

The Courier-Times



IT'S TIME!
Rockets hope for strong start in first game Friday night at Orange. **A6**



WWII PALS:
World War II vets Blackwell, Knight treasure lifelong friendship. **B1**



2 MORE WINS:
Philip Morris pushes win total to 16 with 2 more Late Model victories at SoBo. **A7**

THE KING:
Boatwright gains a new respect for Elvis' music and celebrates his birthday. **A2**

[DEATHS]

- Rebecca F. Clayton, 76
Timberlake
 - Odessa Hall Dunkley
Roxboro
 - Robert Edward Ford, 64
Roxboro
 - Thomas Paylor, Sr., 81
Roxboro
 - Bryce Carlton Pettiford, 46
Roxboro
 - Elsie Henson Smith, 74
Roxboro
 - Lonnie Michael Wolfe, 65
Hurdle Mills
- See page A9

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Bethel Hill students begin new school year

BY GREY PENTECOST
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At the end of the school day Monday, Bethel Hill Charter School Principal John Betterton could only cite one upset kindergarten, and no transportation problems, making for a "smooth opening" to the first day of the new academic year.

The first day saw 385 students in attendance at Bethel Hill, with a couple more expected to be added to the roster.

The staff, said Betterton, included three new personnel members: fourth-grade teacher Rick Baltes, third-grade teacher Ashley Suddreth and art teacher Bucky Buchanan.

"It was exciting to see the children and their faces with their smiles," said Betterton, who was

also pleased to find the students hard at work at 8:20 a.m. when he went around to visit classrooms. Teachers he talked to at the end of the day said they had already assigned homework.

Students have also been welcomed back into the school gym as well, which was temporarily rendered unusable by tornados that hit the area in April.

Betterton reported that the damages had been repaired, although a decision was made not to replace the tile floor, after it was discovered that the tiles didn't add cushion, but were only for appearances. The concrete floor has been left bare while the school explores other flooring options. Betterton said the school was waiting to see how much of the completed repairs insurance

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Kindergarten students at Bethel Hill Charter School form a line with their new classmates Monday in the auditorium before following their teachers to the classroom to begin the first day of school.

GREY PENTECOST | COURIER-TIMES



TIM CHANDLER | COURIER-TIMES

Rut-roh! Rough ride!

Traffic was interrupted for a while Tuesday afternoon on North Main Street near its intersection with Cavel-Chub Lake Road after this log truck flipped on its side. The driver of the truck, Frank Autry of Autry's Logging in Creedmoor, said he wrecked into the northbound ditch in an attempt to avoid a collision with a vehicle in front of him. A vehicle in front of the truck Autry was following reportedly did not have brake lights. Autry was not injured in the accident. The investigation into the single-vehicle accident was continuing Tuesday afternoon.

Driver's education bids submitted to BOE

BY GREY PENTECOST
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Bids have been submitted for the 2011-12 driver's education program, but the Person County Board of Education is awaiting more information from the bidders before it makes a decision about which vendor to contract with.

The board voted to outsource Person County Schools' driver's education program in May. When Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner presented the request to outsource the program he cited the school system's inability to properly supervise the program as the primary reason for the request. At the time, PCS employed six driver's education instructors.

PCS opened the bidding process for the program on July 5,

and closed it on July 20.

The vendors providing bids were North Carolina Driving School, Inc.; Jordan Driving School, Inc.; All Around Driving School; and a recently formed local company, Person Driving Academy.

According to data provided by PCS, the school system has received a state allotment of \$104,006 for its driver's education program for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Each student who enrolls in the program will be assessed a \$45 fee, which will be directed to the PCS driver's education allotment.

According to Human Resources Director Dan Holloman, the driver's education allotment was reduced this year, as it normally totals around \$139,000. Holloman said that legislative action has allowed the district to implement

the \$45 charge in order to balance what was lost in state funding.

Approximately 450 to 500 students enroll in the PCS driver's education program yearly.

During their meeting last week, board members were presented with a chart summarizing the bid proposals, which included the total cost to PCS per student (classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training). Other information that could be determined from the bid proposals was also included in the chart, such as which group (the vendor or PCS) would provide the vehicles, insurance, maintenance and fuel.

However, since not all of the bid proposals provided the same information, the board voted to have each bidder complete a list of questions for the board's review.

Still no decision on VIPER tower

Planning board to review text amendment

BY TIM CHANDLER
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The Person Board of County Commissioners voted Monday to have the county's planning board review a text amendment to the ordinance restricting the height of towers in the county before giving its final approval on the matter.

The motion, made by Commissioner Sam Kennington passed, 3-2, with Commission Chair Jimmy Clayton and

Commissioner Ray Jeffers dissenting.

The decision to have the planning board review the text amendment before proceeding came on the heels of a public hearing Monday in which several citizens spoke in opposition to a proposed request from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) to erect a 480-foot VIPER (Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders) communications

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RPD donating vehicles to PCC BLET program

BY PHYLLIS BOATWRIGHT
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Roxboro City Council voted last week to donate two surplus police vehicles to Piedmont Community College.

Police Chief Todd Boycher asked council members during their regular August meeting for permission to donate the cars. The college is in the first stages of developing a Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program of study and needs to acquire a "certain amount of equipment" beforehand, Boycher said.

PCC President Dr. Walter Bartlett told *The Courier-Times* on Monday that the college was "playing with the idea of starting" a BLET program. He said, should it materialize, the program would be taught in Caswell County, at the old Guilford Mills building, which the college has procured.

The supplies needed to run the program are "costly," Bartlett said, adding that the college hopes "to accumulate what we need over time."

"We do a lot of law enforcement training anyway," Bartlett explained. He said having the equipment already on hand when PCC goes to the State Board of Community Colleges for permission to start the program would put the college "ahead of the game."

Merilyn Newell, Roxboro mayor pro-tem, said last week,

during the council meeting, "It's a wonderful idea." She added that she was in favor of "anything to keep our young people here."

Newell said the city would be getting rid of the vehicles anyway, and to donate them to the college for a worthy program would be a "win-win."

Boycher said the cost of the surplus vehicles would be between \$1,700 and \$2,500 each, "so PCC is asking us to make a \$4,000 donation to help us keep a fresh supply of officers."

Over the last 10 years, Boycher said, 25 officers had joined the department and left before retirement.

"That's a fairly substantial turnover for a department with 23 sworn officers," the police chief stated.

He said a BLET program at PCC would mean that officer candidates would not have to go to surrounding counties for training.

Boycher pointed out PCC's criminal justice program, explaining that a large number of students in that program were "potential BLET candidates." PCC President Bartlett said the college had not been approved for the BLET program, but was happy whenever it could "snag high-end equipment" like the police department vehicles.

He said the police departments and sheriffs departments in Person and Caswell counties had "been great to work with" on the potential program.