



PRESIDENTS' DAY

Monday, February 21, 2011

'Get Patriotic in Person' See page A7 for info

The Courier-Times

Weather Outlook

TODAY: Hi 64 Lo 31
SUNDAY: Hi 61 Lo 43
MONDAY: Hi 70 Lo 50
TUESDAY: Hi 57 Lo 29

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SATURDAY, Feb. 19, 2011

Our 129th Year — No. 15

Roxboro, North Carolina

Three Sections — 22 Pages

75¢

www.personcountylife.com

Rabies alert issued in Allensville Township

5 persons being treated for exposure; 2 dogs euthanized & 3 cats also at risk

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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three more cats. Animal Control Director Ron Shaw said Thursday that Officer Kelly Oakley responded Wednesday to a call about a catfight in the Allensville Township. The feral cat that was taken back to the animal shelter exhibited "strong" signs of rabies, Shaw said. The cat tested positive for the rabies

virus and was destroyed. The two dogs that were also put down had not been vaccinated against rabies, said Shaw. On Thursday morning, he said there was a real possibility that three cats picked up at the residence where the fight took place would also have to be put down. "We want to emphasize the need for

pets to get their vaccinations," Shaw said, and for people to report any "bites" from animals "immediately." The Person County Health Department works closely with Person County Animal Control when an animal is suspected to have rabies, said Health Director Janet Clayton. "Animal Control alerts the health

department of any possible human exposures to the suspected animal. The health department then contacts the individuals to assess the type and severity of the contact with the animal," Clayton explained. The rabies virus is transmitted

See RABIES page A10

Partnership report: Abuse, neglect are big concerns

Editor's note: The following is the second of two stories pertaining to the Person County Partnership for Children's 2011 Community Assessment on the needs of young children.

And, she said, those parents who are working two or three part-time or low-paying jobs typically have no health insurance for themselves and their families.

"Over half the kids five and under" in Person County "are eligible for Medicaid, based on family income," Batten said.

The most current figures for unemployment, according to the Partnership's assessment, show that 9.3 percent of Personians are unemployed. That number is up from 5.5 percent in 2005.

Batten said that child abuse and neglect here had gone up along with unemployment and underemployment.

Numbers from October 2009 and October 2010, Batten said, show that "10

See ABUSE page A10

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"It's all about the jobs." Judy Batten, executive director of the Person County Partnership for Children made that statement this week while discussing the Partnership's 2011 Community Assessment.

Batten said that, according to the research done for the assessment, many of the parents of young children here "who can find work, are working more than one job, which leaves them less time to parent."

CenturyLink expands broadband service to 600 more customers

CenturyLink announced yesterday that 600 new consumers and businesses in Person County now have high speed Internet availability.

"The CenturyLink service now allows customers to quickly access the Internet to keep in contact with friends and family," the press release stated.

The company recently installed high-speed Internet equipment to serve the following locations: Helena-Moriah, Rougemont, Berea, Hunters Circle, Bass Farm, Hill, A.W. Bowling, Robert E. Blalock and Range roads, south of Bethany Church Road only.

"We are excited to continue to expand our coverage in Person County. These new locations will allow CenturyLink to provide custom features that include wire, jack, long distance, DSL, DirecTV and PC help desk," said Bill Reynolds, area plant supervisor.

CenturyLink's local number for consumers and businesses to call for information regarding service in their area is 336-599-1978.

WARM WEATHER FUN



Tim Chandler / C-T



Friday was a great day to be outside and there were plenty of children enjoying the warm and sunny weather at the Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex. In the photo above, clockwise, from bottom left, five-year-old Coleman Glasscock, four-year-old Bayley Duncan and four-year-old Jaxon Lawson have fun together at the park. At left, nine-month-old Christian Portillo is all smiles as he swings at Sansbury. The extended forecast calls for weather that should lead to more fun days at Sansbury and other area parks for Personians.

Voluntary ag districts approved in Person County

By TIM CHANDLER
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The Person Board of County Commissioners recently unanimously approved an ordinance supporting voluntary agricultural districts (VAD) in Person County.

The ordinance was approved at the Feb. 7 meeting of commissioners.

Person County Extension Director Derek Day told commissioners that the purpose of the agricultural district program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development.

See VOLUNTARY page A10

Farmers begin preparations for spring planting

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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last year, Day said. In 2010, Person County farmers planted about 3,000 acres. In 2003, over 3,500 acres of leaf were grown in Person County, but that number has declined steadily over the past few years.

"They're starting to move dirt."

That's what Person County Cooperative Extension Director Derek Day said this week when asked if farmers had begun preparations for spring planting.

"We're getting some warm weather and the land is good and dry," said Day, so growers are taking advantage of the conditions.

He added that tobacco growers were working in greenhouses, and said, "All [greenhouses] should be seeded within a couple of weeks."

Day also noted that farmers were fertilizing land that will be used to grow grains this spring.

Acres on tobacco will be about the same as that of

Day said crop reports were due at the end of May and he would have a better idea of total acreage after that time.

In addition to tobacco, farmers in the county planted about 11,000 acres of soybeans last year. Day said he expected that to be about the same this year.

Historically, tobacco has brought in the majority of the \$30 million annual agriculture receipts in Person County, but that figure has decreased over the past few years.

Horticulture and forestry are now responsible for the bulk of agricultural dollars here, Day has said.

Adrienne Duncan named new RDG director

By GREY PENTECOST
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Person County native Adrienne Duncan has been away for a while, but now she's back, and full of ideas for improving Uptown Roxboro as Roxboro Development Group's (RDG) new part-time director.

Duncan said she is happy to be back in her hometown. Previously, she had been living in Durham, working as a project engineer for ValleyCrest Landscape Development. She said she moved back to Roxboro several months ago when the development division of the company was dissolved. Duncan's degree in urban planning, which she received from East Carolina University

in 1995, and her work experience over the years, have prepared her for her current position. She worked for Ballentine Associates in Chapel Hill after graduating college, and one of her projects included creating the civil engineering drawings for a subdivision. She said the process took over three years, and she was involved from start to finish, from the planning stage through the creation of a homeowner's association.

Duncan said that because of her experiences she knows the "ins and outs" of the kind of work she'll be doing as RDG director.

"I know there are a lot of steps you have to go through to get something done," she commented, "and 'yes' isn't always the first answer you hear when you propose something."

She added that despite setbacks, it's important to keep up the momentum and enthusiasm for a project. While it may take several years, she said, "as long as you believe in it, it'll get done."

Duncan started the job on Monday and said she is "thrilled" to be here.

"Already this week I've thought of 10 or 15 things I really want to do," she said.

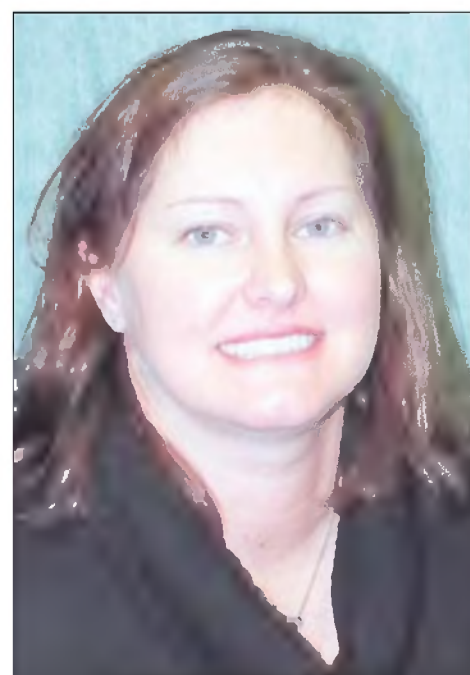
RDG exists to help revitalize Uptown Roxboro and Duncan is excited about working with Alive After Five events in hopes of attracting more people to the Uptown area, and would like to get more businesses Uptown as well.

She reflected on the Uptown establishments she enjoyed frequenting as a child and hopes to bring back the hustle and bustle she remembers.

Other improvements Duncan would like to see made to the area are the creation of better-defined crosswalks and

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Adrienne Duncan

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