

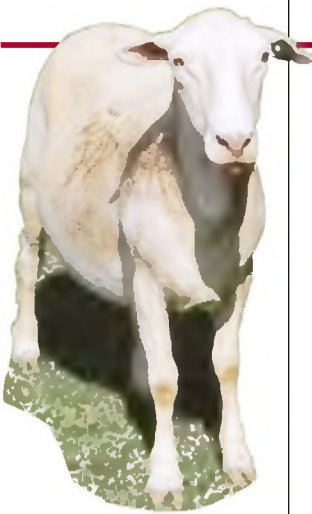
The Courier-Times

July 9, 2011

Roxboro,
North Carolina

www.personcountylife.com

75 Cents



BAA-AAA!

Dorper sheep keep solar park on 501 groomed well. **B1**

Newell announces candidacy for mayoral post

Four-term councilwoman made decision after discussing with current Mayor Sam Spencer

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
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Merilyn Newell, who has served four terms on the Roxboro City Council and currently serves as mayor pro-tem, this week filed to run for mayor in the October

municipal election.

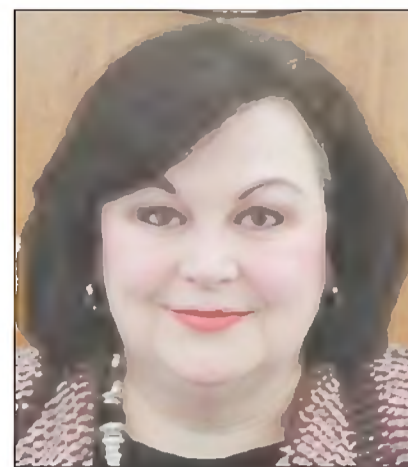
In a written statement, Newell said, "After careful consideration and conference with Mayor Sam Spencer concerning his current intentions, I have filed the necessary documents with the board of elections to seek election to the position of mayor."

Spencer, a long-time member of city council who is currently serving as mayor of Roxboro, told *The Courier-Times* he did not wish to comment, at this time, on whether he would seek another term as mayor, or a position on council, this fall.

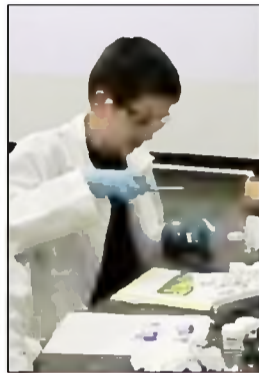
Newell continued, "The City

of Roxboro continues to feel the effects of the recent economic downturn and we all are working to find new ways to do more with less...less tax revenue because of valuations and industry closings, fewer large water customers and-

See **ELECTIONS**, Page 9



Merilyn Newell



WHODUNIT?

RCA students learn forensic techniques at CSI Camp. **B2**

RCS adding 70 students in upcoming year

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
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The Roxboro Community School (RCS) Board of Directors approved an enrollment increase of up to 70 students for the school in the upcoming year Thursday, in accordance with new charter school guidelines outlined in the recently passed Senate Bill 8.

RCS Principal Walter Finnigan deemed the passing of the bill "very exciting for charter schools across the state."

According to the legislation, charter schools in the state would be allowed a 20 percent enrollment growth each year. In previous years, Finnigan noted at Thursday's specially called meeting, the school had to apply each year to increase its enrollment.

RCS currently has 585 students and a 20 percent increase would bring the maximum to 698. Finnigan said the school couldn't handle that many students, and proposed an increase of 70, which would bring enrollment to 655 students. This would mean an increase of approximately 10 students per grade, but Finnigan noted

that the school would not have to hire any additional teachers. Other staff members, however, could be needed, such as an additional custodian and dining hall staff member. The major expense, he said, would be in computers, which Finnigan estimated at \$35,000. The school would also need to acquire approximately \$2,000 worth of lockers.

Finnigan also mentioned during the meeting that the school had applied for a federal REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) Grant, which could be awarded in the amount of anywhere from \$5,000 to \$66,000. Finnigan said he was confident the school would receive the funding, but did not know how much it might get.

Some board members expressed concern that the "small, inviting and nurturing" aspect of the school, as stated in its mission, would be compromised by such an enrollment increase.

Finnigan commented that he did not think that the mission, goals, standards or teaching styles the school currently holds would "get lost" with an increase in enrollment.



HAVING FUN:

Every day exciting for new Helena UMC pastor. **B4**

ON THE LIST:

Four new persons are named to Person County's Most Wanted List. **A3**

A GOOD DAY:

Grey Pentecost details trip to North Carolina Veterans Park in Fayetteville. **A2**

DEATHS

- John Frank Dillon, 82 *Currie*
 - Frank Edward Gray, 74 *Prospect Hill*
 - Barry Dale Hatchett, 39 *Roxboro*
 - Trib Perry, 87 *Roxboro*
 - Earl Drewery Stewart, 75 *Goldsboro*
- See page A11

INDEX

- AGENDA A3
- CLASSIFIED B8-9
- COMMENTARY A5
- COURT B7
- DO YOU KNOW A2
- EDUCATION B2
- FAITH & WORSHIP B4-5
- GREY MATTERS A2
- LEGAL NOTICES B9
- LIFESTYLE B3
- LIVING IN PERSON B1
- LOOKING BACK A2
- MOVIES A2
- OBITUARIES A11
- OPINION A4
- REALTY TRANSFERS B7
- SPORTS A6-7
- TV LISTINGS B6

Commissioners approve subdivision, road variance

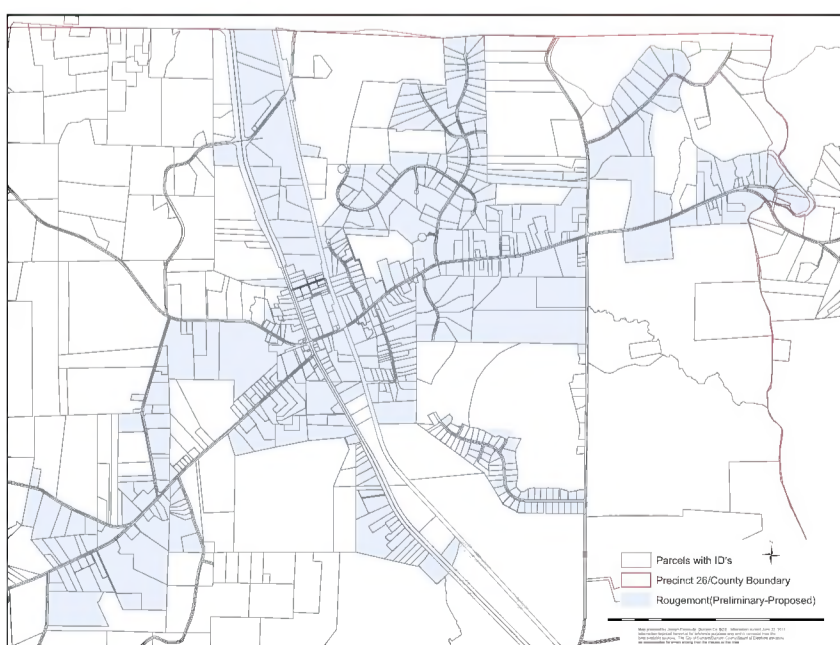
BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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In a public hearing Tuesday night, county commissioners voted 5-0 for approval of a subdivision on Pinesborough Estate Road at Hyco Lake and 4-1 for approval of a variance for road improvements that would bring a portion of Pinesbor-

ough Estate Road up to North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) standards.

Commissioner Sam Kennington cast the one "no" vote for the road variation, saying he believed there were too many questions from the public regarding the road improvements.

See **COMMISSIONERS**, Page 9



The areas highlighted in blue on this map would be included in the incorporation of Rougemont if approved by voters this year.



GREY PENTECOST | COURIER-TIMES

Special hands representing Person County

Four Personians were chosen to have their hand castings included on a community column (forefront) in the new North Carolina Veterans Park for their support of veterans. Those selected for the honor were Conrad Kimbrough, Jo Hancock, Gwendolyn Harris and Sonny Duncan.

SIDEWALK CHAT ON TAP FOR COUNCIL

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Roxboro City Council will face a light agenda when it meets in regular session next week.

Public Services Director Andy Oakley will present contracts for the construction and administration of work to be done on

a North Main Street sidewalk project. Oakley will recommend awarding the engineering contract to Alley Williams Carmen and King, Inc. McQueen Construction is the company recommended to do the work on the sidewalk project. That, however, must be approved by the state Department of Transportation.

The bid submitted by Mc-

Queen totals \$225,143. The project is funded through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, Interim City Manager Tommy Warren will report to council on a request by MCNC Fiber Optics to obtain rights of way to

See **COUNCIL**, Page 9

Incorporation of Rougemont would mean slight increase in taxes

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Should Rougemont become an incorporated town, residents would pay a bit more in taxes, but would have more control over all the county taxes they pay.

That was one of the main messages delivered by the incorporation steering committee at an informational meeting Thursday night.

About 70 people attended the

meeting, many of whom stated that they were afraid incorporation would lead to a higher tax bill and few benefits. Others cited the threat of added bureaucracy.

"We've got it good out here," one resident said, "compared to Durham and Chapel Hill."

House Bill 292 was ratified by the state Legislature last month, giving the citizens of the Durham County portion of Rougemont the opportunity to incorporate, if a majority of registered voters approve a referendum that will

be held on Nov. 8, in conjunction with the City of Durham's municipal elections.

Should the November referendum pass, the incorporation will be along the U.S. 501 corridor, extending out along Red Mountain Road and Bacon Road. A map of the areas included in the proposed incorporation was available Thursday night, and citizens had the chance to view it, along with other information

See **ROUGEMONT**, Page 9

Our 129th year Number 55

Two sections 22 pages

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