

THE DAILY COURIER

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High | Low
46 | **32**
Today, Scat'd rain.
Tonight, Showers
likely.
Forecast, Page A6



Contributed photo

Garland F. Byers, Jr. was sworn into office as an Assistant District Attorney by Judge Laura Powell Thursday morning at the Rutherford County Courthouse. Shown with Byers is his son, Connor Byers (left) and his parents Garland F. Byers, Sr. and Helen Byers.

District Attorney names new assistant

FROM STAFF REPORTS

RUTHERFORDTON — A new Assistant District Attorney has been named for Judicial District 29A, Rutherford and McDowell counties, District Attorney Brad Greenway said Thursday.

Garland F. Byers, Jr., a native of Rutherford County, was sworn in as Asst. D.A. on Jan. 2. Greenway said Byers brings to the District Attorney's office a longstanding and distinguished career in law enforcement beginning as a patrol officer with the Rutherfordton Police Department in 1988, with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office beginning in 1990 and later as an investigator for former District Attorney Jeff Hunt beginning in 1995.

Byers entered law school at North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, in 1996.

He graduated from N.C. Central University School of Law and was later admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 2000.

Byers said being an Asst. D.A. has been a personal goal since he entered law school.

"I left the D.A.'s office as an investigator with the goal of coming back and being a prosecutor," Byers said from his new office Friday. "I just want to do a great job, be very effective and very efficient in this role."

Following graduation from N. C. Central University School of Law, Byers returned to Rutherford County where he entered into the private general practice of law. Byers has extensive experience in trying criminal cases in both the District Court and in the Superior Court divisions of the North Carolina courts as well as in the United States District Court for the

Western District of North Carolina.

Byers joined the D.A.'s staff immediately. The staff includes seven assistant district attorneys, an administrative assistant, four victim witness legal assistants and an investigator.

He will be assigned duties trying serious felony cases in the Superior Court Divisions for Rutherford and McDowell counties.

"Byers' history brings unique preparation for the trial of criminal cases in North Carolina, Greenway said. "Very few new prosecutors bring Byers' background of maturity and law enforcement training and experience along with a former defense attorney's perspective to the job."