

Commissioners agree to finalize budget

By TIM CHANDLER
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work session, commissioners instructed County Manager Heidi York to draft a budget ordinance for their approval.

As part of Thursday's work session, commissioners agreed to restore several county employee positions to 100 percent that had been recommended for a reduction to 60-percent pay with full benefits.

Those jobs included a maintenance

position with the Person County Recreation, Arts & Parks Department at a cost of \$14,743; an environmental health position at a cost of \$13,609; a position with the Department of Social Services at a cost of \$16,904; and a code enforcement officer at a cost of \$24,232.

Commissioners also opted to increase the current fire inspector position from a 60-percent slot to 100 percent and to

eliminate the now vacant fire marshal position. Those two moves netted the county a savings of \$9,702.

Funding of \$16,245 for the Roxboro Development Group was also restored in the budget Thursday night.

All of the aforementioned items left commissioners with a budget deficit of \$76,031. Finance Director Amy Wehrenberg then told the board she felt

"comfortable" in increasing anticipated Emergency Management Services (EMS) fees from \$54,568 to \$100,000, which would provide an additional \$45,432 in revenue.

Once that figure was subtracted, commissioners were left with an out-of-balance deficit of \$30,599.

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SCHOOL IS OUT!!!



Grey Pentecost / C-T

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER — Teacher Wendy Lee hugs a group of South Elementary School students before they board the buses to head home Friday for the summer. Friday marked the final day of the school year for Person County Schools.

Roxboro youth arrested in connection with shooting incident on Burch Avenue

By TIM CHANDLER
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Roxboro police arrested Quamae Cunningham, 17, of 202 Front St. Thursday on multiple charges in connection with a May shooting incident on Burch Avenue that injured two people.

One of the people injured in the shooting reportedly suffered a gunshot wound in the chest. Cunningham was charged with felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and going armed to the terror of the public.

In addition, Cunningham was charged with a misdemeanor count of discharging a firearm in the city limits.

Cunningham was jailed under a \$1 million bond pending an upcoming appearance in Person County District Court.



Quamae Cunningham

Three teens injured in Wednesday morning wreck on N.C. 57 North

By TIM CHANDLER
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Three teenagers suffered serious injuries Wednesday morning in a two-vehicle crash on N.C. 57 North.

The accident occurred just before 8 a.m., one mile northwest of Roxboro.

According to investigating North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper J.L. Pointer, Jonathan Curtis Williford, 18, of 315 Williford's Point Dr. was operating a 2003 Ford southeast on N.C. 57 when he crossed the centerline and struck a 1984 International truck, which was driven by Warren Preston Dixon, 52, of 8290 Leasburg Rd., head-on.

Dixon was reportedly driving northwest on N.C. 57 at the time of the crash.

Jonathan Williford, along with two passengers in his vehicle — Brittany Williford, 15, and Brittanie D. Evans, 13, — all suffered injuries in the accident. The three were taken initially by Person County EMS to Person Memorial Hospital before being transported, via medical helicopter, to Duke University Medical Center.

Dixon reportedly did not suffer serious injuries in the crash.

Trooper Pointer estimated the speed of both vehicles at the time of the crash at 45 miles per hour.

No charges were indicated on Pointer's accident report; however the investigation into the crash is continuing.

Damage to the Ford driven by Williford was estimated at \$5,000, while damage to the truck driven by Dixon was estimated at \$4,000.

Public hearing on city's proposed budget slated Tuesday night

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Roxboro City Council will hold a public hearing Tuesday on the fiscal year 2011-12 budget ordinance.

The hearing will take place during the regular June meeting of council.

Interim City Manager Tommy Warren will present the \$14,671,757 budget, which holds the tax rate at its current level of \$0.614 per \$100.

Although city residents won't be paying additional taxes in the upcoming year, they will pay three percent more for water, and a storm water fee of \$1.50 per month. Also, commercial garbage collection rates will rise by two percent, and commercial water customers will pay a \$4.50 per month storm water fee. Industries in the city will pay \$8 in storm water fees each month.

The fees were approved by council members to help offset the cost of the

city's storm water program, which was mandated by the state.

Businesses operating in the City of Roxboro will pay for privilege licenses based on gross receipts at a rate of \$75 for the first \$1 million in gross receipts and an additional \$200 for every \$2 million or fraction thereof, up to \$25 million in receipts.

The budget funds the Roxboro Development Group, the Roxboro Area

Chamber of Commerce's Personality festival, the Piedmont Community College Business Development Center, the Roxboro Area Merchants' Association Christmas decorations and the Person County Museum at the same levels as the current year.

City employees will receive a two percent Cost of Living Adjustment salary increase.

Council members are set to approve the budget following Tuesday's public hearing.

Also on the agenda Tuesday, council members will hear a request for a sewer line extension by Phillips Holdings, Inc. from Flat River Church Road to the back of the property where Roxboro MedAccess is located.

Council members will also consider a request by MCNC for the installation of fiber optic lines in city rights-of-way on portions of Ridge Road, Main Street and Gordon Street.

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Our annual graduation edition is included today! Check it out!!!

Lifepoint CEO: Person Memorial Hospital 'is poised to be more than it ever was'

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Person Memorial Hospital's board of trustees signed a memorandum of understanding last week for Duke Lifepoint Healthcare to buy the hospital, and this week, employees had a chance to meet the people they will likely be working for in a few months.

Both Bill Carpenter, chairman and chief executive officer of Lifepoint Hospitals, and Dr. William J. Fulkerson, executive vice president of Duke University Health System, said Person Memorial Hospital (PMH) was attractive because it was a "good hospital, with

good doctors and a good staff."

Carpenter said that, during the day Thursday, as he and others from Duke Lifepoint met and talked with PMH staff, he saw "committed employees who are excited to work at this hospital."

Carpenter went on to say that the employees of PMH obviously wanted the "stability that Duke Lifepoint can bring to the hospital." He said his \$4 billion company would "be able to fund the strategic growth we know is possible" at the hospital.

PMH has "done a good job in the past," he said, "and the hospital is poised to be more than it ever has."

Carpenter and Fulkerson said those currently on staff at the hospital would

retain their jobs, and that more jobs would likely be added once the acquisition is complete.

Carpenter said Lifepoint Hospitals was happy to be able to partner with Duke on the venture. He said the clinical skills and quality care provided by Duke University Medical System had made it "one of the preeminent medical and academic institutions in the world."

Fulkerson, who first visited PMH in the 1970s as a medical student, said he was impressed by the hospital then and had continued to be impressed over the years by the hospital's "group of men and women who are completely com-

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Phyllis Boatwright / C-T

Bill Carpenter, chairman and chief executive officer of Lifepoint Hospitals, at right, talks with Person County Commissioner Sam Kennington.