

'A great day in Person County'

Eaton announces expansion that will create 120-plus new jobs

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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"It's a great day in Person County." That's how Economic Development Commission Chairman Jim Stovall began the Monday afternoon Eaton Corporation announcement that the company will invest \$23.3 million and add 120 jobs at its Roxboro plant over the next four years.

Glenn McLean, Roxboro Eaton plant manager said the day was exciting for him personally as well as professionally. The Stanley County native and N.C. State University graduate said he and Eaton were grateful for the support the City of Roxboro, Person Board of County Commissioners and the state offered to Eaton in its endeavor to bring about a project here that will help reduce emissions and reduce fuel consumption

in automobiles manufactured by the company's global customers.

McLean said that support, combined with Eaton's "talented employees" here, was a major factor in the decision to bring the project to Roxboro. "We have some of the best employees in the world," McLean said of his Roxboro team.

McLean said the plant was set to begin receiving equipment this week that would be used to make the location a "world class manufacturing facility."

He said the project meant, "We need to start hiring."

But, said McLean, "we won't hire all 120 [additional employees] immediately."

The positions will be added over two years, he said. There are 179 employees currently working in the Roxboro plant.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2011, Eaton Corporation is a diversified power management company with sales of \$13.7 billion in 2010.

Eaton has over 70,000 employees in 150 countries, with 3,400 of those employees in 12 locations throughout North Carolina.

The company has operated the plant in Roxboro since 1965. Over the years the facility has manufactured a variety of components for the automotive industry including tire valves and various engine components.

Today, the Roxboro plant is focused on manufacturing components for the next generation of cylinder deactivation and variable valvetrain systems that can help improve a vehicle's fuel economy and reduce emissions.

State Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, said, "This is important news for a rural community with high unemployment. Our top-notch workforce is attractive to companies that are looking

to invest in and expand their operations in our state."

"Last fall, I listened carefully to the campaign rhetoric in our area and across the state," Wilkins added Tuesday in a phone interview. "I heard some candidates refer to job creation incentives as 'corporate welfare.'

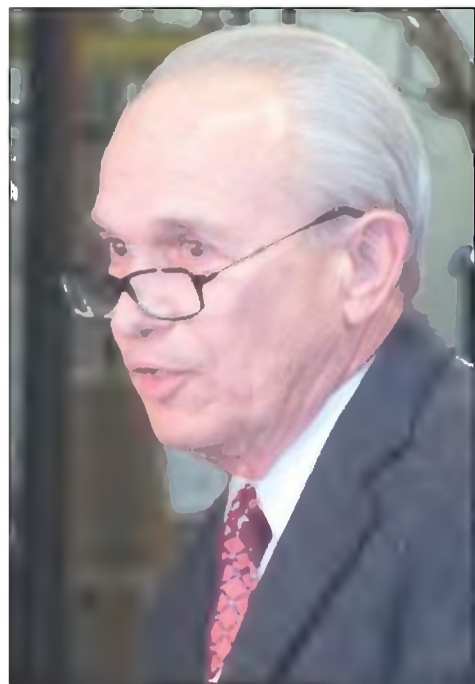
"I find that term to be very agitating," Wilkins continued. "What you can count on is that if we don't have incentives like One NC, like incentives from the Rural Center and Golden Leaf, then small counties like my home county have no chance to attract jobs, create jobs and

retain jobs."

"During these challenging economic times, I welcome this effort to expand business and bring jobs to Person County," said state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

To help facilitate the expansion, Eaton was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the state's One North Carolina Fund. This fund provides cash grants to attract business projects deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. No money is paid up front

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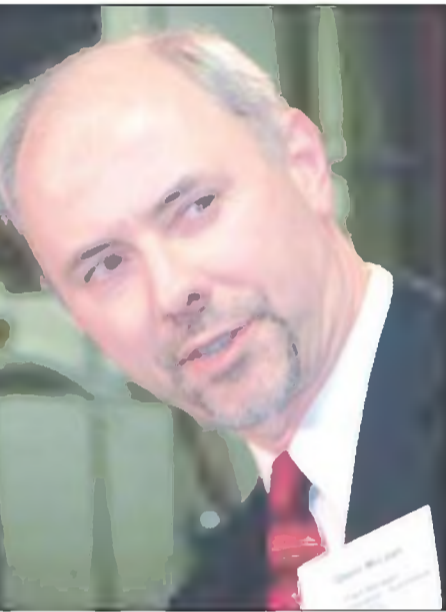


Jim Stovall



Tim Chandler / C-T

LISTENING IN — A host of Personians and current Eaton employees listened attentively Monday to news of an additional 120-plus jobs being added at Eaton's Roxboro facility on the Durham Road.



Glenn McLean



Photo by Progress Energy

TAKING A TOUR — Progress Energy employee Shaun Shotwell (back to camera) gives an overview of the Roxboro Plant control room to Drs. Shxiao Wang and Jiming Hao.

Chinese officials visit Progress Energy plant

Progress Energy's Roxboro Plant welcomed a delegation from China on Wednesday as part of an official visit to the United States to study methods of reducing emissions from power plants.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chose the coal-fired Roxboro Plant as an example for the Chinese delegation of a modern power plant operating with state-of-the-art emissions controls and good environmental

performance.

The three members of China's Ministry of Environmental Protection who visited the Roxboro Plant were: Dr. Jiming Hao,

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PCBOE approves update to 2011-12 calendar makeup schedule

Saturdays will be an option for making up days

By GREY PENTECOST
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The Person County Board of Education during its February meeting voted to approve an update to the 2011-12 school calendar's makeup schedule. The revised schedule lists Dec. 22, Jan. 3, Jan. 2, April 6, June 7, June 8, April 9 and April 10 as makeup days.

During discussion of the calendar board member Ronnie King suggested that the option of making up days on Saturday be indicated on the calendar, in an effort to reduce the amount of holiday and vacation days the schools would have to use as makeup days.

Person County Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner Cartner said there was a provision for that in the Person County Schools

administrative rules, and the following language was added to the calendar: "If instructional days are missed on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday due to inclement weather or other circumstances, the day may be made up on the Saturday immediately following the missed day, at the discretion of the superintendent."

Draft one of the calendar for the 2012-13 school year was also approved during last week's meeting. Schools and the public were surveyed on which of two drafts they preferred. Draft one had the most "yes" votes at 78.5 percent and the second draft received 21.5 percent positive votes.

During last week's meeting, the board voted to approve that PCS require technology instruction to be a part of the continuing education units (CEUs) teachers must earn to renew their

licenses.

PCS Human Resources Director Dan Holloman explained that 25 school representatives were appointed to a committee late last year to discuss developing the requirement. The committee members were surveyed, which led to the recommendation that as a local requirement, certified personnel renewing their licenses in June 2012 should have one CEU (10 contact hours) in technology as part of the 15 credits required by the state. It was also recommended that by 2014 and beyond, personnel should have two CEUs in technology.

Some board members were concerned with the availability of classes in which these credits would be offered, and suggested that the school system make all the required hours available

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Greg Phipps

C-T's Phipps claims NCPA sports coverage award

The Courier-Times garnered a second place award in the North Carolina Press Association's 2010 News, Editorial and Photojournalism Contest.

Greg Phipps, The C-T's sports editor, for over three years now, took second place honors for his sports coverage. The announcement was made last Thursday at the NCPA's annual awards ceremony.

The winning sports editions submitted by Phipps for judging were from Dec. 9, 2009 and Dec. 12, 2009.

Phipps began working at The C-T on April 30, 2007 and is responsible for all aspects of the publication's sports coverage.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Greg for all of the hard work and dedication he has brought to this newspaper,"

C-T editor Tim Chandler said. "He has earned the respect of coaches, athletes and sports fans in the county with his dedication to his profession."

"We are all very proud of Greg for bringing home this honor," Chandler added. "We have no doubt that Greg will likely contend for many more awards in the future."

Phipps said he was proud to earn this year's award and plans to continue to provide sound sports coverage for Personians.

"It's a nice feather in our cap but there's always room for improvement, and there are always things we can do better," said Phipps. "We'll continue to do our best to provide Person County with the best local sports coverage possible."

Phipps, who grew up in Massachusetts, earned a B.A. degree in English from Keene State College in Keene, N.H. in 1997.

He has also done graduate study in English literature and in education at Vermont College of the Union Institute, formerly Norwich University in Montpelier, Vt. and at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

He worked several years as a sports and news correspondent in Vermont for the Brattleboro Daily Reformer. He also served as sports editor for the Deerfield Valley News, an independent weekly, in West Dover Vt.

Prior to coming to Roxboro in 2007, Phipps covered sports for the weekly Topsail Voice in Hampstead, near Wilmington.

Before moving to North Carolina approximately nine years ago, Phipps taught conversational English in Japan and South Korea from 1999 to 2001.

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