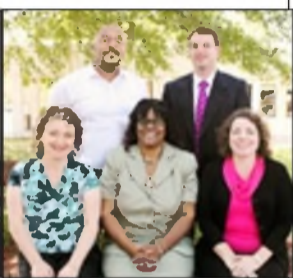


# The Courier-Times



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Our  
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## Storm expected to deliver rain, strong wind gusts in Person

BY TIM CHANDLER  
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As the coast of North Carolina braces for a direct hit from Hurricane Irene today, Personians are also preparing to deal with heavy rain showers and strong wind gusts associated with the powerful storm system.

Interim Person County Emergency Management Services Director Penny Payne said local officials were "planning a partial activation" of the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) early today.

"Person County Government and City of Roxboro Government has all of their services available to support and protect the citizens

of the community," Payne said. "We are preparing equipment, staff and other vital resources should they be required."

As of late Friday afternoon, Hurricane Irene was forecast to be a Category 2 storm and strike the North Carolina coast near Cape Lookout.

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## PERSONALITY RESCHEDULED FOR OCT. 14-15

The annual Personality Festival, which was scheduled for Friday night and today in Uptown Roxboro was postponed Thursday as weather uncertainties related to Hurricane Irene were

looming. Personality 2011 was rescheduled for the weekend of Friday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 15, in Uptown Roxboro.

Personality organizers opted

to postpone the event due to the forecast of sustained winds of 20 miles per hour and wind gusts of at least 30 to 40 miles per hour and the potential for up to two inches of rain.



Woodland kindergarten teacher Amanda Morrow stands with two of her students, Emi Martinez-Altamirano (left) and Haley Martin, as homeward bound students board the buses at the end of the day.

## 'Very close to perfect'

### Person County Schools begin new year 'really well' Thursday

BY GREY PENTECOST  
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For Person County Schools students, summer vacation came to a close Thursday morning as 4,714 students made their way to school for the start of a new year.

At Woodland Elementary School students had been given a snapshot of what they will be expected to learn in the coming days through content and concept maps posted on each classroom's walls.

Woodland Principal Kirk Brozy explained that the maps, created for both reading and math (as well as science in the fifth-grade), are part of the Learning Focused model's research-based strategies. At the end of each instructional unit, he continued, students will engage in "summary point writing," which involves using the posted vocabulary words to answer the "essential question" of the unit.

In his second year as Woodland's principal, Brozy noted that the teamwork of the staff and the vertical alignment (as students build on the concepts they've learned at each grade level) have been the two biggest improvements he has seen since he's been at the school.

School Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner visited several schools Thursday, while other central of-

fice staff lent a helping hand that morning at the various schools in the district.

"From all reports," said Cartner Thursday afternoon, "things are going really well."

He said the only thing that surprised him was that Helena Elementary's third-grade had about 30 less students than expected. Elsewhere in the district, he said class sizes were in line with projections.

Cartner said it was a "super opening."

"And we kind of felt like it would be," he continued, "because we had such good turn outs at all levels for open house this year, which is really a positive indicator of parents being involved with their children's education. Every principal was just pleased with the level of turnout for their open house."

Cartner said he also noticed good attitudes among the staff during last week's workdays and professional development sessions.

In a letter to PCS staff Thursday, Cartner mentioned that almost 100 teachers participated in technology workshops over the summer, while others worked with various other projects.

"We've just got a phenomenal group of teachers and school leaders," he said. "I think some-

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## Megan Wright named Teacher of the Year at Roxboro Community School

BY GREY PENTECOST  
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Roxboro Community School fourth-year English teacher Megan Wright listened with the rest of her colleagues and the school's students as the RCS Teacher of the Year (TOY) was described Wednesday. The fact that she was the teacher being described didn't really "hit" her until RCS Principal Walter Finnigan called her to the center of the lobby to

be recognized. "To say that I was grateful and honored is an understatement," Wright told *The Courier-Times*. "We have a close-knit family at RCS, but I didn't realize that my colleagues felt confident in my abilities, because at times, I sure didn't."

Wright, who is also the film class instructor and yearbook advisor, said it meant a lot to her that her current and former students were happy with the decision as well.

During Wednesday's school-wide announcement, Finnigan read a statement from one of Wright's colleagues, who had known Wright since she was a high school freshman, and taught her in honors English and teacher cadet classes I and II. This colleague said that Wright's teaching strategies, knowledge of current events and love for her students were "outstanding."

Although her first years teach-

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Megan Wright is greeted by her parents after being named Teacher of the Year at Roxboro Community School.

GREY PENTECOST | COURIER-TIMES