



# Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 19, 2011



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Two Sections — 22 Pages

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Outlook

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75¢

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## Rep. Wilkins: 'In the end, we got 'er done'

### Person County's 1% occupancy tax hike approved by Senate this week and is now law

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**  
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"In the end, we got 'er done," Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, said Friday, after House Bill 518, raising the hotel occupancy tax rate in Person County, became law.

Wilkins, who was sidelined a couple of weeks ago due to appendicitis, said passage of the bill ended up as "a real cooperative effort."

Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, "looked after" the bill in the North Carolina House of Representatives while Wilkins was hospitalized, Wilkins said yesterday.

This week, Wilkins said, he took the

local bill to the Senate State Government Committee, where it was unanimously approved on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee voted in favor of the bill, with just a few senators casting dissenting votes, Wilkins explained.

On Wednesday night, said Wilkins, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaid, D-Orange, "handled" the bill on the Senate floor,

where it passed 35 to 13 on first reading. The bill passed second reading, Wilkins said, but the Senate had not posted the final votes as of Friday afternoon.

He said the bill did not require the governor's signature, so, as of Thursday night, "it became law."

The bill increases the occupancy tax rate for motels, hotels and bed and

breakfast establishments in Person County by one percent.

Funds raised from the additional tax will go to support tourism and travel in the county.

According to the ratified bill, "Person County shall on a quarterly basis, remit

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## Charter and PCS officials discuss passage of Senate Bill 8

By **GREY PENTECOST**  
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Last week the General Assembly passed a much scaled-down version of Senate Bill 8, a bill that incited months of debate with its long list of legislation regarding charter schools.

While it is titled "No Cap on Number of Charter Schools," the bill dealt with numerous other issues.

The final version of the bill removes the cap on charter schools in the state (previously set at 100); allows the state board of education "discretion in granting final approval of charter school applications;" raises the "enrollment growth cap to 20 percent; permits charter schools to charge the fees that are charged by the "local school administrative unit;" strengthens "the standards for retaining a charter for a charter school;" and requires "the State Board of Education to report to the General Assembly on charter schools."

The bill will go into effect on July 1.

Person County Board of Education Chair Gordon Powell said he was "OK" with the provisions of the final bill, noting that legislators took out the "problematic" sections that had caused so much debate.

According to Powell, items on the legislature's agenda for the July session includes local charter and education bills. He said he is concerned that the provisions taken out of the final version of Senate Bill 8 could be brought back to the floor. He added that if legislation is titled "local" then the governor couldn't veto it. Powell said he hopes

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## SUMMER READING



Photo by Susan Bowen

**LOTS OF LISTENERS** — A large crowd of more than 150 people filled the Person County Public Library this week for the first of five performances offered during the Summer Reading Program, "One World, Many Stories."

## State's unemployment rate remains at 9.7% in May

By **TIM CHANDLER**  
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North Carolina's unemployment rate remained at 9.7 percent for the third consecutive month, according to numbers released Friday by the Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Friday's ESC release detailing the

state's unemployment rate for the month of May indicated that the state had realized a gain of 31,500 jobs in the private sector since May of 2010.

ESC officials will release May unemployment rates for each of the state's 100 counties on Friday, June 24.

The April unemployment rate for

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## BHCS meets expected growth in EOG testing

By **GREY PENTECOST**  
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According to unofficial results, Bethel Hill Charter School (BHCS) saw overall improvement in its End of Grade (EOG) test scores and met "expected" growth in the 2010-11 school year.

The average pass rate increased from 87.7 percent last year to 88.1 percent.

Schoolwide, the reading percentage increased from 83.6 to 84.9, while the percentage passing in math decreased from 92.8 to 89.2.

BHCS Principal John Betterton said that while he was hoping for more growth, he was pleased that the school was able to "improve a little." He added that the results were "on par" with last year's.

Each of the grades tested (third through sixth) showed a decrease in math scores. All but the fourth-grade increased its scores in reading. The fifth-grade had the biggest increase over last year in reading, with the pass rate jumping from 82 percent last year to 95.7 percent in 2010-11. The sixth-grade also improved by several percentage points, going from 88.2 percent passing to 95.8 percent.

Betterton said the improved reading scores might be a result of the school's professional development focus on reading over the past year. He said next year the school will continue to focus on reading, while also preparing faculty for the adoption of common core standards.

Betterton also pointed out that BHCS just completed its second year using the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment program. He said the use of the program is "beginning to show results," and he hopes that consequently,

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## Another suspect in recent shootings jailed

Another suspect in a recent shooting incident on Sunset Drive was arrested by law enforcement authorities Thursday.

Corey Lasalle Bailey, 21, of 4676 Cunningham Rd. was jailed under a \$1 million secured bond and charged with a felony count of attempted first degree murder in connection with the shooting incident that took place on May 30.

The arrest of Bailey marked the fifth that has been made since Roxboro police began investigating the May 30 shooting and also a shooting incident that took place on Burch Avenue on May 28.

Earlier this week, former Roxboro resident Jeremy Eugene Bailey, 30, was arrested in Granville County. Three other people, Brentley Derrick Yancey, 23, Vernon Antwain Bailey, 23,



Corey L. Bailey

and Quamaine Cunningham, 17, have also been arrested.

There were multiple gunshot victims at the site of both shootings last month.

## Mayor Spencer: 12 have applied thus far to serve as City of Roxboro's next manager

By **PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT**  
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Roxboro City Council has received 12 applications for the position of city manager.

Mayor Samuel Spencer said Friday that the advertisement for the position would run until July 15 in the League of Municipalities' newsletter, *Southern Cities*. The advertisement has also run in newspapers.

Spencer said, after the cut-off date for applications passes, he and council will begin looking at the qualifications of the applicants and narrow the field down to those they believe to be most qualified.

The finalists will then interview with council members and Spencer.

On Friday, Spencer told *The Courier-Times* that he and council believed it best not to look at any of the applications until after the deadline had passed. He said the hiring process could be hampered by council looking at a few applicants early on, and forming opinions before seeing all applications and qualifications.

Spencer said earlier that the city was looking for experience and relevant education in its search for a manager.

"He must convince us that he can get the job done," Spencer said.

He said the city would be "very careful in looking at the qualifications, to see if the applicant meets the desires of the entire council. We will try to get someone who wants to come here and do the job, and that we feel is capable,"

he said.

Jon Barlow, who served as city manager for the past five years, resigned in March to take a similar position in Fuquay-Varina.

Since Barlow left on March 25, Assistant City Manager Tommy Warren has served as interim manager.

Warren has been on staff with the City of Roxboro since 1988. He served as engineering technician before moving up to the post of assistant manager.

He has served two prior terms as interim manager, each of which lasted for about six months.

Mayor Spencer, who served 13 terms on city council before stepping up to fill the unexpired mayoral term of the late Tom Brown, has had a hand in hiring six previous city managers.



Sam Spencer

Elections for city council members and mayor are scheduled for Oct. 11. Spencer said Friday that he and council "certainly" planned to hire a new manager before or during the month of October.