

# ROCHESTER Democrat and Chronicle

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011

## SUNDAY

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## TEXAS TUSSELE

### BILLS LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST COWBOYS IN ROCSPORTS

QUARTERBACK TONY ROMO



## NEW WAVE

### CHINESE IMMIGRANTS DIVERSIFYING LOCAL CULTURE IN ROCLIVING



**POLITICS » DIVERSITY**

# Women taking major role as leaders

### Local elections highlight diverse political structure

**JILL TERRERI**  
Staff writer

Democrats and Republicans in Monroe County didn't walk away with everything they wanted on Tuesday, as each had their share of losses.



Brooks



Doorley

But the election capped a good year for women in politics: Sandra Doorley was the first woman elected district attorney, Maggie Brooks was the first county executive to win a third term and, for the first time, the county's top job was sought by two women, Brooks and Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel.

The promotion of female candidates is a bipartisan affair locally: Last week's winners, Doorley and Brooks, come from the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively.

And while the number of women elected to federal office nationwide has lagged, Monroe County boasts several women in prominent offices:

- » Three of Monroe County's four countywide offices, outside of the judiciary, will be held by women as of January: Brooks, Doorley and County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo. (Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn is the fourth.)
- » Three of the four members of the House of Representatives delegation are women.
- » Six of the nine members of City

See **WOMEN**, Page 8A

**WATCHDOG REPORT » CITY STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

# 38% HAVE BEEN HELD BACK

### Repeating a grade can push students out of school, but might inflate graduation rate

**TIFFANY LANKES**  
Staff writer

Rochester city schools force an alarming number of students to repeat grade levels, despite data that show young people held back even once are more likely to drop out before finishing high school.

More than one out of every three students enrolled this year in the City School District — 37.6 percent, which is more than three times the national average of 11 percent — has been held back at least once.

"We know that retention is detrimental to the lives of students, yet we have convinced ourselves that doing so is in the best interest of our students," said Shaun Nelms, a zone chief who oversees schools in northeast Rochester. "If we truly believe in creating systems of equity and access, then we must reallocate resources to support those students."

That's what Simone Chatman wants. Chatman, whose son Bishop Foster

See **RETENTION**, Page 6A

Thirty-eight faded desks among 100 helps illustrate the magnitude of the problem facing the Rochester City School District, where the retention rate is more than 3 times the national average. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARA J. HICKMAN-HIMES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**TOP STORIES**

## DELIVERING THE MESSAGE

As companies and nonprofits reach for their key audiences, they're turning to people like Josh Pies, right, media producers with storytelling capabilities on a variety of platforms. "If your audience is shifting where it is spending its time, it makes sense that you have to shift as well to deliver your content," says an RIT professor. **Page 1E**



## SOLDIER KILLED IN 1968 LAID TO REST

Hundreds turned out for a funeral service at First Bible Baptist Church in Greece for Sgt. David Lemcke, who was killed while serving in Vietnam. **Page 1B**

## REPUBLICAN DEBATE

GOP presidential hopefuls argue the correct course in Afghanistan, the use of waterboarding and the wisdom of launching a pre-emptive military strike against Iran. **Page 2A**

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