

The Courier-Times



PERSONALITY:
Annual Personality Festival scheduled this weekend in Uptown Roxboro **B1**



SWEEP!!!
RCS varsity volleyball team opens season with 3-0 sweep of 4-A Northern Durham **A6**



BUS ROUTES:
Listing of bus routes for Person County Schools **B7-8**

DEATHS

Louise Rebecca Stuart Epps, 99

Roxboro

Olivia Roberts Harris, 77

Rougemont

Barbara Ann Krug Milillo, 64

Roxboro

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Our 131st year Number 67

Three sections 48 pages

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Patrick Holmes

Person County Schools names 2 new elementary principals

Two of Person County's elementary schools will see new leadership in the 2013-2014 school year. Adriese Williams will lead North Elementary and Patrick Holmes will serve at the helm of South Elementary.

Williams most recently served as the assistant principal of R.N. Harris Elementary School in Durham and takes the reins of North

Elementary this week, where he will succeed Annitra Leigh.

Williams earned a Master of Education: Special Education degree from North Carolina Central University (NCCU). He later became a member of the North Carolina Principal Fellows program, and earned his Master of School Administration degree from NCCU in 2010.

Since July 2010, Williams has served as assistant principal of McGee's Crossroads Middle School in Johnston County and assistant principal of R. N. Harris Elementary School in Durham County. Prior to that, he served as a technology facilitator at R. N. Harris. Before entering



Adriese Williams

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Bromma site still choice for PI, PCRC

Person Industries, recycling center to be combined

BY TIM CHANDLER
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After a lengthy and at times heated discussion Monday morning, the Person Board of County Commissioners remained on course to purchase the former Bromma facility at 2285 Durham Rd. later this year.

Commissioners voted 3-1 earlier this month to accept an offer of \$1.52 million to purchase the facility, which is owned by Dansco LLC and currently houses a flea market.

The Durham Road site, which includes a warehouse and other buildings, totals 11.18 acres.

The proposed use of the facility is to relocate Person Industries (PI) and the Person County Recycling Center (PCRC) into one site.

While the approved purchase price of the facility is \$1.52 million, the current tax value of the facility is \$689,086. The appraised value of the property is \$1.1 million.

Commissioners Jimmy Clayton, Ray Jeffers and Frances Blalock voted in favor of the purchase, while Commissioner Kyle Puryear cast the dissenting vote on Aug. 9.

Commissioner David Newell was on vacation when the Aug. 9 vote was taken; however, he voiced opposition to the purchase Monday.

Newell said Monday he did "not object to Person Industries, but how far

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TIM CHANDLER | COURIER-TIMES

Person County Commissioner Ray Jeffers describes what his duties will be as president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners at a recent Roxboro Rotary Club meeting.

Jeffers to be inducted as president of North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

BY TIM CHANDLER
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"If you're not at the table, you might be on the menu."

Ray Jeffers, vice chairman of the Person Board of County Commissioners spoke those words recently when describing his desire to be active lo-

cally and on the state level in politics.

On Saturday in Greensboro, Jeffers, who is in the midst of his second four-year term on the board of county commissioners, will be sworn in as president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC).

Jeffers will be the first com-

missioner from Person County to serve as president of the NCACC.

"It's a great honor for me and for Person County," Jeffers told members of the Roxboro Rotary Club recently. "One of the many lessons I have learned in my career as a county commissioner is that you have to get involved."

"Just like you are involved in promoting Person County through your membership in the Rotary Club, county commissioners have a duty and responsibility to work with our state and federal representatives," Jeffers added. "That is best accomplished by taking

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW our time is now

Section C | Courier-Times | 28 Pages | August 21, 2013
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The C-T's annual Fall Sports Preview is included in today's edition. Check it out!!!

State's jobless rate inches up to 8.9%

BY TIM CHANDLER
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North Carolina's unemployment rate increased slightly in July, according to information released Monday by the state's Employment Security Commission (ESC).

The state's jobless rate in July was 8.9 percent, increasing 0.1 of a percentage point, from its mark of 8.8 percent in June and May.

North Carolina's July 2013

unemployment rate was 0.7 of a percentage point lower than a year ago.

Prior to remaining at 8.8 percent in both May and June, the state experienced decreases of 0.3 of a percentage point in April, 0.2 of a percentage point in March and 0.1 of a percentage point in February.

The national unemployment rate in July decreased to 7.4 percent from June's mark of 7.6 percent. One month ear-

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COUNTY: Commissioners remain committed to Durham Road site for PI, PCRC

FROM PAGE 1

can we go as far as subsidizing it?"

Person Industries Director Wanda Rogers told Newell, "Our product pretty much does pay for itself."

"I'm looking to save money," Rogers said later. "Our main thing is to be as efficient as we can be."

Puryear countered by saying, "The county is not making any money [with recycling]. We paint the picture that we're making money, but we're not making a profit on it."

After Rogers noted that PCRC is "providing a service" to Person

County, Blalock said the county also subsidizes the Person Area Transportation System, and the Person County Recreation, Arts & Parks Department.

"They are providing a service," Blalock said. She then said the recycling center has "great potential."

Rogers told commissioners PI and PCRC employed a total of 89 people with disabilities. She also said there were 142 total employees.

"We have been quite successful," Rogers said, adding that it would be good to operate PI and PCRC out of one facility.

"It is the most affordable option, as well as the best for us,"

Roger said. She also said PI and PCRC could "grow and expand in the building for up to 20 years."

Person County Manager Heidi York said earlier that multiple options had been looked at for the co-location of PI and the PCRC. A facility on the Critcher-Wilkerson Road, she said, was the most expensive option and the Durham Road property was the least expensive.

In addition to the purchase price for the former Bromma property, York said remodeling estimates for the location have been placed at \$360,000.

Some members of Roxboro City Council voiced displeasure with the county's possible pur-

chase of the former Bromma facility when it met last week.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Clayton said Monday he believed commissioners could "work out our differences with the city."

Councilman Mark Phillips pointed out last week if the county owned the Durham Road property, "They'd be taking it off the tax books for us and taking away potential development."

Councilman Byrd Blackwell said he agreed with Phillips that the purchase of the property by the county would not be beneficial to the city.

"They've been dealing with that property for about two or three months and I've had more complaints about that one thing than anything in all the years I've been up here," Councilman Sandy Stigall said last week.

"People are totally dissatisfied. One thing that upsets me is that everything the county touches, it takes taxes away from the city," Stigall added. "...I just think it's a bad deal."

York told commissioners Monday the city would lose approximately \$5,500 in property tax revenue if the county purchased the former Bromma property.

Blalock noted that the current PCRC site is also in the city limits and if the county purchased that property it, too, would be removed from the tax books.

She added she would like the city to "partner" with the county to "encourage and educate" everyone to recycle. In turn, she said, the city could "receive a portion of the revenue" from PCRC.

Blalock made the motion for the county to purchase the Bro-

mma property on Aug. 9. Among the contingencies to her motion was the completion of rezoning from B-1 Highway Commercial to L-1 Light Industrial.

Roxboro City Council would have to approve the rezoning of the property.

PCRC is currently housed in a leased facility at 741 Martin St. According to York, the rental rate the county pays for the facility is \$107,000 annually, plus all utilities.

PI is currently located at 601 N. Madison Blvd.

The county has leased the Madison Boulevard property since 1975.

The current lease expires on May 22, 2025. The annual rent paid by the county for the property is \$6,500, plus taxes, which York said totals approximately \$8,500 each year.

NCACC: Jeffers to be president of North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

FROM PAGE 1

advantage of the many opportunities offered by our state and national associations. We have found that the most effective advocacy is for an elected official to speak directly with another elected official."

The NCACC was founded in 1908 and serves as the advocate for the state's counties before the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government.

"All 100 counties are members of the association, and this unity makes us a powerful voice for counties at the N.C. General Assembly," Jeffers said. "Since everybody in North Carolina lives in a county, we advocate for you. We are the only organization that can say we represent every North Carolinian."

"We represent all counties and the issues that we decide are important."

Jeffers said the NCACC Executive Committee had a busy session at the General Assembly this past spring and summer in Raleigh.

"A lot of our effort goes into playing defense — stopping legislators from implementing a law that may have a negative impact to county governments," Jeffers explained. "In recent years legislators have talked about requiring counties to fund secondary road maintenance and construction costs."

"This would be devastating to all counties, particularly to rural counties like Person County," Jeffers said. "We could not provide the revenues needed to maintain our road system, which would cripple our economic development efforts."

together all 580 county commissioners so that we are working together to accomplish our goals," Jeffers continued. "The goals that we pursue are adopted by our membership every two years, and almost all of these goals are adopted unanimously."

Jeffers said the NCACC puts aside political affiliations and works for goals that will benefit all counties.

"Our board of directors is politically, racially and geographically diverse to make sure that we hear from all of our counties and all perspectives," Jeffers added. "Our strength is our unity."

In addition to being named NCACC president this weekend, Jeffers was appointed chairman of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Rural Action Caucus last month.

ESC: North Carolina's unemployment rate inches up to 8.9% in July

FROM PAGE 1

lier, the national jobless rate remained unchanged.

The number of people employed in July (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 13,735 over the month to 4,278,516, while increasing by 14,902 over the year.

The number of people unemployed in July increased by 1,527 to 417,841 over the month, and decreased by 36,644 over the year.

ESC officials will release July unemployment rates for each of the state's 100 counties on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

The June unemployment rate for Person County was 10 percent, which was up .01 of a percentage point from 9.9 percent in May.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased

by 8,200 to 4,053,600 in July.

The major industry with the largest over-the-month increase was trade, transportation and utilities, which added 5,200 jobs.

Trade, transportation and utilities was followed by leisure and hospitality services, which added 2,700 jobs; financial activities (2,400); professional and business services (1,700); manufacturing (1,200); "other services" (700); information (200); and construction (100).

Major industries to experience decreases were government, which was down 5,300 jobs; and education and health, which was down 700 jobs. Mining and logging employment remained flat over the month.

Since July of 2012, North Carolina has gained 69,200 nonfarm jobs with the total private sector increasing by 73,100 and the government sector decreasing by

3,900.

The largest over the year increase of major industries was in leisure and hospitality services at 21,500 jobs, followed by professional and business services at 17,800; trade, transportation and utilities at 16,300; education and health services at 6,200; financial activities at 3,600; information at 3,300; manufacturing at 2,800; and other services at 1,000.

Major industries to experience decreases over the year were government at 3,900 jobs; construction at 1,900; and mining and logging at 100.

In June, the unemployment rates increased in 81 of North Carolina's 100 counties, decreased in 14 and remained the same in five.

One month earlier, the unemployment rates increased in 87 counties, decreased in 12 and remained the same in one.

PCS: Person County Schools names new principals at North Elementary, South Elementary

FROM PAGE 1

administration, Williams taught special education for 10 years.

He also holds bachelor and master's degrees in criminal justice.

Williams, originally from Philadelphia, Penn., has two daughters and is a member of Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves as a trustee and on the audio-visual ministry team.

Williams said, "I am absolutely ecstatic and honored to be named principal for North Elementary. I am wholeheartedly committed to making North one of the best schools in the state for teaching and learning."

"My core values/beliefs on education are: rigorous teaching and learning; positive authentic relationships with students, staff, parents and community partners; high student engagement (21st century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity); and continuous improvement (on-going professional development)."

He continued, "My next step for North is to create a school-wide culture of literacy where

staff, parents and community partners are working collaboratively to develop a lifelong love of reading for our students."

Holmes, who begins his tenure at South this week, most recently served as assistant principal at Helena Elementary School. He will succeed Shayla Holeman as principal of South.

Holmes earned his Master of Administration from North Carolina State University (NCSU). He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a concentration in education from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

Holmes has spent most of his teaching and administrative career with Person County Schools (PCS).

Prior to serving as assistant principal at Helena, he taught social studies at both Northern Middle School and Person High School.

He was a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction in 2012.

Holmes is married to Tara Holmes and has three sons: Keeghan, six; Brady, four; and Garrison, 18 months.

"I feel blessed to have the opportunity to join the team at

South Elementary," said Holmes. "There are so many good things already going on at South, which is a testament to the staff and Mrs. Holeman. I have great expectations for the future of this school as we continue to close the achievement gap and become a top performing school. Math and literacy proficiency has been on the rise and I am determined to continue that progress. I look forward to the upcoming open house when I will have the opportunity to meet the students and parents of the community. In addition to academic goals, I also have plans to provide many opportunities for our school to open its doors to the public and showcase the outstanding things that our students accomplish."

PCS Superintendent Dan Holoman remarked, "It's with great excitement that we welcome Mr. Williams and Mr. Holmes to their new role as principals. Both have proven themselves as administrative leaders in their past experiences. They are both ready to make a great impact at their sites. I look forward to working with each one and I am excited about what's going to take place at North and South."

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