

The Courier-Times

75 Cents



CHAMPS!
Rockets secure title in annual Halifax County, Va. holiday tournament **A6**



TITLE TIME!
Person girls win 2 games to claim top spot in holiday tournament at Halifax **A6**



WHITE HOUSE:
Person County native visits White House to attend forum for teachers **B2**

DEATHS

- Dorothy Hunnicutt Clapp, 77**
Burlington
- Patricia Mangum Day, 65**
Timberlake
- Ann McNeil Hurley, 82**
Roxboro
- Dossie Lee Keatts, 68**
Rougemont
- Franklin Alonzo Lane, 81**
Oxford
- Sandra McCain, 47**
Roxboro
- Alice Cole Poole, 86**
Timberlake
- Evelyn Frances Dickerson Shotwell, 93**
Roxboro
- Ronnie Dean Snead, 46**
South Boston, Va.
- Gabbie Linda Tippett, Infant**
Roxboro
- Dorothy Weaver Wilson, 78**
Roxboro

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Our 129th year
Number 103

Two sections
22 pages

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Area code change planned in April

After March 31, 2012 those with local calling to North Carolina area code 919 will need to dial the area code followed by the seven-digit telephone number when making calls to the 919 area code, due to the upcoming addition of a new area code, according to a CenturyLink press release.

To accommodate the growing need for telephone numbers in North Carolina, stated the release, a new 984 area code will be added to the area currently

served by the 919 area code.

In addition to those in the 336 area and others with local calling to the 919 area number, the calling changes will also apply to those in the 919/984 area.

Local calls to 336 numbers will still only require the seven-digit number to be dialed, and 911 will remain accessible by dialing the three digits.

The price of a call, local and long-distance calling areas, and other CenturyLink rates and ser-

vices will not change as a result of the area code overlay and dialing change. All current local calls will remain local calls regardless of the number of digits dialed.

Long-distance calls will require the number one to be dialed before the area code and seven-digit number. Operator assisted calls will require zero to be dialed before the area code and seven-digit number.

According to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC)

Web site, customers seeking new telephone numbers in the affected region may be assigned the new 984 area code as early as April 30, 2012. Those who currently have a 919 area code will not need to change their existing phone number when the 984 area code is introduced.

Specialized communications equipment such as a PBX, electronic telephone sets, auto-dial systems or multi-line key systems may need to be reprogrammed or

updated to use the new dialing procedure.

Some automatically dialed calls may require reprogramming to include the new dialing procedure, using 10-digits. These calls may include: life safety systems, fax machines, internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and similar functions.

See **NCUC**, Page 10

DA's office reflects on initial year of new administration

Last week, the Office of District Attorney Wallace Bradsher issued a preliminary year-end report to the heads of all law enforcement agencies in District 9-A, which includes Person and Caswell counties.

The office also issued a press release, which was prepared by Hollie Young McAdams, the senior assistant district attorney (ADA), LuAnn Wright Martin, the chief Caswell County assistant district attorney and Gayle Peed, the district's administrative assistant and office manager.

McAdams, Martin and Peed were named to serve as the transition team from the old administration to the new administration last December and were officially sworn in as employees of the new administration at midnight last New Year's Eve.

McAdams is a graduate of Person High School, and previously served as an ADA. Bradsher retained McAdams and promoted her to senior ADA.

McAdams and Bradsher tried most of the jury trials in the district this year and implemented a wide-range of new policies to improve efficiency and the quality of prosecutions.

"Our focus this year was to increase the quantity and quality of Superior Court jury trials," McAdams wrote in a

press release. "We had 24 jury trials this year. This more than doubled the number of jury trials done by the previous administration. Twenty of these trials resulted in jury verdicts and four pled guilty during the course of the jury trial.

"Eighteen out of the 20 trials that went to verdict resulted in convictions," McAdams added. "Only two resulted in acquittals (a shoplifting charge in Person County and an assault on a female charge between husband and wife in Caswell County)."

McAdams went on to say, "Recently we received our fiscal year-end statistics that ranked our district as first in the state in felony dispositions in superior court, with a median case age at 78 days. The combination of increasing the number of our jury trials, improving our conviction rates and keeping a federal pace on case dispositions has improved the quality of pleas we are able to negotiate, which means more criminals in jail or on probation, which makes our community safer.

In reflecting on the past year, McAdams recalled a case against Alfred Manga Bell, a home invasion case where a mother and daughter were the victims of a home invasion and

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C-T office closed on Monday

The Courier-Times office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

The office will open for regular business hours on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 8 a.m. The C-T will observe a normal date of publication on Wednesday, Jan. 4.



Madison Solomon, 3, and her 21-month-old brother, Cole, are full speed ahead for fun aboard Madison's purple boat that docked Christmas morning at her home on Lucy Garrett Road.

'A boat!' Madison Solomon's Christmas wish comes true

BY MIKE FLOYD
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Christmas, 2011 for the Dwight and Jennifer Solomon family has been extraordinary. The primary reason for that was their three-year-old daughter Madison's vocal wishing all year for Santa to bring her a "purple boat." It may sound a little far-fetched to some, but not to this precocious toddler.

"It all started months ago," explained Jennifer Solomon on her front porch, Friday. "I'd asked Madison what she wanted for Christmas and she said, 'a purple boat.' I was just amazed

and asked why a purple boat but she really didn't have an explanation or reason why. We still don't. We took to her see Santa twice and her purple boat wish was answered with 'Old Santa would see what he could do.'"

Solomon continued, "We looked all over, on-line, for a purple boat for months. Our family, Facebook friends were all looking, too, and we still didn't come up with anything. And then our heat went out the week before Christmas, and a man from Oakes Heating and Air, Marvin Oakes, came over to fix our unit.

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