



### BIG WINS

Wayne County High School and Wayne Academy claimed wins last week, and prepare for action. See Page 1B.

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### OBITUARIES — 2A

- Peggy Lynn Prather Barbarow
- Clifton William Dunn
- Annie Lee McGill-Cooley
- James C. "Red" Gray
- Martha Lucille McClain

# The Wayne County News

"Thrives Because It Serves" • Thursday, September 9, 2010 • Volume 120, No. 36 • 75 Cents

## WPD investigates clothing store burglary

By Sean Dunlap

The Waynesboro Police Department is investigating a weekend break-in at a Court Street clothing store.

WPD Chief Jimmy Bunch said the incident occurred while the business was closed — sometime between the evening of Friday, Sept. 3 and the morning of Saturday, Sept. 4.

"We received the call on Saturday from Platinum Plus at 401 Court Street, and took a report noting that several items had been taken from the store," Bunch said. "Among the goods taken were pants, shirts, shoes and hats

### Downtown traffic concerns

Police are looking to raise public awareness about traffic safety in Waynesboro's historic downtown business district — notably slowing down and watching for pedestrians. See story on Page 3A in today's edition.

in the incident."

Police did not release a dollar value of the items that were reportedly stolen.

See Police, Page 5A

## School board, constable races firmed up

By Sean Dunlap

Following the Friday, Sept. 3 candidate filing deadline, at least three individuals will reportedly seek the Wayne County Board of Education Beat 2 seat while five people will take part in the special election for the Post 1 Constable seat.

In one other local race — Board of Education representative from Beat 1 — incumbent Leah Parson was the only candidate to qualify for the election.

See Races, Page 7A

### Who's running for what?

Here's a list of candidates that have qualified for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 general election in Wayne County. These races pertain to their respective beats and posts, and not all names will appear on all county-wide ballots because of district boundaries.

**School Board District 1:** Leah Parson.

**School Board District 2:** Fred Andrews, John H. Mayfield and Mary Williamson.

**Constable Post 1:** Billy Bonner, James "Tom" Burford, Pamela Jean Cleary, Spencer Davis and Scott Frost.

## Supervisors OK FY 2011 budget plan

Hutto: 'We reluctantly approved 4.6 mill ad valorem increase for schools'

By Sean Dunlap

The Wayne County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a 4.6 mills increase in ad valorem taxes — affecting property taxes and the cost of automobile license plates — to help fund public education in fiscal year 2011.

"Our hands were tied in this decision," said Supervisors President Jerry Hutto, who represents District 3, following a 5-0 vote to set the millage rate as required by law.

He characterized the vote as one of reluctance by the panel.

"This board fully supports education, and we're obligated to meet the financial needs for local public schools," Hutto said. "However, we are very aware of the tight economy that everyone is facing in Wayne County and around the state and country ... it was a difficult decision for each of us, but there was no other action we could take."

The county's assessed millage — in areas outside of the municipalities of Waynesboro and State Line — will be 82.60 for fiscal year 2011, up from the 78.00 mills seen during the current budget year.

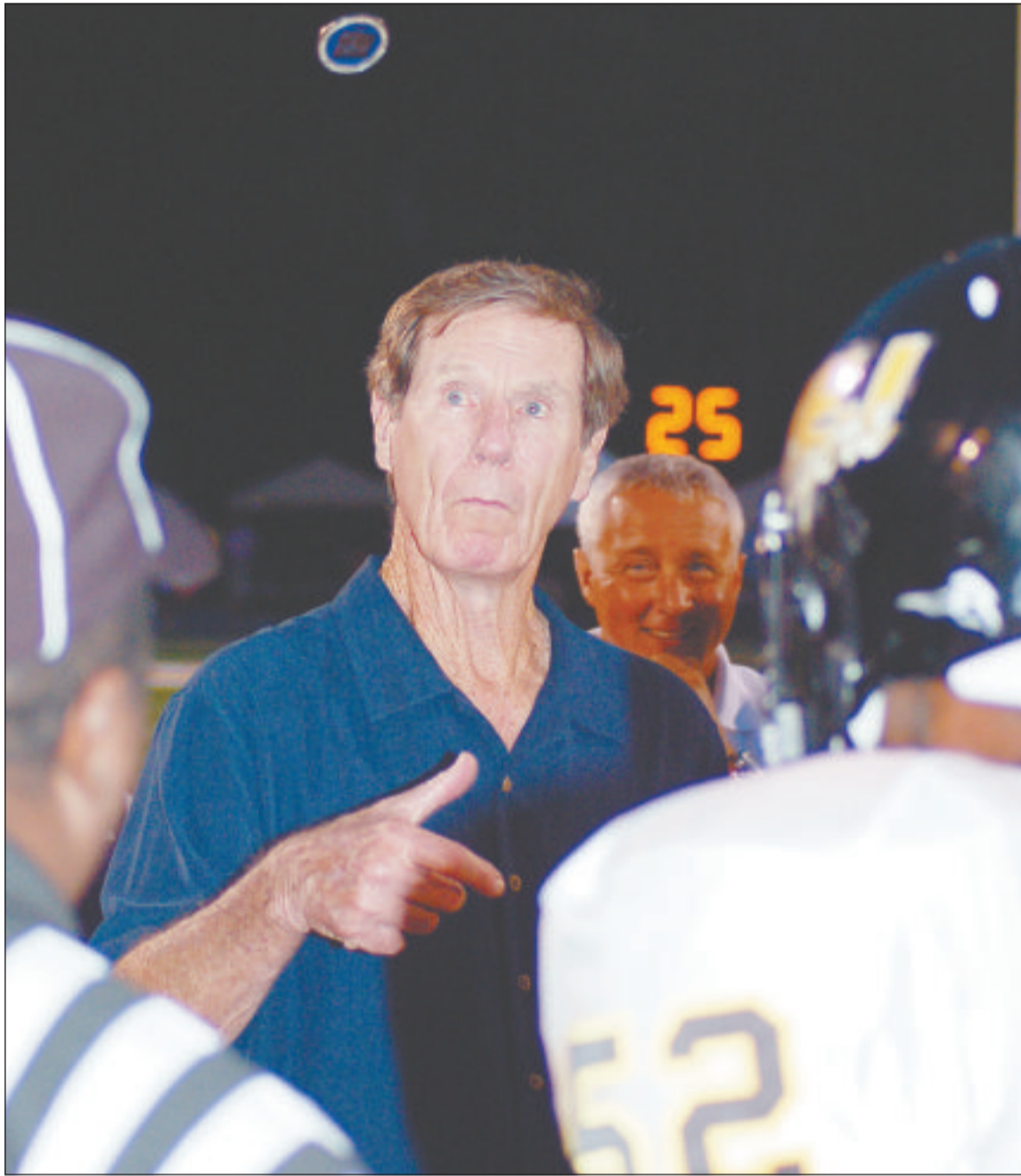
Notably, the county-wide school maintenance and minimum program school funding ad valorem line item will stand at 30 mills for the new fiscal year, up from the current 25.40 mills.

Only one member of the public — outside of a representative of The Wayne County News — was present for the county's annual budget hearing, and no comments were offered either for or against the proposed ad valorem tax increase.

"I was a little surprised that more people didn't come to voice their opinions, but we have all heard at some point from citizens concerned about their taxes and car tags going up," Hutto said.

Wayne County Comptroller Sylvia Chancellor said the increase in millage for public education was the only hike in ad valorem taxes approved for fiscal year 2011.

See Supervisors, Page 5A



Paul Keane/The Wayne County News  
Legendary college football coach Jim Carmody flipped the coin prior to the start of last Thursday's Wayne County-Northeast Jones varsity football game at War Eagles Stadium in Waynesboro. Carmody was also presented with a plaque prior to the start of the contest and visited with acquaintances, including WCHS Supervising Principal B.R. Jones, who played football for him.

## Honoring a coaching legend

Jim Carmody presented with plaque in pregame ceremonies at WCHS-NEJ ballgame

By Paul Keane

A football coaching legend was honored during last Thursday's gridiron game between Wayne County High School and Northeast Jones.

Jim Carmody, one of the most successful coaches in Mississippi college football history, was presented with a special plaque by one of his former players — WCHS Principal B.R. Jones — during pregame ceremonies.

Carmody also flipped the coin for the two teams before kickoff.

Carmody said he was honored to come to WCHS and meet up with some old friends.

"B.R. played for me at Ole Miss, and I've followed his career ever since," Carmody said during a reception held for the 1980 Clara football team.

See Carmody, Page 8A

## 'Splash pad' is idea, depends on city's funds

Gray suggesting municipality make strides to build up recreation venues

By Paul Keane

The proposed splash pad at Southside Park came under question during a Tuesday night budget hearing for the City of Waynesboro, with officials telling the audience that the project was simply planned and would not become a reality unless there was sufficient revenue available for it.

During the public hearing on the 2010-2011 budget for the city, aldermen were questioned about the wisdom of putting a splash pad — at an estimated cost of \$100,000 or more — into a budget that was being cut in other areas.

Aldermen said the item was a proposal and that nothing would be done unless revenues were such that it could be afforded above and beyond city services.

"I proposed this," Ward 4 Alderman Johnny Gray said.

"The city needs as much recreation as possible for the kids. This takes the place of having a municipal swimming pool, and it's family friendly and allows people to beat the heat in the summer.

"In the past, we've added playground equipment to the parks, and we have it in the budget to add swings this year and to add a splash pad, if the revenue is there. This is coming out of the general fund and there are no set asides specifically for this project. Everything in the budget is projected, and we won't spend any money until it comes in. We can't spend it until the money is there, whether it's for a new truck, a dump truck or a splash pad."

Alderman at Large Greg Johnson echoed those sentiments, adding placing the splash pad in the budget is simply a first step toward making improvements.

See Aldermen, Page 5A

### More aldermen news

Turn to Page 3A in today's edition of The Wayne County News regarding concerns from residents in the city's newly annexed areas about certain services and amenities being sought.

## Economic prosperity will require big push

By Sean Dunlap

Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory Executive Director Wayne Tucker told local and regional leaders on Tuesday that Wayne County has to be proactive in selling itself to all potential industrial prospects that are looking at the Magnolia State.

"Wayne County has a lot of potential — especially when it comes to its timber resources," Tucker said during an informal meeting at the courthouse prior to the monthly Board of Supervisors business session.

"But the thing that you have to remember is that you have to promote yourself because no one else is going to do it for you."

See Prosperity, Page 8A



Sean Dunlap/The Wayne County News  
Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory Executive Director Wayne Tucker visited Waynesboro to talk about economic development and taking steps to entice new industries to consider locating here on Tuesday morning.

## Board delays action on furlough policy

By Sean Dunlap

The uncertain nature of taxpayer funding for public education in Mississippi has prompted local school districts — including Wayne County — to look at potential furloughs of employees should more cuts come in the not-too-distant future.

"It's not out of the realm of possibility that we will see more budget cut from the state," Superintendent of Education Robert Dean told the Board of Education during its monthly business session on Tuesday.

Dean presented the five-member panel with a resolution outlining how the furloughs — if necessary — would be implemented, but the panel refused to take action on the proposal.

"We're not at the point where furloughs

would be necessary, and this board is reluctant to send that message right now to employees," said Board President Terry Graham, who represents Beat 5.

Dean said he understood the board's position, but added the policy will have to be enacted sooner or later should the need for furloughs become a necessity to stabilize the district's financial footing.

"This resolution is not to begin furloughs, but puts the mechanism in place for us to act if we have to," Dean added. "If the cuts come, we're going to have to pull the trigger at some point."

Beat 1 board member Leah Parson said she was not comfortable voting on the measure because she has lingering questions about how furloughs might impact school system employees that work less than 200 days in a school year.

See Furloughs, Page 5A

## Of local interest

### Calvary Baptist to host 'Parent Summit'

WCN submitted report

Calvary Baptist Church, at the corner of South and Chickasawhay street in Waynesboro, will host a "Parent Summit" from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 11. The program will focus

on strengthening parenting skills, how to have spiritual conversations with children and grandchildren and classes for parents of preschoolers and youth.

For details, contact Calvary Baptist Church at 601-735-2333.

### Deputies probe golf cart theft at school

By Sean Dunlap

The Wayne County Sheriff's Department is investigating the theft of a golf cart from a local public school campus on Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Sheriff John Stein Farris said his agency was called to Beat Four School regarding a stolen 2003 electric golf cart, and the case was investigated by Deputies Tim Hollinghead and Cynthia Terrell.

"It appears as if entry was made to the school property by manipulating a locked

gate," Farris said in a written statement.

The golf cart was described as being maroon in color with white seats and a white top.

Anyone with information regarding the theft or the whereabouts of the golf cart can contact the sheriff's department at 601-735-3801 or Wayne County CrimeStoppers at 601-735-5323.

In addition, anonymous tips can also be submitted via the sheriff's department Website — [www.waynecoso.org](http://www.waynecoso.org), and clicking on the "Submit a Tip" link.

### JCJC to offer equipment operator class

By Teresa Martin

ELLISVILLE — Jones County Junior College's Workforce Development initiative is offering training to help applicants prepare for a new career as an entry-level heavy equipment operator.

The class will meet at the JCJC Advanced Technology Center on Monday and Tuesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m., with hands-on training on Saturdays at 8 a.m.

This course will include lecture, simulator training and hands-on skills to prepare trainees as entry-level equipment operators.

Trainees will learn heavy equipment operation from the ground up with a strong

emphasis on safety. Equipment used for training includes excavators and dozers.

An orientation and registration meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the ATC. Classes will begin Monday, Oct. 11.

Training tuition is \$714, which includes reimbursement for medical screenings.

Tuition assistance may be available through your local WIN Job Center.

Learn valuable skills that will open up new opportunities by calling JCJC for program requirements at 601-477-4186 or 601-477-4114 or email at [regina.kitchens@jcjc.edu](mailto:regina.kitchens@jcjc.edu) or [shannon.wilks@jcjc.edu](mailto:shannon.wilks@jcjc.edu).

### Deadline nearing to register for election

By Sean Dunlap

With the November general elections looming, Wayne County Circuit Clerk Rose Bingham is encouraging those who have not registered to vote to sign up as soon as possible.

"Traditionally, the last day to register to vote comes about 30 days before the election, which means those planning to sign-up only have until the first of October to do so," Bingham said.

"Our office is open daily — Monday through Friday — for those needing to register to vote. We encourage anyone that wants to register to call us now and find out what kind of documentation is needed to be eligible."

Bingham also urged anyone that has moved — whether it be across the street or to another part of the county to also stop by her office.

"The reason we ask for this is because we have to determine if your voting precinct will change because of your move," she said. "Even going across the street can put you in another voting district, and we want to make certain you vote based on where you reside."

Bingham's office is located on the first floor of the courthouse near the South entrance to the building.

The Circuit Clerk's Office can be reached during business hours by calling 601-735-1171.

### Sparks, Democrats to visit Chatom, Ala.

WCN submitted report

CHATOM, Ala. — Ron Sparks, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and Democratic candidate for governor, will address a special meeting of the Washington County, Ala. Democratic

Executive Committee at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 15.

The meeting will be held at the courthouse in Chatom in the large upstairs courtroom.

Other Democratic candidates will be present for the gathering, and the public is invited to attend.

# Representative of annexed neighborhood raises concerns

By Paul Keane

A citizen in the annexed area of Waynesboro brought concerns about services provided to that area to Tuesday night's meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

John H. Jordan, representing the citizens of Patton Creek Estates, brought up five issues he said were concerning residents.

"We have a couple of causes for concern," he said. "The first is the 9-1-1 system in that area. We don't have it right now. We've had some close calls here recently where emergency responders could not find our homes, and we would like to know if the city can and will address that issue and try to resolve it."

Jordan also pointed out that a road in the area needs paving, and the current paving option might not be feasible. He was told the slag overlay will work and will serve the area well.

Jordan also expressed concern about the lack of fire hydrants in the area.

Waynesboro Fire Chief Wil-

### Budget hearing

For a summary of Tuesday's public budget hearing before the Waynesboro Board of Aldermen, turn to Page 1A in this edition of The Wayne County News or visit us online at [www.waynecountynews.com](http://www.waynecountynews.com).

lard said. "Right now, we can't get cable, and we would like to have it so that we can get local channels."

"I've talked to them and to our attorney," Ward 1 Alderman Ben Graves said. "We've been riding them pretty hard, but they say they have to have a minimum number of households in the area before they can install the service."

Jordan also pointed out that a road in the area needs paving, and the current paving option might not be feasible.

He was told the slag overlay will work and will serve the area well.

Jordan also expressed concern about the lack of fire hydrants in the area.

Waynesboro Fire Chief Wil-

ard immediately, meaning there is ample fire protection for the residents.

The completion of the bridge replacement project over Patton Creek is expected to be done later this month, Jordan was told when he expressed that concern.

In other action, the Waynesboro Board of Aldermen:

- Approved the claims docket.
- Approved the narcotics claim docket.
- Approved all travel requests.
- Approved Darryl Pitts' request for placement of a mobile home in the annexed area.
- Approved a Central Business District Tax Exemption Application for Quality Office Supply Inc.
- Approved payment of \$12,750 to Michael Britton for 85 percent billing for CPA services rendered.
- Approved Change Order No. 1 and final regarding the rubbish site perimeter fence project.
- Approved payment of Estimate No. 3 to Tanner Construction Company, Inc., in

the amount of \$54,774 regarding the Patton Creek bridge replacement project.

• Approved payment to Pickering Inc., in the amount of \$54,678 for engineering services rendered regarding the airport north taxiway construction project.

• Accepted Pickering Inc.'s proposal in the amount of \$442,228.50 regarding the airport north taxiway construction project.

• Authorized the execution of contract documents and specifications by the mayor, city clerk and city attorney regarding the airport north taxiway construction project.

• Approved an application for payment of State Aid Request No. 1 in the amount of \$1,366.95 regarding the airport north taxiway construction project.

• Approved reimbursement to Joseph M. David in the amount of \$37 for an annual physical required for CDL drivers.

• Heard an update on the progress being made at the the old City Hall site.

• Approved the declared surplus property list.

## Authorities urge caution for motorists in downtown area

By Sean Dunlap

Increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic in Waynesboro's historic downtown business district is prompting calls for motorists to exercise caution when passing through the area.

Waynesboro Police Chief Jimmy Bunch said he has received numerous calls — mostly from local business owners — regarding safety concerns involving some motorists going too fast and driving carelessly through the area along Station Street between Court and Wayne streets.



Bunch

"We've seen a lot more cars in the area, and there are more people walking," Bunch said.

"Our effort is to raise public awareness about the need for the motoring public to drive safely and be on the lookout for individuals backing out of angle parking spaces in this two block area or those individuals walking from between parked cars."

Bunch noted that under normal driving conditions — unless otherwise posted — the speed limit is 30 miles per hour on municipal streets, and efforts will be made to step up enforcement to address some concerns that have been raised.

"The business owners that have contacted us are very concerned about older drivers that are parked and trying to back out," Bunch said. "If motorists are zipping along Station Street, they might not have time to react ... that makes for a safety concern."

Angle parking provides

a means to maximize the number of parking spaces in an area and is often permitted where there is a desire or genuine need to accommodate as much on-street parking as possible.


Bunch said there are some difficulties and dangers associated with angle parking — primarily limited visibility for drivers and lack of room to exit the space.

"Having angle parking is the best means for accommodating the number of cars that frequent downtown businesses," he added. "All we're asking is that people be aware cars pulling into and out of those spaces and to drive along Station Street at or below the speed limit."

In regards to pedestrians, Bunch encouraged those walking downtown to cross at intersections wherever possible, and not to dart out in front of cars.

"There is also a move to possibly promote the downtown area for the Mississippi Main Street program, which will seek to open new business opportunities and improvements to this part of town," he continued. "With renewed interest, we will be promoting traffic safety in the days and weeks ahead."

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# Aldermen

"We put this in so we can start planning," he said. "For years, we've done nothing along these lines. The same equipment I played on in these parks as a kid is still there. We have to try and do something."

"In this budget, we're increasing our police protection and we're keeping the fire department the same as last year as far as funding. But we need to start taking steps toward making investments in the city. I've seen businesses

go down without investments, and cities are the same way. We have to make some investments, and this is a first step. We're not going to spend that money unless the revenues are there, but we have to start taking some steps toward improving the quality of life here."

Gray said the entire budget is simply a plan and has to be adjusted throughout the year to accommodate changes in revenue, namely the local sales tax revenue fluctuations

that occur based on economic factors.

"This is a plan," he said. "If the dollars don't come in, then we don't spend it and we even make cuts. But we've got to have some good, clean fun for the children so they can be proud of the city and the services it offers. We've got to provide some services for the children as well."

"We also had \$100,000 in the budget for the renovations to the police department building, and I cut that out. I

guess you can blame me for both of these things."

Ward 1 Alderman Ben Graves said the budget provides level funding for all departments for the most part.

"Each department will be at or above last year's funding, meaning city services will be level or above what they were last year," he said. "This is a very sound budget, but all of this is proposed. We can put lots of stuff in it, but we won't spend anything until the money comes in. I won't put this city into debt just to build something."

Johnson also addressed rumors that increases in water rates and a new fee for picking up cardboard boxes from businesses in the city would

be used to fund the splash pad project.

"The water rates are not being raised to pay for the splash pad," Johnson said. "The water department's budget has to be a stand alone budget, and we cannot use those funds for anything other than the water department. And, by law, the water department has to be self-sufficient and must not carry a deficit."

"As for the box fee increase, we put that in because people in town are not paying for a service they receive five days a week. It was my idea to charge that fee, and I'll take the blame for it. I feel like we either need to charge for that service or not provide that service because there is

expense involved in providing that service."

Gray said increases in building permit fees and other fees were put in the budget because they have been so low that the City is losing money of many of them in relation to revenue generated and services provided.

"We're working on controlling our expenses," he said. "And the expenses are growing each year, and we've not made adjustments in fees and other charges to stay up with those increases (in several years)."

The Board is expected to formally adopt the budget for the upcoming fiscal year during a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.

From Page 1A

# Supervisors

"As far as everything else goes, the numbers stayed steady because we felt like the economy would still be soft," Chancellor said. "A lot of consideration goes into what we have to work with and the condition of the economy each year when it comes to levying millage."

Chancellor said all county departments, for the most part, did as requested in holding their funding needs steady for the new budget year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2010 through Sept. 30, 2011.

"It was made clear that expenditures on things like furniture and items that might not be essential to county operations would not be made with this new budget," she continued.

"One thing that we did have room for was a cost of living increase for employees of 58 cents per hour. Supervisors did not offer a wage increase last year, opting instead to cover additional health care coverage costs."

Chancellor said Wayne County has fared better than many areas of the state and country because of conservative management of its financial resources.

"The effort is to keep a tight rein on the budget all year long, especially now that the recession seems to be lingering," she noted. "That's not going to change, because we're holding the line and trying to avoid big ticket purchases to make certain we don't get in a financial bind. The county is a business, and we want to be responsible to the taxpayers who fund these operations."

Also impacting the county's bottom line is the local match for employee retirement from the state, which has increased to 12 percent and Chancellor said it was anticipated.

"Just because you know it's coming doesn't mean you have to like it," she said. "That's one of the behind-the-scenes costs of government, and it is going to cost us more money to meet the demands placed on us by the state's retirement system."

She noted that in recent years, the local retirement match has increased from 9 percent up to the current 12 percent level. "That money has to come from somewhere," she said.

## FISCAL YEAR 2011 — 82.60 MILLS COUNTYWIDE AD VALOREM LEVIES

- Mandatory county ad valorem tax — 1 mill.
- General county purposes — 17.65 mills. This tax levy is for county government administration, operation of the sheriff's department, maintaining public buildings, operating the local court system, conducting elections, operating the area's health and welfare agencies, and various sundry items.
- Waynesboro-Wayne County Library — 1 mill.
- Pat Harrison Waterway District — .88 mill.
- Wayne County Economic Development District — 1 mill.
- Wayne County Volunteer Fire Department (outside of municipalities) — 2.70 mills.
- Countywide bridge and culvert, maintenance and construction — 13 mills.
- Reappraisal (to defray cost of reappraisal for taxation) — 1 mill.
- Operation and maintenance of rubbish and garbage disposal system (outside of municipalities) — 5 mills.
- Countywide school maintenance and all incidental expenses, and Minimum Program School Fund — 30.00 mills.
- General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 1993, for roofing of school buildings, repairs and alterations to buildings, equipment and purchase of school buses — 2.20 mills.
- Support of Jones County Junior College — 2.75 mills.
- Enlargement and improvement of JCJC — 1.17 mills.
- General Obligation Jail Bonds, Series 1998 (new jail) — 3.25 mills.

The total county assessed mills in rural areas will be 82.60 for fiscal year 2011. The assessed county millage inside the municipalities of Waynesboro and State Line is 74.90.

Another cost that could impact the county in its new budget year is health care coverage for workers, and Chancellor said she has not seen numbers yet as to what those costs might be in the new budget year.

"You can only hope for the best when it comes to health coverage," she added. "The trend has been for incremental increases in premium costs, and that's what we're probably looking at again this year ... though it is a little too early to tell."

The county's expenditures for fiscal year 2011 will likely total \$12,443,941.

Of that amount, \$3,156,502 will be expended for general county operations while \$3,015,289 will be spent on public safety.

In the area of public works, the county is expected to spend \$4,839,015. Health and welfare program will expend \$298,999, and education will consume \$300,000.

Economic development and assistance is budgeted at \$205,337 while the county has \$436,240 set aside for debt service.

And \$163,289 will be spent on conservation of natural resources while culture and recreation will expend \$29,270.

In other action, the Wayne County Board of Supervisors:

- Approved the monthly claims docket of expenditures.

- Transferred \$10,873.69 from Beat 3 to Beat 2 to cover the cost of purchasing 5,992 gallons of oil.

- Approved payment of \$6,200 to the state's surplus property agency for a replacement truck — a 2003 Dodge Ram — for the Wayne County Fire Coordinator Doug Hutto.

- Adopted an agreement between the county and the Town of State Line for the collection of ad valorem taxes.

- Reappointed Zeb Stokley to a seat on the Rail Authority of East Mississippi from District 1.

- Approved payment of \$2,300 to Ken Roberts Photography for development of a Website for the Wayne County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee.

- Appointed Kenneth Guy to a position on the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee.

- Approved payment to Waste Management for garbage tipping fees.

- Discussed the cost of two-way radios for the county's Homeland Security operation.

- Approved applying for a state small communities-rural counties grant — valued at up to \$100,000 — for improvements to the county's industrial parks.

Supervisors will meet in a special called session at 9 a.m., on Thursday, Sept. 16 at the courthouse.

From Page 1A

# Police

"We're looking for additional information related to this crime from the public," Bunch noted. "If you have details, contact Investigator Wesley Waites or Lt. Chris Harris at 601-735-3192 or Wayne County CrimeStoppers at 601-735-5323."

In other WPD activity:

- On Monday, Sept. 6, officers were patrolling the area of Glitter Lane when a mid-size passenger car was seen stopped in the middle of the street and allegedly obstructing traffic, according to Bunch.

"When the officer activated lights and siren, the vehicle

began to drive away and allegedly committed several traffic violations," Bunch said. "Patrol units pursued the vehicle until it turned off the street into a driveway at a residence on Glitter Lane. The driver exited the vehicle and allegedly attempted to leave the scene, but was taken into custody."

Bunch said the driver was identified as Thomas Rashaun Norsworthy, who was booked into the Wayne County Adult Detention Center in Waynesboro on a number of several charges.

According to detention center records, Norsworthy was

being charged with reckless driving, resisting arrest, failure to comply with the lawful commands of a police officer, failure to yield, possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute within 1,500 feet of a church and the sale of crack cocaine with intent to distribute within 1,500 feet of a church.

He was also facing holds from the South Mississippi Narcotics Task Force and from the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Bunch credited the Wayne County Sheriff's Department for assisting the WPD in making the arrest.

From Page 1A

## Farm Service Agency report

# Crop Disaster Assistance Program under way

By Joe McFadden

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers all noninsurable, commercially grown crops produced for food and fiber.

Eligible crops include pasture, hay, watermelons, butterbeans, peas, greens, pecans, as well as many other crops.

To receive coverage, applicants must pay a non-refundable administrative fee of \$250 per crop, per county.

Fees will not exceed \$750 per county, or \$1,875 for farmers with interests in multiple counties.

To be eligible for NAP, a farmer must have risk in producing the crop and must comply with a conservation plan.

The CCC-471 Application provides continuous coverage and will remain in effect for each crop year following acceptance of the original CCC-471 unless the producer elects or fails to timely pay

**Reaching the FSA**

The Wayne and Greene counties office of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency is located on Azalea Drive in Waynesboro adjacent to Ramey's SuperValu. For information on FSA programs or services, call the agency at 601-735-6651 and connect with extension No. 2.

the administrative service fee(s) before the application closing date.

### APPLICATION CLOSING DATES

- Forage for hay or grazing with the exception of annually planted forage (i.e., ryegrass), oats, wheat — Sept. 30, 2010.
- Blueberries (Greene County), peaches, honey, grapes — Nov. 20, 2010
- Cabbage, greens, potatoes (except Sweet) — Jan. 15, 2011.
- Watermelons, beans, cantaloupe, pecans, tomatoes, turnips and cucumbers —

Feb. 1, 2011.

- Cotton, okra, peas, sweet potatoes and millet — Feb. 28, 2011.

Contact the FSA Office for a complete list of crops, including application closing, planting and harvest dates, yields, prices, etc.

You must file an application and/or pay the service fee in order to receive or continue coverage.

Interested producers must purchase crop insurance, CAT or NAP coverage by the application closing date for all 2011 crops on all farms to be eligible for the new Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Programs, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Tree Assistance Program (TAP); Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP).

Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance unless their fees are waived.

# Furloughs

"We know we have a resolution spelling out the policy when we need it, but we don't need to do anything right now," Graham said after the session. "It's not going to make much of a difference if we don't act tonight ... I, personally, am afraid that it would send the wrong message right now."

Based on the district's proposed furloughs, employees could be idled up to five days, which could save the local school system as much as \$100,000 per day in expenses.

"I don't foresee us being in a position where we would have to furlough anyone that long, but there are still a lot of questions about funding education at the state level," Graham said. "All we can really do is wait and see what happens."

- Voted 4-1 in favor of pursuing the purchase of a residential structure at 1409 Azalea Drive in Waynesboro — adjacent to Wayne County High School and First State Bank's Northwest Motor Bank — which Dean said was in foreclosure.

Beat 3 school board representative Charles Chapman bristled at the prospect of the district purchasing the house with the threat of furloughs possible.

"And we just asked the taxpayers of this county to give us more money to prop us up financially," Chapman said. "I think this is a decision that is wrong for the district and wrong for the people we serve."

Dean suggested one potential use for the property — to serve as the Title 1 offices for the school district.

School leaders said the county is paying rent in the amount of \$600 monthly for the current Title 1 Office on Wayne Street, and relocating to near WCHS would take that expenditure off the books.

Beat 2 representative Sybil Taylor, who favored the proposal on the property, said the district should move forward to get the land while it could.

"Once the land is gone to another property owner,

we might not ever have the chance to get it again," she said.

Despite Chapman's vocal objections, Taylor, Parson, Graham and Beat 4 member Jimmy Don Barnett voted to support purchasing the home site while Chapman voted against the measure.

Some renovations would be required to make the house usable as a Title 1 office should that be the board's choice as to the site's use.

- Approved the monthly claims docket.

- Approved the Wayne County School District Parental Involvement Plan for 2010 through the Title 1 operation. Parson requested that at least two additional names be added to those participating in the effort, including Jeffrey Bogan.

- Heard a report from Dean regarding qualified school construction bonds.

- Heard a report from Deputy Superintendent Keith Clay as to the progress of storm shelter construction on all Wayne County public school campuses.

The Wayne County Board of Education will meet for its October business session on Monday, Oct. 4 at 5 p.m., in the Superintendent of Education's Offices on Chickasawhay Street in Waynesboro.

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# EVERYTHING JAGUARS

Photos, videos, live audio play-by-play of all WA varsity football games, stats and more

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For the past six years, Sean Dunlap of The Wayne County News has covered Wayne Academy sports from the sidelines and has brought you the highlights every WA sporting event.

Once again this year, Sean will be with the Jaguars every step of the way, but with new duties. He will broadcast every varsity home and away football game live at [www.thewaynecountynews.com](http://www.thewaynecountynews.com).

Every Friday at 6:50 p.m., visit our Website for the Matt Hall Pregame Report followed by all the play-by-play details from "The Voice of the Jaguars."

Every day of the week, visit our Website for WA team stats, video highlights, interviews and much more. And on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., listen to our live "Coaches Show" from Pizza Inn in Waynesboro. Plus read all about the team every Thursday in print.

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