

'Get Patriotic in Person'
See page A8 for info

The Courier-Times

Weather

Outlook

TODAY: Hi 67 Lo 42
SUNDAY: Hi 56 Lo 43
MONDAY: Hi 65 Lo 51
TUESDAY: Hi 76 Lo 57

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SATURDAY, March 19, 2011

75¢

Our 129th Year — No. 23

Roxboro, North Carolina

Three Sections — 24 Pages

www.personcountylife.com

Council not in favor of hike in occupancy tax, TDA board size

■ *Wilkins says passage unlikely if 'common ground' not found*

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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It appears the City of Roxboro will not join the Person Board of County Commissioners in its quest to make changes to legislation affecting tourism here.

The commissioners have asked the city to join them in an effort to add three more members to the Tourism Development Authority board, and to increase the hotel/motel room occupancy tax

here. City council members said, during their regular March meeting this week, that they saw no reason to change the occupancy tax rate or to have a TDA board of nine members.

Mayor pro-tem Marilyn Newell said she would like to see an odd number on the TDA board, which is currently six members strong. But, said Newell, "I see no need for three more."

The TDA board now consists of three people approved by the city and three ap-

proved by the county, all of whom serve as unpaid volunteer members.

Roxboro council member Sandy Stigall said he had spoken with some current TDA board members and, "they see no reason to change" the make-up of the board.

Ralph Clark, now a member of the council, was city manager at the time the TDA board was formed. He said he played a role in the original legislation

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Ralph Clark



Winkie Wilkins

Senate Bill 8

■ **Opponents, proponents offer opinions on proposal**

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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The Senate bill titled "No Cap on Number of Charter Schools," proposed legislation that deals with lifting the cap on the number of charter schools that can currently operate in the state of North Carolina and other aspects of how charter schools are run, is still awaiting a decision by the General Assembly.

On Monday, the Person County Board of Education adopted a resolution created by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), requesting that the governor veto the proposed legislation of Senate Bill 8 unless certain changes are made.

Part of the resolution reads: "At a minimum, revise the proposed legislation so that traditional public schools: 1) are not required to share in self-sustaining, fee-based programs such as child nutrition; 2) are not required to share preschool and other federal funds (such as JROTC and Free and Reduced Lunch) with charter schools that do not provide these programs; 3) are not required to share fund balance reserves; and 4) are not required to share reimbursements (such as facility rental fees and activity bus fees) to which charter schools have no legitimate claim."

According to Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner, the NCSBA is requesting that all local boards in the state adopt

See **OPponents** back page



Tim Chandler / C-T

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT — As students perform classwork in the foreground, some of the participants of Person County Schools' annual TOUR PCS listen Thursday as Person High School teacher Angela Utley explains the North Carolina Virtual Public School. More TOUR PCS photos can be seen on page B1.

Commission will consider change in longevity pay policy

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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The Person Board of County Commissioners will consider a change to the current personnel policy regarding the county's employee longevity plan Monday morning.

The commissioners are scheduled to meet in regular session at 9 a.m. in their boardroom in the Person County Office Building on Morgan Street.

Currently, Person County provides a longevity pay plan to all county employees. Currently, Person County awards longevity pay prior to the five-year vestment period required with the North Carolina Retirement System, according to County Manager Heidi York.

"It is recommended that the first service level at which an employee is awarded longevity pay be amended to five continuous years of service," York wrote to commissioners in an agenda abstract.

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Carolina Solar Energy seeking permit to add to current site off Durham Road

■ **Person Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearing Monday morning**

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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Carolina Solar Energy, LLC will seek a special use permit for a solar energy generator from the Person Board of County Commissioners during a public hearing Monday morning.

The commissioners will be meeting in regular session at 9 a.m. at the Person County Office Building on Morgan Street.

Carolina Solar Energy is proposing placement of the solar energy generator in the Person Industrial Park near the intersection of U.S. 501 and Crown

Craft Boulevard.

The company intends to lease seven acres of a 50-plus-acre parcel at the site. In March of 2009, commissioners granted a special use permit to Carolina Solar Energy for a four-acre site adjacent to the current proposed site.

The site approved in 2009 was for 54 panels, measuring 65 feet by 15 feet with each consisting of 72 individual panels. The proposal to be considered by commissioners Monday calls for 102 arrays with 44 panels with dimensions of 73 feet by 12.5 feet.

In 2009, Progress Energy agreed to buy the energy produced at the Carolina Solar Energy facility to Progress Energy

for distribution to its customers.

Jerry Dudzig, vice president of Carolina Solar Energy, said then that the purchase agreement with Progress Energy would be for 20 years.

Carolina Solar Energy proposed the 2009 solar project in response to Progress Energy's request for renewable energy proposals issued in 2008.

Carolina Solar Energy entered into a 25-year lease agreement with Person County in 2009 for the property south of Roxboro. In addition to a \$27,000 initial payment from Carolina Solar Energy to Person County in 2009, property tax estimates for the site have been projected at \$4,500 per year.

4th TOUR PCS deemed a success

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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Person County Schools had one of the largest groups yet in its fourth annual TOUR PCS program Thursday.

Approximately 30 participants, along with central office staff members, spent the day touring schools and seeing for themselves what goes on inside classrooms.

According to program specialist Harriett Tillet, the participants asked a lot of relevant questions throughout the day, and were able to observe a variety of instructional areas at all three levels: elementary, middle and high school. The tour made stops at Southern Middle School, Person High School and Helena Elementary, as well as the maintenance department.

Program specialist for professional development, grant writing and public information Paula Chandler organized the tour for the first time this year. She said one of her goals was to get the number of participants up, so she made registration available online, publicized the event in the *The Courier-Times*, and

made "ConnectEd" calls to parents. She also tried involving the faith community by creating flyers for a couple of area churches to put in their bulletins and announce during services.

Chandler said that attendees seemed most interested in the North Carolina Virtual Public School lesson they observed. Visiting the maintenance department was a new addition to the tour this year. Chandler said normally all the visits are to schools. She said PCS wanted to show participants this particular department because there tends to be a misconception that maintenance and transportation are one department. She said it also helped people see how the budget cuts are affecting this particular department.

"I met so many nice people," said Chandler of the tour experience, "and found out we have a lot in common. We are all interested and concerned about PCS and the children who attend. We all want the best for our students."

She added, "This experience will help me serve the district better as public information officer. I had a firsthand

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Grey Pentecost / C-T

WRAPPING UP — Person County Schools Supt. Dr. Larry Cartner closed out the annual TOUR PCS event with a question and answer session.

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The Courier-Times "Weekly Poll"
This Week's Question:
Do you plan on contributing financially to relief efforts in Japan following the earthquake and Tsunami?

I already have
 I plan to contribute
 I do not plan to contribute
 I have not made up my mind

Cast Your Vote On-Line At www.roxboro-courier.com

Results of our latest poll:
Which area ACC team do you think has a better chance of winning the NCAA national championship?

Duke - 59%
North Carolina - 41%