

The Courier-Times

75 Cents



WHO DAT?!

Check out scenes from annual Roxboro Christmas Parade **B1**



TO THE HOOP:

Person scores non-conference victory over Roxboro Community School **A6**



COTILLION:

Fifth Grade Program held its annual holiday dance recently **B5**

HO! HO! HO!

Tons of letters to Santa Claus included in annual Season's Greetings tab **C Section**

ROCKETS WIN:

Rocket girls claim victory over Roxboro Community School Monday **A6**

DEATHS

- Paul Ervin Bowes, 69
Roxboro
- Albert T. Horner, 85
Roxboro
- Glenda Ellen Small Ishmael, 52
Timberlake
- Laura M. Harrison Roberts, 78
Mebane

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Shoppers make holiday purchases this week at Rose's.

Merchants pleased with Christmas holiday sales

BY MIKE FLOYD
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Local Roxboro merchants say they are delighted with the holiday tune their cash registers are humming these days. It is this

time of year that can make or break any private or small business and there are reportedly some good sales numbers being racked up around town.

The buy-local emphasis started by the Roxboro Development Group's, "Shop — Eat — Enjoy,

Roxboro" caught on in November and appears to be surging toward the Dec. 25 finish line, recession or no recession.

Ship on Site's Greg Burnett, while sealing plastic tape on a

See **MERCHANTS**, Page 10

C-T's holiday schedule set

So that the staff may enjoy the Christmas holidays with their families, *The Courier-Times* is observing an altered publication schedule and office hours during the upcoming week.

The Saturday edition of *The C-T* will be published Friday, Dec. 23, this week and no paper will be published on Wednesday, Dec. 28. It is customary for *The C-T* to skip an edition at Christmas.

The *C-T* office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and will also be closed Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 26-28.

The office will open for regular business hours on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8 a.m. and *The C-T* will resume normal publication with the Saturday, Dec. 30 edition.

The office, however, will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, in order to allow the staff a holiday in observance of New Year's Day.

Annual parade featured 172 units Saturday

BY TIM CHANDLER
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The Roxboro Christmas Parade, sponsored annually by the Roxboro Jaycees, stepped off Saturday afternoon in near perfect weather conditions.

A host of Personians lined the traditional Main Street route for the parade, which featured 172 total units, according to Bryan Westmoreland, co-chairman for the event.

"I want to thank all the participants for their time and their donations," Westmoreland said.

Westmoreland noted that, thanks to the proceeds from the parade, the Jaycees would be adopting one needy family and four elderly people for the holiday season.

"I also want send special thanks to the people who made it happen — the City of Roxboro, Roxboro Police Department, the Person County Sheriff's Department, the Roxboro Fire Department, Steve Folley with Charter Communica-

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TIM CHANDLER / COURIER-TIMES

'And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof...'

Person County Schools Supt. Dr. Larry Cartner looks skyward as he reads lines from the Christmas Classic *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* Sunday afternoon at the Kirby Gallery. Cartner served as an elf for Santa Claus for four separate readings of the book. The event was hosted by the Person County Tourism Development Authority, the Person County Recreation, Arts & Parks Department and the Roxboro Development Group.

Seven PCS teachers obtain National Board Certification

Seven Person County Schools (PCS) teachers from across the district achieved National Board Certification in 2011. In addition, four other current National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) re-

newed their certification for an additional 10 years. This brings PCS' total to 77 NBCTs.

As the conversation in the education arena expands from teacher quality to teacher effectiveness, the National

Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the organization that sets and maintains the standards for teaching excellence, reported

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State's jobless rate drops to 10 percent in November

BY TIM CHANDLER
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For the second straight month, North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased in November, according to information released Tuesday by the state's Employment Security Commission (ESC).

According to Tuesday's information, the state's unemployment rate decreased from 10.4 percent in October to 10 percent in November.

The decrease in November came after the state saw a jobless decrease from 10.5 percent in September to the 10.4 mark.

Despite decreasing for the second consecutive month, the state's unemployment numbers still lag behind the national jobless rate, which stood at 8.6 percent in November.

Total nonfarm jobs in the state grew by 3,800 in November with the private sector gaining 4,600 jobs. The public sector shed 800 jobs.

"The drop in the unemployment rate was significant," N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll said. "However, the focus must remain on growing jobs in our state."

"The private sector has experienced moderate growth over the past year," Carroll added. "We are strongly committed to Gov. Perdue's mission on jobs for North Carolina."

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 November unemployment rates for each of the state's 100 counties on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

The October unemployment rate for Person County was 9.4 percent, which was down from 9.6 percent in September.

Seasonally adjusted total non-

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Betterton to chair N.C. Charter School Advisory Council

BY GREY PENTECOST
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Last week Bethel Hill Charter School principal John Betterton met with fellow members of the North Carolina Public Charter School Advisory Council to review new charter school applications, a meeting at which Betterton was also elected chair of the council.

According to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Web site, the council "recommends

policies for adoption by the State Board of Education regarding all aspects of charter school operation, including timelines, standards, criteria of acceptance and approval of applications. The council also monitors charter schools and grounds for revocation of charters."

Betterton was appointed to the council in the fall. Last week, while meeting at DPI in Raleigh to review applications for new charters, the council elected Betterton to the position of chair.

State Rep. W.A. (Winkie)

Wilkins, D-Person, noted Betterton has been involved in education long-term from both the traditional and charter school sides.

"Now, he's probably one of the most respected charter school people in the state," said Wilkins. "I know he certainly has my respect."

He added, "I think the council will function very well under his leadership."

As chair, Betterton will be an advisor to the state board on charter policy.

Betterton also hopes the council can break down some of the walls that exist between charters and traditional public schools, noting that the council currently has two former superintendents and one active superintendent of traditional schools on the council.

In June, the 100-school cap on charter schools in North Carolina was lifted, and the council reviewed 27 "fast track" applications for the 2012-13 school year

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John Betterton

Our 129th year Number 101

Three sections 52 pages

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