



**BUSINESS**  
Marilyn Taylor continues her series on Wellness in the Workplace. See Page 3

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## County BOE installs chair, welcomes new member

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

Davidson County Board of Education welcomed its new member and elected new leadership at its meeting Monday.

Clerk of Superior Court Brian Shipwash gave the oath of service to re-elected member Carol Crouse and Jeanie Leonard, who is new to the board. Members then elected Crouse as the new chair, the position formerly held by Allan Thompson, and Alan Beck as vice chair, replacing Crouse.

Chair and vice chair hold their positions for one year before a new vote is held.

"I was very honored and very surprised, very taken-aback," said Crouse, who has served on the board since 2002. "I feel very overwhelmed at the confidence of my colleagues."

The original vote came out 2-2-1 — two votes for Thompson, two for Crouse and one for an unknown person. Members voted by closed ballot and weren't told the name of the un-nominated vote-getter. A re-vote was held, and the final total came to 3-2 in favor of Crouse.

"This is going to be a learning experience for me," she said. "As vice chair, there were certain responsibilities, but the chair position is a unique one, and I have much to learn. Going right along with our system's vision of being lifelong learners, I'm going to be a year-long learner in figuring out what this is all about."

The same rare voting pattern occurred in the

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Master Police Officer Brandon Widener kneels next to the police memorial in front of Thomasville Police Department, which now bears his grandfather's name.

TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

## ETCHED IN STONE

*Police Memorial now honors fallen officer of years past*

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Brandon Widener always wondered why his grandfather's name wasn't on the Thomasville Police Department memorial for officers who died in the line of duty.

Sgt. Fred Charles Boyd died on July 8, 1960, from a massive heart attack while transporting a prisoner to Lexington, yet his name was not listed anywhere on the memorial in front of TPD headquarters.

Until now, TPD Chief Jeff Insley decided to include Boyd's name on the memorial because the officer was in the line of the duty at the time of his death.

"The family is just ecstatic," Widener, a master police officer who joined TPD in 2001, said. "This is about 50 years overdue and I couldn't be happier about it. It's great and cool to have a

little legacy going on."

Widener said he approached Maj. James Mills about his uncle death's, but wasn't sure if it met the criteria of other officers

**'This is about 50 years overdue and I couldn't be happier about it.'**

— Brandon Widener  
TPD Master Police Officer

listed on the memorial who were killed in the line of duty.

"When you think about killed in the line of duty, it usually means being shot or being in a car accident," said Widener. "[Boyd] had a heart attack, but he was in uniform and in the line of performing one of his du-

ties."

Mills agreed and took the idea to Insley. Boyd's name is now the first listed on the back of the memorial under the title "Died or killed while in performance of their duty."

"Chief Insley felt his name should be added to the statue," Mills said. "Sgt. Boyd didn't meet a violent death like murder but he was in uniform. We knew other departments recognized officers who died like this. Once we had sufficient proof that this happened, [Insley] decided to add his name."

While researching Boyd's death, Mills also found a few other inaccuracies related to the memorial. With the help of local historian Chris Yarborough, Mills discovered that Chief J.E. Taylor, who reportedly died on April 6, 1921, after suffering a heart attack while installing sur-

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## TCS to revisit academic requirement for athletes

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Schools Superintendent Keith Tobin is creating a committee to determine whether or not the school system should raise academic requirements for athletes.

During Tuesday night's monthly board of education meeting, Marty Hogan, a correctional case manager at the Davidson County Correctional Center whose son is a freshman at Thomasville High School, addressed board members regarding his concerns about academic requirements for students who participate in sports. North Carolina High School Athletic Association standards require a student playing sports to pass just three of four classes in order to be eligible.

"What kind of attitude is just making Ds in order to play?" Hogan asked. "I don't see it. Coaches have to get it in their mind that education comes first. They're not there to just play sports. Let's get real. [TCS] says they're preparing students for the 21st Century, so they need to do that in all phases of education, including athletics. It's time for this to stop."

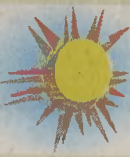
Hogan said he became concerned of academic playing requirements once he saw his son's grades, prompting him to do a little homework on just what it takes to play sports in Thomasville. Hogan played football at Fayetteville State University in the late 1980s and said his family provided

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#### Today's Weather



Sunny, 41/23



## Uptown window display brings back memories of old

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

They sat — half-forgotten — in an attic, paint chipping and hinges rusting, perhaps frosted with a fine layer of dust. For 15 or so long years, the old Christmas decorations that once filled the Belk storefront in downtown Thomasville huddled tucked away, waiting for another chance to dazzle passersby with holiday magic.

And they haven't waited in vain.

Thomasville Beautification Committee obtained, repaired and set up the window decorations used

by Belk before it closed, completing the finishing touches on Wednesday, Nov. 24. The animated characters, which are currently displayed in the old Roses Stores building on Main Street, are set on a timer to run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will stay up through Jan. 1, 2011.

"It gave a little up to downtown," said Beautification Chair Carol Brown. "We just felt like they would bring something to downtown as far as looks and put you in the Christmas spirit, too."

The committee discovered the old decorations

in the attic of former Thomasville Mayor Hubert Leonard, who bought them from a former Belk employee.

"I didn't even know that he had owned them until someone mentioned that they had been in storage all this time," Brown said. "They still have that old look about them."

After gathering the decorations, the committee searched for a location to display them. The old Roses building, which has been vacant for a few months, seemed the most ideal spot due to its long storefront.

City Council member Raleigh York, who also



TIMES PHOTO/LISA WALL

City Beautification members and volunteers worked to revitalize the Christmas decorations from the old Belk store in downtown.

serves as the council representative to the Beautification Committee, contacted the building's owner asking to use the space. Permission was granted, and the volunteers set to work.

"The front of the building — it's an empty building — doesn't look very good," York said, adding that one idea behind the decorations is to give

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