



Tommy Warren

No tax increase increase proposed for city, but water & sewer rates are slated to rise

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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If the City of Roxboro's budget for fiscal year 2011-12 is approved as proposed, city residents will not see a tax increase, but will pay more for water and sewer.

Roxboro City Council will meet next Wednesday to begin work on the budget for fiscal

2011-12, which begins July 1. The proposal submitted by city staff totals \$14,723,761, a 0.64 percent decrease over last year's figure of \$14,818,899.

Interim City Manager Tommy Warren and Interim Finance Director Dan Craig presented the budget proposal to council members and Mayor Samuel Spencer during this week's regular May meeting.

Warren said Thursday that the budget, as proposed, is balanced, with no use of fund balance (savings).

Warren and staff are proposing a 14 percent increase in water rates and a two percent rise in sewer rates.

The increases, Warren said, would help the city pay for improvements it must make, according to state and federal

regulations, to the water plant and wastewater plant.

Those improvements will cost about \$1.4 million for the wastewater plant and \$4 million for the water plant, Warren said.

The water plant is now under a notice of violation from the state, he said. The city files regular reports asking for an extension so that it can complete preliminary work needed before

improvements can be made. He expects the project to take about three years to complete.

The budget proposal calls for capital outlay from the city's general fund to purchase and equip four new cars for the Roxboro Police Department.

Warren said it had been several years since the RPD had

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Heidi York will present recommended budget to commission Monday

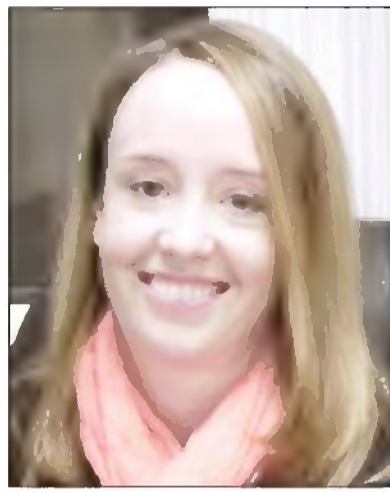
By **TIM CHANDLER**
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The Person Board of County Commissioners will receive County Manager Heidi York's proposed budget for fiscal year

2011-2012 when it meets in regular session Monday morning.

The regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the commissioners' boardroom on the second floor of the Person

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Heidi York

City plans to have new manager hired within six months

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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Roxboro City Council has taken the first step toward hiring a new city manager, with a timeline of six months to complete

the search.

Mayor Samuel Spencer said Friday that the advertisement for the position was "on the way to the League" of Municipalities. From there, it will be published in

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Sam Spencer

New library dedicated at Person Co. Learning Academy

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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When Person County Schools (PCS) Technology and Career & Technical Education (CTE) Director Debbie Smith was looking at transcripts with students at Person County Learning Academy (PCLA) last year she noticed there was something missing at the school — a library.

Smith immediately took it upon herself to add one, and Thursday a dedication was held for PCLA's new library.

After asking PCLA Principal Simon Justice if she could take the creation of a library on as a project, Smith worked with him to find a suitable location. An unused room in the lower building was chosen.

Smith also met with the four seniors at the school, proposing that the library project be a gift they could give back to the school as soon-to-be graduates. She

said the students loved the idea, and gave her feedback on types of books to bring in, colors, seating, and other design elements.

Smith began work on the library over the school's Christmas break, and in the following months spent weekends working on it. Since the students also had no place to do science experiments or display projects, Smith decided to divide the room in half, making it part media center, part science lab.

Much of the furniture, said Smith, was repurposed. New tables were purchased for the six computers in the room, and the old ones were converted to lab tables. Smith brought in a rug from her house and she put up curtains made by her mother out of old bed sheets. Shelves and storage spaces were painted. Bookshelves were brought over from Person High School (PHS), and Rent-A-Center (RAC) in Roxboro donated a couple of couches.

RAC manager Joshua Pace told *The Courier-Times* at the dedication Thursday that his company was there to help people who need assistance.

According to RAC District Manager Darleena Towns, who also attended the dedication, "servant leadership" was part of the company's job description.

Smith reported that she has purchased around 550 books since September, many of them used. She said that PHS media coordinator Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the list of books to make sure the offerings were age appropriate — geared toward seventh- through

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Grey Pentecost / C-T

NEW LIBRARY AT PCLA — Person County Schools Technology and CTE Director Debbie Smith (far left) presents the new library she created at Person County Learning Academy at a dedication Thursday. Others pictured are, left to right, Shirley Paylor from PCS central services, board of education member Pecolia Beatty, board member Margaret Bradsher, PCS Program Specialist Harriett Tillett, Board Chair Gordon Powell, PCLA Principal Simon Justice and PCS Executive Director for Program Services Marionette Jeffers. Seated are PCLA seniors, clockwise from left, Meghan Johnson, Larry Winstead, Jordan Lewis and Katie Cash.

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Gail Foushee / C-T

FRIDAY MORNING MISHAP — A Roxboro man suffered injuries Friday when the vehicle he was driving struck a utility pole on Madison Boulevard. According to Roxboro police, Hilton Duff, 79, of 3516 Virgilina Rd. was headed southbound on Madison Boulevard when he reportedly fell asleep at the wheel and struck a utility pole alongside the northbound lanes. Duff was transported by Person County EMS for treatment of his injuries.

PCC graduation slated May 20 at Person High School Stadium

Nearly 600 students are eligible to receive degrees, diplomas and certificates during Piedmont Community College's 41st commencement exercises on Friday, May 20. The ceremonies will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Person High School Stadium on Ridge Road. In case of rain, graduation will move into the PHS gymnasium.

The speaker for the event will be Sen. Rick Gunn of Burlington, who represents the North Carolina Senate District 24 (Alamance and Caswell counties). Gunn, a Republican, is serving his first Senate term. He is vice president of the Commerce and Insurance committees and is a member of the Appropriations on General Government and Information Technology, Joint Regulatory Reform, Program Evaluation and Transportation committees.

Gunn is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, where he received a B.S. degree in business administration. He is president of Gunn & Associates Commercial Real Estate in Burlington, where he has been active in the Burlington-Alamance County Association of Realtors, the Burlington Downtown Corp., the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, United Way and the YMCA of Alamance County.

Also participating in the ceremony will be Dr. Walter C. Bartlett, PCC president; Ronald Booker, chair of the PCC Board of Trustees; Mike Dossett, PCC vice president, Instruction and Student Development; Dr. Doris Carver, vice president, Continuing Education; and the Rev. Kenneth Stokes, pastor, First Baptist Church in Roxboro.

"This is an exciting time of year for us," said Bartlett of graduation, adding that many of



Sen. Rick Gunn

this year's graduates are "heart-warming" examples of overcom-

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