

## Citizen Police Academy

### ■ An indepth look at local law enforcement

By GREY PENTECOST  
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Its patrol cars can be seen cruising the city roadways on a daily basis, but how much does the average citizen really know about the inner workings of the agency that exists to serve and protect Roxboro?

This spring, 10 Roxboro and Person County residents went beyond surface-level knowledge and pre-conceived notions to gain a deeper understanding of the Roxboro Police Department (RPD), by participating in the fifth session of the Citizen Police Academy (CPA).

The eight-week informational course, designed to educate Roxboro citizens about the structure and activities of the police department, included presentations on police records and technology, traffic enforcement, laws of search and seizure and firearm safety.

"It's not all going out and getting in a car and chasing down bad guys and putting them in jail," said Roxboro Police

Lt. Mike Price, who with the assistance of Sgt. Daniel Roberson, coordinated the most recent CPA session.

Price noted that the job of a police officer is "more than what you see on T.V.," as there are a lot of technical elements involved, from training to detailed procedures officers must follow. He said he hoped the CPA would clear up misconceptions class members may have had about police work, and that in turn they would act as "a voice for the police department" among those they come in contact with in their daily lives.

"The sessions are also a chance for us to show how we are increasingly using partnerships and new technology in resolving issues of crime and violence," said Police Chief Todd Boycher. "The resolution of two recent shooting cases is an example of our increasing desire to work in concert with citizens to abate criminal activity. Former members of our academies are valuable sources of information, as well as the dissemination of information. In an increasingly complex world, [the RPD] must have

buy-in, like that from former CPA members, in order to function effectively and efficiently."

The RPD's first CPA was held in 2005, and prior to this year, the academy had seen over 100 graduates. The most recent session marked the first time Price and Roberson served as coordinators. In organizing the session, which was comprised of one three-hour class per week, they focused on placing the topics to be covered in a logical order, from the structure of the police department to courtroom proceedings.

"It's like anything else," said Price, "if you don't start with a good solid foundation, you pretty much don't understand everything that happens after that, so we kind of formed that schedule with that in mind, building a foundation for each next step so that everything had a nice flow to it."

The history portion, included in the first session, was one of several new additions to the CPA. Because the de-

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Photo submitted

Roxboro Police Det. Ricky Hughes delivers a presentation on gang awareness to participants in the Citizen Police Academy.

## 'Scattered' rain brings little relief for farmers

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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Despite spotty showers and thunderstorms Monday night, and a forecast for possibly more rain Tuesday and Wednesday, the word for Person County farmers is "dry."

That was the one remark used by county Extension Service Director Derek Day Monday when asked about the state of fields here.

Day did offer a positive note about the dry weather that has plagued the county for the past few weeks.

"The dry spell was good enough that [farmers] finished cutting the wheat and getting the hay up," Day said Monday afternoon.

The corn crops need rain within the next five to 10 days, however, Day said, or they will be behind schedule.

He said growers here had planted about half of their expected soybean crops and that those early beans that were planted in May "need rain."

Many farmers plan to plant a "double crop" of soybeans in fields from which they just harvested wheat, Day said.

He said some early tobacco crops were "coming in," and a few growers had begun irrigating their leaf fields.

"If there is no rain this week," Day said on Monday, "then they [growers] will be irrigating in earnest by Wednesday or Thursday."

He said tobacco "likes it dry early on" in the growing season, but that most crops in Person County were now at a stage where they needed some rainfall.

On Tuesday, following Monday night's thunderstorms, Day said the amount of rainfall averaged "from nothing to a half inch" over most of the county.

Some "pockets on the south end" of the county reported from one and one-half inches to two inches of rain Monday, Day said. He added that the storms were "very scattered," however, thus affording no real relief for farmers here.

## Commissioners make appointments to boards

By TIM CHANDLER  
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The Person Board of County Commissioners made appointments to various volunteer boards last week following a closed session to conduct interviews for the posts.

Larry H. Bowes, a former commissioner, was reappointed to a three-year term on the ABC Board and Dr. Anderson White was reappointed to one three-year post available on the Airport Commission.

Two positions were available on the Board of Adjustment and commissioners reappointed Ronald Perkins and Lois McIver Winstead to fill those three-year terms.

Three persons were reappointed to fill three-year terms on the county's Board of Health. They included Allison Porterfield (pharmacist), Steven Bailey (engineer) and Leon Martin (general public).

Gordon Phillip Allen Jr. was reappointed to a three-year term on the Economic Development Commission and Randy King was appointed to the other three-year position available on the commission.

LeighAnn Creson was reappointed to a three-year term on the Home Health and Hospice Advisory Committee, while Robert H. Allen was tabbed for a six-year term on the Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority.

A two-year position was available on the Jury Commission and commissioners reappointed Tammy O'Briant to that post.

Several appointments were made on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to represent various areas, including Kristy Melvin (Roxboro Police Department), Alisa Mitchell Black (district

attorney's office), Melanie Puryear (Department of Social Services), Jayne Bremer (United Way) and Allison D. Daye (person under the age of 21).

A pair of two-year terms were initially available on the Mayo Lake Advisory Committee; however, commissioners voted unanimously to expand the committee to five members. Commissioners reappointed Grant M. Christy to a two-year term and appointed Alan D. Jones, Gerry O'Neil, Larry Yarborough, a former county commissioner, and Jay Poindexter to two-year terms as well.

William Bullock was reappointed to a three-year term on the Person-Caswell Lake Authority and Cleve Wagstaff was reappointed to a four-year term on the Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees.

Kenneth Malcolm Montgomery was reappointed to the one three-year term available on the Planning Board and Froncello Bumpass and Johnny Myrl Lunsford, the former chair of the county commissioners, were named to three-year terms on the Recreation Advisory Board. Lois McIver Winstead was named to a three-year term on the Region K Aging Advisory and Tonya Ragans Wilson was reappointed to the Workforce Development Board.

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Photo submitted

The Shytle family, from left, Chylene, Joel, Ryan and Nicole, appreciate the care Joel receives at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, S.C. Shriners here say they believe more children in the county could benefit but aren't aware of all that's available from Shriners International and the hospitals.

## 'It all comes down to the children'

### ■ Shriners meet medical needs of youngsters

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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parades, funny cars and fezzes.

Joel Shytle, like any eight-year-old boy, loves to play video games and watch movies.

His favorite movie of all is *Cars*. When a newspaper reporter visited him this

week, Joel talked about his favorite *Cars* character, Mater the tow truck, and said he couldn't wait to see *Cars 2*.

Joel is lively, funny and obviously bright. The fact that he has Spina bifida and epilepsy doesn't seem to hinder him much. Without the braces on his legs, Joel scoots around the floor at breakneck speed, pulling himself along with little strong arms.

He has an electric wheelchair but only uses it when absolutely necessary. His mom, Chylene Shytle, doesn't want her son to depend on the wheelchair more than he has to. But he will imitate Mater now and then, trying to be "the world's best backward driver."

Even at such a young age, Joel can insert his catheter, so that he can go to the bathroom alone.

This young man is pretty self-sufficient for one so young, and one with so many medical problems.

But he does have to accept help with braces and pads for his legs, catheters, and suppositories to help him defecate.

That help comes from the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, S.C. and from a couple of Person County Shrine members.

Ernie Wood said last week that he knew of five children, including Joel and 13-year-old Tanner Martin, that

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Photo submitted

Michelle, Mark, Tanner and Cody Martin are grateful for the prostheses Tanner receives from the Shriners Hospital for Children.