

The Courier-Times



1 WIN AWAY!
The Roxboro 16 & under baseball team is one victory away from securing a state championship. A8



SHOWTIME:
The Summer Youth Theater Program readies for debut of Beauty & The Beast Jr. this weekend. B3



G.W. KANE:
Person County Museum exhibit honoring G.W. Kane opens today. B7

CUTE PICS:
Vote for the Cutest Kid in the latest C-T photo contest. B1

Changes looming for House, Senate & Congressional districts

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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The North Carolina General Assembly is on track to approve redistricting maps this week that would change the make-up of state Senate and House, as well as U.S. Congressional districts involving Person County.

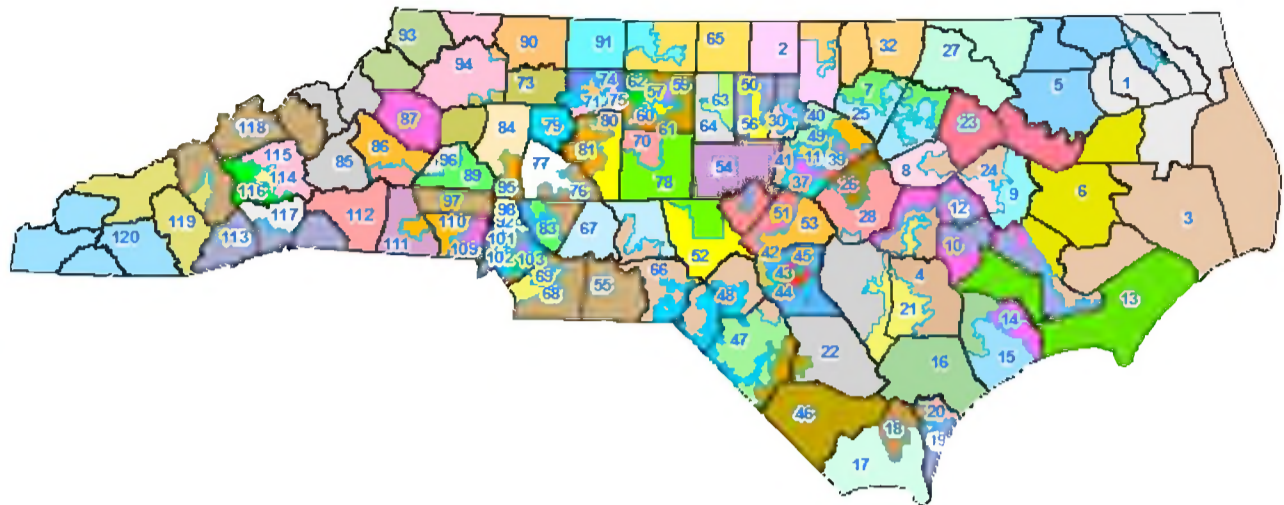
State Rep. W.A. (Winkie) Wilkins, D-Person, said Tuesday, between sessions, that, "The Republican [drawn] House map passed in the House [of Representatives] yesterday and has gone on to the Senate. It passed largely

along party lines," Wilkins said, "and it pairs [Jim] Crawford and me."

Crawford, a Granville County native and a Democrat, has served 14 terms in the House of Representatives.

Wilkins said Tuesday that the most recent version of the redistricting map would take Wilkins out of Durham County. He currently represents a portion of northern Durham County, as well as all of Person County. The new district, should it survive a court challenge that Wilkins said

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North Carolina's proposed state House of Representatives districts



TIM CHANDLER | COURIER-TIMES

Sunday night thunderstorm aftermath

A severe thunderstorm packing strong winds and heavy rain caused damage to this residence on Mackfieldson Road Sunday evening. Cleo Stukes, who resides at the home, said this large tree came crashing down on her roof during the storm. Other trees in the vicinity were also toppled when the storm rolled through.

'It doesn't make any sense at all'

Person County leaders against consolidation of community colleges

BY GREY PENTECOST
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The possibility of consolidating some of North Carolina's community colleges is currently up for discussion in the legislature, and it is not something Person County leaders would like to see become a reality.

Based on recommendations from a report released in June by the legislature's Program Evaluation Division, Piedmont Community College (PCC) would be in line to merge with Durham Technical Community College. The report stated that the General Assembly should direct the North Carolina Community College System to reduce the number of small colleges by merging colleges with fewer than 3,000 student full time equivalent (FTE) with another college. The researchers

See **CONSOLIDATION**, Page 12

STATE'S JOBLESS RATE INCHES UP

BY TIM CHANDLER
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After holing steady at 9.7 percent for three consecutive months, North Carolina's unemployment rate rose slight in June to 9.9 percent, according to information released Friday by the state's Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Friday's release detailing the state's unemployment rate for the month of June indicated that North Carolina realized a loss of 10,200 government jobs, including 7,600 in state government. That number includes jobs lost in community colleges and universities.

In comparison to the same time last year, there has been an increase in claims in state and local government. This is largely due to an increase in claims in both local and state education.

ESC officials will release June unemployment rates for each of the state's 100 counties on Friday, July 29.

The May unemployment rate for Person County was 9.9 percent, which was up by 0.1 percent from April.

"Governor Perdue continues to make job growth a top priority," ESC Chairman Lynn Holmes

said. "Clearly, there is much work to be done, but as we work to recover from the global economic recession, the ESC will continue to work with the assistance of our economic development and workforce partners to put people back to work."

Seasonally adjusted total non-farm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased by 9,500 to 3,870,800 in June. That decrease came on the heels of a decrease of 7,400 in May and an increase of 2,900 in April.

The largest over-the-month employment increase occurred in leisure and hospitality services, which was up 4,400 jobs. The largest decrease was in government, which was down 10,200 jobs.

Private sector jobs have increased by 28,900 over the year, while government has shed 31,600 jobs.

The number of people employed (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 9,888 workers in the state in June to 4,055,699, while the number of people unemployed increased by 9,516 workers to 446,377.

Since this time last year, the number of people unemployed has decreased by 28,069 and the number of workers employed is up across the state by 10,099.

Storms beneficial to some, harmful to others

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Thunderstorms Sunday and Monday night brought anywhere from one to over four inches of rain to Person County, "depending on where you were standing," said Derek Day, Extension Service director.

Although there were reports of high winds and hail in parts of the county, Day said no farmers suffered structural damage. The crop damage was "limited," he said, affecting four or five tobacco growers whose crops were "broken and blown over" in spots.

As of Tuesday morning, Day said he could not place a dollar

figure on the damage to tobacco crops.

No other crops were affected by the storms, he said.

Last week, with its steady stream of 100 degree or higher temperatures and no rain "was tough on crops," said Day.

"It's hard to stand five or six days of 100 degree temperatures with no crop loss," he said. "On Tuesday, [crops were] reasonably good," he said, "but on Friday, it was bad."

He added, "If you happened to be in an area that got a couple inches of rain" over the weekend, he said Tuesday, "things look good today." But for those who received little or no rain, he said, things on Tuesday were "still tough."

Although the past couple of weeks have been bad for farmers, Day said, "It's not going to be a terrible year yet, but we'll just have to wait and see" if the coming days bring any relief from the heat and dry conditions.

For now, he said, tobacco growers were beginning to harvest and were "in that mindset."

Growers here planted about 3,000 acres of tobacco this year. That figure is down considerably from nine years ago, when over 3,500 acres were planted.

Historically, tobacco was the leading cash crop in the \$30 million annual agriculture receipts in Person County, but that is no longer the case.

Friday fire in Timberlake causes extensive damage to Dink Ashley Road residence

A Friday night fire caused extensive damage to a home on Dink Ashley Road in Timberlake.

Jason Fletcher, assistant fire chief for the Timberlake Fire & Rescue Department, said firefighters responded to 1673 Dink Ashley Rd. shortly after 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Gram Pulliam and his wife

owned the two-story wood frame farmhouse, Fletcher said, and he added that both were at home at the time of the fire.

The cause of the fire was deemed to have been due to an electrical malfunction. The blaze, Fletcher said, originated in the kitchen area of the home.

The home and its contents were deemed to be a total loss, according to Fletcher.

Timberlake firefighters were assisted at the scene by Person County EMS, Person County Rescue Squad, the Person County Sheriff's Office, and firefighters from the following departments: Bahama, Hurdle Mills, Moriah and Roxboro.

DEATHS

- Walter Lester Carver, 88
Roxboro
 - Mary Stephenson Weaver Day, 83
Durham
 - Curtis Wayne Jones, 55
Roxboro
 - Christina Tuck Obie, 83
Roxboro
 - Pearlie Jay Thorpe, 63
Roxboro
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