

The Courier-Times

75 Cents



SANTA!
*The Jolly Ol' Elf
has been spotted at
various locales in
Person County. B1*



PAC-6 PLAY:
*Rockets square off
in league action
against Southern
Durham A6*



OPEN HOUSE:
*Rock of Ages prep-
ping for holiday
open house this
weekend A2*

TOP FIVE:
*Rocket wrestlers
finish fifth in holi-
day tournament at
Jordan A6*

HONORED:
*Person County His-
torical Society presi-
dent Ann Whitfield
recognized B5*

DEATHS

- Mary K. Shouff Barnwell, 70
Yanceyville
 - Nathan Scott Bell, 3
Timberlake
 - Edward Lawrence Moore, 71
Roxboro
 - Roxanna Paylor, 78
Roxboro
 - Lizzie Johnson Wilson, 93
Roxboro
- See Page A9

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Our 129th year
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Three sections
22 pages

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Sam Spencer awarded Order of the Long Leaf Pine

BY TIM CHANDLER
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"We've been through some good times and some bad times. ...We've had some good days and some bad days, but I won't complain."

As his tenure as mayor of the City of Roxboro drew to a close Tuesday night, Sam Spencer spoke those words to a group of friends and family gathered at the Roxboro Police Department prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of city council.

Spencer, who became mayor late last year following the death of Tom Brown, was earlier elected to 14 consecutive two-year terms on city council after first being elected to the five-person board in 1983. Spencer was also a career educator in Person County.

As part of the reception Tuesday, State Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, presented Spencer with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award on behalf of North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, created in 1965, is among the most prestigious awards presented by the governor. It is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to their communities, extra effort in their careers and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for the award.

Wilkins said through the years people had known Spencer as "a teacher, a principal, a councilman, mayor and your friend."

Spencer said he was "very hon-

ored" to accept the award Tuesday. He said he would "express his gratitude to the governor."

Throughout his political career, Spencer said he had always tried to stand up for what he thought was right. "That way," he added, "you can reach a lot of people."

Spencer praised the employees of the City of Roxboro, who he said were the city's "most important resources," and it was important that council "not overlook that."

"Whatever is accomplished is done by those who are working day in and day out, while we're resting," Spencer added. "I have always stood up for our employees and cherish what they have done."

Spencer then turned towards



State Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins (right) awards the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Sam Spencer Tuesday evening.

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Council awaits bid from CHC for Depot St. property

BY TIM CHANDLER
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Roxboro City Council is awaiting a purchase offer from the Christian Help Center (CHC) for 2,500 square feet of the city-owned parking lot on Depot Street.

CHC officials have told City Attorney Nick Herman they would like to expand their existing facility on Depot Street by 1,000 square feet.

In order to proceed with the expansion, the CHC would need to use part of the Depot Street parking lot beside its existing structure.

According to Herman, the CHC is requesting that the city donate

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Roxboro City Council members, left to right, Will Davis (with his mother, Trisha Davis), Mark Phillips, Henry Daniel, Byrd Blackwell and Sandy Stigall are administered their oath of office Tuesday night. In the photo below, Merilyn Newell (left), pictured with her mother, Patsy Perkins, is administered the oath of office for mayor of the City of Roxboro by Chief District Court Judge Mark Galloway.

Lengthy drug probe leads to another arrest

BY TIM CHANDLER
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Deputies with the Person County Sheriff's Office arrested another suspect this week in connection with "Operation Peek-A-Boo," a five-month undercover investigation that culminated this fall.

Law enforcement officials arrested 42 persons in October.

Operation Peek-A-Boo, which began in May and continued through September, utilized video and audio equipment to help document illegal drug activity.

The vast majority of those arrested in connection with the investigation were placed under secured bonds of \$100,000 after

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New council, mayor begin terms Tuesday

BY GREY PENTECOST
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Chief District Court Judge Mark Galloway swore in a new mayor and council for the City of Roxboro Tuesday evening at the beginning of the regularly scheduled December council meeting.

Mayor Merilyn Newell, who was unopposed in her mayoral bid in October, stepped up to take the place of Sam Spencer,

who assumed the position last year after the death of former Mayor Tom Brown. Prior to being named mayor, Spencer served 14 consecutive terms on council, beginning in 1983. He did not seek reelection in October.

The new council includes incumbents Sandy Stigall and Henry Daniel, newcomers Will Davis and Byrd Blackwell, and former councilman Mark Phil-

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BOE approves Career and College Promise program for PCS

BY GREY PENTECOST
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The Person County Board of Education approved Person County Schools' participation in Career and College Promise, a new program involving a partnership between Person High School and Piedmont Commu-

nity College during a regularly scheduled meeting Thursday.

North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue launched the program in November, and stated in a press release, "Career & College Promise will prepare eligible high school students for life after high school — that means college credit for some, job training for others. Regardless of whether a

student plans to go to college or get a job, Career & College Promise provides focused preparation, tuition-free to the student."

The program is similar to the previously implemented Huskins program, but is differentiated primarily by the implementation of separate pathways and state mandated grade-point-average (GPA) requirements.

The program will come into effect in January, and will be open to high school juniors and seniors. It features 16 Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, including construction; early childhood development and services; law enforcement services; health care management and support services; and production.

Courses to be offered to students starting in fall 2012 are digital effects and animation technology, and film and video production, which fall under the audio and video technology and film pathway. Also to be offered beginning fall 2012 is international business, a course being

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