

The Courier-Times

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DEATHS

- Lila McKee Carver, 80
Roxboro
 - James Thomas Coleman Jr., 87
 - Betty Wilson Dunn, 71
Timberlake
 - Franklin Lynn Matherly, 47
 - Hayden P. Mims, 88
Greenville
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Stephen Steese

Steese settling in as Roxboro city manager

BY MIKE FLOYD
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Stephen Steese began his duties as Roxboro city manager Monday.

Steese is just getting his feet wet in Roxboro, but he doesn't come up short when it comes to experience in public service.

"I was the city manager down in Woodruff, S.C., which is right in the Greenville/Spartanburg area," Steese said. "That area was close to Asheville, Hendersonville and the Tryon area and was nice

and hilly like it is around here."

A native of Florence, S.C., Steese attended college at Clemson University where he earned an undergraduate degree in political science and history and a graduate degree in public administration.

"Yesterday, at our [city] council meeting, I told them now was a good time for me to be a Clemson fan because once basketball starts, we lose to Duke and North Carolina every year," Steese joked. "Clemson normally does good in football and baseball and I'm a big fan then."

Steese graduated in 2000 and went to work for a grant program in Florence, S.C. He was then hired as the planner for Spartanburg County, which was followed by a position as procurement director for Spartanburg Community College.

After that, Steese took on the Woodruff position, which he left in favor of his current position.

"Being a city manager was always what I wanted to do after graduation," Steese said. "However, you don't just graduate and go straight into a city manager position. You've got to gain the

experience before you are considered qualified enough to manage any municipality.

"I've always wanted to be in local government management because if you do something in local government, you get to stick around, you get to see the town prosper and see people benefit from the service," Steese added. "You get up to the state and federal level, pass a program and never see it affect a single person or ever come to fruition."

"I like the local government

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BOE agrees to transfer Helena School property to county

BY GREY PENTECOST
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The Person County Board of Education moved forward with plans for the relocation of the Person County Learning Academy (PCLA) and voted to transfer the old Helena property, where PCLA is currently housed, to the county.

Smith Sinnett Architecture presented a plan and cost estimate for the renovation of the old VFW property and buildings for the relocation of PCLA at the board's Monday meeting.

The firm said that one of the buildings was in good shape, but recommended demolishing the other, as it would be costly to "bring up to the current code."

The firm also estimated the total project cost at \$2,355,809. The Smith Sinnett representative noted the project might not cost that much, but the amount represented an estimate they believed any architecture firm could work under.

Under Smith Sinnett's timeline, if construction started in

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Sheriff's officials confident teacher accused of wrongdoing will 'be in custody soon'

BY TIM CHANDLER
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Al Rhew, chief deputy with the Person County Sheriff's Office, said local law enforcement authorities have received "indirect contact" from a Person High School (PHS) teacher, who is under investigation for alleged inappropriate behavior.

Arrest warrants were issued Friday for Megan Trainor, 24, a math teacher at PHS, charging her with a felony count of taking indecent liberties with a minor and a misdemeanor charge of preparing obscene photographs/slides/motion pictures.

Rhew said Tuesday he "felt comfortable" Trainor would



Megan Trainor

"be in custody soon."

Trainor, of 321 Floyd Hicks Rd. in Timberlake, has been employed by Person County Schools (PCS) for three years. She was suspended from her teaching position last Wednesday.



SUSAN BOWEN

Fall colors in Uptown Roxboro

Susan Bowen, Person Co. Public Library outreach coordinator, snapped this colorful photo last week.

Durham man dies in Monday crash

BY TIM CHANDLER
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A Durham man died Monday morning as a result of injuries he sustained in an accident on Durham Road.

Philbert Quincey, 54, of Durham was pronounced dead at Person Memorial Hospital shortly after a vehicle struck him Tuesday morning.

The accident occurred shortly after 10:30 a.m. Monday at 3146 Durham Rd.

According to information released Tuesday by Roxboro police, Quincey was struck by a 2004 Chevrolet, which was driven by Graham Eugene Seagroves, 77, of 118 Clay Pot Rd. in Rougemont.

Quincey was reportedly operating a 1995 Dodge pickup on Durham Road when scrap metal, which was loaded in the vehicle

fell into the roadway.

According to police, Quincey and one of two passengers in the truck had exited the vehicle to remove the scrap metal from the roadway when the vehicle driven by Seagroves struck the truck and careened off and struck Quincey.

Seagroves was taken to Person Memorial Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and released. The investigation into the accident is continuing.

RCS fares well in many areas in 2010-11 school year

BY GREY PENTECOST
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Roxboro Community School (RCS) students performed above the state average in many areas during the 2010-11 school year, according to the latest North Carolina School Report Cards, released in October.

The report cards, published annually, contain information

about student performance and other school data for each of the public schools in the state.

In overall student performance for grades six through eight, 90.8 percent of RCS students performed on grade level in reading, as compared to 70.7 percent at the state level. In math, 93.4 percent of RCS middle school students were on grade level, while that percentage was 82.4 for the state.

At the high school level, RCS

students exceeded the overall state performance in end-of-course tests in English, algebra I, biology and U.S. history. Students performed at a slightly lower level than the state in the subjects of algebra II, and civics and economics.

The percentage of minority students at RCS who passed reading, math and end-of-course tests last year was also above the state average, pointed out RCS Assis-

tant Principal Greg Hamilton.

Attendance at RCS was two percent above the state average and the AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) graduation cohort rate of 94.6 percent was higher than the state percentage of 77.9.

According to teacher Wanda Ball, teachers at RCS are available to tutor students Monday through Wednesday of each week.

As a public charter school,

RCS receives the same state and local per pupil funding as does the traditional public school system, but does not receive funding from other traditional sources.

"That is all we get," said RCS Interim Principal Sam Kennington. "As a charter school, we get no lottery funds" from the North Carolina Education Lottery, "and we get no capital expense funds."

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