck by another car on East Fork Road, west of Jamestown. Stanford's 6-year-old daughter, Leigh, also was injured in the wreck and is listed in critical condition at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. The driver of the other vehicle was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

"There were icy conditions, and it's no doubt it was part of the wreck," Ingram said. "There was a little bit of ice or something in the roadway and the vehicle went left of center sideways and the other vehicle was oncoming and hit them in the door."

According to Ingram, Beeson was traveling west on East Fork Road around 3:30 p.m. Saturday in snowy conditions when he drove across an apparent ice patch, causing his truck to swerve sideways in a curve. Vehicle two, described as a Mazda, was traveling east on East Fork Road and attempted to move onto the right shoulder in order to avoid Beeson. Ingram said Beeson had lost control of his truck and went left of the centerline where the vehicle was struck in the driver's side door. The cause of the wreck is still under investigation.

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