



Council approves budget amendments

Budget changes will add money to numerous funds

By Gary Nelson
Wilson Post Staff

Wilson County commissioners approved resolutions for budget amendments to both the general fund and the general purpose school fund during Monday

night's county commission meeting.

Resolutions approved were:
• 406-1 budget amendment, general fund, \$37,748; sanitation fund, \$2,837; landfill fund \$3,493.

• 406-5 budget amendment of \$21,000 for general purpose school fund to accept impact aid for Katrina evacuees.

• 406-6 budget amendment of \$15,000 to accept increased revenue and expenditures for

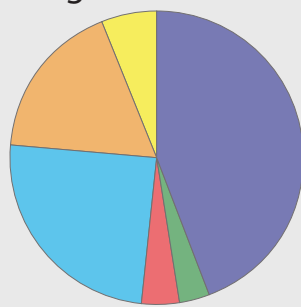
after school care program at North Wilson Elementary and Homestead Elementary schools.

One resolution was tabled for reconsideration by the budget committee.

Resolution 406-2 was tabled after a motion was made by 5th District Commissioner Sharon York. The resolution called for a \$5,000 increase in expenditures for the Wilson County Health

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Budget amendments



- General Fund
- Sanitation Fund
- Landfill Fund
- General purpose school fund
- After school care program
- Health safety standards consultants



Happy Harvick

Harvick has won three races, has reason to be happy again

By Jenna Fryer
The Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. -- His nickname is "Happy Harvick," a moniker earned early in his career when things rarely went wrong.

But when the wins became fewer and far between at NASCAR's top level, the name seemed to be more of a sarcastic reference to Kevin Harvick's perpetual scowl.

Not anymore. Not even close.

With wins in his last three races, including Saturday night's Nextel Cup victory that gave him a weekend sweep at Phoenix International Raceway, Harvick is indeed happy again.

"Everything is good right now," he said. "From my

personal life, to life on the race track."

Harvick snapped his 38-race winless streak in the Cup series by passing Greg Biffle with 10 laps to go in the desert. Up until the moment Harvick took the lead, he had been off the radar — he hadn't led a lap, settling in for what appeared to be a non-eventful top-10 finish.

But when it was time to race hard, he pounced. Harvick blew past Biffle, then opened up such a wide lead he was practically able to coast his Chevrolet home.

Good thing, too. Harvick was worried he'd run out of gas — it happened to him last year in Phoenix on the final lap when he was running fourth. Not this time, though. While he

was conserving fuel, Biffle and Mark Martin (who combined to lead 262 of the 312 laps) both ran out of gas trying to chase Harvick down.

"This is what I want to do, I want to win races, I want to win a championship."

Kevin Harvick,
NASCAR Driver

Crew chief Todd Berrier told Harvick about the troubles behind him, and assured him he had nothing to worry about. "We always worry about

running out of gas, but once we were able to get out in front and in clean air, and saw how far we were able to pull away," Harvick explained. "I am telling you, I let off ... and Todd told me it was all good by a half a lap."

And that was exactly what Harvick wanted to hear.

He's spent much of the past two seasons publicly complaining about the shortfalls at Richard Childress Racing, where he was thrust into Dale Earnhardt's ride five days after the seven-time champion was killed at Daytona in 2001. The company prevailed in those first years, but eventually dropped off and Harvick, the flagship driver, failed to make the Chase for the champion-

ship the past two seasons.

But with Harvick's contract expiring at the end of the season, Childress has made wide-ranging changes in an effort to improve the organization enough that Harvick won't flee to a rival team.

The owner may have succeeded.

Harvick won last week's Busch Series race in Nashville, Tenn., then made it back-to-back Busch victories Friday night in Phoenix to open up a 289-point lead in the standings.

He carried that momentum into Saturday night and grabbed the second weekend sweep of his career. That moved him to eighth in the

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Man guilty of rape of teen

Jury finds man guilty of raping a teenage girl

By Michael R. Moser
Wilson Post Staff

It took a Wilson County jury only 45 minutes to convict a former county man of raping a 16-year-old girl. Charles Stanley was ordered taken immediately into custody and will find out July 10 at 3 p.m. how much time he will have to serve.



Charles Stanley

On advice of his attorney, Assistant Public Defender Joe Finley, Stanley did not take the stand and the defense called no witnesses during the one-day trial. Instead, Finley argued in opening and closing remarks that if sexual relations had taken place, it was consensual.

"There is no particular question they had sexual intercourse this day," Finley told the jury. "That explains the DNA. The question is, was there coercion necessary in the element of rape?"

That was in stark contrast to the picture painted by Assistant

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County requests jail study

Hill to check into needs assessment for Justice Center

By Gary Nelson
Wilson Post Staff

Wilson County commissioners may find themselves locked into spending a lot more money on solving overcrowding at the Justice Center after bids came back at more than \$2 million for the original expansion plan.

During a recent joint meeting, commissioners on the budget, building and grounds and emergency services committees decided to check into cost-free feasibility study offered by County Technical Advisory Services (CTAS).

"I think we ought to check into this study to see what we really need for this jail. If the study isn't going to cost anything, I don't see why we shouldn't do it and find out what it's going to take to do this project according to the county growth. If we don't, then we're just going to be looking at another expansion in a year or two," said 9th District Commissioner Carmin Lynch.

The original expansion plans of the Justice Center developed by Upland Design included building a dormitory and bar-



Maria Sheppard | Wilson Post Staff

The Wilson County commissioners plan to rebuild the Justice Center is stalled due to higher costs.

racks-type facility.

"What we got with that is a temporary fix and not just a Band-Aid fix, but a box of Band-Aids," County Mayor Brock Hill said.

Hill said the project came in racks-type facility.

"I think we ought to check into this study to see what we really need for this jail."

Carmin Lynch,
9th District Commissioner

at \$2 million, which was some \$600,000 over the \$1.4 million approved by commissioners.

Kim Chamberlin with Upland Design showed commissioners another option of adding a new wing or pod to the Justice Center. The pod would consist of 96 new

cells and allow a total capacity of 220.

Steve Hewlett of Hewlett-Spencer, the firm hired to oversee the jail expansion project, said adding the pod would cost a guaranteed maximum of \$6 million.

Concern was then raised after Wilson County Sheriff Butch Burgess said building the pod may not be enough in the long run.

"It would be good at the start, but the jail would be full on opening day if not the next day," Burgess said.

"What concerns me is that the sheriff says it may not be enough and the jail would be full the next day ... I think we need to have the study done in order to see what we really need here," said 1st District Commissioner Harry Sabine.

"Well, there's the dollar escal-

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City Council tries to fix traffic flow

County board signs resolution that will return money

By Jim Young
Wilson Post Staff

The Lebanon City Council approved several changes to traffic flow around the Wilson County Courthouse by a narrow three-to-two margin that will affect how citizens drive on the east side of Main Street downtown.

The changes include making the short section of Fourth Street beside the courthouse one way from Main Street to Thurman Avenue and reversing the one way direction of Thurman between Fourth Street and East First Street. Other changes

include the removal of a turn lane on East Second Street and angle parking on one side of the street. In addition, a left turn arrow on the traffic signal from the south bound side of Main Street at Fourth St. will give drivers a chance to turn when the traffic is heavy.

The changes were suggested by Ronnie Webb who owns a building on Fourth Street at Thurman and talked to many other downtown property owners who generally agreed that the changes might help. The plan was designed to increase the number of parking spaces along Fourth Street by replacing parallel parking with angle parking on both sides of the street. In the process of planning the changes, the city discovered that the parking spaces around the courthouse do not currently

meet the ADA standards and by bringing the parking up to federal standards, some additional spaces will be lost. The overall net gain is still half a dozen parking spaces. In addition, several new handicapped spaces will be available.

After the council approved the matter, Ronnie Webb commented that making Thurman one way for both the blocks between Fourth and First would give access to a traffic light onto Main Street. That was one of the concerns mentioned by Councilman Duer as well as downtown businessman Rob Harrison and Randy Graham of the city's traffic task force. Webb added that the approved changes also allow parking to be left in front of Harry Sabine's office

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BUBBLES ALL AROUND



Six-year-old Lebanon resident Tommy Jenkins blows bubbles in Blanton Park on Saturday. He and his parents come with their dog Scruffy to enjoy the nice Spring weather.

Al Green
Wilson Post Staff