

### FEATURES



#### CHOIR DIRECTOR

Clay Price, the choral's third-year director, has convinced his 80 students and numerous parents, teachers, administrators and music lovers that performing classic literature can be a moving experience.

Full story/Page 1C

### EDUCATION

#### NURSING PROGRAM

The nursing program at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke earns accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Full story/Page 7A

### BUSINESS

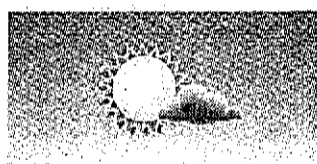


#### HOME BUSINESSES

Home-based business owners are looking for ways to keep afloat as business expands.

Full story/Page 1D

### WEATHER



#### Today

Partly sunny.

High: 85 Low: 61

For complete weather information, see Page 11A

### OBITUARIES

Clayton Chavis, 56, Shannon  
Harold Loddie, 66, Pembroke  
Delois Killens, 75, Fairmont  
Leona Freeman, 91, Elizabethtown

Page 10A

### INDEX

Business .....	1D
Celebrations .....	2C
Classifieds .....	3D
Editorial .....	4A
Education .....	7A
Features .....	1C
Nation .....	5A
Sports .....	1B
State .....	3A
World .....	7A

### COMING MONDAY

#### TRUCK DONATION

A local business has donated a truck for county animal cruelty investigators to use. Find out which business in Monday's The Robesonian.



## County has 700 appeals, expects to receive 2,500

SCOTT WITTEN  
SENIOR WRITER

LUMBERTON — Like many county property owners, James McEachin wasn't happy with his home's new assessed value. The Maxton native felt it was way off base and appealed to the county Tax Office.

McEachin expects a response any day. But if the new assessment is not to his liking, he plans to put the matter before the county Board of Equalization and Review, where he believes he will get a fair hearing.

McEachin said his confidence in the quasi-judicial body stems from the fact that he has served on the board since January 2003. McEachin said he wants other property owners to have the same faith in the board "full of regular citizens" who know

they must be fair to the county and to property owners.

"They are farmers, retirees and business people and each one is fair," said McEachin, who plans to recuse himself from hearing his own appeal if it reaches the board. "We are citizens too. We've gone through the same process and we certainly know where people are coming from."

The Board of Equalization and Review convened on May 1 and will hold its first appeal hearings on June 20. The nine-member board is charged with hearing property owners who are unhappy with the Tax Office's response to their initial appeals. Each of the eight county commissioners appoints one member and the board also names a consensus pick.

See APPEAL, Page 9A

### Revaluation by the numbers

- Number of current appeals — 700
- Number of expected appeals — 2,500.
- Appeal deadline June 10.
- Hearings begin June 20.
- Hearings expected to end in August.
- Hearings are expected to take about 15 minutes.
- Board will hold two three-hour sessions, four days a week.
- Additional appeals can be made to the state Property Tax Commission in Raleigh, and then to the state Court of Appeals.
- Of the 69,000 new property notices sent, 49,000 assessed values went down, 10,000 went up and 10,000 remained the same.

## County ponders revaluation for 2009

In-house process called cheaper, quicker

SCOTT WITTEN  
SENIOR WRITER

LUMBERTON — One of county Commissioner Raymond Cummings' favorite sayings is "if you want something done right, do it yourself."

Cummings and his fellow commissioners are thinking about applying that philosophy to the next revaluation by having the work of assessing properties done in-house, and not by contracting it

out. The Board of Commissioners will hold a workshop next month to discuss how the county can carry out the process. County Manager Ken Windley has recommended the county spend \$200,000 next year to start the process, which would include hiring an additional appraiser.

"This is an idea whose time has come," Cummings said. "We want to do it in-house for a lot of reasons, with the best being that having our own appraiser will give us a true picture of what our values are."

If the county does decide to do

the job itself, the switch will have to be approved by the state Department of Revenue. About 60 percent of the counties in North Carolina conduct in-house revaluations.

Tax Administrator Robert Baird says an in-house revaluation would save money, time and improve accuracy.

"There are so many advantages to doing it in-house that they are hard to list," he said. "The staff lives here and wants the process to be both correct and fair."

Baird said the county can do the

See COUNTY, Page 9A

## 10 cited during prostitution sting

SCOTT WITTEN  
SENIOR WRITER

LUMBERTON — Ten men didn't get what they were looking for on Friday night — and police hope that charging them with seeking sex from a prostitute will convince others that the crimes will not be tolerated.

Lumberton police Detective Burnis Wilkins said the men were cited after

approaching a female police officer who was posing as a prostitute. The reverse sting was part of the Weed and Seed program in East Lumberton to cut down on illegal drugs and related crimes.

The sting was conducted Friday night from 7 to midnight. Wilkins said police were surprised that they

See STING, Page 10A

"If that had been a real prostitute, she would have been with 10 different men. These girls don't go home and take a bath after each customer."

— Burnis Wilkins, detective

## D.A. to make call in shooting death

DONNIE DOUGLAS  
EDITOR

FAIRMONT — Sheriff's officials say they will consult with the District Attorney's Office to see if a Fairmont woman will be charged in a shooting that killed her boyfriend.

Timothy Turner Sr., 34, of 170 Champion Lane, Fairmont, was killed instantly just before midnight

Friday when he was struck in the head with a single shot, according to sheriff's Maj. Randal Patterson. The bullet hit Turner "right between the eyes," Patterson said.

Patterson said that Turner's 22-year-old girlfriend, Ashley Chavis, of the same address, told investigators that they had been argu-

See DEATH, Page 10A



MOORE



RATZ

ROXANA ROSS  
STAFF WRITER

LUMBERTON — Some businesses are casting a leery eye at a proposal to impose an extra 1-cent sales tax to help pay for the planned Northeast Park.

Betty Evans, the treasurer of Quik Print Copy Center, said the city does not need a new tax or a new park.

"We're taxed to death now," Evans said before adding, "What's wrong with the fields they got now?"

City officials say the \$8 million, 91-acre park will help to meet Lumberton's growing recreational needs. The park would include a walking trail, soccer, baseball and softball fields, a meadow and an amphitheater.

Charlie Taylor of Taylor Engines said the new tax could hurt his business. Taylor said he is already in competition with out-of-state Internet sales, where no sales tax is charged.

"We've got to consider the parts we sell," Taylor said. "So I have to sell a product right now at 7 percent less than my competitors mail order, just to be competitive."

Mecklenburg is the one county in North Carolina with a general merchandise sales tax higher than 7 percent, according to Karl Knapp, director of the Tax Research Division with the state Department of Revenue.

Mecklenburg County's sales tax is 7.5 percent; Dare County has the authority to go to 8 percent, but hasn't implemented the extra 1 percent yet. Gaston County was given the green light last year by the legislature, but the increase failed during a voter referendum, Knapp said. Depending on the bill's wording, such tax requests do not have to go to voters, he said.

Knapp said he wasn't aware of any cities that have asked for an additional sales tax, though counties frequently try to increase their sales tax.

"It certainly wouldn't help (business)," Taylor said. "I understand that we need it, but I would question that. It's not about sales tax, it's about a park. Is the park going to help? Is the park justified? We've got to find out ... We might need to look at other park projects and see how they've turned out."

#### Too vague

Helen Locklear, a realtor and owner of Lumbee Chief Products, said the plan, which would impose the new tax on "on all sales occurring in the City of

See TAX, Page 9A



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Death Notices

**Clayton Chavis Shannon**

Clayton Chavis, 56, 5053 Great Marsh Church Road, died May 26, 2005, at UNC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. The funeral will be 3 p.m. today at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Rennett, the Revs. Anthony Oxendine and Jerry Scott officiating. Burial will follow at Barbara and Patricia Chavis family cemetery. Surviving are his parents, Harlie Chavis of Shannon and Virgie Chavis of Red Springs; two brothers, Don Chavis of Shannon and Dr. Herman Chavis of Lumberton; and three sisters, Amy Oxendine of Shannon, Patricia Lambert of Maxton and Barbara Chavis of Shelby.

**Harold Otis Locklear Pembroke**

Harold Otis Locklear, 66, of 224 Ila Mae Drive, died May 27, 2005, at Beverly Health Care. The funeral will be 4 p.m. Monday at Locklear and Son Funeral Home Chapel, the Rev. Steve Strickland and Brother Harlie W. Locklear officiating. Burial will follow at Lumbee Memorial Gardens. Surviving are two sisters, Jan Locklear and Judy Collins, both of Pembroke; and two brothers, Rex Locklear of Jacksonville, Fla. and Delton Locklear of Pembroke. The family will receive friends from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

**Delois Killens Fairmont**

Delois Killens, 75, of 200 Jenkins St., died May 26, 2005, at home. The funeral will be 2 p.m. today at Hill's Funeral Home. Killens attended John Lewis and Rosenwald high schools, Bennett College, Cincinnati University, Jewish School of Technology and St. Mary Medical School. She spent a tour of duty in Africa setting up a medical laboratory for Houston University Medical Hospital as a phlebotomist. Surviving are two sons, William Johnson and Terry Killens; a daughter, Cheryl Johnson; three brothers, Thomas D. Killens and his wife, Dorothy, Richard Killens and his wife, Ellen, and R. Lester Killens and his wife, Billie; two sisters, Pocahontas Thompson and her husband, Robert, and Grace Robertson; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. *Paid obituary*

**Leona Phillips Freeman Elizabethtown**

Leona Phillips Freeman, 91, of 1A McLeod Village, died May 27, 2005, at Bladen County Hospital. The funeral will be 1 p.m. Monday at Lisbon Baptist Church, the Revs. Chadwick Ivester and Teddy Lawson officiating. Burial will follow at 3 p.m. at New Hollywood Cemetery in Lumberton. Surviving are six daughters, Barbara Taylor and Nell Moore, both of Greensboro, Mary Edwards of Wilmington, Dianne Giard and Gloria Berg, both of Portland, Ore., and Angela Darden of Leland; a son, Knox Freeman Jr. of Elizabethtown; a sister, Erlene Evans of Elizabethtown; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Kinlaw Funeral Home.

Incompletes

**Vinora Peterkin**, 93, of 217 Mount Tabor Road, Red Springs, died May 27, 2005, at Scotland Memorial Hospital. Jackson Funeral Home.

**Timothy Turner**, 34, of 105 Yukon Drive, Fairmont, died May 28, 2005, at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Floyd Funeral Services of Fairmont.

**Donald Smith**, 70, of 706 W. 21st St., Lumberton, died May 28, 2005, at Wesley Pines Retirement Center. Floyd Mortuary and Crematory of Lumberton.

Funerals

Today

- Liza Mae Hunt**, 1 p.m. at Fairpoint Baptist Church in Fairmont. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.
- Laura Ann Hunt Oxendine**, 3 p.m. at McDonald Pentecostal Holiness Church in McDonald. Burial will follow at Fairpoint Church Cemetery in Fairmont.
- Letha Lewis Hunt**, 3 pm. at Reedy Branch Baptist Church in Fairmont. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.
- Earl Thompson**, 2 p.m. at Holy Swamp Baptist Church in Lumberton. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.
- Emmer Jane Locklear**, 2 p.m. at Faith Assembly of God. Burial will follow in the Bullard family cemetery in Rex.
- Delois Killens**, 2 p.m. at Hill's Funeral Home.
- Clayton Chavis**, 3 p.m. at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Rennett. Burial will follow at Barbara and Patricia Chavis family cemetery.

Monday

- Peggy Britt Bullock**, 5 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lumberton. Burial will follow in the Bullock family cemetery in Fairmont.
- Grady "Jimmy" Fields**, 1 p.m. at Smyrna Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the Robeson Memorial Park.
- Harold Otis Locklear**, 4 p.m. at Locklear and Son Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Lumbee Memorial Gardens.
- Leona Phillips Freeman**, 1 p.m. at Lisbon Baptist Church. Burial will follow at 3 p.m. at New Hollywood Cemetery in Lumberton.

Our Daily Bread

THE REV. A. PURNELL BAILEY

We find certain universal truths in God's promises to Israel. Whenever God's people — in any nation — humble themselves, repent, and worship God (2 Chronicles 7:14), their lives are changed, and that has a ripple effect on the society around them.

Philip B. Bliss put the idea in these poetic words:  
 "Many mighty men are lost,  
 Daring not to stand,  
 Who for God had been a host  
 By joining Daniel's band.  
 Dare to be a Daniel.  
 Dare to stand alone!  
 Dare to have a purpose firm,  
 Dare to make it known."  
 Psalm 30:4b-5 tells us: "Remember what the Holy One has done, and give him thanks! His anger lasts only for a moment, his goodness for a lifetime. Tears may flow in the night, but joy comes in the morning."  
 O God, restore the enthusiasm of my first love for you.  
 "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:7).

Dr. A. Purnell Bailey may be contacted at P.O. Box 41296, Fredericksburg, Va. 22404, or BL7815@aol.com.

STING

FROM PAGE 1A

Area targeted

made so many arrests in such a short time in an area that is heavily patrolled. "We target that area a lot, but most of the guys are from out of town but heard that this was the area to go," Wilkins said. "Maybe people will think twice now, because they know it could be an undercover officer that they try to pick up." The following eight people are each charged with misdemeanor soliciting an undercover officer to commit a crime against nature: Anthony Britt, 17, of 465 Coe Road, Lumberton; Jose Luis Hernandez, 32, of 470 Garrett Road, Fairmont; Brandon Brayboy, 20, of 1423 Saddletree Road, Lumberton; Kenneth Ellis, 43, of 370 Brooklyn Circle, Hope Mills; Christopher James Locklear, 27, of 106 Fairley Road, Maxton; Joseph Blanks 46, of 208 E. McDonald Road, Lumberton; Rudolph Ramsey, 21, of 930 33rd St., Hickory; Jeremy Ryan White, 21, of 1190 McKellar Road, Fairmont; and David Mark

Walker, 37, of 561 W. Shaw St., St. Pauls. Charged with misdemeanor soliciting an undercover officer for prostitution were Thomas Preston Patterson, 52, of 1008 Emma Jane Road, St. Pauls, and James Michael Parker, 28, of 2305 Burke St., Lumberton. The men were cited and released. If convicted, they will be ordered to attend a class on sexually-transmitted diseases. "There all kind of diseases out there and when you think about it, these men were lucky because if that had been a real prostitute, she would have been with 10 different men," Wilkins said. "These girls don't go home and take a bath after each customer." Police also cited Carl Hardy, 43, of East 10th Street, Lumberton, with possession of drug paraphernalia. "He walked right up to our undercover officer smoking crack," Wilkins said. "But by the time we got to him, he had gotten rid of it."


DEATH

FROM PAGE 1A

Called 911 Friday


ing and Turner had armed himself with a .38-caliber handgun. Patterson said that Chavis told investigators during an interview that Turner "produced a gun and she tried to take it away from him and it went off." Patterson said that Chavis called 911 about 11:50 p.m. Friday. She was questioned and then released. Patterson said that the results of the sheriff's investigation would be turned over to District Attorney Johnson Britt and

that he would make the decision on whether charges would be filed. Patterson said that Turner's body was found on a bed. He said Turner was dressed as if he was preparing to go to sleep. Turner and Chavis both worked for the same construction company. They were alone in the house, Patterson said.



**Kimberly Locklear**  
 Congratulations on your Pre-K graduation.  
 Love, Mommy, Mama B, Shirl & Gerald

A Grandpa is a remarkable man. He's a combination of warmth and kindness, care and concern, laughter and love. He will overlook our faults, encourage our dreams and praise our successes. May 22, 2005 Mr. Clarence was 91 years old. God sent wisdom down to earth and sent him away from us. Each thought he knew he is in a much better place our hearts bleed for him daily. Granddaddy: Happy Birthday, and we love you so much. Love always your son: Hozar, daughter in law, Grace and two grand kids, Ray and Terin.




**Kimberly Locklear**  
 Congratulations on your Pre-K graduation.  
 Love, Mommy, Mama B, Shirl & Gerald

**A SON, A WARRIOR, A HUSBAND**




The Family of **SFC James (Jamie) H. Hunt II** express heartfelt thanks for the numerous prayers, words of encouragement, cards, and other generous acts of kindness extended to us during our loss. "Do not grieve. Misfortunes will happen to the wisest and best of men. Death will come and always out of season. It is the command of the Great Spirit, and all nations and people must obey. What is past and cannot be prevented should not be grieved for. Misfortunes do not flourish particularly in our path. They grow everywhere." Oration given by Big Elk, and Omaha Chief, at the death of Black Buffalo.

The Hunt Family  
 Colleen, Maxine, Harold, Billy, Steven, Cedric & Lauren



**KEVIN BERRY**  
 Class of 2005 Fairmont High  
 Congratulations!! Way to Go!  
 You are finally through. Just to let you know we're PROUD of you!! We love you!! We love you Mom, Dad, Big Sis and me too!! Tristan



We the **Wilton Cummings** Family express words of gratitude to you our friends and loved ones for all your deeds of kindness and love rendered to us during the time of our bereavement.  
**Pattie, Patsy, Judy Nelia, Milton & Dwayne**

Lawmakers ban sale of violent video games to minors

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Lawmakers voted Saturday to ban the sale of violent or sexually explicit video games to minors in Illinois, a move other states and cities have tried but federal courts have repeatedly struck down. The measure now goes to Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who proposed the ban late last year after hearing about the video game "JFK Reloaded," which puts the player in the role of President Kennedy's assassin. Under the legislation, clerks who knowingly sell adult video games to minors could be fined \$1,000. They could defend themselves by showing they did not know the buyer was a minor or that they followed the industry ratings on the games. The legislation leaves it to


stores to determine which games are too violent or sexually explicit for minors, and retailers have argued it turns them into violence and sensitivity police. A federal judge last summer struck down a Washington state ban as a violation of free speech because it banned selling to minors video games depicting violence against police officers but not other depictions of violence. Federal courts have also struck down bans in Indianapolis and St. Louis County, Mo., saying the mea-

sures encroach on the First Amendment. The judge in Washington state also determined the ban was too broad because it was unclear which games would be banned — something Illinois lawmakers say could be a problem with the legislation now headed to Blagojevich's desk.

**YOUR COUNTY** commissioner or city council person must approve any increase in your property taxes. Hold them responsible. Call them and voice your opinion


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**Carl Rhodes**

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**Never Forgetting**  
 Oct. 5, 1970 - May 31, 2000  
 My daughter Tammy, it has been 5 years since you went away. But, I keep you close to my heart and you memory alive each day. When I feel sad and start to miss you I think of all the good times and the funny things you would do. God has a way of bringing out the best within the worst the moment we stop worrying and choose to put him first. So you see I love you very much and miss you with all my heart. Tammy your memories I will keep alive. I love you and miss you!  
**Love, Mom & Family**

**Happy Birthday**




**Early G. Locklear**  
 5-29-22 5-6-04

God saw you were getting tired so he put his arm around you and whispered come with me. With tearful eyes we watched you go. Although we loved you dearly we couldn't make you stay. A golden heat stopped beating, your weary body were placed to rest, God breaks our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best.  
 Your Loving Wife,  
 Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Rev. Davy Locklear and family would like to thank Freedom Baptist Church for a great Pastor's Appreciation Day. May God Bless You All.

They were missed then.  
 They're missed now.



Now is the time we especially remember those who served for our country. They fought to make a better world for the rest of us, and we will never forget them.

**LOCKLEAR & SON FUNERAL HOME**  
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