BY DANIEL KENNEDY

THANKSGIVING

Happy Thanksgiving

November 22, 2018

Jobless rate decreases

DAVIDSON COUNTY — The unemployment rate in Randolph County fell to 2.9 percent in September, down from 3.8 percent in August, according to the report. Further, all of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The rate decreased 1.3 percent from a year ago. Unemployment rates statewide decreased in all of the state’s 100 counties in September, according to the report. Further, all of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases.

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of unemployed people in the workforce who are over the age of 16 and who have either lost their jobs or have been unwillingly sought by employers in the last month and are still actively seeking work.

In the surrounding area, Davidson County’s rate also fell to 2.9 percent in September, down from 3.8 percent in August. Rates in surrounding counties were 3.2 percent in Guilford; 3.0 percent in Rowan; and 3.2 percent in Montgomery.

The September rate falls as the 32nd best in the state, trailing Randolph County — which is part of the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area — among the state’s best-employed Tier 2 counties. The number of unemployed in Randolph County stands at 1,029 people.

Randolph’s labor force now numbers 34,173 people.

The news came just one day after a state report showed that unemployment in the state had dropped to 3.7 percent, according to the N.C. Department of Commerce.

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The number of unemployed in the state continued to decrease, falling to 3.7 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

Cyclist has no plans to slow down

ARCHDALE — A skilled craftsman who visited his school when he was growing up has given a career focus for stage make-up artist Joh Harp. Harp is among artists who recently spent the day sharing their passion for the art with students at John Lawrence Elementary School.

Special effects artist Joh Harp wowed a group of students at John Lawrence Elementary last week. In addition to makeup, Harp revealed that his craft sometimes requires the use of latex, wax, putty or plaster to create the perfect screen presence for a character. He was among more than 20 artists who shared their passion with students during Art Day.

Artists spark creativity at JLE

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

Artist David Kennedy, whose art classes reach a total of 316-686-3378, or at danielkennedy@trinityline.net.

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See Ride Page 3

Artists at the 8th annual art show at Tanner Court on Nov. 15. For more information contact the City of Trinity at 336-431-2841.

The NEWS caught up with Joh Harp this week as he was drinking coffee, watching the rain and longing for a little sunshine. He keeps detailed journals of his rides, including miles traveled, companions and weather conditions.

Last year Johnson celebrated his 80th birthday in December with an 80-mile ride. Temperatures were 22 degrees when he and a party of 16 people set out from Kernersville for a tour in the vicinity of Hanging Rock, including a stop at the Sauratown Mountain Range. Since then he has logged quite a few miles.

Sharing her passion

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Harp’s amazing skills blended perfectly with those of Soraja Davis, a production costumer. As students watched, she added a cape, collar and feathered headpiece to transform Harp into a fantasy character.

Funded by the PTA, Art Day was the result of weeks of planning by a JLE committee that included Kathy Somero (media specialist), Jaron Neal (PE teacher), Cheryl Traylor (music teacher) and Shawn Horrell (art teacher), along with Principal Anthony Warden.

Artists who filled the Art Day slate demonstrated chalk portraiture, pottery, voice and dance. A few gave students an opportunity to try out the various art forms.

Under the direction of animal artist Cara Bevan, second-grader Lincoln Sigmon tried his hand at drawing a cat using marker as a medium.

“I liked making the animals,” he said. “It was fun to see the pottery and the artists work in our school. Fred Jones was my favorite because he drew my portrait.”

Hailey Nance enjoyed her brief visit with Kaley Horrell and Grace McDonald of Hope 4 U, who let students participate in a dance activity.

“When asked to list their favorite artist, each student had a different response, which Horrell took as an indication of widespread connection.”

“We were hoping to give students the opportunity to learn about many different types of art. We wanted them to experience the skills of a variety of artists,” she said. “Some students relate the most to music, others drawing, some theater, or movement in dance or gymnastics. It is important to give children exposure to the arts so they can grow in their unique skill and thrive.”

Staff writer Debbie Hightower may be reached at dhightower@atnonline.net or 336-888-3576.

Chalk portraiture was the specialty of artist Fred Jones, who expertly layered chalk on paper as subject Anthony Banks looked on with anticipation.