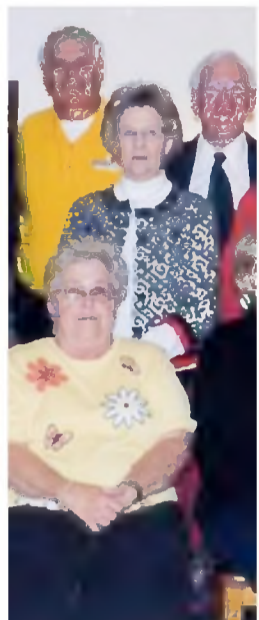




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Our
129th year
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Three sections
24 pages

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Progress Energy's local facilities not affected by ongoing closures

BY TIM CHANDLER
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Progress Energy's two plants in Person County will not be among coal-fired facilities to be retired by the company under the utility's fleet-modernization program.

A Progress Energy spokesperson confirmed this week that the coal-fired Progress Energy facilities at Hyco Lake and Mayo Lake in Person County would remain operational.

"As part of the fleet modernization plan, the company has invested more than \$1 billion in technology to reduce emissions dramatically at the Roxboro and

Mayo plants in Person County and the Asheville Plant in Buncombe County," a Progress Energy release read. "Progress Energy will continue to operate those coal-fired facilities after the others are retired."

Progress Energy will close the W.H. Weatherspoon coal-fired plant near Lumberton today.

The Weatherspoon Plant was the first major construction project in the company's post-World War II expansion. Two more coal-fired units were added in the 1950s, bringing the plant's total coal generating capacity to 177 megawatts (MW). Four peaking units at the site, fueled by natural gas and oil, were added in the 1970s and will continue to oper-

ate as needed to meet customer demand.

"For 62 years, the Weatherspoon Plant has been a key part of our ability to meet the electricity demands of our customers around the clock," said Bill Johnson, chairman, president and CEO of Progress Energy. "The hundreds of employees who have worked at Weatherspoon over the years have been closely tied to Robeson County and the region, and the plant's long and productive life has been a testament to their outstanding dedication to safety, efficiency and reliable service."

In 2009, Progress Energy an-



TIM CHANDLER | COURIER-TIMES

Progress Energy's Roxboro facility at Hyco Lake.

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1st-year PCS teacher dies in crash Wednesday

BY TIM CHANDLER
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A first-year Person County Schools (PCS) teacher died Wednesday as a result of injuries she sustained in a two-vehicle accident in Caswell County.

Lauren Joy Chandler, 22, of Burlington died when the vehicle she was operating was struck by another vehicle at an intersection in Caswell County. The scene of the wreck was 12.8 miles south of Yanceyville at the intersection of Dave Smith Road and Corbett Ridge Road.

According to a preliminary report from North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper J.W. Boozer, Chandler was driving on Dave Smith Road and pulled into the path of another vehicle that was traveling on Corbett Ridge Road. The accident occurred shortly after 5:30 p.m.

Chandler, originally from Caswell County, was a fifth-grade teacher at Helena Elementary School. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Greensboro College earlier this year and had been teaching in Person County since August.

PCS Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner said counselors were on hand Thursday at Helena to assist students and faculty.

"Lauren was an outstanding first-year teacher," Cartner said. "Even in a brief time, she had such a positive impact on students and colleagues alike."

Chandler had recently posted on her Facebook site how much she enjoyed teaching and she would "do this job for free."

"When someone loves this job with a passion and writes they would 'do this job for free,' you know you have a very special person," Cartner said. "I ask our greater community to honor Lauren's memory and service by supporting the Helena Elementary family and Lauren's family in these very difficult days."



SUBMITTED

Pepsi Roxboro President and CEO Brantley Burnett (left) accepts Pepsi Lifetime Achievement Award from Mario Mercurio, SVP/GM of Pepsi-Cola North America Beverages Franchise Business Unit.

Brantley Burnett receives Pepsi-Cola's Lifetime Achievement award

BY PHYLLIS BOATWRIGHT
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Brantley Burnett, president and CEO of Pepsi-Cola Bottling of Roxboro, the nation's oldest family-run Pepsi franchise, was honored this week by Pepsi-Cola North America Beverages with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Burnett is also president of Carolina Canners in Cheraw, S.C.

Hunt Fitzgerald, Burnett's

grandson, said Friday, "We are all very, very proud of him. This is a crowning achievement for him."

Fitzgerald said the entire family was proud of Burnett and grateful that he was rewarded for all the hard work he has done "for Pepsi and his family all his life. It's nice for the children and grandchildren to get to be proud of him, instead of the other way around," Fitzgerald added. "We're all tickled to death."

According to a press re-

lease from Pepsi-Cola North America Beverages, (PCNAB) "Burnett's significant accomplishments and ongoing dedication to the industry were recognized during Pepsi-Cola's Donald M. Kendall Bottler of the Year Awards ceremony."

Mario Mercurio, general manager of PCNAB said, "Brantley is synonymous with Pepsi bottling — fiercely independent and innovative to

See **AWARD**, Page 12

Toddler in critical condition following accident

BY GREY PENTECOST
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A one-year-old child was injured Thursday in what the Person County Sheriff's Office is calling an accident.

Carson David Harris was last reported by the Person County Sheriff's Office in critical condition Friday after receiving injuries as a result of being run over by a vehicle Thursday afternoon.

The Person County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating the accident that occurred on a private drive at 983 Cavel-Chub Lake Rd.

According to a sheriff's office report, the victim, Carson David Harris, along with his mother and older brother, were being dropped off at the Cavel-Chub Lake residence by a person driving a Ford Ranger.

As stated in the report, the driver ran over the child with the vehicle when leaving the driveway.

The mother of the child stated that she did not see the accident occur, according to the report.

The child was reportedly airlifted to Duke Hospital because of severe head and leg injuries.

Deputy Chief Al Rhew stated that, as told to him by a family member of the victim, Harris was still at Duke in critical condition as of 2 p.m. Friday.

Rhew said the family member reported that the child had shown signs of improvement since being admitted to the hospital.

'Dust has finally settled' for Partnership for Children

BY PHYLLIS BOATWRIGHT
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Early childhood education programs in Person County, and across the state, have taken deep hits in funding, but "the dust has

finally settled," according to the director of the Person County Partnership for Children.

Judy Batten said this week that there would likely be more challenges ahead, but for now, she said, "at least we know the state policy and budget changes

that impact our programs and we have made the needed adjustments."

She said the budget for Smart Start, North Carolina's early childhood education initiative, was cut 21.8 percent for the services provided by the Partnership

for Children. Because of budget cuts, two "very strong programs" had to be eliminated in Person County, according to Batten.

"Our board did not have the flexibility to continue funding for our Dancing With Diversity project, which addressed Person

County's very high childhood obesity rates," Batten explained, "nor could we continue to fund the Early Childhood Scholarship which helped individuals pursuing an early childhood associate

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