

'Get Patriotic in Person' See page B4 for info

The Courier-Times

Weather Outlook TODAY: Hi 84 Lo 69 THURSDAY: Hi 80 Lo 50 FRIDAY: Hi 71 Lo 47

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Classes resume at BHCS after 'amazing journey'

Bethel Hill students return to school that was heavily damaged during April 16 tornado

By GREY PENTECOST C-T Staff Writer greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

Everything was reportedly back to normal Monday at Bethel Hill Charter School (BHCS), as the classrooms were filled again for the first time since a tornado hit the campus on April 16. The storm caused extensive damage

to the school, including numerous broken windows. The hardest hit was the gym, which had part of the roof torn off. Volunteers mobilized and quickly began clean up and repair efforts that continued through last week, which was spring break for BHCS. Right after the storm, BHCS Principal John Betterton declared that school would be back in session as scheduled on Monday of this

week, and it was. Betterton said they were even able to get back into the cafeteria, where the floor tiles were replaced. He said he had been afraid the project wouldn't be completed by Monday. The cafeteria's broken windows have yet to be replaced and remain boarded up. One section of the roof on the main building still needed work, said Betterton, but that

was finished on Tuesday. Because the gym is not yet habitable, and may not be for the rest of the school year, the students had their PE classes on the playground. In the event of rain, Betterton said, those classes would be held in the auditorium. Fifth-grade teacher Anne Wolfe said she didn't run across any problems during the course of the day, and commented

that she was happy students didn't have to miss a day. In Liz Duncan's fifth-grade class, students were led in a discussion about the tornado damages to the campus and wrote about the event in their journals. In Duncan's classroom, damaged windows and ceiling tiles had to

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PHS' Allison Bowers named Teacher of the Year for PCS

North's Dustin Martin, South's Derek Edmisten are semifinalists

By GREY PENTECOST C-T Staff Writer greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

Person High School (PHS) math teacher Allison Bowers was named Person County Teacher of the Year (TOY) for 2011-12 Tuesday evening. Bowers received the honor at a banquet held at the Homestead Steakhouse. She succeeds fellow PHS teacher Gina Lunsford, and will go on to compete at the district level. Bowers graduated from Meredith College in 1987 with a degree in second-

ary education mathematics. In 1995, she completed a master's degree in education at North Carolina State University. Bowers has been teaching for 24 years, her first 12 spent in Durham County. She joined the faculty at PHS in 2002. "Mrs. Bowers' performance is outstanding in all of her teaching areas," commented PHS Principal Steve Hester. "Her consistent teaching demonstrates organization and planning, a dynamic and engaging style, and the most effective methods for student success." In addition to her classroom teaching, Bowers serves as Student Council

advisor, Rocket Fuel Leadership Camp advisor, mathematics department chair, drop-out prevention mentor trainer and waiver committee representative. She has also mentored beginning teachers over the years. In introducing Bowers at the TOY banquet, Hester commented, "Her level of dedication and commitment is unmatched, and to top that off, when you have a group of struggling students and you need a solution, Allison Bowers says, 'I'll take them, and we're going to

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Teacher of the Year Allison Bowers and BOE Chairman Gordon Powell

Commissioners approve resolution seeking Internet service for entire county

By TIM CHANDLER Courier-Times Editor tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

The Person Board of County Commissioners last week unanimously approved a resolution supporting high speed Internet service to all Personians who currently don't have access. Commission Vice Chairman Kyle Puryear initially proposed a resolution to commissioners in support of high speed Internet service to residents of the Julian Oakley Road. After discussion, however, Commissioner Sam Kennington offered a substitute motion to approve a resolution in support of Internet service to all residents of Person County who currently don't have service. The petition presented by Puryear to his fellow commissioners consisted of 94 signatures, 56 of which listed Julian Oakley Road as their address. The

remaining signatures were reportedly from residents in the "immediate surrounding area" of Julian Oakley Road. Puryear credited Larry Culley and Nancy Seagroves for their efforts in making the petition possible. "They did a really outstanding job of making their voice heard," Puryear said. Puryear also noted that CenturyLink had increased the high speed Internet capability in Person County. "We can't forget about the people who do have it," Puryear said.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Clayton agreed with the substitute motion from Kennington, noting, "the need for this is greater than a lot of people realize." CenturyLink has been working throughout the county to provide high speed Internet service to Personians. The company has said that it plans to provide Internet service to 95 percent of Person County residents when its work is complete.

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BOE approves policies on RIF procedures

By GREY PENTECOST C-T Staff Writer greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

At its April meeting, the Person County Board of Education approved a policy revision and adopted a new policy, both regarding reduction in force (RIF) procedures. After discussion with the board attorney, said Person County Schools Human Resources Director Dan Holloman, revisions were made to policy 7920: Professional Personnel Reduction in Force. The primary addition involved

the superintendent's notification procedures, should the school board vote to implement a RIF. The new policy - 7921: Classified Personnel Reduction - is one recommended by the North Carolina School Board Association. "Unfortunately," said Holloman, "based on how the budget's going right now, this is an issue that we'd rather not discuss, but we need to have it on our radar." The policy states that with "prior

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Sheriff's deputies probe Friday armed robbery

By TIM CHANDLER Courier-Times Editor tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

The Person County Sheriff's Office is investigating an armed robbery that took place at Fran's Stop & Shop at 5221 McGhee's Mill Rd. Friday afternoon. The robbery reportedly took place just after 2:15 p.m. Friday. According to a sheriff's office incident report, four persons were in the store at the time of the robbery. No one was injured during the robbery. Witnesses at the scene told sheriff's investigators that a suspect entered "the store dressed all in black with something in a black trash bag," according to the robbery report. The suspect was dressed in all black and also had on black gloves and a black ski mask. In addition, what was believed to be a black piece of lace was

used to shield the eyes and mouth of the suspect. The suspect reportedly pulled a shotgun out of the trash bag, banged the weapon on the counter twice and then fired a shot into the ceiling, the report read. The suspect reportedly dumped a cash drawer, along with money into the trash bag before exiting the store on foot. Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said the suspect did not speak during the course of the robbery. Jones said the suspect fled on foot down CP&L Access Road beside the store and that tracking dogs were used during the investigation, but no arrests had been made in the case as of Tuesday afternoon. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Person County Sheriff's Office at (336) 597-0500.

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Photo submitted

READY TO OPEN — The Person County Farmers' Market will open on Saturday morning at its location on North Madison Boulevard in the parking lot of Person Industries.

Person County Farmers' Market set for Saturday opening on boulevard

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT C-T Staff Writer pboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

The new Person County Farmers Market, located in front of Person Industries, on North Madison Boulevard, will open for the 2011 season on Saturday. Carl Cantaluppi, Area Horticulture agent with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service in Person and Granville counties, said a large variety of vegetables, meats and plants produced by area growers will be available. The market was built after Cantaluppi applied for and received a \$30,000 Community Grant from the RAFI-USA Organization to build the 100 by 45 foot structure. Person County government provided \$14,000 for the installation of

electrical outlets, overhead lights, and a sign for the roof. The Person County Tourism Development Authority has rented a large billboard located above the market. Sixteen vendors have already signed up to sell at the market this season, said Cantaluppi, and the market is expected to draw many customers, he said, "as 21,000 vehicles pass the location daily, according to North Carolina Department of Transportation traffic counts." Meats for sale on Saturday will include pasture raised Angus beef steaks, roasts and ground beef, as well as pork, chicken and farm fresh eggs, said Cantaluppi. Vegetables available will include

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