

The Courier-Times



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Two sections
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PCC partnering with sheriff's department for a safer campus

BY GREY PENTECOST
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When it comes to campus security, Piedmont Community College (PCC) has recently begun implementing an array of updates and improvements.

According to PCC President Dr. Walter C. Bartlett, security has been a primary concern among employees since he began working at the college. After looking at what the college already had in place, and determining

what aspects of security were a problem, Bartlett said the school developed several strategies for improvement.

Bartlett commented that he thought the presence of "true, certified law enforcement" was one of the primary needs. He said the security officers the college has employed have done a "good job," but that with PCC's increase in size and range of people on campus (including young children at the Child Develop-

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The Person County Sheriff's Department is assisting with security at Piedmont Community College.



State Board of Education Legislative Liaison Ann McColl speaks to Person County Schools educators Thursday about bills passed during the 2011 legislative session.

PCS leaders receive summary of legislation approved by lawmakers

BY GREY PENTECOST
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Person County Schools employees heard Thursday a summary of the many bills passed in the 2011 legislative session that directly impact public schools, when State Board of Education Legislative Liaison Ann McColl

spoke during the PCS Summer Leadership Conference.

Out of the 167 bills that the state board tracked regarding public education, said McColl, 45 of those were ratified by the General Assembly, and two were vetoed by the governor.

She told the educators present that it was important they be aware of legislative matters not

only for "pragmatic" reasons, but because "our communities expect us to explain what's happening to public education."

McCull addressed the charter school legislation, in which the cap was lifted. The bill, she said, requires the state board to form an advisory council. McCull said

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And then there were 10

4 incumbents, 6 challengers file for 5 spots on city council

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The filing period to run for Roxboro City Council and mayor ended yesterday at noon, with one candidate filing for mayor and 10 in the running for the five spots on council.

Merilyn Newell, who has served four terms on council and is currently mayor pro tem, filed early on for the mayoral position. She said she felt capable of handling the challenges and opportunities facing the city and hoped to work to bring jobs, regional alliances and progress to the city.

Newell said she consulted current mayor Samuel Spencer about his plans before filing for the position. Spencer, who was serving his 16th term on council before being named mayor last year, following the death of Tom Brown, did not file for reelection this year.

Those filing for reelection to a seat on city council were James Allen, currently serving his 17th term; Sandy Stigall, now on his second term; Ralph Clark, who was appointed to council after Spencer stepped

up to mayor; and Henry Daniel, who is on his fourth term.

Allen said Friday, that, if re-elected, he would "give it [his] best." He added that he felt "experience does help to make decisions" that benefit all citizens.

He said, during his long tenure on council, he had always tried to "wait and see what the public wants" before making a decision, and would continue to do so if reelected in October.

Ralph Clark served as Roxboro's city manager from 1996 to 1999. He served as manager in Kingston until 2007. Currently, Clark serves as director of management services for a professional electrical engineering company in Raleigh.

He has also served as manager in Clayton, Elizabeth City, Washington and Smithfield after beginning his career in his hometown of South Boston, Va.

Clark holds a degree in business administration from Averett University and a certificate in public administration from Danville Community College.

He said Friday that he was

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Person County Group Homes prepping to open The Gardens at Chub Lake

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Person County Group Homes Inc. is just weeks away from completing The Gardens at Chub Lake, the largest project in its history.

The 10-apartment complex carries a price tag of \$1.3 million, paid for with a no-interest loan from the N.C. Housing Finance Agency's N.C. Housing Finance Initiative 400 Supportive Housing Development Loan Program.

The complex will serve disabled, low-income persons. In addition to having a documented disability, adults applying for an apartment must also be over age 65, receiving Supplemental Security Income, (SSI) Social Security Disability Income, (SSDI)

or Veteran's Benefits. Section 8 vouchers will also be considered. All referrals for potential residents must be sent to the state Department of Health and Human Services from an approved referral agency. Person County Group Homes Inc. (PCGH) is an approved referral agency.

Disabilities included in the "Key Funding" eligibility are developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, mental health diagnosis and physical disabilities.

Rent on the units is based on 30 percent of an individual's income. All utilities are included, except for telephone and cable TV service.

The nine resident apartments are each 590 square feet, with a kitchen, dining or living area, bedroom and bath. Five of the

units have wheelchair-accessible showers and cut-away cabinets for wheelchair access. The 10th apartment in the complex will house an on-site manager.

John Noland, who is overseeing the project for PCGH, said construction began in January and was scheduled for completion in March of 2012. General contractor for the project, E.D. Parker Corp., based in Benson, expects work to be completed in August, however.

Jerry Hayes, superintendent for E.D. Parker, said working with "top shelf" local subcontractors, such as Regan and Sons Heating and Air, had helped him complete the project ahead of time.

In addition to the 10 apartments, the complex features a

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John Noland, who is overseeing The Gardens at Chub Lake apartment building project for Person County Group Homes, Inc., talks with Jerry Hayes, superintendent for E.D. Parker Corp., the general contractor, as work on the \$1.3 million endeavor winds down.