



## WINTER MOVIES

'The Wolf Man' is among the offerings at movie theaters through March.

GET OUT, 10B

## NO CHANGE FOR THOMAS MEDIA AFTER PARENT COMPANY BANKRUPTCY

BUSINESS, 7A

## TIGERS BASKETBALL

Find the results of the men's Memphis vs. East Carolina game.

SPORTS, 1B



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# The Jackson Sun

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# Locals barely miss Haiti quake

## Missionary group from Henderson left Port-au-Prince day before destruction

By TRACIE SIMER  
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When a group of 18 people from Henderson flew out of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Monday morning, they had no idea that by the time they arrived home the next day, the city they left would be flattened by an earthquake.

On Wednesday, millions of

Haitians began recovery after a 7.0-magnitude quake hit the area Tuesday. Authorities estimate hundreds of thousands of people are dead, and the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods have crumbled, according to The Associated Press.

Jesse Robertson returned from a mission trip to Haiti's capital less than 24 hours before the quake hit. Robertson is a minister at Estes Church of Christ and a professor at Freed-Hardeman University.

An orphanage in Port-au-Prince that receives support from Church of Christ churches was the team's destination, Robertson said. While there, the group led Bible studies, did street

evangelism and did some construction work on a new building.

There are about 30 children at the home, ranging in age from infant to young adult, Robertson said.

"We got an e-mail from them, saying all were fine except one child who was killed when a wall fell in on him," he said. "He was 15 years old."

Please see HAITI, 4A

### Inside

Read about Union University athletes with ties to Haiti on page 1B. Find coverage of the earthquake's aftermath on page 8A.

### Contact us

The Jackson Sun wants to hear from any groups, churches or organizations that are preparing to head to Haiti for relief efforts.

If you have any information, e-mail religion and health reporter Tracie Simer at [tsimer@jacksonsun.com](mailto:tsimer@jacksonsun.com), or call her at 425-9629.

# Keeping Carroll Academy



Photos by AARON HARDIN/The Jackson Sun

Security Supervisor Patrick Steele, left, has three students volunteer Jan. 6 to demonstrate 'standing write-offs' at Carroll Academy. Carroll Academy has a no-corporal-punishment policy. If the state grant for the academy is not reinstated, officials say it's likely the school will have to close sometime after June 30.

## Officials at school for at-risk youth await state funding to save school

By NED B. HUNTER  
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Officials at a Carroll County school that keeps at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system hope the state's General Assembly will restore the school's state funding during its special session this month.

Carroll Academy officials learned in a letter from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services that the academy would lose its nearly \$650,000 in state funding for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. If the state grant for the academy is not reinstated, officials say it's likely the school will have to close sometime after June 30.

Carroll Academy is a school for at-risk youth who likely would have to go into the state's juvenile justice system if the academy did not exist, said Randy Hatch, Juvenile Court/Carroll Academy senior administrator. Hatch is an employee of Carroll County,

"In the two years before the academy opened, I committed 80 kids into state custody. Since its opening, I have committed less than 10."

Larry Logan,  
General Sessions and Juvenile Court  
judge in Carroll County

not the academy. He said students are sent to the academy after committing nonviolent acts, such as truancy or bringing drugs onto a zero-tolerance school campus.

"They are kids that have fallen through the cracks," Hatch said.

The academy has taught nearly 3,000 at-risk students since it opened in 1994. The Huntingdon-based school currently has around 75 students.



Charles Lee talks about different cultural burial practices Jan. 6 during his world history class at Carroll Academy.

Losing the academy would mean hundreds more young people would be entered into the juvenile justice system during the coming decade, said Larry Logan, General Sessions and Juvenile Court judge in Carroll County.

"In the two years before the academy opened, I committed 80 kids into state custody," he said. "Since its opening, I have committed less than 10."

Carroll Academy graduated 12 students with high school diplomas in 2008, Hatch said,

and an additional 40 received their GEDs. He said the academy has an average 90 percent pass rate for those taking the GED.

Logan said the academy is effective partially because it forces parents to become involved in their children's lives.

"If a child has to do detention on a Friday night, the parents have to sit with them," he said. "They have learned how

Please see CARROLL, 2A

# 11-year-old testifies in murder trial

## Ramos was extradited from Mexico to face '04 charges

By MARIANN MARTIN  
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BOLIVAR — When a passerby found the 5-year-old son of Mary Graves in the middle of the road, the little boy said, "My daddy just killed my mama. She is in the yard."

Leo Dodd, the man who picked up the boy, testified in Hardeman County Circuit Court Wednesday during the first-degree murder trial of Jose Luiz Vizcaino-Ramos, 34.

Dodd said he was driving along U.S. 64 in Hardeman County shortly before dark on Mar. 6, 2004, when he saw a little boy in the middle of the road. After he stopped to pick him up, Dodd said he recognized him as Christian Graves, because he knew Mary Graves and her son.

Wednesday was the first day of a trial that is being held almost six years after 23-year-old Mary Graves was shot six times in front of her home between Bolivar and Hornsby.

Please see TRIAL, 2A

# Governor, teachers union agree on testing

## Bredesen's proposal clears first major legislative hurdle

By ERIK SCHELZIG  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE — Gov. Phil Bredesen's proposal to require up to half of teacher evaluations and tenure decisions be based on student testing scores cleared its first major legislative hurdle Wednesday.

The Senate Education Committee voted 12-0, with one abstention, to advance the proposal the Democratic governor argues is key to Tennessee's chances of landing \$485 million in federal

"Race to the Top" money.

Tennessee currently uses no testing data to evaluate teachers.

The Tennessee Education Association, which represents 55,000 teachers and other educators in the state, had originally held out for using only up to 35 percent of student testing scores.

Under an agreement struck Wednesday, 35 percent of evaluations will be based on value-added scores that track students' progress on

Please see TEACHERS, 2A

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### Community Calendar

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to do or planning an event for your organization. Scroll over the "Home" tab at the top left of [jacksonsun.com](http://jacksonsun.com) and click "Community Calendar."

Add events 24 hours a day online or e-mail information to [calendar@jacksonsun.com](mailto:calendar@jacksonsun.com). Call Carol Dix at (731) 425-9603 for more information.

### The Jackson Sun VALUE FACT

We keep you connected to your community.

## TODAY'S WEATHER

CLOUDY

HIGH: 50°

LOW: 33°

WEATHER, 10A



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