

'Get Patriotic in Person'  
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# The Courier-Times

Weather Outlook

TODAY: Hi 73 Lo 47  
SUNDAY: Hi 71 Lo 47  
MONDAY: Hi 76 Lo 52  
TUESDAY: Hi 81 Lo 59

SATURDAY, April 16, 2011

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Four Sections — 48 Pages

www.personcountylife.com

## Robbery suspect nabbed

### Deputy's 'critical piece of information' helped police jail Reidsville man one day after BB&T heist

By TIM CHANDLER  
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Christian Poythress

Less than 24 hours after he allegedly robbed the BB&T bank at 500 N. Madison Blvd. at gunpoint, a Reidsville man was taken into custody at his home and charged in connection with the crime.

Christian Poythress, 46, of Reidsville was arrested at approximately 2 p.m. Thursday in connection with the armed robbery that took place at BB&T just after 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Roxboro Police Chief Todd Boycher said Poythress will likely face additional robbery charges.

"This has the potential to solve several other robberies," Boycher said Friday morning. "Our folks have done some checking and he is now a suspect in a couple of other robberies."

"There was a robbery in Greensboro [on March 24] where the photo available is almost identical to what we got of him at the counter at BB&T," Boycher

Sheriff's Office deputy. Roxboro Police Detective Gary Lee was the lead investigator in the case.

"When the bank robbery call came out, the suspect was listed as a black male, and a black [GMC] Yukon was listed as the [getaway] vehicle," Boycher said. "Deputy Mark Sharlow passed the vehicle and noted that a white male was driving. He then had the foresight to write down the license plate in case something was wrong with the description."

"This was a critical piece of information that our investigators used to track this down and solve the case," Boycher added.

Boycher noted that the vehicle spotted by Sharlow was "headed south and west" shortly after the robbery was reported.

After checking the license plate information, police investigators were able to ascertain information on Poythress, including a photograph, which Boycher said bore "an uncanny resemblance," to the photo of the BB&T robber in photographs provided by BB&T's security

division.

"We went down and confronted him and, upon further questioning, we did not have any doubts that this was the individual that [committed the robbery]," Boycher said.

Poythress was arrested at his apartment in Reidsville Thursday afternoon and he was later transported to the Person County Law Enforcement Center.

Boycher said items of clothing Poythress is believed to have worn during the robbery had been recovered during a canvass of the area near the bank.

"That, along with some other forensic evidence should easily solidify this case," Boycher said.

Poythress reportedly entered BB&T just as a bank employee was locking the door at the close of the business day Wednesday. He then allegedly followed the employee inside the bank, "produced a [semi-automatic] handgun and announced a robbery,"

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Kristy Melvin / Roxboro Police Department

**UNDER ARREST** — Roxboro Police Detective Gary Lee escorts Christian Poythress of Reidsville into the Person County Law Enforcement Center. Poythress is charged with robbing the BB&T on Madison Boulevard Wednesday.

## 'We'll have to go along with it'

### BOE approves local funding request at Thursday meeting

By GREY PENTECOST  
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The Person County Board of Education approved a local budget request of \$8.86 million for the 2011-12 fiscal year, and eliminated double sick day and annual leave benefits for dually employed staff at its Thursday night meeting.

The flat local budget request of \$8.86 million was presented to commissioners during a joint meeting on March 14, and a public hearing that went without public comment was held at the opening of Thursday's meeting of the board of education.

If the school board's request is granted, it will be the third straight year that Person County Schools has received the same amount of funding from the county. PCS is anticipating a 10 percent reduction in state funding and a reduction of about \$812,000 in

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## DOGWOODS BLOOMING



Photo by Susan Bowen

**COLORS OF SPRING** — Susan Bowen snapped this photo of the pink dogwoods in bloom at Roxboro Presbyterian Church with the steeple and sky in the background.

## Champions for Children named

### Ray Jeffers, Jackson Elliott, Guardian ad Litem program honored

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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A county commissioner, the Guardian ad Litem program and a former Piedmont Community College vice president were named Champions for Children this week, during a Week of the Young Child observance.

Judy Batten, executive director of the

Person County Partnership for Children announced this year's honorees during a Week of the Young Child breakfast Wednesday.

She said that Nancy Wagstaff and the volunteers and staff of Person County Guardian ad Litem (GAL) continually go above and beyond to advocate for abused and neglected children who are the subjects of court cases.

The GAL volunteers must be willing to participate in special training and

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## Annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The annual Countywide Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Person County Recreation, Arts & Department, will be held Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex.

The event is open to children between the ages of two and 10.

The rain date for the hunt is Wednesday, April 20.

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**Annual Spring Home Improvement Section included today Check it out!!!**

## Person County Farmers' Market on schedule to open Saturday, April 30, on boulevard

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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The Person County Farmers' Market is on schedule to open on Saturday, April 30.

Derek Day, county Cooperative Extension Service director said Thursday that the market building, located on North Madison Blvd. at Person Industries, is complete and electricity had been installed. He said signage should be up soon.

There was a meeting of the market board on April 12, and Day said vendors who plan to sell their products at the market were invited "as a way to get to know each other before opening day." Carl Cantaluppi, area horticulture agent for the

Extension Service said 12 of the 16 vendors were at this week's meeting.

Several of those growers plan to offer "produce boxes" when the market opens, said Cantaluppi.

He said the growers would each contribute their produce to the three-quarter bushel box to make a "variety pack" that customers will be able to special order and pick up on Saturday mornings as soon as the market opens.

He said plans are to gradually expand the produce box trade so that the orders will be delivered to buyers who live at Hyco and Mayo lakes.

Cantaluppi said he was "excited about this year" at the farmers' market and is looking forward to the grand opening on Saturday, June 4, from 8 a.m. until noon.

There will be activities that day, he said, as well as cooking demonstrations featuring Family and Consumer Education Agent Bess Hester-Whitt and a restaurant owner. Cantaluppi will provide live clarinet music for the opening and the Got to Be NC Produce Cart will be on hand to offer giveaways and coupons promoting North Carolina agriculture.

Representatives from RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International), the organization that provided a \$30,000 grant to get the market up and running, will be on hand also to formally present the "big check" to market organizers.

The market will be open each Saturday from 8

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