

Privilege license fees concern EDC members

Several plan to address Roxboro City Council during its meeting on Tuesday, May 10

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licenses.

Jim Stovall, chair of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) said, during a noon meeting of the EDC on Tuesday, that several business owners had talked with him about their concerns regarding the privilege license fee.

The proposed change being considered by city council would have businesses paying a \$50 fee for gross receipts

up to \$5 million, and 50 cents for every \$1,000 over that figure.

Businesses with gross receipts less than \$5 million would continue paying the flat fee of \$50.

Stovall said Tuesday that he had heard business owners state that the cost of the increase would have to be passed on to customers. He said some had also said

they may have to lay off workers if the privilege license fees were increased by as much as the city was considering.

"Most people understand that there may become increase," Stovall explained to EDC members, "but they feel it should be more bracketed" to make for a more gradual increase, he said.

Stovall continued, saying business

owners were also worried that the gross receipts method of collecting the fee would lead to the city's ability to look at the businesses' books.

The Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce held a meeting last week in which Interim Roxboro City Manager Tommy

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Commission provides more funds to sheriff's department

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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The Person County Board of Commissioners' history of "being conservative and having a fund balance" enabled it to approve additional funding to the Person County Sheriff's Office and the county's detention center for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Ray Jeffers pointed out that many counties would not have been able to approve the motion made by Commissioner Sam Kennington during Monday's regularly scheduled meeting.

The two requests approved by commissioners totaled \$131,681 and Kennington, along with Sheriff Dewey Jones, was quick to point out that \$116,681 of the amount approved Monday night was for professional services at the detention center that are mandated by the state.

"We don't have a choice," Kennington said before making the motion to approve the amount for the professional services line item for medical services in the detention center.

Jones noted that when inmates are incarcerated, they are the responsibility of the county. "This is an uncontrollable line item of unknown medical emergencies," County Manager Heidi York wrote in a message to commissioners. "Although our health care coverage has a cap of \$30,000 per inmate, we are currently \$88,681 in the red, primarily generated from two inmates."

Commissioners also approved \$15,000 for maintenance to vehicles throughout the remainder of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The sheriff's office has 57 vehicles and until fiscal year 2009-10, the county replaced eight vehicles per year. That number was whittled in half that year

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BERRY PICKING TIME



Phylliss Boatwright / C-T

THEY'RE READY — Many strawberry farmers throughout Person County have a good crop of berries to pick from this year and Personians are taking advantage. In this photo, Nichole Honeycutt takes a seat to pick strawberries at Brooks Farm on Monday morning. More photos from other farms in the county, along with some tempting strawberry recipes, are available on pages B1 and B8 of today's edition.

PCS' Carol Bowes becomes 6th in nation to complete national special needs training

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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Person County Schools Transportation Information Management System Coordinator Carol Bowes recently completed the Special Needs Transportation Training Program through the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), becoming the sixth person in the nation to do so.

According to the NAPT Web site, "The program was created to encourage individuals involved in school transportation to enhance their knowledge about transporting students with disabilities and promote excellent leadership skills for the community of transportation personnel serving children of all ages with special needs."

The 32-hour curriculum consisted of a core of six learning experiences, supplemented by eight hours of in-

struction from the NAPT Professional Development Series.

The learning experiences included a national school bus rodeo, where Bowes said several state winners competed to see how well or fast they could do things like back a bus; fasten wheelchairs into a bus; evacuate a bus in a wreck; drive a course; and determine the appropriate seating for children with varying needs.

Program participants also attended trade shows; learned how to fasten children into seats according to their weight or disability; learned how to manage behaviors of special needs children and attended a leadership seminar.

"PCS Transportation Department is extremely proud of Carol's accomplishment," said PCS Transportation Director Gregg Foushee in a press release. "She is a true asset to the department. We are fortunate to have Carol's knowledge and expertise in the area of special

needs transportation."

Bowes has been involved with the NAPT since she became certified through the organization as a Supervisor of Pupil Transportation 10 years ago. Since then she has attended NAPT conferences yearly and taken continuing education courses. When she learned of the Special Needs Transportation Training Program, Bowes realized she had already completed all of the prerequisite courses. She was able to complete the program at the NAPT Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers, 20th National Conference and Exhibition, held March 11-16 in Kansas City.

Bowes said Earl Bradsher Preschool helped pay for her to attend, since preschool transportation was part of the program.

Bowes said she was glad to have received the training. She added, "It was a lot of work, and it's worth it."

Amendment approved for operation of airport by Red Mountain

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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The Person County Board of County Commissioners, following a lengthy discussion, voted unanimously to approve a 12-month amendment to the lease and fixed base operator agreement with Red Mountain Aviation at the Person County Airport.

The cost to the county for the amendments was estimated at \$32,000 by County Manager Heidi York.

The changes approved during Monday's regularly scheduled meeting of commissioners included the county assuming responsibility for utilities at the airport at an approximate cost of \$18,000 for the 12-month period. In addition, the county will assume the cost of the airport's general liability insurance at an approximate annual cost of \$6,000, and waive one month's rental payment at a cost of \$7,719.

The county also agreed, for the 12-month period, to restructure the fuel flowage fee to a flat six cents per gallon instead of the current tiered fee structure.

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Deputies seized this bag with 32 rocks of crack cocaine in it during the arrest of a Semora man Monday afternoon.

Semora man jailed on drug, traffic charges

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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A Semora man was arrested Monday afternoon on a host of drug and traffic-related charges following a high-speed chase in Roxboro.

Rashad Irijah Lunsford, 21, of 734 New Ephesus Church Rd. in Semora was taken into custody by law enforcement officers on Chub Lake Road near Stories Creek School shortly before 3 p.m. Monday.

Prior to his arrest, Lunsford had led deputies with the Person County Sheriff's Office, Roxboro

police and the North Carolina Highway Patrol on a high-speed chase through multiple City of Roxboro streets, before heading out of the city limits on Chub Lake Road.

Prior to being stopped by sheriff's deputies on Chub Lake Road, Lunsford reportedly threw a small plastic bag containing multiple rocks of crack cocaine from the Mercury Grand Marquis he was operating.

According to sheriff's investigators, a deputy initially attempted to stop the vehicle driven by Lunsford on Madison Boulevard for a violation of speeding 45 miles per hour in a 35 zone.

Lunsford reportedly pulled into the parking lot of Hardee's on Madison Boulevard, but as the deputy was exiting his vehicle, Lunsford sped off.

After attempting to elude officers on multiple city streets, Lunsford headed out of the city limits via Chub Lake Road.

The plastic bag Lunsford allegedly threw from his vehicle was recovered by sheriff's investigators near the entrance to the Roxboro Water Plant. The bag reportedly contained 32 rocks of crack cocaine.

Lunsford was charged with felony counts of possession with intent to manufacture, sell and

deliver crack cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance, fleeing via a vehicle to elude arrest and failure to heed blue light and siren.

In addition, Lunsford was charged with misdemeanor counts of improper passing, speeding 70 miles per hour in a 35 zone, speeding 45 in a 35 zone, failure to stop for blue light and siren, careless and reckless driving, resisting a public officer and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lunsford was jailed under a \$75,000 secured bond. He is scheduled to appear in Person County District Court on June 7.



Carol Bowes