

The Courier-Times

Weather Outlook

TODAY: Hi 83 Lo 65
SUNDAY: Hi 88 Lo 67
MONDAY: Hi 91 Lo 67
TUESDAY: Hi 94 Lo 69

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Two Sections — 20 Pages

75¢

www.personcountylife.com

Person County's Social Security office closed

By TIM CHANDLER
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Person County Senior Center at 121-A Depot St.

The discontinuation of the service locally was effective Monday. In the past, a SSA representative has visited the Person County Senior Center once a month.

According to a press release issued

by Regional Communications Director Patti Patterson, SSA is "discontinuing service [in Person County] because Congress significantly cut our administrative budget.

"Anyone needing to do business with Social Security should consider using our award-winning online services at so-

cialsecurity.gov," Patterson added. They may also call us toll free at 1-800-772-1213 or visit any Social Security office."

Patterson noted that there is an SSA office located at 3004 Tower Blvd. in Durham. The phone number for that office is 1-888-759-3908.

There is also an SSA office in South

Boston, Va. That office is located at 2049 Hamilton Blvd. The phone number for the South Boston office is 434-572-6906.

Kelly Foti, executive director of the Person County Council on Aging, said she understood the funding issues being

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Local jobless rate drops below 10% in April

By TIM CHANDLER
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Person County saw its unemployment rate decrease during April for the third consecutive month, according to numbers released Friday by the Employment Security Commission (ESC) of North Carolina.

More importantly, the jobless rate for Person County is now below 10

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Memorial Day Service this morning

The Person County Museum of History will hold its annual Memorial Day Service today beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The speaker for the service will be Sgt. Robert Baynard, U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command, Bomber Fleet.

He will be joined by members of the Person High School JROTC, who will post and retire the colors, and the Rev. Pam Watkins of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, who will deliver the invocation.

Ginny Panetta of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 138 will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Person County District Attorney Wallace Bradsher will provide special music for the event and Adam White, president of the Roxboro Rotary Club will make a special presentation to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 72.

New bricks for the museum walkway will be dedicated in honor or memory of 18 veterans and seven non-veteran bricks will be dedicated as well, including one each to the Roxboro High School classes of 1955 and 1963 and the deceased members of the class of 1963.

Kathy Young, museum director, and Reginald Horton, adjutant of the American Legion Post 138, will conduct the dedication of the bricks.

The Person High School Band will perform God Bless America during the service today, and Jan Kerr will read A Memorial Day Poem by C.W. Johnson.

Agnie Brown, president-elect of the Person County Museum Board of Directors will offer a welcome, and Charlie Hubbard will introduce Sgt. Baynard.

Richard Vining, who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and David Ward, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, will lay a wreath in honor of fallen service members from all wars.

INSIDE Saturday

Table with 2 columns: Item and Page Number. Includes Agenda, Churches/Religion, Commentary, Do You Know, Education, Lifestyle, Movies, Really Transfers, TV Listings, Boatwright, Classified, Court, Editorial, Legal Notices, Military Notes, Obituaries, Sports.

GOD SUPPLIED THE COOL...



Phylliss Boatwright / C-T

KEEPSAKES — Theresa Nichols holds up mementos from her days as a WAAC.

Nichols recalls her time as a WAAC during World War II

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Cambridge Hills Assisted Living resident Theresa Nichols "will be 100 in three years," as she likes to remind folks, and she has done a lot of living during that time, including serving in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) during World War II.

The Indiana native grew up on a farm; the 11th of 13 children. Times were tough during Nichols' childhood, as the Spanish flu took members of many families, including hers. World War I raged in a far-off land. Diphtheria outbreaks took their toll. And the Great Depression brought hardships to nearly everyone.

Nichols recorded her life story, at times revealing a poet's sensitivity to language. Her story is not always easy to hear; but it is fascinating, poignant and educational.

In telling the story of her life, Nichols paints a vivid picture of World War II and her time as a WAAC.

She titled one chapter of her life "Assignment Saint George Hotel, General Eisenhower's Headquarters."

Nichols writes, "Our job assignment began the second day after our arrival in North Africa. The weapons carrier truck with its long benches along the sides was our transportation to our work, rough riding. The male soldier would come for us at the convent and deliver us to the work place. When our work shift ended, this same way of transportation returned us to

our living area, the convent."

The Saint George Hotel in Bair, Algeria, was converted to an office building where Eisenhower's headquarters was housed, Nichols explains.

"There was little room for office equipment and personnel. Five other WAACs and I were assigned to this administration force," she recalls.

"All offices were off-limits, all matters classified. There was no way of knowing who worked behind those closed office doors unless one would see them in the hallways," she says.

"Every now and then we'd run into Gen. Eisenhower and we remained at attention until he passed us, as we had been ordered to do. He would salute us and laugh, sometimes say a word or two like, 'to be sure,' or 'again.' He moved in a rapid pace at all times, I was impressed, and had great admiration for him," Nichols writes. The offices were barren and crude, she explains. "The filing was done into strong boxes similar to a foot locker, somewhat larger and made of steel. They remained locked unless work was filed in them.

"The paperwork consisted of cablegram messages from the front lines. In fact from all over the world; there were 50 countries directly involved. There were hundreds of messages received daily. Delivered by courier, men on motorcycles, jeeps, most any method one could conceive of. There were no telephones in our office. I am not sure Gen. Eisenhower had a phone," Nichols says.

The WAACs typed information from the cablegrams on large sheets of log paper, according to importance and in

chronological order, for Eisenhower and other high-ranking officers, Nichols tells us.

"It contained the entire lay-out of activity at the battle front and all other areas involved in this war, such as loss of life, planes, ships, reverses, troop withdrawals, battleground retreats, troop movements, new battlefronts, equipment losses, type of guns, tanks and movements. Any and every thing that needed to be known. Also gains and good news included," she writes, adding, "It was all sad because of loss of life."

While doing a job she volunteered for and was proud to do, Nichols says, in the story of her life, "I lived in mortal fear most of the time, afraid I had left out vital information and men would be killed."

The messages she and fellow WAACs dealt with were highly classified, Nichols says. They came from "the Navy on the high seas, the military generals at the front lines where drastic fighting was going on, civilians who held jobs as spies, from the submarines, and all the foreign high command military forces who were involved in this war. The enormous job was overwhelming," she tells us. "We were soldiers 24 hours of the day. The job was almost impossible to cope with. One becomes very humble, praying daily for strength that you don't lose your guts or go nuts. God supplied the cool, his presence was felt," Nichols writes.

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4-day weeks in place at PCC for the summer

For what is believed to be the first time in its 41-year history, Piedmont Community College has begun operating under a four-day workweek for the summer. The college is open Monday through Thursdays and is closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays with the exception of the PCC Child Development Center, which continues to be open on Fridays.

"Four-day work weeks in the summer are common in community colleges in our area," said Dr. Walter Bartlett, PCC president. "In these challenging economic times, this is an approach we're trying this summer. We are conscious of the demands on the county budget, which funds our facilities, and we're trying to be fiscally responsible."

All areas of the college are providing services Monday through Thurs-

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Rabies alert issued in Olive Hill

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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According to the Person County Animal Control office, Olive Hill Township will be under a rabies alert from May 26 through Nov. 26.

A raccoon came into contact with a stray dog in the Olive Hill Township this week, and the raccoon tested positive for rabies, said Animal Control Ad-

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BOE approves RIF of up to 20 teachers

By GREY PENTECOST
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The Person County Board of Education called an emergency session for Friday afternoon to complete voting on an agenda item from Monday's meeting.

According to Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner, he and the board "overlooked" the request of Person County Schools staff to authorize the reduction in force (RIF) of up to 20 teaching positions. After Cartner made the request Monday, the board moved on to other matters without officially voting on the aforementioned item.

On Tuesday, The Courier-Times questioned Cartner about whether the vote on the authorization to implement a RIF of up to 20 teaching positions had occurred. At the time, Cartner was under the impression that the request had been approved.

While board member Ronnie King

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