

No citizens oppose city's budget at public hearing

■ Slight water rate increase and storm water fee added, but no new tax hike included

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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Tuesday, June 21, at noon, to adopt the \$14.7 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Following two budget work sessions by council members, a public hearing on the 2011-12 budget ordinance was held Tuesday, during the regular June

meeting.

Interim City Manager Tommy Warren presented the balanced \$14,671,757 budget, which holds the tax rate at its current level of \$0.614 per \$100. The budget also does not call for any use of fund balance, or savings, to balance

revenues and expenditures.

Under the upcoming budget, city residents will not see any additional taxes in the upcoming year, but they will pay three percent more for water, as well as 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.

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Following a public hearing in which no one spoke regarding the matter, Roxboro City Council will meet on



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WE DID IT — Members of the Person High School Class of 2011 celebrate their graduation Saturday morning at Rocket Stadium by filling the air with their mortarboards.

'Great day to be a Rocket'

■ Over 300 graduate from Person High School Saturday

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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referenced a book that she said contained "14,000 things to be happy about."

She declared, "Today, class of 2011, I am most positive that you and I can come up with 14,000 things to be happy about."

After citing "summer vacation" and "this beautiful day" as some examples, she said, "A particular happy thing that stood out in my mind while reading this book was feeling good about closure."

As their time at PHS came to a close, Allen asked her classmates to consider whether their class had made its mark, and whether they could feel happy about the closing of their high school careers. She said that she personally thought the graduates should feel "great" about their four years of high school, reminding them of accomplishments like passing their senior exit speeches; one-third of the class being named North Carolina or Person County scholars; and the girls softball team, led by four seniors, making an appearance in the third round of the state playoffs.

In delivering the first address, John Johnson said that while some people say, "It's a good day to be a Rocket," for graduating seniors on their graduation day, "it's a great day to be a Rocket."

He told his classmates that one thing he'd learned during his four years of high school was that there would always be people who would doubt them, but that they had to block out what others may say and realize their own potentials.



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OUR FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT — Graduates Carlina Nichole Worrell and Anna Mackenzie Wrenn sport sunglasses at Saturday's PHS commencement ceremony.

"We all have our own experiences," said Johnson, "and we are all fortunate to have made it through many obstacles to arrive at this special occasion."

In her remarks, Megan Whitfield recalled some of the things she would remember about high school, from getting lunch at Cookout, to being crowned homecoming queen.

She asked her fellow seniors what they would be remembered for, and said she hoped she would be remembered for her smile and happiness.

Whitfield told the soon to be graduates to, as they prepared to embark on a new chapter in their lives, "write your chapter, and make it a fairytale, with only a happy ending."

Laura Painter got the members of the class to think about some of the things about high school they probably wouldn't miss, saying that "never again" would the graduating seniors have to "cruise into the parking lot at exactly 8:05; ... walk through those crowded hallways with underclassmen; or worry about dress code violations."

Painter also reminded the seniors not to forget those who "shaped" them — their "true friends," teachers, administrators and families.

She told the class, "As I stand before you today, I see a class of dreamers; I see a class of graduates who will endeavor to make the world a better place; I see a class full of beautiful people.

Student speakers at Person High School's graduation took their fellow graduates on a trip down memory lane Saturday morning, recalling moments they could individually and collectively cherish, and the rituals they would be glad to leave behind.

Before introducing the three speakers for the occasion, also members of the graduating class of over 300 students, student council president Carson Allen



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HOORAY — Charlena Edreka Washington celebrates as she returns to her chair after receiving her diploma Saturday morning.



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STUDENT SPEAKERS — John Quincy Jefferson Johnson, Megan Michelle Whitfield and Laura Kathlyn Painter wait together to deliver addresses to the Person High School Class of 2011 Saturday morning.

Food stamp recipients soaring; changes in the works for FNS benefits

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**
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The number of Personians receiving benefits under the Department of Social Services' Food and Nutrition (formerly food stamps) program has nearly quadrupled over the past seven years, and there will soon be a change in the way benefits are issued as well.

Erica Bryant, Income Maintenance Program Manager for the Person County

Department of Social Services (DSS), said there were 1,435 households in Person County receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits in 2004. In July 2010, that number had climbed to 3,148 households. Last week, Bryant said 3,615 Person County households were currently receiving FNS benefits.

Based on the most recent census numbers, said Bryant, one in three

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Another suspect in recent shootings nabbed Tuesday

By **TIM CHANDLER**
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A Person County Sheriff's Office deputy arrested a former Roxboro resident Tuesday who is wanted in connection with a recent shooting that took place in Roxboro.

Jeremy Eugene Bailey, 30, who had an Oxford address listed on his arrest report Tuesday, was taken into custody at that residence in Granville County.

Bailey, who was being held in the Person County jail Tuesday afternoon without privilege of bond, is charged with one felony count each of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, and three felony counts of discharging a firearm into occupied property. Bailey was also charged with going armed to the terror of the public.

The charges against Bailey reportedly stem from a shooting incident on Sunset Drive on May 30. At that site, shots were reportedly fired into a crowd of people as well as into a home and vehicles. Two people suffered gunshot wounds at that location, including one man who was shot in the neck.

Last week, Roxboro Police Chief Todd Boycher announced that warrants had been issued for Bailey, along with Desmond Omar Johnson, 23.



Jeremy Eugene Bailey

The charges came as police were investigating the May 30 shooting incident as well as a May 28 shooting incident on Burch Avenue where two people were injured, including one who suffered a chest wound.

As a result of the two shootings and the ongoing investigation, police had, prior to Tuesday, already arrested three others on various charges. They included Brentley Derrick Yancey, 23, Vernon Antwain Bailey, 23, and Quaine Cunningham, 17.

Person County Schools has a 'CTE program to be proud of'

By **GREY PENTECOST**
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The Person County Board of Education was presented with a summary of the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program review during its meeting last week.

Person County Schools (PCS) recently organized a taskforce to help complete a review of the program, which was prompted by the first complete update of the program's standard course of study in seven years. The taskforce was comprised of 31 members of the community, including educators and business/industry representatives.

Robert White, a retired CTE director from Guilford County Schools, served as the consultant for the review, and presented the summary to the board.

"You have a CTE program to be proud of," said White.

He pointed out that the program offers more than 65 courses, with 10 (almost half) of the CTE teachers being National Board Certified.

He also highlighted the fact that the cohort graduation rate for the district's CTE in 2009-10 was 88.1 percent, while the overall graduation rate for PCS was 70 percent.

Other positive aspects of the program he cited were that "there is a strong partnership with Piedmont Community College (PCC)," and a "strong relationship with the business/industry community."

Recommendations for enhancement of the program included: "Develop a three to five year strategic plan using the recommendations, focus and interest created by the CTE Program Review Taskforce; develop and implement a CTE marketing plan; and develop and implement a process to ensure optimum alignment of CTE courses and programs with current and future labor market needs, and student career/postsecond-

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