

COMMISSION: Community Conversations event held

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about the hiring practices of [county] employees." He cited the county tax office and register of deeds office as examples. Lester said there were no minority employees in either office.

Lester went on to point out that, according to the 2010 Census, Person County's African American population is 27 percent. He encouraged county government to "reach out" to its minority population.

York said Friday she is "planning a meeting with the leadership of the NAACP regarding the county's hiring practices."

According to current employee records, the total minority representation in county government is 24.8 percent.

County employee Gladys Lerchbacher addressed commissioners concerning employee compensation. Lerchbacher told commissioners county employees had not received a pay raise since 2008. She added that county employees have taken "a lot of hits" in recent years.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Clayton pointed out that commissioners would be meeting Monday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss employee compensation.

Faye Boyd discussed a possible economic development director position and employee compensation with commissioners Monday and said she "had heard more sense" out of them that night than previously.

Clayton told Boyd that serving as a commissioner was somewhat like serving on the board of directors for a large company. He added that commissioners would be looking further at employee compensation Monday.

"We will hit it pretty hard next Monday," Commissioner Frances Blalock said.

Commissioner Ray Jeffers added that he has "always been a strong supporter of employees."

"We have to do something for our employees if we want to keep good employees in the county," Jeffers added.

Lewis Bordeau, Susan Naylor and George Naylor all addressed commissioners concerning a county recreation/senior center, which the majority of voters favored in 2008.

Commissioner Sam Kennington said he supported a "partnership" to make the rec/senior center a reality.

Kennington added that he "wanted to do something for seniors and youth," but noted the

current economic times and annual operating costs were concerns.

Clayton said he did not think anybody on the board of commissioners was against the proposed center and Commission Vice Chairman Kyle Puryear said it is "vital to have a senior center." He went on to say that he was "open to partnerships."

Jeffers added that he was an "advocate for services" and has been working on possible partnerships to make the rec/senior center a reality.

Margaret McMann quizzed commissioners on what their plans were for economic development.

"What are your plans for economic development — not just funding — what is being done to show more consensus?" Mc-

Mann asked.

Tonya Wilson asked commissioners to implement guidelines to follow when someone is removed from their home.

York said she is working on "a request to publish a citizens' guide through social services to provide resources and guidelines to assist citizens wanting to help when someone is removed from their home."

Elton and Vanessa Yancey, who have addressed commissioners in the past concerning over-payment of property taxes, said Monday they were still attempting to receive reimbursement.

York said she was currently working to facilitate a meeting with the Yancey family and legal counsel to help resolve the reimbursement issue.

MOVE: Rec department relocates to new site at Sansbury complex

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and doing things differently," said Hill.

The Annex building provides the same number of offices as did the gym, but bigger.

Hill said the new offices are more inviting to the public.

"It's like Recreation, Arts and Parks got a face lift," he said.

Hill emphasized that the move has not hindered any recreational programming currently taking place, such as the fitness classes held in the Annex building. Hill believes having classes

and offices in the same building is an added benefit, since customers coming into the offices while a class is in session could be exposed to other programs.

The centralized location of the department will also increase security by making its employees better able to monitor Huck Sansbury Park and the surrounding area from their offices, said Hill.

He added since the Annex building is in the center of the complex, the employees have a "360 degree view of the entire complex."

SBI: Former deputy arrested on pair of drug-related charges

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information on the investigation and were informed that charges would be brought forth against [Wheeler], he was terminated Tuesday."

Jones said the drug charges and the termination of Wheeler were "unfortunate." However, the sheriff added that law enforcement officers are "held to a higher standard."

Jones did note that Wheeler cooperated with the SBI during the investigation.

The incidents that led to Wheeler's arrest reportedly took place in August.

According to arrest warrants filed this week at the Person County Courthouse by the SBI, Wheeler fraudulently obtained

40 tablets of Oxycodone from Rite Aid Pharmacy at 304 N. Madison Blvd. on Aug. 28.

According to the arrest warrant, Wheeler had obtained a 15-day supply (60 tablets) of Roxicet from Dr. Steve Thomas Kirk on Aug. 23. He is alleged to have withheld that information from Dr. Danny Phillips in order to obtain a prescription for Oxycodone.

Oxycodone and Roxicet are both controlled substances included in Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act.

Wheeler turned himself in to SBI agents Wednesday and was released under a \$50,000 unsecured bond, pending a Jan. 10 appearance in Person County District Court.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Jobless rate drops for 3rd straight month

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the counties, there are counties with rates that are higher than 10 percent.

"We continue to work with our workforce partners in assisting our customers in job search assistance in our DES offices and JobLink Centers across the state."

In October, North Carolina had 42 counties that were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent.

The state's unadjusted unemployment rate in September was 10 percent and 45 counties were at or below that mark.

Person County's total labor force — the number of people available for work — decreased in October from 18,756 in September to 18,549.

The number of unemployed Personians decreased by 24 to 1,751. One month earlier, the number of unemployed people in the county declined by 85.

For the seventh consecutive month, Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in October at 5.4 percent, which was up from 5.1 percent in September and 4.5 percent in August.

Also for the seventh consecutive month, Scotland County had

the state's highest unemployment rate in October at 16.6 percent, which was down from 17.3 percent in September and 17.6 percent in August.

The number of people employed in the state (not seasonally adjusted) increased slightly in October to 4,070,801.

The number of people unemployed statewide in October decreased by 17,212. The number of people unemployed in the state in October was 436,615 compared to 453,827 in September.

Forty-seven counties in the state had unemployment rates between 5.0 and 10 percent in October, which was up from 42 in that category in September and 29 in August.

Fifty-three counties in the state had jobless rates higher than 10 percent in October, which was down from 58 in that category in September and 70 in August.

October unemployment rates for area counties follow, with their September rates shown in parentheses: Alamance, 10.0 percent (10.7); Caswell 9.8 (10.5); Durham 7.7 (8.2); Forsyth 8.9 (9.6); Franklin 9.7 (10.1); Granville 9.8 (10.1); Guilford 10.0 (10.5); Orange 6.2 (6.8); Vance 13.4 (13.7); Wake 7.7 (8.2); Warren 13.2 (13.7).

UNDERCOVER: Deputies make another arrest on heels of recent drug investigation

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maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance and being a habitual felon, and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

The incidents that led to the charges against Lunsford reportedly took place on Aug. 16.

Lunsford was jailed under a \$100,000 secured bond. He is slated

to appear in district court on Dec. 12.

Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said the undercover operation was successful thanks to the work of his officers, along with aid from local, state and federal authorities.

He also praised the efforts of the district attorney's office and District Attorney Wallace Bradsher.

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SANTA LETTERS



Hey Kids!
Get those letters ready for Santa.

Write, bring in, or email your Santa Letter to The Courier-Times, P.O. Box 311, 109 Clayton Ave., Roxboro, NC 27573, or e-mail to cgarett@roxboro-courier.com.

Your letter will be published in our Christmas Greetings tabloid on Wednesday, December 21st. We will also make sure your letters get to the North Pole in time for Christmas.

Parents may help the little ones write their letters. All letters are welcome, from the young to the old. Please include your name and age.

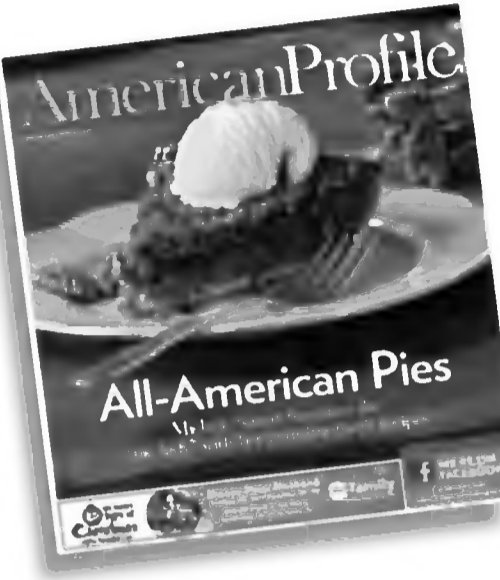
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A Roxboro Christmas Carol

'Twas two weeks before Christmas
And all through the town,
Merchants were praying
With knees on the ground.

Roxboro was all loaded
with goodies galore,
All owners needed
Were shoppers in store.

The presents were perfect
All wrapped just the right way,
Giving reasons aplenty
In town just to stay.

Shopping is so easy
Parking's no task,
A long trip to Durham/Raleigh
Just uses your gas!

There's dresses and rings
Gift certificate to eat,
There's frames & baskets
And flowers for your sweet.

Our wish to our friends
That your Christmas be bright*
That your presents be perfect
And our service just right!

That you visit each shop
Spend wisely your money,
On serious items
Or gifts that are funny.

But this December
PLEASE remember
YOUR OWN,
Spread cheer here in Roxboro
Just SHOP AT HOME!

(Written by T.J. Reid - 1980)

The Courier-Times