

No tax hike proposed for county residents

Manager's recommendation calls for 2.5% reduction in monies for public education

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

"You must re-imagine our county for a better future. We must all adapt to a new normal."

That was part of the message presented by County Manager Heidi York Monday morning when she delivered her recommended budget for fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1, to the Person

Board of County Commissioners. "These are not easy decisions," York said later, adding that the decisions commissioners would be making were "not just about cutting costs."

York's recommended budget, as requested by commissioners, does not include a tax rate increase for the sixth consecutive year. As proposed Monday, the county's tax rate would remain at 70 cents per \$100 valuation.

York did point out to commissioners

several times Monday, however, that a one-cent hike on the current tax rate would generate an estimated \$372,973 in revenue.

The manager also said that her budget was devised with the 2010 Person Futures Strategic Plan in mind.

"No longer do we want to make budgetary decisions guided by whatever the situation will allow — this has caused us to implement temporary fixes that only take us back to the drawing board the fol-

lowing year begging for new ideas," York wrote in her budget message to commissioners. "Rather, [commissioners have] directed and voiced their support for developing the budget upon strategies that lead Person County Government toward a sustainable future."

"This budget not only integrates the strategic plan and the budget process, but I believe that these funding recommendations propel Person County forward with a vision of sustainability,"

York added.

While York's balanced budget recommendation did not include a tax increase, it showed a drop in the general fund budget of over \$1.2 million. The general fund budget for the current fiscal year is \$49,859,325, while the recommended general fund budget for fiscal 2011 is \$48,619,655.

York told commissioners Monday

See NO back page

New graduation requirement gets nod from school board

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

During last week's meeting of the Person County Board of Education, board members discussed and approved a new graduation requirement for Person County Schools students.

According to the new policy, beginning with the upcoming freshman class, PCS students will be "required to take and receive a passing grade in one online/virtual course (excluding credit recovery). Blended courses will satisfy this requirement provided that at least half of the course material is delivered virtually."

The requirement will be upped to two online courses beginning with the ninth grade class of 2013-14.

During discussion of the policy, board member Pecolia Beatty asked if the school system would be able to accommodate all students in accordance with the requirement.

PCS Math/Science Program Specialist Harriett Tillet, who presented the policy, explained that PCS would have a variety of avenues it could take. She explained that students involved in the 1:1 Laptop Initiative would be keeping the laptops assigned to them as they moved up to high school; some students will participate in the blended learning classes, which will be receiving additional hardware through the NCVPS partnership; and some students will be able to work from home, as well as at school.

Board Vice-Chair Jimmy Wilkins inquired about how EC (exceptional children) students would be affected.

Tillet replied, "The research indicated that because of the engaging nature of online courses, [EC students] tend to do very, very well."

She added that this year the concept was piloted with ninth graders, and all but one student is currently making an A in the course. She said the pilot group includes exceptional children.

Board Chair Gordon Powell allowed

See NEW back page

TOBACCO PLANTING TIME



Tim Chandler / C-T

TENDING THE CROP — As Jimmy Wilkins operates his John Deere tractor in the background, a farm worker tends to the tobacco crop in this field on City Lake Road Tuesday afternoon.

Recent rains have put some tobacco growers 10 days behind schedule

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

The recent rains have put tobacco planting in the county about 10 days behind schedule, according to County Extension Director Derek Day.

Normally, said Day, farmers like to be done planting by May 15, but the scattered showers over the last week and a half have delayed the task. However, not all farmers in the county are experiencing the same conditions.

"Some sections of our county have been getting rains for over two weeks,"

noted Day on Monday afternoon. "Some have been more spotty. Even today in one section of the county, people are working like nothing's ever happened."

In addition to tobacco, Day said farmers are having problems cutting hay. He said there hasn't been any "hay making weather" for three weeks or longer.

Otherwise, Day said everything else is moving along "decent," with farmers now beginning to plant soybeans; corn planting at about 85 percent completion and an "excellent" wheat crop coming in this week.

Rain is in the forecast for most of the rest of this week, with the high tempera-

ture expected to reach 89 on Sunday.

According to a state report from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), North Carolina as a whole experienced 4.9 days suitable for field work last week.

The USDA report for last week also read, "The state received below normal precipitation and above normal average temperatures last week. Frequent showers throughout the week in some areas limited field activity due to wet soil conditions. Tobacco transplants, small grains, cotton, corn and soybeans all continue to mature under pretty good conditions."

6th suspect implicated in recent shootings

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

Deputies with the Person County Sheriff's Office arrested a sixth person this week in connection with shooting incidents that occurred March 2 at Brookwood Apartments on Henderson Road.

Ricky Jovon Horton, 18, of 200 Front St. was arrested Monday on multiple charges in connection with the shooting and was jailed under a \$1 million secured bond. He has court appearances scheduled in Person County Superior Court and Person County District Court next month.

Horton is charged with two counts each of attempted first degree murder and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, six counts of conspiracy, participating in gang activity, going armed to the terror of the public, discharging a weapon into occupied property and two counts of injury to personal property.

Horton was also cited for resist, delay and obstruct when he was taken into custody Monday.

Last month, deputies arrested five other persons in connection with the shooting incidents, which were reportedly gang related.

Those five included, Terrance Devon Pettiford, 16, of 65 Glen Allen Ct., Stephen Fuller, 16, of 594 Glenn Fogleman Rd., Reginald Thomas Jr., 16, of 390 Henderson Rd., Apt. 6C, Blake Fuller, 20, of 594 Glenn Fogleman Rd., and Gerek Richardson of Durham.

Those five were charged with multiple felony conspiracy charges as well as two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Each are also reportedly charged with attempted first degree murder, participating in gang activity, discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling and injury to personal property.

All of the suspects are alleged to have participated in shooting into three occupied apartments. Deputies reportedly recovered some weapons at the scene of the shootings.



Phylliss Boatwright / C-T

'Called from above to minister'

Keith Kimball enjoying role as police department's chaplain

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

"They're equipped for facing danger. We're trying to equip them for facing life."

That's what Roxboro Police Department Chaplain Dr. Keith Kimball said of his volunteer job and those who support him in his effort to spiritually support the community and law enforcement officers.

Police Chief Todd Boycher said he was happy to have Kimball, a certified crisis counselor, available to, not only officers, but the citizens of Roxboro as well.

"We looked at the type of work we do, and the type of calls we go on," Boycher said this week, "and determined that there was a need in the department for somebody who could specialize in counseling" those hearing the news that a loved one had died in a car accident or by violent means.

Kimball's training allows him to bet-

ter deliver the news and to help family members cope with it, Boycher said.

Kimball has ministered to Durham Police officers, North Carolina State Highway Patrol officers and served as a chaplain at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville. He is a member of an emergency chaplains' group in Durham.

While serving as a pastor in Johnston County, Kimball said he volunteered as a chaplain at Johnston Memorial Hospital, where he often encountered cases in which law enforcement was involved.

"I've always had a heart for police officers," Kimball said, adding that his uncle was a police officer.

"I know what they go through," he said, "and it's more garbage than you can imagine. They have to maintain their cool when faced with mortality," Kimball added.

He said law enforcement officers must remain calm and respectful, and treat people fairly when arresting them, even though the suspects may be resisting or trying to verbally or physically attack

the officer.

"It makes me wonder how they put up with it," Kimball said of the way some in the community treat police officers.

He explained that the officers must deal with "a lot of stress," adding that the divorce rate among law enforcement officers was "higher than that of the rest of the public. Someone needs to do some-

See KIMBALL back page

INSIDE Wednesday

Agenda	A2	Boatwright	A2
Classified	C section	Commentary	A5
Do You Know	A3	Editorial	A4
Entertainment	B2-3	Extension Notes	C4
Inside NASCAR	A9	Legal Notices	C3
Lifestyle	B4-5	Looking Back	A3
Military Notes	A10	Mini-Page	B6
Movies	A2	Obituaries	A11
Sports	A6-8	TV Listings	B7

