

City manager stepping down March 25

■ Jon Barlow will become town manager of Fuquay-Varina on April 1

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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The City of Roxboro will soon be looking for a new manager.

Jon Barlow, who has served as city manager for the past six years, this week accepted a similar position in Fuquay-Varina.

Barlow said Wednesday, after the announcement was made by Fuquay-Varina's town council Tuesday night, that his last day

on the job in Roxboro would be March 25.

He will assume his duties in Fuquay-Varina on April 1.

Barlow admitted that it would be tough to leave Roxboro.

"It's extremely difficult to walk away from something you like," he said. "Six years ago, I thought this was a great opportunity," he said, and added that he had not been disappointed.

But, Barlow noted, "Doing what I do is kind of like being a

preacher, you don't expect to stay in one place for long."

The 46-year-old Barlow has spent a total of 23 years in local government, and 17 as a city manager.

"Each move has new challenges," he said. And each move he has made in his career has been to a larger town that presented larger challenges, but also greater opportunities for Barlow and his family.

He joked Wednesday that

he'd had more people comment that they would miss his wife, Roxboro Community School teacher Beth Barlow, and their two children, Anna and Griff, more than they would miss Barlow himself.

He said his wife and children would remain in Roxboro until the end of the school year and that he would rent a temporary home in Fuquay-Varina until the whole family could settle in.

He said this week that Roxboro

Community School had been "wonderful" for his family.

Barlow said he had indicated to city council members and Mayor Samuel Spencer that he was looking for a new challenge and said all had been supportive of his decision.

Mayor Pro-tem Marilyn Newell said this week, "I am saddened to lose a city manager of the caliber we have enjoyed in Jon

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Jon Barlow

YIKES!



Tim Chandler / C-T

GAS PRICES SOARING — Personians obviously noticed a steep increase in the price of gas this week, sparked by the unrest in the Middle East. At some locations, the price of gas rose as much as 25 cents per gallon between Wednesday night and Thursday. Some experts say the price of fuel will continue to escalate in the coming days.

'I hope you rot in hell'

■ Durham man receives 42-52 years in prison for sex offenses

By TIM CHANDLER
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Alfred M. Bell

"I hope you rot in hell." Those were among the emotionally charged words spoken to Alfred Manga Bell, 29, in Person County Superior Court Thursday after he was found guilty of four counts of first-degree sex offense, three counts of kidnapping, two counts of armed robbery and one count of burglary.

The words were spoken by one of Bell's victims. Bell broke her Misty Road residence in Timberlake last September at approximately 6 a.m. and demanded money and committed sexual assaults.

The mother, 62, her daughter, 39, and six-year-old grandson were all in the home at the time of the incident.

Bell ordered the women to undress and perform sexual acts on each other, while he took pictures of them with their camera. He also sexually assaulted the women with his hands during the approximately 40 minutes

he was inside the residence. The six-year-old child was forced to stay in a separate room during the incident.

"Make sure you look at me," the victim said angrily to Bell before Superior Court Judge Wayne Abernathy sentenced him to a prison term of between 42 and 52 years. "You made me break a sacred trust a parent has with their child."

"You made me defile my daughter and you made a daughter defile her mother," the victim added. "For that, Mr. Bell, I hope you rot in hell."

Bell told the women he would
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'I'm very proud of what's happening now'

■ Local restaurant owner Ashraf Kamel keeping watchful eye on happenings in Egypt

By GREY PENTECOST
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On Jan. 25, when protests erupted in Egypt, people around the world watched as a revolution unfolded. Here in Person County, one man and his family didn't just see a foreign struggle being broadcast, but a battle for freedom undertaken by his own people in his native country.

Ashraf Kamel, better known as "Ash" by many Personians, is the Egyptian-born owner of American Hero restaurant here in Roxboro. About 15 years ago, after graduating from the college he attended in Cairo, Kamel left Egypt for the United States, and now lives in Roxboro with his wife Rania. As a Christian Egyptian, Kamel said he had two main reasons for coming to the U.S., the first being that Christians suffer persecution from Muslims in Egypt. The other main reason, he said, was so that he could have a better future.

"We love Egypt," Kamel said of he and his family. "Egypt is in our mind and our heart, but to live in a country which is very corrupt, and you feel that you're a second degree citizen, it really hurts you."

Watching the revolution on television, Kamel said he often cried for the people dying, suffering and risking their lives for a better life.

All his life, Kamel has only seen one Egyptian president, and that is the recently ousted Hosni Mubarak, who was in power for nearly 30 years. He said he knew the government was corrupt, but didn't realize the extent of that corruption. The government kept the Egyptian people blinded from the truth, said Kamel, and everywhere people went they had to bribe officials. During elections, Kamel said, the people's votes didn't actually count.

In Egypt's 2010 parliamentary elections, for example, Kamel said it was well known that the police manipulated the results to suit the government's choice. He explained that in order to distract the citizens from the deceit, the government played a part in the bombing of a church on Christmas Eve. It was hard for Kamel and his family to celebrate Christmas as they mourned the tragedy experienced by their people and friends in Egypt.

Kamel believes the recent revolution to be "a result of the people's suffering." Egypt has big universities and some very talented and educated people, he commented, and it is frustrating for people to have spent so much time and money on school, only to find that there are no jobs after graduation. He said he thinks the revolution was started by the youth who "have nothing to lose," because the government doesn't take care of them

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Grey Pentecost / C-T

Ashraf "Ash" Kamel (second from right) runs American Hero restaurant in Roxboro with various members of his family. Pictured are, left to right, Younan Ebd, Adel Habib, Adel Eshak, Ashraf Kamel and Rania Kamel.

Some PCS parents can now access progress reports online

By GREY PENTECOST
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Some parents of students in Person County Schools no longer have to wait for progress reports, report cards or periodic phone calls from teachers to

find out their children's grades. They can now access them anytime online, thanks to a new grading system that thus far has been implemented at the high school and middle schools.

With Edline's Easy Grade Pro pro-

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