

Be wary of online activity

■ Social networking sites can be fun, but also dangerous

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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Roxboro Police Chief Todd Boycher said this week that he would “counsel people that it’s not the best decision to share check-ins and check-outs on Facebook” or other social networking sites.

Boycher said the practice, which seems to be gaining popularity, should not be followed

“simply because it allows unsavory folks who may have access to your wall to know you’re in Myrtle Beach and your property is unoccupied.”

Boycher, who uses Facebook himself, said, “A lot of people simply put too much information out there” on social networking sites.

He said those who felt the need to contact friends while out of town should, “instead of posting on your wall, send a private

message or an e-mail. Wait until you return from your trip to post the whole thing” in a place where anyone may have access to the information.

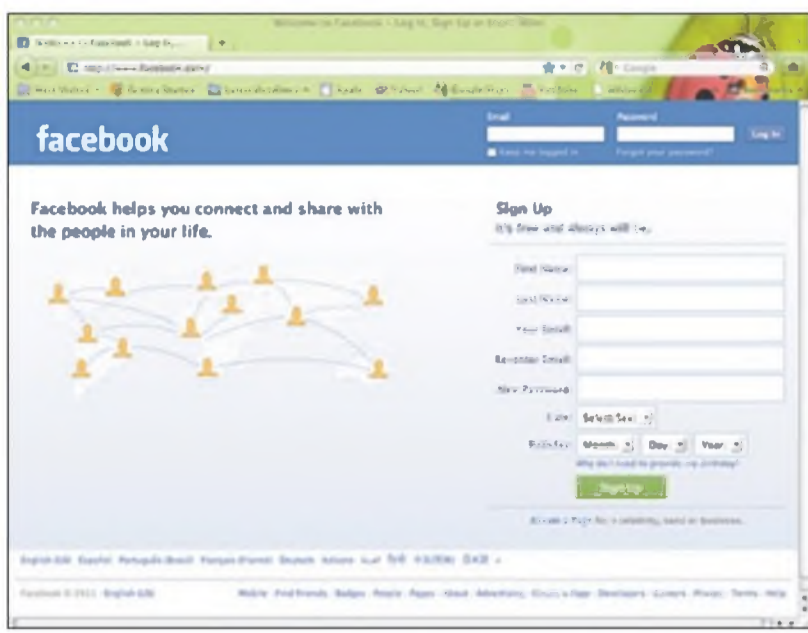
“It’s nice to keep up with folks, but the trade off is that the criminal element has unlimited resources to draw from because there is so much information out there,” Boycher said.

The father of two daughters also cautioned, “Any social networking site with lots of young

people” using it “is a natural place for pedophiles” to prey. He said he would advise parents to closely monitor their children’s Internet usage and to check their Facebook and other social networking pages daily.

“Monitor what your children are doing, look at their friend requests,” said Boycher, “and keep a close eye on their Facebook pages.”

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Police chief warns citizens about how they use the Internet.

RCS has decreases, gains in EOG scores

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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Unofficial 2010-11 end of course test scores for Roxboro Community School (RCS) reveal both decreases and gains in the percentage passing.

In middle school math, the percentage of students at or above grade level in the sixth-grade decreased slightly from 100 percent in 2009-10 to 97.5 percent in 2010-11.

RCS Principal Walter Finnigan al-

lowed that it is hard to keep students at 100 percent.

In seventh-grade math, passing scores decreased from 93 percent to 91 percent.

The eighth-grade math scores remained consistent, dropping from 92.8 to 92.2 percent.

In reading, the sixth-grade came in at 95 percent passing, versus 98 percent last year. Gains were recorded in the seventh- and eighth-grades, with the

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BOE to ponder School of Choice options at Thursday meeting

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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The Person County Board of Education will consider several matters relating to operations in the next school year during its final meeting of the fiscal year Thursday.

The board will meet at 12:30 p.m. on June 30 in the board of education boardroom, located on the ground floor of the Person County Office Building at 304 S. Morgan St.

During a recent meeting the board indicated that it wanted to continue with the expansion of the 1:1 Laptop Initiative, despite cuts in funding.

The project was launched at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, and entailed providing laptops for each seventh-grade student in both Southern and Northern middle schools. The choice to start with grade seven, said Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner, was made due to the fact that in 2010-11 the state writing test for seventh-grade would be administered in an online format for the first time.

PCS is proposing that the program be expanded to the rest of the middle school grades, as well as fourth-grade, in the coming school year. This would

coincide with the fourth-grade state writing test being administered online for the first time.

Also during the meeting, due to the possibility of having to name a “School of Choice,” the board will designate two other schools as alternative options. If a school does not meet AYP (annual yearly progress) for two years in a row, federal mandates require that school to become a School of Choice the following year, meaning students in that school district may choose to attend one of two other schools in the system that have been designated by the school board as options.

The board agenda also includes revising the 2011-12 calendar, since the General Assembly recently approved legislation requiring local school districts to increase the number of instructional days from 180 to 185. However, the Department of Public Instruction announced Friday that it had “approved a policy outlining the process for local school districts and charter schools to apply for waivers to the new 185-day instructional calendar for the 2011-12 school year.”

In other business, PCS Human Resources Director Dan Holloman will present a timeline for bidding driver education services, per the board’s request.

A new look is coming

C-T redesign will be revealed on Saturday, July 2

One week from today, *The Courier-Times* will reveal a new look to our readers.

Earlier this week, C-T Publisher Brinn Clayton announced the change was coming and we decided today to give you a sneak preview of one of the changes you will notice next Saturday.

The headline accompanying this story is in the new font family *The C-T* will be using in issues beginning Saturday, July 2. There will be a host of variations used throughout the paper.

Our type style and point size for the editorial content of the stories will remain the same as it currently is and the width of our newspaper will remain the same, but that is about all that has not been tweaked in some form or fashion during the redesign of *The C-T*.

As Clayton pointed out earlier this week, the changes are being made to appeal to every Personian — the young and the old.

The first change that may be noticed by readers will be the nameplate at the top of the front page. *The C-T* has used the current nameplate for over 20 years, but beginning next Saturday, the nameplate used prior to August of 1989 will be used and is in the classic Old English type.

The new design will also feature new page headers for the various sections of the newspaper and should provide our readership with a more modern presentation of the news.

It is paramount to note that our goal is to continue to bring you the news of Person County. That is important to you and as much a priority for us now as it ever has been. We’re just going to bring you that news with a new look.

We welcome your comments on the new design either by phone at 336-599-0162 or via e-mail at design@roxboro-courier.com.

— **Tim Chandler, Editor**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUN



A host of churches in Person County have either had Vacation Bible School or are in the process of planning for the annual tradition. C-T staffer Grey Pentecost stopped in at Theresa Baptist Church this week to check out the fun. In the photo above, VBS attendees sing and move to the music. Pictured on the front row are, left to right, Matthew Sanford, Billy Langford, Jacob Seamons, Allie Barker, Karsin Lee, Grace Long and Paige Carver. In the photo at left, Ericka Woolbert helps Emma Bowes (left) and Taylor Rouse (far right) “mine for gold” Thursday. The theme of the week at Theresa Baptist Church was Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages.

Jobless rate remains below 10% in May

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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After experiencing three consecutive months with unemployment rate decreases, Person County saw its jobless rate inch up slightly in May, according to numbers released Friday by the Employment Security Commission (ESC) of North Carolina.

According to Friday’s ESC numbers, Person County’s unemployment rate rose 0.1 percent to 9.9 percent in May from its final adjusted jobless mark of 9.8 percent in April.

Prior to the slight jobless rate increase in May, Person County’s unemployment rate had fallen 0.5 percent in April, 0.3 percent in March and 0.5 percent in February.

Statewide, unemployment rates decreased in just under half of North Carolina’s 100 counties in May. Rates decreased in 40 counties, increased in 44 counties and remained the same in 16.

In April, jobless rates decreased in 73 counties across the state after falling in

99 counties in February.

“Seasonal hiring has begun to increase in some areas of North Carolina,” ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes said. “We experienced growth in several of our industrial sectors last month and over the year.”

“We continue to focus on growing jobs and working with out economic, education and workforce development partners,” Holmes added. “Our offices remain committed to assisting job seekers and employers.”

North Carolina had 40 counties that were at or below the state’s unadjusted employment rate of 9.7 percent in May.

In April, the state had 36 counties at or below the unadjusted rate of 9.5 percent.

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