

The Courier-Times

75 Cents



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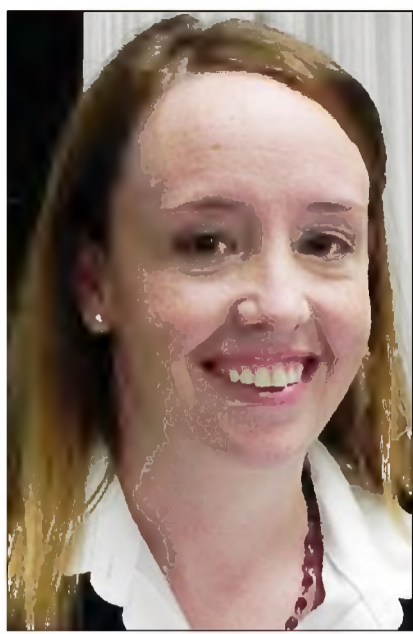
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Heidi York

County Manager Heidi York will revert to full-time status at start of new year

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

Person County Manager Heidi York will officially revert to full-time status on Jan. 1.

Last November, York announced her resignation effective Jan. 3, 2011. Less than a week later, however, the county com-

missioners, approved a part-time employment proposal from York. The part-time employment proposal was made by York upon request from commissioners.

Acting on York's full-time proposal Monday, commissioners unanimously voted to revert her employment status to full-time. The announcement was made following a closed session at the end

of Monday night's meeting.

York said Tuesday that she began thinking of reverting to full-time status shortly after former assistant county manager Gene Hodges resigned last month to take a similar post in Craven County.

"The timing seemed right for our organization and our community," York said. "As of Janu-

ary, I will resume full-time status at the same salary I would have had in January of 2011."

York, whose hiring rate was \$97,500 annually, will have a salary of \$102,375 in January, which will include a five-percent adjustment she would have been eligible for last January as a result

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Commissioners approve pay hike for county employees

Monday's 3-2 vote by board gives nod to 2.85% COLA

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

Person County Government employees received an early Christmas gift Monday night.

The Person Board of County Commissioners, by a 3-2 vote, approved a 2.85-percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for county employees, effective Jan. 1.

The pay hike marks the first COLA received by county employees since July of 2008. The cost to implement the pay raise

is \$248,655 for six months and \$497,310 for 12 months.

The money to pay for the pay hike, which is a recurring expense, will come from fund balance in the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Ray Jeffers made the motion to approve the 2.85-percent COLA. Chairman Jimmy Clayton and Vice Chairman Kyle Puryear also voted for the pay increase.

Jeffers' motion came as a substitute to a motion made by Commissioner Sam Kenning-

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Economic development director to be hired in upcoming year

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

The Person Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved funding for an economic development director during its meeting Monday night.

Commissioners have been considering the hiring of an economic development director and an administrative assistant. However, Commissioner Frances Blalock's motion, which was approved, called for the hiring of just an economic development director at present.

Blalock explained that "when the person is hired," he or she might have his or her own ideas pertaining to staffing.

Last month, Jim Stovall, former chairman of the Person County Economic Development Commission (EDC), made a plea to commissioners to fund a full-time economic development director for Person County. The county has not had a full-time economic development director since Glen Newsome retired from the post in May of 2009.

The former job description

for the county's economic development director position called for a pay range from \$61,513 to \$95,345, depending on experience.

The total cost to the county when Newsome held the position was \$100,075, which included a salary of \$78,540 plus benefits.

Information provided to commissioners by County Manager Heidi York estimated the pay range for an administrative assistant to the economic development director to be between \$28,667 and \$44,434. The county formerly funded that position at a total cost of \$42,072, which included a salary of \$31,140, plus benefits.

York also estimated that the total annual cost for operating both positions would be \$65,000 and estimated the total cost for both positions with salaries, benefits and operating costs at \$207,147.

Commissioner Sam Kennington asked York to rework the job description for the economic development director. He also requested that the economic development director be

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The newly refinished and redesigned gym floor at the Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex is pictured here in progress.

Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex gym floor receives a facelift

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

The gymnasium floor at the Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex has not only been refurbished, to repair storm damage inflicted in April, but the court has been completely redesigned.

When a series of storms tore through the county at the end of April, the Huck Sansbury gym got caught in the commotion, and was left with its roof blown off and a rain-damaged floor.

When time came to make the insurance-covered repairs, the Person County Recreation, Arts and Parks Department decided

to go with a new design for the court, said Director John Hill.

The department contracted with 4 Korner's Flooring on the project, and owner Jimmy Gery, who has refinished most of the courts used by Atlantic Coast Conference collegiate basketball

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School board to meet Thursday night

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

The Person County Board of Education will face a light agenda tomorrow when it meets at 6:30 p.m. in the board of education boardroom, located on the ground floor of the Person County Office

Building at 304 S. Morgan St.

Person County Schools Executive Director for Program Services Marionette Jeffers will present the Career and College Promise program to the board for approval.

"The Career and College Promise program is designed to offer qualified high school stu-

dents structured dual enrollment opportunities that provide both entry-level job skills, as well as pathways leading to a certificate, diploma or degree," stated a board agenda memo.

Piedmont Community College (PCC) would offer the courses,

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