

# The Courier-Times

75 Cents



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Rockets' home game vs. Spartans set for Monday night **A6**



**NEW GUIDE:**  
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Time to renew the C-T newsroom football contest **B9**

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*Roxboro*
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## Mayor Sam Spencer named Region K's Outstanding Municipal Elected Official

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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Roxboro Mayor Samuel Spencer was honored this week by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments.

Spencer, who served as a member of the city council for over 30 years before stepping up to the

position of mayor last year, was named Outstanding Municipal Elected Official, Region K for the year 2011.

Mayor pro-tem Marilyn Newell nominated Spencer for the award, and said Friday, "I couldn't think of a better exclamation point for [Spencer's] exceptional public service."

Spencer said he was surprised

by the award, but pleased as well.

"It made me feel good that I had touched someone to the extent that they felt I deserved something like that," Spencer said.

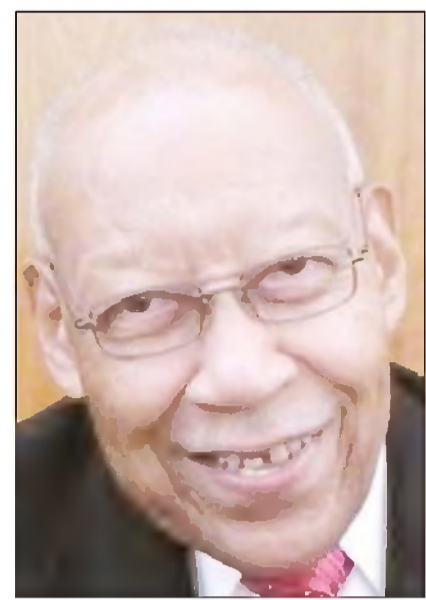
Newell said she nominated Spencer for the honor because, "He has been perhaps the foremost example of decorum, discretion and statesmanship that I

have ever worked with.

"I have learned from him," Newell continued, "that we can disagree without being disagreeable and that would serve anyone well, but especially those in government."

Newell said working with Spencer for the past 10 years had

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Mayor Sam Spencer



PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT | COURIER-TIMES

City of Roxboro municipal election signs line the lawn of the Person County Board of Elections office on Morgan Street; however, few citizens have stopped by to take advantage of early voting prior to the non-partisan Oct. 11 elections.

## Turnout light during first two days of early voting for city elections

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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Early voting for the Roxboro mayoral and city council races began this week, and so far, turnout is light.

At about 1:30 Friday afternoon, Sherry Harris, deputy director of the Person County Board of Elections said just 32 votes had been cast. Thursday was the first day of early, or one-stop, voting.

Harris said only five Roxboro

residents had voted on Friday, but, "it's always slow on rainy days."

There are 4,708 registered voters in the City of Roxboro, Harris said.

The early voting period for the city elections will end on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m.

Hours of operation for the remainder of the one-stop voting period will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26 through Friday, Sept. 30; from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3 until Friday,

Oct. 7; and Saturday, Oct. 8 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The election will be Tuesday, Oct. 11. Roxboro residents who do not choose early voting may cast their votes on Oct. 11 from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. at city hall, located at 105 S. Lamar St.

Marilyn Newell, currently serving as mayor pro-tem, is the only candidate for mayor.

She has served four terms on council.

Those running for reelection to city council are James Allen,

currently serving his 17<sup>th</sup> term; Sandy Stigall, now on his second term; Ralph Clark, who was appointed to council last year; and Henry Daniel, who is serving his fourth term.

Mark Phillips, who previously served three terms on council, is running for another term this year.

Newcomers challenging Phillips and the incumbents are Byrd B. Blackwell, William Davis, Dennis E. Daniels, Coleen Love and Patrick Walters.

## County's jobless rate dips to 10.1%

BY TIM CHANDLER  
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After increasing 0.4 percent in July, Person County's unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percent in August, according to numbers released Friday by the Employment Security Commission (ESC) of North Carolina.

Person County's jobless rate, which had inched up to 10.3 percent in July, dipped to 10.1 percent in August, according to Friday's ESC numbers.

One year ago, Person County had an unemployment rate

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## PCBOE is registering teen voters

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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The Person County Board of Elections has been working to get 18-year-olds registered to vote, and to pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds.

Jacqueline Booker, chair of the elections board, said this week that the board was working with Person High School and Roxboro Community School to make sure teens had the opportunity to register or pre-register.

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## Will Paul named 2011 Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence

BY GREY PENTECOST  
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Person High School (PHS) teacher Will Paul was recently named the 2011 Person County Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher of Excellence.

Paul has worked in the classroom with children who have special needs for the past 13 years in various school systems. He is also a school system instructor for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, and Crisis Prevention and Intervention Support. In addition to his classroom experience, Paul has worked with disabled adults, therapeutic foster care and the Special Olympics.

Paul was selected for the honor by Person County Schools (PCS) Director of Exceptional Children and Student Support Melanie Hester.

In her letter to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Hester wrote, "Mr. Paul's motto is that everyone can learn and deserves dignity and respect. He works tirelessly to maintain a classroom that addresses work jobs for each student in addition to opportunities that he creates for his students throughout the school environment."

Paul said he teaches students with a wide range of "disabilities and exceptionalities" in a self-contained classroom at PHS. One of his goals is to bring the students out of the "background" and into the "forefront" by getting them out of the classroom more often and exposing them to experiences such as eating in the cafeteria.

"What I have definitely come to realize working with children with special needs," said Paul, "is yes, they have a disability; but

just because they have a disability, does not mean they're incapable of doing something."

Paul said he looks at the students as individuals and assesses each of their strengths so that he can build upon them.

After Paul first applied for a job as a teacher assistant with PCS 13 years ago, he was asked if he was interested in working with children with special needs.

Paul said he had no experience working with exceptional children at the time, but decided to give it a shot.

"It just opened my eyes to a whole different world," he said.

This is Paul's first year working at PHS, and one of his teacher assistants, Michelle Nash, said she and other staff have noticed a positive change in Paul's students since he has been there.

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Will Paul, the 2011 Person County Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence, introduces the concept of sequencing to a student using colored strips of construction paper.