



Myron Stewart

## 'Multiple' knife wounds claim life

### ■ Roxboro man, who was also injured in altercation, faces murder charge

By TIM CHANDLER  
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A Person County man is dead and another is in jail charged in connection with his death following a stabbing incident that occurred Friday night outside a residence on Oak Grove-Mt.

Zion Road. According to Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones, Donny Ray Bowen, 30, of 561 Oak Grove-Mt. Zion Rd. died as a result of "multiple" knife wounds suffered in the incident, which was reported shortly after 11:15 p.m. Friday. Sheriff's deputies arrested Myron Antonio Stewart of 429

Mt. Bethel Church St. in connection with Bowen's death. Bowen was being held Tuesday in the Person County jail without privilege of bond. He is currently charged with murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Jones also said Tuesday that the investigation into Bowen's death was continuing.

According to Jones, Stewart also suffered "multiple" wounds in the altercation. He was treated for his injuries at Person Memorial Hospital (PMH) and then released to law enforcement authorities. When Sgt. Charles J. Wilborn arrived at the scene of the stabbing Friday, Person County

EMS workers were reportedly attempting to revive Bowen at the time. It was noted in Wilborn's incident report that Stewart had reportedly been transported to PMH by someone who was inside the residence at the time of the

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## Wilkins files bill seeking 1% hike in occupancy tax rate

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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State Rep. W.A. Winkie Wilkins yesterday filed a bill that, if passed, will increase the hotel/motel occupancy tax in Person County from five percent to six percent.

The Person County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) is seeking the legislation to increase the occupancy tax rate to support the museum here and to promote tourism in Person County.

County Manager Heidi York estimated that the increase would generate about \$27,000 per year.

If enacted, the tax increase will affect only those who rent rooms in hotels, motels and extended stay facilities in the county.

Wilkins said yesterday, "We've come a long way in a period of about three weeks," since the issue of the tax increase was presented to him.

"There appeared to be some tension" between the Roxboro City Council and

the Person Board of County Commissioners, Wilkins said, when the city council and Roxboro Mayor Samuel Spencer at first said they would not support the commissioners in the quest to increase the occupancy tax rate.

"We don't need that," Wilkins said of the tension. But, he continued, "both boards sort of rose to the occasion and said this is what we need."

He said he had received word that "from unofficial polling of the members, both city council and the commissioners are aligned" on the bill.

Wilkins said he commended both the council members and commissioners for ultimately working together to allow him to present the bill as a request from both the city and county.

Wilkins had told council members and commissioners that the bill would have a much better chance of passage if both local governing bodies were behind it.

One section of the bill he introduced in the House of Representatives Tuesday

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## Solar-related jobs possible in Person Co.

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If a bill introduced yesterday in the North Carolina House of Representatives passes into law, Person County and the state could possibly see new manufacturing jobs that are related to solar energy.

Gerry Dudzik, chief operating officer of Carolina Solar Energy LLC, which designed, built and operates the 650-kilowatt solar array off Hwy. 501 south of Roxboro, said the bill would increase market demand for solar energy.

Three Republicans and one Democrat member of the state House introduced House Bill 495. It would allow companies like Progress Energy to award more contracts to solar power production companies, which would spur growth in the industry.

That growth, said Dudzik, would produce more need for the materials used in solar power production, which could in turn draw manufacturers to

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**The Courier-Times**  
**"Weekly Poll"**  
**This Week's Question:**  
**Which Final Four team do you think will emerge as the 2011 NCAA basketball champion?**

Butler  
 Kentucky  
 UConn  
 VCU

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

**Results of our latest poll:**  
**Do you plan on contributing financially to relief efforts in Japan following the earthquake and Tsunami?**

**I already have - 14%**  
**I plan to contribute - 5%**  
**I do not plan to contribute - 75%**  
**I have not made up my mind - 8%**

## SPRING FLAKES FLYIN'



Grey Pentecost / C-T

**LATE MARCH SNOW** — Yes, spring has arrived, but someone must have forgot to tell Ol' Man Winter it was time for him to take a vacation. Personians enjoyed a brief burst of snowflakes Monday morning as cold air was in place when moisture arrived. After some midweek rain, below average temperatures are expected to slowly give way to normal temperatures as the weekend approaches.

## Person County has fared better vs. flu than other parts of state

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT  
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Person County has not been plagued this season by flu strains that are resistant to common antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu.

Although North Carolina is involved with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in an investigation into a cluster of influenza B viruses that appear to be less responsive to a common antiviral drug than typical flu viruses, that doesn't appear to be the case here.

This year's flu season mirrors the trend of 2007-2008, both in the number of cases and the peak time, according to Person County Health Department Director Janet Clayton.

"In the 2009-2010 flu season, the peak occurred in late October," said Clayton. Statewide, the prevalent strains of flu were the Influenza A (H1N1) and Influenza B, she reported.

"In Person County and statewide, the

peak in the number of cases occurred during the first part of February, and this is evident in comparing the absenteeism numbers of the Person County schools," Clayton continued.

"We are aware of several cases of Influenza B," she said. "The Person County Health Department has not been notified of any cases which were less sensitive to Tamiflu. There is a strain of Influenza B that has genetically altered, causing Tamiflu to not work as effectively as a treatment method," Clayton explained. The alteration means that an individual with the genetically altered Influenza B strain would need more antiviral medication, such as Tamiflu, to treat the flu symptoms, Clayton said.

Clayton said health care providers are not required to report flu cases, but some do if they see an increase in the number of cases or a certain strain, such as A or B. Since physicians are not required to report, Clayton explained, she does not know the exact number of cases in Person County so far this season.

The best flu prevention method is to

have an annual seasonal flu immunization, she advised.

There are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy, Clayton said.

Those precautions include: Covering the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash after using it.

Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

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Grey Pentecost / C-T

## Executive Roundtable members discuss expectations at 1st meeting

By GREY PENTECOST  
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When the newly formed Person County Executive Roundtable met for the first time Monday, the discussion centered largely on group members' expectations for the board and details about how the board would operate.

The Person Board of County Commissioners endorsed the roundtable idea and appointed state Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, as its chair during the

board's January meeting. The purpose was to bring together executive decision makers from governmental and non-governmental entities in Roxboro and Person County to accomplish the mission of assisting in "establishing direction, priorities and goals" for the city and county. The commissioners also asked that the group keep the Person County Futures Project in mind and worked with Wilkins in choosing roundtable members.

Wilkins told roundtable members Monday that in his discus-

sions with the board of commissioners it was indicated that, at some point, the roundtable would try to make recommendations about budgetary priorities.

"I told them then and I tell you now, I'm not sure we're going to be in a position to go that route this year," said Wilkins.

The board will also have the authority to call in other agencies to join in discussions when deemed necessary. Wilkins said he thought the members of the

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**WHEN WINKIE TALKS...** — Members of the Person County Executive Roundtable listen as Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, chairman of the committee, speaks at a Monday meeting.