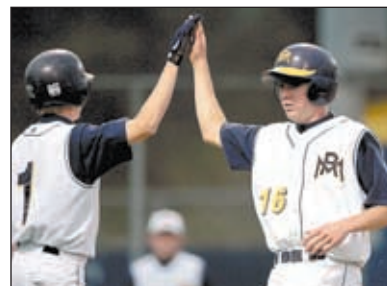




Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006



PREP BASEBALL
Gryphons host Cougars
SPORTS 1C

TRADE DEFICIT
U.S. sells more to China
NATION 5A



BLACK'S BACK
Comic lectures at UNC
MARQUEE 1B

ALREADY GONE



Telegram photos / Alan Campbell

Above, a worker surveys the Tarrytown Mall site Wednesday after the demolition of the remaining structure. Below, a few beams remain standing. Officials said it should take about two weeks to clear the rest of the debris.

Workers tear down last section of mall

By **MICHAEL BARRETT**
Staff Writer

Like an epic 12-round boxing match, the Tarrytown Mall demolition project has endured for more than a month.

But on Wednesday, the last of the old steel and stone warrior finally hit the canvas.

"Tarrytown is down," said Tony Black, lead superintendent with McCrory Construction of Columbia, S.C.

Citing equipment malfunctions early in the week, officials said they didn't expect to deliver the final knockout until Friday. Senior Project Manager Bill Osborne said the overall project has proceeded quicker than expected, and finishing by the end of the week would still put the company ahead of schedule.



Wednesday began with the same prospect. But Black said dismantling the remaining section of the mall proved easier than projected. "We had no idea it was going to come down like it did," Black said.

"The way it happened, we were working on one end of it, and a big section of it was so unstable. "We gave it a little help, and it

See MALL, 2A

City splits over land ordinance

Special-use permits eyed

By **MICHAEL BARRETT**
Staff Writer

Rocky Mount leaders disagree about whether some land development proposals are so unique, the city council exclusively should rule on them.

The council on Monday considered adopting an ordinance that would amend the land development code and take responsibility away from the Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment. Developers of certain projects requiring special-use permits would instead have to gain city council approval during a quasi-judicial hearing.

The amendment would apply to requests for adult day care centers and child care centers in community enterprise districts and



BULLOCK KNIGHT

institutional structures; historical preservation commercial uses; schools and colleges; multifamily dwellings; prisons; motels and hotels; and shelters for women, families or children.

The council voted 4-2 in favor of the ordinance. But because ordinances require five votes to pass on the first vote, it must be voted on again at the council's next meeting. A simple majority of the council is needed to

See CITY, 2A

Professor describes travels to Malaysia

By **NATALIE JORDAN**
Staff Writer

A public service project fused with the celebration of International Children's Book Day formed a bridge between an N.C. Wesleyan College professor and fifth-grade students at Rocky Mount Preparatory School, closing the divide between East and West.

Split into two sessions, two fifth-grade classes sat under the skylight Wednesday watching a video on Malaysian facts and animals, which returned Peace Corps volunteer and N.C. Wesleyan business administration professor Patricia Smith brought to share.

A native of Pennsylvania,

Smith traveled to Malaysia as a Peace Corps volunteer in the '70s after graduating from college.

"As a former Peace Corps volunteer, I love to talk about Malaysia," she said. "One of our goals is to bring back our experiences. So, for me, I get to share my experiences with these kids."

Smith read to the fifth-graders two stories from the book "Malaysian Children's Favorite Stories," while stopping in between stories to answer questions and showcase Malaysian artifacts, such as the bamboo fish trap, a worker's hat and a popular Malaysian coconut jam called kaya.

See PROFESSOR, 2A

Tax deadline to come later this year

By **TOM MURPHY**
Business Editor

Since April 15 falls on Black Saturday this year, the deadline for the filing of income tax returns has been moved to April 17 for both individual filers and corporations or those firms whose fiscal year ends Dec. 31.

Under the law, failure to file one's income tax return by the prescribed deadline is

punishable by a 25 percent surcharge and 20 percent annual interest based on the amount of tax payable, officials of the Internal Revenue Service said.

Area tax preparers said the extension is no reason to delay tax preparation.

"We'll be open every day all the way through Monday," said B.J. Caraway, client support representative with H&R Block's district

office in Greenville. "People don't need to wait until the very last minute to get their taxes ready to file."

Caraway said some people wait to file for a reason — they owe money.

"If I have to pay a lot of money, I would want to wait to the last moment, too," she said.

Banks will be open to accommodate taxpayers, representatives of the

financial institutions said.

"Wachovia will be open Monday," said Angie Alderman, a teller at the bank's Church Street office. "We will be here."

An RBC Centura spokeswoman at the bank's Benvenue Road office said all RBC Centura branches will be operating Monday.

"I can't speak to whether

See DEADLINE, 8A

Tobacco farmers fill greenhouses, till land for leaf growing season

By **TOM MURPHY**
Business Editor

Nash County tobacco farmers are tilling the land and lining up supplies for the upcoming farming season.

Greenhouses across the county are filled to capacity with tobacco plants, said Nash County Cooperative Extension Service Director Charlie Tyson. Farmers should begin transplanting next week, he said.

Tyson said tobacco companies have increased contracts with farmers for the 2006 buying season, and farmers have expanded their acreage to meet increased

demand. However, expanded acreage will mean a lower profit margin for tobacco farmers.

"We have not transplanted any tobacco plants yet, but we are getting very close," Tyson said. "Seedlings in the greenhouses are growing very well — with the least amount of overall problems."

"We have had a relatively smooth growing season for tobacco plants in greenhouses."

Tyson said most of the tobacco greenhouses in the county are at

capacity.

"We don't know yet how much the tobacco acreage expansion will be, but I'm guessing there will be about a 25 percent increase compared to last year when farmers planted 7,032 acres," he said.

The tobacco acreage expansion is due to the lower leaf prices brought on by deregulation of tobacco production and the tobacco buyout, Tyson said.

Tyson said farmers have concerns that they are transplanting tobacco in soil that lacks the proper moisture level.

"Our soil was not recharged



TYSON

See FARMERS, 2A



Telegram photo / Jason Ivester

Tobacco plants grow in a greenhouse Wednesday at W.R. Tant Farms.

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WEATHER



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