

The Courier-Times

75 Cents



READING FUN!

Stormtrooper visits Woodland School as part of fall book fair festivities **B2**



C-T TOURNEY:

Get all the results of first round action in C-T Thanksgiving Classic **A6**



SANTA'S HELP:

The Roxboro Woman's Club collects toys and money to assist Santa's Helpers **B7**



FINAL WEEK:

The picks for final week of Pigskin Pickin' Party **A8**

DEATHS

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Roxboro
 - Clarice Ellis Lee, 90
Roxboro
 - Woodrow Allen Myers, 67
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Shoppers abound on Black Friday

Merchants pleased with steady stream of customers

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

The biggest sale weekend of the year began a little earlier this year, with some stores opening Thanksgiving Day, rather than the customary day after. Other stores in Roxboro waited to begin their Black Friday sales on Friday, and all those *The Courier-Times* spoke with yesterday reported good customer traffic.

Many stores had customers waiting at the door when they opened. Peebles manager Creed Guilliams found this to be the case when the store opened at 6 a.m. Friday.

The Justin Bieber perfume with CD was a popular selling item, said Guilliams, as were "Tumbler" toys and ladies boots.

The store's early bird specials were carried through 1 p.m. Friday, with other sales continuing



Holiday shoppers load items into a trunk Friday morning at Lowe's Home Improvement Store on Durham Road.

See **SHOPPING**, Page 10



Shoppers leave Roses after making Black Friday purchases.

Community Conversations slated Monday night at Kirby Theater

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

The Person Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting Monday, Nov. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirby Civic Auditorium at 215 N. Main St.

The informal Community Conversations is being held in an attempt to receive feedback

from the community about services offered by Person County and to receive suggestions for improving county government.

The commissioners held two similar events earlier this year prior to approving a budget for the current fiscal year. The Community Conversations is an open forum to allow citizens to have dialogue with commissioners in an informal setting.

"This is the third opportunity the board has created like this in the last six months or so," Person County Manager Heidi York said. "The first two were during the development of the annual budget."

York pointed out that Monday's community gathering would be different than the pre-

See **MONDAY**, Page 10

Employee compensation study to be revisited by county board Dec. 5

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

During its meeting earlier this month, the Person Board of County Commissioners tabled a decision on an employee

compensation study presented by County Manager Heidi York.

Commissioners will revisit the compensation study when they meet again in a special meeting scheduled on Monday, Dec. 5. Initially, commission-

ers had only been scheduled to meet once in December on Monday, Dec. 12.

York was directed by commissioners during budget discussions earlier this year to

See **COMMISSION**, Page 10

State's unemployment rate dips to 10.4% during October

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

After rising for four consecutive months, North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased slightly in October, according to information released Tuesday by the state's Employment Security Commission (ESC).

The state's jobless rate dipped slightly from 10.5 percent in September to 10.4 percent in October as the number of people employed in North Carolina increased slightly.

Total nonfarm jobs grew by 5,500 in October with the private sector gaining 700 of those jobs.

"The data reflects that private sector employment grew this month — as it has done in eight of the past 10 months — and that there was a modest decline in the unemployment rate, but there is still a great deal of work ahead," Lynn R. Holmes, Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security assistant secretary, said. "None of us will be satisfied until every North Carolinian who wants a job has one."

Prior to being at 10.5 percent in September, the state's unemployment rate was at 10.4 percent in August.

That mark was up from 10.1

percent in July and 9.9 percent in June.

In the three months prior to June, North Carolina's unemployment rate had held steady at 9.7 percent.

ESC officials will release October unemployment rates for each of the state's 100 counties on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The September unemployment rate for Person County was 9.6 percent, which was down 0.6 percent from August.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm industry employment, as gathered in the state through the monthly establishment survey, increased by 5,500 to 3,871,300 in October.

That increase came on the heels of a decrease of 22,200 in September.

The number of people unemployed decreased by 8,273 in October to 466,568. The number of people employed increased by 5,730 (seasonally adjusted), to 4,038,266.

Since this time last year, the number of people unemployed has increased by 25,868. The state's unemployment rate in October of 2010 was 9.9 percent.

In September, the unemployment rates decreased in 92 of 100 counties after it had increased in 47 counties in August.



Work on the North Main Street sidewalk construction project continued this week. McQueen Construction, which was contracted to perform the work, estimates the work will be completed by January.