

# The SUNDAY COURIER



## Sports

### Very clearly No. 1

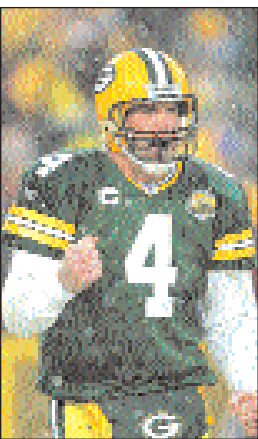
Deon Thompson and the Tar Heels blasted long-time rival N.C. State in an ACC clash, Saturday

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\$1.<sup>25</sup>

Sunday, January 13, 2008, Forest City, N.C.

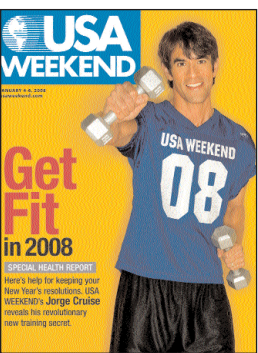
## SPORTS



The real 'Pack' man does it once again

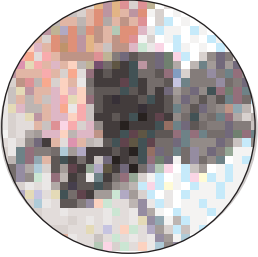
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## WEEKEND



Here's how to keep New Year resolutions.

## GAS PRICES

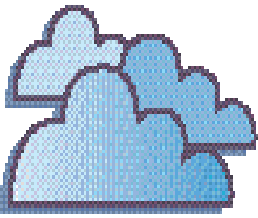


Low: \$2.92  
High: \$3.09  
Avg.: \$3.05

## DEATHS

**Rutherfordton**  
Bruce Gibson  
**Forest City**  
"Bo" Godfrey  
Susan Lovelace  
Elizabeth Humphries  
**Bostic**  
Brian McKinney  
**Caroleen**  
Hazel Cannon  
**Elsewhere**  
Eugene Dimsdale  
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## WEATHER



High | Low  
51 | 31

Today, mainly cloudy. Tonight, mostly clear.

Complete forecast, Page 10A

## INSIDE

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Vol. 40, No. 12

# Education at High Speed

## Plugging in is just the start

By PAM BUNCH

Daily Courier Staff Writer

FOREST CITY — When it comes to technology, the future is now; and as Rutherford County works to catch up, the Rutherford County School system has become Ground Zero for connectivity and technology.

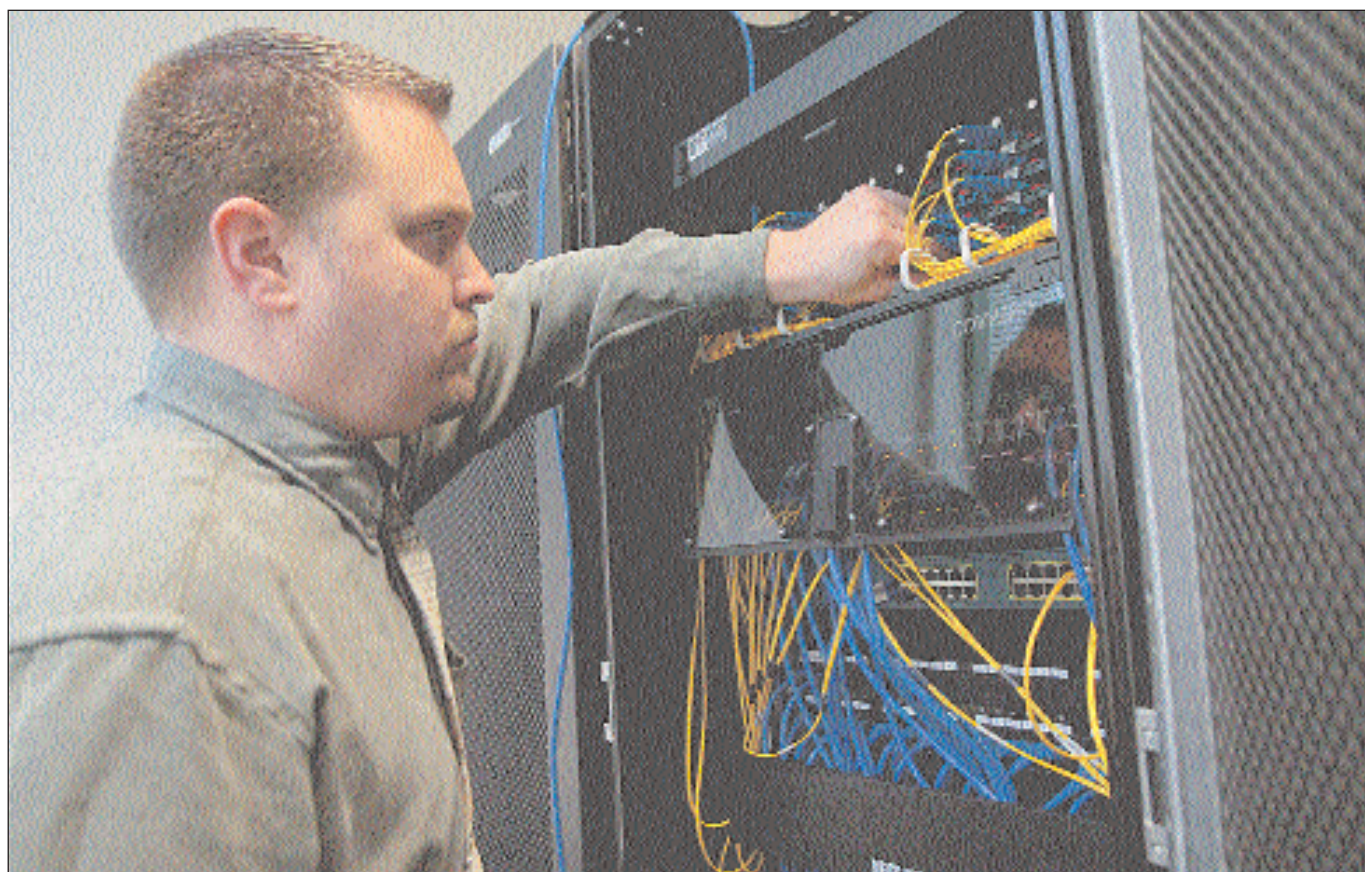
Benny Hendrix, Chief Technology Officer for Rutherford County Schools, is at the forefront of the technology updates, and says things are moving along.

"We're making some good progress but we have a long way to go," he said.

Countywide, there are currently 11 schools that are connected and working, with eight still to go before all of the district is connected by a high-speed, fiber-optic network. But, the infrastructure is only the beginning.

"We've got a lot of classrooms that need more than just the bandwidth and a computer. They need some other tools," said Hendrix. "They need projectors so the whole class can see, interactive devices — whether it's interactive white boards or slates or tablets."

In addition, teachers and admin-



Garrett Byers/Daily Courier

**Mike Thompson**, WAN Engineer, shows off the new Data Center at Cool Springs Administrative Offices. The Data Center is the main "Admin" site which will connect all of the schools' technology and information together. "The building here is the hub of it all," said Chief Technology Officer Benny Hendrix.

istrators must be as able to work with these new educational tools as the students.

"There's still a considerable amount of staff development that has to be done with both teachers and administrators," Hendrix said. "There are some standards, called The National Educational Technology Standards, (NETS).

There's now NET Standards for teachers; but there's also NET Standards for Administrators. So I'm going to be working on implementing those standards for both our teachers and our administrators."

Even once all of these elements are in place and working, Hendrix says a working plan will be needed

to ensure that, as technology evolves, students, teachers and administrators are keeping up with the changes.

"Providing the tools, the computers, now that we have the connectivity, then the devices and the instructional software and

Please see Schools, Page 6A

## Rescuing Randy



Garrett Byers/Daily Courier

**Cherry Mountain** Volunteer Firefighter Tony Gowan, center, makes some final adjustments to a safety harness as he secures training dummy "Rescue Randy" for his decent downward during a Rope Rescue Technicians training session held Friday at the Rutherford County Firefighters Association Training Grounds on Laurel Hill Drive in Rutherfordton. Below, Clint Walker, left, Isothermal Rope Rescue Instructor, and Randy Hardin, Lake Lure Assistant Fire Coordinator observe Gowan's performance. The team is comprised of firefighters from Rutherfordton, Forest City, Spindale, Cherry Mountain and Lake Lure departments. The training session was held in preparation for an upcoming final rescue simulation being held at Chimney Rock.

# Lake Lure eyes new home-business rules

By SCOTT BAUGHMAN

Daily Courier Staff Writer

LAKE LURE — Home business owners might have to make some changes to their payrolls soon if a new resolution is approved modifying home occupations regulations here.

"This housekeeping amendment was initiated at the request of the zoning administrator in order to clean up conflicts in the zoning regulations," Shannon Baldwin, Community Development director, told Lake Lure Commissioners Tuesday about resolution 08-01-08B.

"It does that in many ways: First it increases the lead time for zoning requests from 10 days to 30 days. Secondly, the zoning and planning (ZP) board currently has 35 days to

act on an application, and if they do not, the application is deemed to have a favorable recommendation. The ordinance would change that to merely send the application to the town council after 35 days, not to assume a positive recommendation. The ordinance also states that construction sites must be kept clean and free of debris."

But commissioners weren't quick to approve the resolution.

"I've read Bill Bush's letter stating why he voted against this ordinance at the ZP board," said



Noble

Please see Lake, Page 6A

# Tobacco sting nets just three stores in county

From staff reports

FOREST CITY — Three Rutherford County merchants were cited for selling tobacco or tobacco products to a minor in 2007 — far fewer than most neighboring counties.

Wal-Mart 1036 at 197 Plaza Drive in Forest City, Food Lion No. 2626 at 169 Railroad Ave. in Rutherfordton and CVS Pharmacy at 111 S. Main St. in Rutherfordton were cited by Alcohol Law Enforcement agents.

Last year, ALE agents conducted 6,895 tobacco compliance checks across the state and cited 1,125 store clerks in 90 counties for sell-

ing tobacco or tobacco products to a minor, according to information from the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Twenty-nine of those checks were conducted in Rutherford County in 2007.

Surrounding counties had these totals: Buncombe, 222 checks and 19 citations; Burke, 79 checks and 15 citations; Cleveland, 21 checks and no violations; Henderson, 54 checks and seven citations; McDowell, 23 checks and two citations; and Polk, 13 checks and one citation.

Rutherford County is in the ALE's

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# Schools

Continued from Page 1A

components,” said Hendrix. “But then working a plan to make sure that we can keep that up to date and refreshed, periodically, whether that’s three years, four years, or something that makes sense. Also, along with maintaining that, of course, is being able to handle growth within the schools.”

According to Hendrix, the technology plan must be an instructional plan as well; a plan that will encompass what students will need to know when they graduate.

“Whether they’re seniors right now, or they’re just entering kindergarten, the skills they’re going to need are going to be largely based on technology, and our administrators and our teachers need to be able to work with that,” he said.

In addition, the Rutherford County School system has a strong partner when it comes to the race to meet their technology needs; that partner is the Rutherford County government.

“I’ve been real impressed with the commissioners’ support of technology and this connectivity project, and how well the commissioners and the county government have worked with

*Whether they’re seniors right now, or they’re just entering kindergarten, the skills they’re going to need are going to be largely based on technology, and our administrators and our teachers need to be able to work with that.”*

— **Benny Hendrix**

Chief technology officer, Rutherford County Schools

the school system,” said Hendrix. “I’ve worked all across the state, most recently down east, and it’s almost unheard of that county commissioners and school systems talk together.”

That partnership is good for the whole county with connectivity going from the schools, out into the communities to the fire departments and emergency management. From there, Hendrix says the county can extend it further, and then work with providers to make connectivity more affordable for all county residents and businesses. He added that he really can’t think of many areas of life now that don’t involve computer technology.

“I can think of hardly any, including our farming,” Hendrix said. “If you’re a mechanic, you’re going to have to know pretty high levels of computer now. Just about any kind of vehicle out there has a computer processor in it. Factory work

is computerized and robotized. You go to work at Hardees and McDonalds, the cash register is a computer. I’ve even been in a few hair salons where the stylists now are using computers.”

For Rutherford County, the technology push may be just beginning, but Hendrix says he hopes to have all of the schools connected very soon.

“We’re at the point that I don’t think in this county or any county, we can afford not to have the opportunity for the students,” he said.

With the educational opportunities technology provides for teachers and students, Hendrix says Rutherford County schools will have more computing power than most businesses or industries, and that is as it should be.

“Your large businesses and industries maybe do a specific task and use their productivity tools — word processing, data

base, and some of those kinds of things along with their e-mail and communications. But in schools, they’re not only using all of those things, but they’re using simulations and video for bringing in resources that they can’t get to, and a lot of technology and band-width intensive applications — more so than most businesses. When our schools get to doing what they really need to be doing instructionally, they will use more band-width than probably any business in this county ... any individual school.”

But, we’re not there yet. Rutherford County’s schools still lack enough of the necessary technology tools they need to allow every teacher and every student the same opportunities to learn.

“Until we get them in the hands of every teacher and every student, I’m not satisfied,” Hendrix said. “I’m not satisfied to say that we have a lot of them or we’re partially there. Who is to say that this child doesn’t deserve it anymore than this child, whether it’s in Cliffside or Rutherfordton, or Bostic or wherever? So I don’t think we’ve done our job until every teacher and every child has the resources they need to learn.”

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