

Commissioners plan Community Conversations

■ 5-person board, county manager will meet with citizens April 12 at RCS, April 26 at Helena

By TIM CHANDLER
Courier-Times Editor
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

informal "Community Conversations" events to receive feedback from citizens about services and suggestions for improving county government. The events will also give commissioners an opportunity to "shed some light on the budget process in general," according to a release from County Clerk Brenda Reaves.

The two Community Conversations events are scheduled for April 12 and April 26. Both will begin at 7 p.m.

The April 12 event will be held at Roxboro Community School at 115 Lake Dr. and the April 26 event will be held at Helena Elementary School at 355 Helena-Moriah Rd. in Timberlake.

"This is the first year that the board

of commissioners is holding these informal meetings to engage with citizens," County Manager Heidi York said. "The intention is to take commissioners into their community and out of the boardroom to receive feedback about priorities in the upcoming budget."

York said she is hoping that citizens will attend the meetings and share their

opinions on various aspects of county government.

"These meetings will attempt to engage our community members and encourage participation in the budgeting process," York said. "We recognize that the county budgeting process is no

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TDA has concerns with wording of occupancy tax bill

■ Additional funds would be used only for museum

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
C-T Staff Writer
pboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

The wording in a piece of legislation introduced in the General Assembly this week has the Person County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) concerned about how tax funds from the legislation would be used.

State Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, this week filed a bill that, if passed, would increase the hotel/motel occupancy tax in Person County from five percent to six percent.

The TDA hopes the occupancy tax rate increase will help it support the museum here and also promote tourism in Person County. The TDA, however, has some reservations about the wording of the proposed legislation.

House Bill 518 reads: "The Authority shall use the net proceeds of the occupancy tax authorized under subsection (a1) of this section for the operating of the Person County Museum of History."

Margaret McMann, director of the TDA, said, "It [the bill] means the whole one percent increase goes to the operation of the museum." The bill, as written, says "nothing about promoting tourism," McMann said.

The TDA board had no objections to an increase in the tax and initially was in favor of an increase where the money could be used to help support office fa-

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COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS



Tim Chandler / C-T

WORK PROGRESSING — Person County Clerk of Superior Court Deborah Barker took *The Courier-Times* on a tour of renovation work ongoing at the Person County Courthouse this week. As shown in the photo above, the work in Chief District Court Judge Mark Galloway's office on the top floor of the courthouse has been completed, but there is still much left to be done on the overall project. In the photo at right, a construction worker is busy tending to a wall in the district attorney's suite on the lower level of the courthouse. The renovation project is expected to be completed late this year. *The C-T* will have more on the renovation project in an upcoming edition.



3 stop arm violations recorded as part of PCS' yearly count

By GREY PENTECOST
C-T Staff Writer
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

Person County Schools recorded three incidences of cars passing a stopped school bus in one day last week during the annual statewide School Bus Stop Arm Violation Count.

The count took place on Wednesday, March 23 as part of a study being conducted by the North Carolina Depart-

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The Courier-Times "Weekly Poll"

This Week's Question:

Do you plan on attending either of the Community Conversations events that the Person County Commissioners will be holding this month?

- I will attend both
- I will attend the one at Roxboro Community School
- I will attend the one at Helena Elementary School
- I will not attend either
- I have not made up my mind

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

Results of our latest poll:

Which Final Four team do you think will emerge as the 2011 NCAA basketball champion?

- Butler - 28%
- Kentucky - 20%
- UConn - 24%
- VCU - 28%

INSIDE Saturday

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Rain slows farmers down, but will wind up as a benefit

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
C-T Staff Writer
pboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

This week's rain set Person County farmers back a few days, but caused no major planting problems and will, in the end, be a benefit.

When asked if the rain caused a setback, county Extension Director Derek Day said it "put the brakes on" planting for this week. But, he said, the rain also "put water back in the ponds and creeks" which will be a help during the dry summer months.

Farmers here were "just starting to plant" tobacco and corn and were

busy top dressing grain fields when the rains set in. But, Day said, "if it stays dry two or three days, they can go back to work."

He said rainfall amounts varied from one inch in most areas of the county to two and one-half inches "in a couple places."

This year's tobacco acreage will be about the same as that of last year, Day said.

In 2010, Person County farmers planted about 3,000 acres. In 2003, over 3,500 acres of leaf were grown in Person County but that acreage has declined

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Tim Chandler / C-T

WET FIELD — Heavy rains earlier this week left many fields muddy. This field on Semora Road still had standing water as of midday Friday. Warmer temperatures are expected locally early next week.