

Early...from Page 1A

Anthony Robinson are running to fill the seat left vacant by the retirement of U.S. Sen. Chambliss.

John Barge and David Pennington seek to unseat Gov. Nathan Deal in the GOP Primary. Jason Carter is unopposed in the governor's race on the Democratic ballot.

Republican Casey Cagle is unchallenged in the race for Lieutenant Governor in the GOP Primary and he'll face Democrat Connie Stokes in November.

Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp, Attorney General Samuel S. Olens, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens, Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, Public Service Commissioner Herman "Doug" Everett, District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, and Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley, are running unopposed in the GOP Primary.

Gregory "Greg" Hecht

for Attorney General, Christopher James Irvin for Commissioner of Agriculture, Daniel A. Blackman for Public Service Commissioner, and 9th District U.S. Representative candidate David D. Vogel are unopposed on the Democratic ticket.

On the Democratic ballot for Secretary of State, Gerald Beckum and Doreen Carter vie for a spot in the November General Election along with Keith G. Heard and Elizabeth "Liz" Johnson in the race for state Insurance Commissioner.

Public Service Commissioner Incumbent Lauren "Bubba" McDonald faces opposition from Douglas Kidd and Charles "Craig" Lutz in the GOP Primary.

And 9th District U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, a Gainesville Republican, faces opposition from Suches Republican Bernard "Bernie" Fontaine.

The race for Georgia School Superintendent fea-

tures nine GOP candidates, Sharyl H. Dawes, Mary Kay Bacallao, Ashley Bell, Mike Buck, Allen Bowles Fort, Nancy T. Jester, Fitz Johnson, Kira Willis and Richard Woods are vying for a November spot in the General Election.

On the Democratic ballot for Georgia School Superintendent Tarnisha Dent, Marion Spencer "Denise" Freeman, Jurita Forehand Mays, Alisha Thomas Morgan, R. "Rita" Robinzine, and Valarie D. Wilson seek the state's top education post.

In the Nonpartisan races for judgeships, Georgia Supreme Court justices Robert Benham, Keith R. Blackwell, and P. Harris Hines are unopposed. Georgia Court of Appeals judges Gary B. Andrews, Elizabeth "Lisa" Branch, Sara L. Doyle, Carla W. McMillian, and William M. Ray are unopposed. In the Enotah Judicial Circuit judges Raymond E. George and

N. Stanley Gunter are unopposed.

The Democratic Party ballot will feature four yes and no straw poll questions. The first asks should Georgia raise the state minimum wage above the current "\$5.15" an hour. The second asks: "should Georgia's federal tax dollars be returned to Georgia to fund Medicaid expansion and relieve the indigent care burden on our hospitals?"

Question three asks: "should the Constitution of Georgia be amended to create an independent ethics commission not tied to the Governor's office, legislature, or other elected office, to more effectively police potential ethics violations by elected officials?"

Finally, question four asks: "should the State Constitution be amended to make the education budget Georgia's first funding priority?"

Black Hawk...from Page 1A

Hawk Down.

Thomas remembers the day as one when teamwork meant saving lives.

Thomas, a U.S. Army Ranger, was a member of Task Force Ranger as a part of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

A main objective of the Task Force was to capture the elusive Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

Thomas and fellow Task Force members were involved in the First Battle of Mogadishu that later of course, was immortalized in the book and movie *Black Hawk Down*, for which Thomas was a consultant.

Thomas was in Union County on Friday, speaking to Union County High School students about his experience on Oct. 3, 1993 and life afterward.

Black Hawk Down is the story of two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters shot down in a raid to capture Aidid.

What was targeted as a one-hour operation, turned

into 18 harrowing hours of trying to rescue the crews of the two-downed U.S. helicopters.

Eighteen U.S. troops died during the conflict; 80 were wounded.

Thomas, now a Nashville recording artist, and motivational speaker, conveyed a personal message on Friday that "we" is more important than "me."

Black Hawk Down is a story of inspiration and perseverance of U.S. troops fighting to save each other from a fatal fate.

"People are counting on you," Thomas said. "Never sell yourself short."

The events of Oct. 3 and Oct. 4, 1993 were all about working together as a unit to get everyone safely home.

"It was about getting each other out of there alive. You depend on the person to your left and on your right," said Thomas, a survivor of that military expedition. "We had to have each other's back

or we don't get out of there alive."

The movie *Black Hawk Down* was fairly accurate to the accounts that the U.S. Army Ranger forces experienced.

"There were parts of the movie that didn't reflect the events, but there were a lot of parts of the movie that did. Hollywood did it justice.

"You don't think of it as a movie, because it really happened," Thomas said. "I really don't watch the movie anymore because I don't want to get my memories confused with the motion picture."

Today, Thomas recounts his personal story of triumph at schools, churches and with other groups across America.

"It's a good thing," he said, referring to sharing his story. "Some get it, others don't. My main goal is to help motivate people and help give them the confidence that they can overcome extreme obstacles in life."

Workforce...from Page 1A

a lot on the mountain counties. We're able to give a lot of one-on-one attention with the mobile unit. We're excited to give that individual attention."

The Jobs bus is equipped with video technology, computer stations, and a teacher station to conduct training sessions.

They're used in each of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's 13 counties, including Union and Towns counties, to provide a resource for the unemployed and the underemployed to access needed technology in their pursuit of employment.

The mobile jobs buses visit libraries, technical colleges, local schools, public housing, veteran's events, and other locations where the services are requested, Thomas said.

"Our biggest service is helping prepare resumes," Thomas said. "If you've never prepared one, we'll help you write a resume."

The vehicles also are available at job fairs allowing job seekers a place to search for job openings and submit resumes and applications.

"We're here, once or twice a month, or as often as necessary," Thomas said. "We're also able to help connect job seekers with jobs through the Georgia Department of Labor."

The jobs bus also is capable of conducting testing for individuals, such as the TABE, and instructing clients on using skill-enhancing software like the Mavis Beacon Typing Test and resume writing programs, Thomas said.

The training units also are used in Rapid Response scenarios to provide a convenient place for employees to access unemployment insurance and search for future employment.

Vehicles can be parked on site at business locations as needed to provide easy access, Thomas said.

The purpose of Workforce Development is to assist eligible youth and adults in the Georgia Mountains region with the educational and retraining skills necessary

to enter today's workforce, Thomas said.

Eligible individuals in need of training may receive financial support with tuition, books, required supplies and supportive services while enrolled in Occupational Skills Training. Middle and high school age students are also eligible to receive tutoring and GED assistance, Thomas

said.

Available programs include Adult and Dislocated Worker, On the Job Training, and Youth assistance.

Thomas asks locals to please contact Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Workforce Development at (770) 538-2727 for more details about the mobile training units.