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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

January 22, 2024

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

**Re: Docket No. E-100, Sub 194
Dominion Energy North Carolina
2023 NC Biennial Avoided Costs Proceeding**

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Enclosed is an Affidavit of Publication which will serve as proof of publication of the Public Notice as required in ordering paragraph 9 of the Commission's August 7, 2023 *Order Establishing Biennial Proceeding, Requiring Data, and Scheduling Public Hearing* ("Order") in the above-referenced docket.

Pursuant to the instructions in ordering paragraph 9 of the Order, notices were published in newspapers having general circulation in Dominion Energy North Carolina's service area once a week for two successive weeks beginning with the week of January 1, 2024. Copies of tear sheets from each of the newspapers in which the public notice ran are also enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lauren W. Biskie

Lauren W. Biskie
Senior Counsel

Enclosures

cc: Thomas Felling, Esq.
Robert Josey, Esq.



Virginia Press Services

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 22 2024

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

(Order #24012DD0)

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY/COUNTY OF Henrico, to-wit:

I, Julia Wigginton, Tearsheet Coordinator, hereby certify that a Legal Notice for Dominion Energy Services, Inc, State of NC Utilities Commission Raleigh...Docket No. E-100 SUB 194 was published in the following North Carolina and Virginia newspapers on the dates listed in the year 2024.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bertie Ledger Advance 01/06/24, 01/13/24 | Butner Creedmoor News 01/05/24, 01/12/24 |
| Coastland Times 01/03/24, 01/10/24 | Edenton, The Chowan Herald 01/06/24, 01/13/24 |
| Elizabeth City Daily Advance 01/03/24, 01/10/24 | Gates County Index 01/04/24, 01/11/24 |
| Hertford Perquimans Weekly 01/06/24, 01/13/24 | |
| Martin Co Enterprise (changed name from Williamston Enterprise) 01/04/24, 01/11/24 | |
| Nashville Graphic 01/04/24, 01/11/24 | Pamlico News 01/03/24, 01/10/24 |
| Plymouth Roanoke Beacon 01/03/24, 01/10/24 | Roanoke Chowan News Herald 01/03/24, 01/10/24 |
| Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 01/06/24, 01/13/24 | Rocky Mt Telegram 01/03/24, 01/10/24 |
| Roxboro, The Courier Times 01/04/24, 01/11/24 | Spring Hope Enterprise 01/03/24, 01/10/24 |
| The Daily Reflector 01/03/24, 01/10/24 | Virginian Pilot 01/03/24, 01/10/24 |

Julia Wigginton

Signature

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 18 day of January 2024.

My commission expires: 9/30/2024

[Notary Public]



Williams/from A1

Williams sees Bertie County as a 'power region' in Eastern North Carolina, highlighting its vast land mass.

"Bertie County has an exciting future and expansive potential. One of the state's largest counties (land mass), Bertie County is viable for businesses and for wholesome living. The crucial areas within the housing and recreation segments are based around developing a strong infrastructure," claimed Williams.

Williams realizes the needs of most rural communities are water, sewer, electricity, gas and internet

and believes Bertie County is moving in a positive direction.

"The county leadership has worked hard to be good stewards and made positive strides to recruit businesses. Initiatives in housing, recreation and public safety continue to be developed and acquired on a consistent basis. Marketing and feasibility studies give us the vital information we need to make good decisions," said Williams.

Converting local buildings to studio apartments above the storefronts makes sense to Williams. Many local towns have taken advantage of repositioning buildings and stores into studio apartments

above and storefronts below.

"These projects help to offer citizens and workers affordable housing with the option of staying in their communities. Local businesses and towns benefit from these types of projects, while experiencing an up-tick in economic growth," said the Director.

While Franklin would not divulge any new projects, he highlighted the Bertie Animal Shelter has been a grant funding priority, while offering praise for consultant Robin Payne.

"We have a wonderful consultant, Ms. Robin Payne, who is the point person on at least two recreational initiatives," he said. "We are working

hard to attract grant funding for additional recreational funds for future growth. There are also plans to obtain additional funding for a new ES11 facility.

"Grant funding is a wonderful way of obtaining resources, and building facilities without affecting the tax base. As we grow economically, hopefully the sales tax will increase to bolster additional resources and keep property taxes within reason," said Williams.

Williams feels Bertie County has a lot to offer potential businesses.

"While companies evaluate relocation, several factors influence their decision. Developing

infrastructure, land availability, employee training and transportation routes are a few factors that Bertie County scores extremely high in," said Williams. "It is important to highlight these hard factors, as well as public safety, cost of living, educational facilities and housing availability.

"The potential for growth and low operational costs help to boost Bertie's chances of success. Networking with vendors, marketing studies and feasibility studies also assist in encouraging businesses to consider Bertie as a place of viability," he added.

Williams has a lengthy list of assets he shares with potential businesses, but focuses on three points.

Location is important to Williams and focuses on the fact Bertie is situated within one hour of any major transportation route or highway. The addition of the upcoming I-87 also helps to improve Bertie's business footprint. Recreational activities are also important to attract businesses and finally, Williams believes southern charm wins over all.

"No traffic, ease of accessibility, no urban congestion, great air quality along with excellent food and dining experiences are all assets Bertie has to offer, along with southern charm," said Williams.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@agenc.com

Petition/from A1

As an Aulander council member, Thomas believes the closure of the school will add undue stress and

pressure on area families already facing economic hardship.

"Schools are more than just buildings, they are the hub for community engagement, places where dreams

take flight providing stepping stones to brighter futures," said Thomas.

The council member sees Aulander's future growth and is concerned closing the school will abruptly end that.

"Aulander is a transitioning small town on the cusp of economic regrowth with two major businesses currently setting up shop within its boundaries. These businesses will undoubtedly attract new families seeking to relocate here, making it even more crucial to keep our school open," stated Thomas.

According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), communities that lose their schools often experience population decline and reduced property values (source: NCES).

While Thomas gains petition support to keep Aulander Elementary School open, Aulander resident James Winston has

developed a plan to utilize the school in its current or closed capacity.

Winston is in the development stages of "Hoops for Youth," a program based on physical activity, teamwork and sportsmanship for boys and girls ages 5-13 years old.

The weekly sessions would eventually develop into leagues depending on participation, according to Winston, who anticipates reserving court time for practice, games and other activities.

"The enhanced community involvement, bringing a positive outlet for our youth will also help achieve gang and gun violence awareness while promoting health and physical fitness," Winston said.

Winston also is promoting

this as an opportunity for parents to participate and get involved with their children.

"The implementation of the Hoops for Youth program aligns with our commitment to community well-being and youth development. I am confident that this initiative will not only benefit the participants, but also strengthen the bonds within our community," said Winston.

Thomas is a supporter of Winston's program, but is concerned about the upcoming action of the school board.

"We urge the Bertie County Board of Education to reconsider their decision and keep Aulander Elementary School open permanently. This is not just about saving a school; it's about preserving our community's future growth potential while ensuring that every child has access to quality education right here at home," said Thomas.

To sign the Aulander Elementary School Petition go to: <https://bit.ly/4FwPeg7>

The Bertie School Board plans on discussing the potential closure at their Jan. 9 meeting.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@agenc.com

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 450 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-174.1. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Leah Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk

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John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@agenc.com

Brown/from A1

A search warrant was conducted at Brown's residence and several firearms were seized. Brown is a convicted felon.

Sheriff Ruffin received assistance from the Greenville Police Department Emergency Response Team (SWAT), the Pitt County Sheriff's Office, Bertie County Emergency Management and EMS and the N.C. State Highway Patrol.

Brown is entered into NCIC. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Brown, contact the Bertie County Sheriff's Office 252-794-5330 or 252-794-5370.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@agenc.com

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Commissioners grapple with erosion at Bertie Beach

JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

This is the first year the Bertie Beach has eroded much of Mother Nature's wrath.

The recent heavy rains both a few weeks ago and again this week initiated erosion along the access path leading down to the beach. While this caused significant alarm, the project is under warranty and the construction company is researching alleviating the problem.

That was the only major design and construction

concern Project Consultant Robin Payne reported to the county commissioners at their monthly meeting.

"There are two washouts there. Whenever we get a hard rain, it just goes. Water washes down the slope, crosses over the path in two places and creates a deep river," explained Payne. "They thought they had it corrected, but it is still washing out. They are working on it."

The next concern Payne addressed was the prescribed burn required before the season begins. Last summer's drought

alarmed Payne. She reported she had spoken with the Forestry Division and they will complete the burn at the right time when resources become available.

Payne also reported she is working on a budget with projected numbers needed for opening, and planning Phase 2 of the project.

"To have everything up and running we would need to get the equipment purchased. We would get the equipment barn located on site and that includes an office," she said. "We

would need to get the road repaired. We could get the forest manager hired.

"And that could be some around the RV sites also," Payne continued. "The county has some RVs that are in great condition. We could get our volunteers in place in the online reservation system and the RVs could come over to us for use in the primitive camping grids."

"Tall Glass of Water Phase 2 is going to include the stage, the outdoor education pavilion and the Rivers to Sounds Education center dedicated to

Dr. Riggs," said Payne. "Of course that also includes the lawn for seating in front of the stage."

Payne expressed financial concerns going forward.

"To get this moving forward and to understand exactly what our plans are, we need to come up with the architecture. To do that, we need some funding. We can apply again to the USDA, it's the RDCC, the Rural Business Development Grant for \$150,000. I'm anticipating coming back to you in January to ask for approval for that

grant. We already have an action in place for the Cardiff grant, and we'll be able to move forward with that also," said Payne.

Payne's next steps include the implementation of an online reservation system for the RV primitive campgrounds that would allow for online reservation booking.

The commission plans on discussing Tall Glass of Water Phase 2 at their January work session.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@bappnc.com

Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Day to be celebrated at Mt. Olive

JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

The Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (Health and Wellness Ministry) will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Day

observation on Monday, Jan. 15. The day's theme will be "Let Us Rise to the Occasion."

The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. A celebration of King's Life and Legacy will be the focus of the

event along with the civil rights leader's birthday. The public is encouraged to participate in the celebration.

The special event will be featuring essay presentations from the Bertie and Hertford County High

School students. Students were asked to write an essay entitled: What's In Your Life's Blueprint and deliver an oral presentation.

This is based on Dr. King's speech, "What is Your Life's Blueprint," given

to students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on Oct. 26, 1967. This historical video will be played and the area youth

Praise Dancers will perform. The event begins at

10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 15. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church is located at 102 Mt. Olive Road just outside Lewiston Woodville.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@bappnc.com

Hike/ from A1

While homeowners and renters will be affected, some beach communities and the Eastern Coastal area are facing increases from 7.4 percent to as high as 99.4 percent increases, essentially

increasing weekly and monthly beach rentals.

The bureau represents companies that write insurance policies in the state and is a separate entity from the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Before a requested rate increase can be approved, public

comment sessions need to be held enabling the public to voice their concerns.

"The foregoing changes were calculated based on rates currently in force and reflect consideration duly given to data for the experience set forth," according to Rate Bureau General Manager Joanna

Biliouris. The bureau offered over 2,000 pages of data to support the requested increase.

The recent rate filing follows the homeowners' insurance rate filing that the Department of Insurance received from the North Carolina Rate Bureau in November 2020. At that time the Rate Bureau requested an overall average increase of 24.5 percent. That filing resulted in a settlement between Commissioner Causey and the Rate Bureau for an overall average 7.9 percent increase.

According to a USA Today study, U.S. homeowners pay between \$1,117 to \$2,950 per year for home insurance. The average is based on homes ranging in prices from \$200,000 to \$750,000. Location plays a major role in figuring insurance costs.

Factors that determine homeowners insurance costs include location, replacement cost of the home, deductible

amounts, claims history and the age of the home. However, many factors affect how much you pay for homeowners insurance, some of which can be altered to help reduce costs depending on coverage and premium.

The public is encouraged to comment on the upcoming rate increase during the public comment period. The forum will be held at the North Carolina Department of Insurance's Jim Long hearing room from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22. The purpose of the meeting is to gather citizen comments and input regarding the increase.

For those unable to attend, there will be a virtual presentation simultaneously with the in-person meeting. For more info go to: <https://bit.ly/3RT-P9aX>

Emailed public comments should be sent by Feb. 2 to: 2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov. Emailed and written public comments must be received

by Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III, by Feb. 2 and addressed to 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201 or emailed to 2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov

All public comments will be shared with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If Department of Insurance officials do not agree with the requested rates, the rates will either be denied or negotiated with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If a settlement cannot be reached within 50 days, Commissioner Causey will call for a hearing.

North Carolina Rate Bureau (NCRB) is a non-profit, unincorporated rating bureau created by the General Assembly of North Carolina under the provisions of Article 36 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina on Sept. 1, 1977.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@bappnc.com



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023)
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The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1, § 5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Stats/ from A1

The sheriff said he was proud that three lives were saved thanks to the efforts of deputies with the office. Those deputies went above and beyond the call of duty to perform CPT on citizens in cardiac arrest.

In addition, there were several accomplishments over the year, including the initiating of the McGruff

the Crime Dog program for youth in the county, Operation Blue Elf Christmas toy drive and outfitting of patrol vehicles for speed enforcement.

The department's deputies and Sheriff Ruffin also participate in festivals and events across the county.

"Since day one, the focus of our office has been to unify, community engagement and visibility," Sheriff

Ruffin stressed. "Transparency, I believe, is paramount. My office will continue to keep citizens abreast of happenings within our county via social media as well as the press.

"Our office stands ready to protect and serve the citizens of Bertie County as we embark on this new year," he closed.

Thadd White can be contacted at twhite@bappnc.com

Honored/ from A1

Sgt. Dozier administered two rounds of NARCAN and began CPR and the person regained consciousness.

Dep. Manning was recognized for responding to a call where a 65-year-old

man was unresponsive and not breathing. As the first emergency responder on scene, Dep. Manning located the man and began CPR until Bertie County EMS arrived and continued the life-saving efforts.

Despite the efforts of Dep. Manning and EMS

the person was not able to be saved.

Sheriff Ruffin presented both men with certificates and commendation pins, which can be worn on their Class A uniforms.

Thadd White can be contacted at twhite@bappnc.com

Chase/ from A1

The Bertie County Sheriff's Office deputies also used drones, but the suspect was not located at the time.

Warrants were drawn for Norfleet in relation to the incident.

The next day, Deputy Manning was able to contact the suspect via a telephone call and Norfleet turned himself in to a Bertie County Magistrate.

Norfleet, 18, of 3284 Governors Road was charged with felony fleeing to elude arrest, resisting a public officer, possession of

marijuana paraphernalia, failure to heed light/siren, injury to real property, reckless driving - wanton disregard, driving left of center and speed in excess of 45 miles per hour.

Sheriff Ruffin expressed his appreciation to the Abkoske Police Department for the assistance.

Thadd White can be contacted at twhite@bappnc.com

Rankins/ from A1

Rankins, 60, of 201 Bosell St. in Edenton, was charged with armed robbery in both Windsor cases.

"I appreciate the assistance of both the Edenton Police Department and the Bertie County Sheriff's Office in our investigation," Chief Jackson said. "Lt. Ratzlaff and the other

officers involved did an exceptional job of developing a suspect and then making an arrest."

Thadd White can be contacted at twhite@bappnc.com

City Manager shares many top priorities for 2024

From Staff Reports

Mike Turner, city manager for Creedmoor, has filtered through many of the ongoing/upcoming projects to pick his top 5 for 2024.

The first project has been in the works for some time and the board as well as the city manager agree that completing the Ferbow Street Waste Utility Relocation is a top priority for Creedmoor. The

approximate cost to complete the project is \$164,720.



Turner

Funds have been set aside for this project.

One of the more recent projects is to design and install city wayfinding signs. The cost on this is \$25,000.

Turner's third priority is to promote and maximize use of BC Roberts field renovation (turf grass, irrigation and fencing) and new Multi-Purpose Sports Plaza for basketball, pickleball and special events (paid for through donations from Granville County Tourism Development Authority, Kerr Lake Chapter of the Durham Regional Association of Realtors and the city of Creedmoor).

The city has long needed to expand the city sidewalks and Turner has several areas that are high on the priority

list. The expansion of city sidewalks on East Lynn Street, Watson, Peachtree, etc. would run about \$327,000, according to Turner.

The fifth project is one that is special to so many in Creedmoor. The project is to install Creedmoor Veterans Memorial and continue fundraising for Veterans Memorial Plaza (\$88,900 - \$28,900 from City of Creedmoor and balance of \$60,000 from fundraising donations).

System

continued from page 1A

by law to do.

"Even under the best of circumstances, the retirement systems end up losing millions despite our efforts. Section 8 of House Bill 201 will give us an extra tool to help work out a reasonable schedule while still complying with the law."

The legislation for the retirement systems, an income disability plan, and some related statutes were contained in House Bills 201 and 203. Each has a Jan. 1 effective date.

The North Carolina Retirement Systems is the ninth-largest public pension fund in the country. It's also regarded as one of the best-funded in the nation. Fofa's office said in a release.

Youngsville solid waste site moving forward

By Reggie Ponder
reggie@wakeweekly.com | 919-556-3182

The way has been paved for work to begin on a new solid waste convenience site to serve the Youngsville community. A budget amendment budget amendment at Monday's Franklin County Board of Commissioners transferring \$1,138,809 from General Fund Capital Reserves to the line item for the Solid Waste Facilities Improvements - Youngsville Convenience Site project was the latest board action green-lighting the project.

At the Dec. 4 board meeting the county commissioners approved a motion by Commissioner Michael Schriber to award the construction bid to Oaks Grading Inc. (including the bid alternate) in the amount of \$1,012,553.51 (plus the additional 10 percent contingency) and authorize the county manager to finalize contract negotiations.

The motion also called for the use of funds from ARPA Reserve Replacement that were deposited into a General Fund

Capital Reserve Fund on June 19 to be used for identified projects.

Oaks Grading Inc. was the low bidder, with a base bid of \$805,108.41 and alternate of \$1,012,553.51.

Other base bids were \$1,257,961.50 by Lanier Construction Co. Inc. and \$1,428,298 by H.G. Reynolds Company Inc.

Michael McAllister, principal project manager with Municipal Engineering (MESCO) made a presentation on the Youngsville Solid Waste Convenience Site Project at the Dec. 4 meeting. He discussed the bid process, present the bid tabulation, and made a recommendation to award the contract to the low bidder.

"The Youngsville Solid Waste Convenience Site will provide a new, more efficient design and layout to ensure the volume of solid waste and resident traffic is accommodated," according to the minutes of the Dec. 4 meeting.

The project bid included clearing the lot, grading, installation of a u-shaped

driveway to allow for one-way flow of traffic, installation of a separate area for haulers to load and unload compactors without interfering with residential traffic, and installation of a pre-cast attendant building.

Key dates in the progress of this project include:

- * Jan. 17, 2023 - Board of Commissioners awarded MESCO the design contract
- * January 2023 to Present - MESCO has worked closely with staff to obtain all necessary permits, complete site design, prepare construction documents, and organize the formal bid process for award of a construction contract
- * Oct. 26 - Initial public bid opening scheduled; however, only 2 bids received. In accordance with NC General Statutes, bid was re-advertised immediately
- * Nov. 9 - Three bids received
- * Dec. 4 - Contract awarded to Oaks Grading Inc.
- * Jan. 2 - Budget amendment approved.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Poyne Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayer of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-127A. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Sisco, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk



This natural indentation in the ground is the kind of place Ranger Jeremiah Bolick says a black bear might fashion a den. Reggie Ponder | Wake Weekly

Hike

continued from page 1A

become eligible for BearWise certification if they meet three requirements:

- Identify and secure all potential food sources and attractants. Including but not limited to: bird feeders, garbage, pet food, compost piles and any other human-provided attractants.
- Educate current and new community members on how to prevent and respond to human-bear interactions.
- Develop a system to alert community members to non-compliance issues and maintain BearWise-certified practices. Establish protocols for when and how to report bear activity to neighbors and the NCWRC.

Bolick and other staff talked about the life cycle and habits of black bears.

One detail in particular seemed surprising to many participants.

"Bears don't hibernate," said Leslie Rockway, a field biology student and seasonal employee of Falls Lake State Recreation Area.

Black bears sleep a great deal during the winter and their bear rate slows considerably, but they do not enter into a state of full hibernation, according to Rockway.

Black bears are found all over North Carolina but there is no history of graziers in the state, Bolick pointed out.

The ranger had three basic tips for avoiding negative interactions with bears:

- Don't put your trash out before trash day
- Bring bird feeders inside at night
- Keep dogs on a leash.

In addition to learning about bears, hike participants had an opportunity to begin 2024 with a healthy outdoor activity in the company of other outdoor enthusiasts.

"I try to walk every day and this is just part of my walking regimen," said hiker David Horton. "I have to walk. The doctor prescribed it. I have to do it for my heart and circulatory system."

It's very relaxing and enjoyable to take a walk outdoors and get a glimpse of wildlife, he said.

"It's very therapeutic," Horton said.

Horton lives in Roxboro and has family living in Creedmoor. He noted they were joining him for the hike.

"The grandchildren are

coming, so I can spend time with them once they get here," Horton said.

Although this was his first time doing the First Day Hike at Falls Lake, he has taken part in the annual tradition a number of times at Eno River.

"They have a big turnout for that," Horton said.

Carolyn Evans said she was excited to participate in the First Day Hike.

"I am a big proponent of the parks," Evans said.

Evans, who describes herself as an ambassador for hiking and trails, said the First Day Hike is a great promotion to get people outdoors as a new year begins.

"I'm super excited to see the families," Evans said as she looked around - adding it was "heartwarming" to see so many staff from the Falls Lake State Recreation Area participating in the hike.

Evans brought along her dog for the hike.

"He just loves getting out there," Evans said.

The website american-hiking.org explains that First Day Hikes are led by knowledgeable park staff on New Year's Day in all 50 states and are "part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage people to get outdoors."

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Vol. 61, No. 1
919-556-3182
Web: www.btnews.com

Subscription Information

MAIL: \$41/Year, \$5.50/month (Day)

DELIVERY: \$15/Year, \$1.75/month (Day)

Published every Friday by Butner-Creedmoor Publishing, P.O. Box 25, Creedmoor, NC 27522

For advertising rates and information, contact: 919-556-3182 or visit our website at www.btnews.com

Printed and published by Butner-Creedmoor Publishing, P.O. Box 25, Creedmoor, NC 27522

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
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This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk



A donor participates in an American Red Cross blood drive in Maryland. Brad Zerwitz | American Red Cross

Donors needed amid emergency blood shortage

From staff reports

A blood drive slated in Creedmoor later this month comes as American Red Cross officials report blood supplies at "critically low levels."

"The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years," the organization said in a press release. "The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels across the country, and blood and platelet donors are urged to make a donation appointment to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold."

There will be a blood donation event Jan. 26 from 2-6:30 p.m. at Creedmoor United Methodist Church, located at 214 Park Ave. in Creedmoor.

Blood drives also are slated for Jan. 12 from 1-6 p.m. at Wake Forest Baptist Church, 107 South Ave. in Wake Forest; Jan. 19 from 1-6 p.m. at American Legion Post 187, 225 E. Holding Ave. in Wake Forest; and Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at

Wendell Baptist Church, 3651 Wendell Blvd. in Wendell.

Over the last 20 years, the number of people donating blood to the Red Cross has fallen by about 40 percent.

"When fewer people donate blood, even small disruptions to the blood donations - such as the nearly 7,000-unit shortfall in blood donations the Red Cross experienced between Christmas and New Year's Day alone - can have a huge impact on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of emergency blood transfusion," Coltrie said.

"More challenges may lie ahead as the potential for severe winter weather and seasonal illness may compound the dire blood supply situation. Donors of all types - especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets - are urged to give now." You can make a blood donation appointment by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The Red Cross and the National Football League are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets and help tackle the emergency blood shortage.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Errors

continued from page 2A

call the Standards Division at 984-236-4750.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to reinspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2%-or-less error rate. Additional penalties may be assessed if a store fails reinspection.



"Chord on Blues" works on the final choreography piece to the routine. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

Choirs

continued from page 1A

"We want to give our students the best opportunity to succeed

and create as many new memories as possible while participating in the South Granville High School Chorus," Hobgood said.

A tax deductible receipt will be issued to each do-

nor. For more information about becoming a South Granville Chorus sponsor, contact Jenny Hobgood at hobgoodj@gcs.k12.nc.us. Deadline for sponsorship is Jan. 31.

Vote

continued from page 1A

ers of the property, said he would like to get started on the project as soon as possible.

Commissioners added a discussion on pay and holidays to the agenda, but after a brief discussion moved the item to the

budget workshop later this year.

Frangos, community development director, provided an update on the Creedmoor Village conditional zoning text. Frangos said there were several conditions that are not agreeable and they will have to clear up a few items before he can bring this back to the board.

Commissioners will hold a work session at 6 p.m. on Jan. 16 at city hall.

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Buckhout/ from A1

"If Don Davis holds this seat he's going to be dug in like a tick," Buckhout said. "We have to win the race. We have to save America and I would very humbly say that I think I'm your best chance."

Buckhout was addressing about 70 people attending the Pasquotank Republican Party's Christmas dinner at First Christian Church earlier this month. The retired U.S. Army colonel will face Rocky Mount resident Sandra L. Smith in the Republican primary on March 5.

Buckhout served 26 years in the military, including a tour in Iraq where she commanded an 800-person combat battalion. After retiring from the Army in 2010, Buckhout formed Corvus Consulting, a company that specialized in electronic warfare and cyberspace operations. She later sold the company and she and her husband and two sons moved to



Laurie Buckhout, a retired U.S. Army colonel and Republican candidate for North Carolina's 1st Congressional District, a seat currently held by Democrat Don Davis, speaks at the Pasquotank Republican Party's Christmas dinner on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Edenroon in 2019. Buckhout thanked the guests for attending the Christmas dinner and standing up for their conservative values.

"There are a lot of people in America right now who are afraid to stand up or who are too tired to stand up or too beat down to stand up or they're too awake to stand up," she said. "There are not enough patriots like you. The people like you are hardcore

grassroots conservatives who still believe in the original American dream — that of opportunity, that of give me an open road and an open field and I will make my way."

Republicans hold a slim majority in the U.S. House: 221 seats to the Democrats' 213. Congressman Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, is the current Speaker of the House, but the Democrats only need a handful of victories to return the

speakership to a Democrat in 2024, Buckhout warned. "The people's House is a few seats away from a Democrat taking over," she said. "It has come down to good versus evil. It's come down to good versus evil, liberty and constitutionalism, unselected bureaucrats versus U.S. citizens. Good versus evil. Let's not pretend it is anything but that."

Buckhout discussed what she believes are several threats to the United States, including migrants crossing the southern border, inflation and a public education system hindered by what she claimed is "wokeness."

"I think we all recognize that America is a very dangerous place right now," she said. "None of us have ever seen the stakes as high as they are and I've seen some things. We've got Hamas in the streets and universities. We have federally funded universities

punishing those who state there are two genders and that women should compete fairly against other women."

Buckhout shifted focus to migration and border control. "We have barbarians and criminals pouring through the open southern border," she said. "I know those people. I know who they are. I know who's coming in that border and if we don't have another 9/11 soon, I'm going to be shocked."

"I'm sick of it. I'm disgusted and it's why I'm standing up and it's why you all are standing up. We are in so much danger right now," she said.

Buckhout said the last two years of "crushing" inflation "basically amounts to the highest de facto tax increase on all Americans in over half a century."

Other concerns Buckhout

addressed included what she claimed are the U.S. undermanned or "hollow" armed forces, "children being raised to hate America" and homeless veterans. The nation is also facing a record number of fentanyl-related overdose fatalities and law-abiding citizens are being told by Democrats to "give up their guns."

"Don't give up your guns," she told the audience. "Never."

Buckhout joined the Army in the last decade of the Cold War and was in Europe when the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989. She said between what she witnessed in post-Communist Eastern Europe and in Iraq, which was led for decades by dictator Saddam Hussein, she has seen firsthand the effects of totalitarianism.

With that, she issued another warning, this one aimed at President Joe Biden. "And Biden and that administration would love to see that happen here," she said.

Rinehart/ from A1

Under Rinehart's leadership, Holmes has enhanced its career and technical education organizations through partnerships with local industry officials and the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, she said.

"Ma Rinehart is also a pilot school principal with Participate Learning to integrate global, social, and emotional competencies into core instruction to support the state's 'Portrait of a Graduate' (initiative)," he said. These relationships emphasize Ms. Rinehart's commitment to graduate students with the competencies required to be career and

college-ready.

Rinehart said the honor of being named Wells Fargo Northeast Regional Principal of the Year was a shared one. She credited the school's entire staff and the school district for making it possible.

"This honor is representative of our entire school and school system," she said. "This attribute is due to the hard work of every staff member — from bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria staff, instructional and office staff (to) teachers, and students. The success at (Holmes) is the result of their passion and hard work day in and day out."

She said achieving that success is no easy task, but the

staff at Holmes have a "vision to provide out-of-the-box experiences for students so they may be exposed to the world around them."

Rinehart also spotlighted two Holmes teachers who also have recently won recognition: Casey Spear, who was named the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching's Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year, and Dani Fischer, who was named an NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year finalist.

Rinehart also credited the Edenton-Chowan Schools' leadership for the honor.

"Through central office leadership, we as a system have common goals to minimize opportunity gaps,

increase school and district performance, (and) increase educator preparedness. Through these common goals, our system developed strategic improvement plans that bring us back to the basics of a solid education to prepare students to be active citizens," she said.

"I have been blessed to learn and grow in this district with amazing mentoring leaders through the years. I am humbled and honored to be the one to tell the story of our Aces family."

Rinehart, who was named the Edenton-Chowan Schools' top principal, wasn't the only district official recently honored. Brittany Lopez of Chowan Middle School was named Assistant

Principal of the Year; Michelle Dewese, a third-grade teacher at D.F. Walker Elementary, was named Teacher of the Year; and Fisher, a technical education teacher at John A. Holmes High School, was named the winner of the Brenda B. Winborne Beginning Teacher of the Year award.

The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Award has been awarded to top school principals across the state since 1984. Given in conjunction with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the award has been presented to 40 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year. In addition, the program has recognized 264 regional award recipients and 3,364

local Wells Fargo Principals of the Year.

According to the NCDPI website, Rinehart and seven other regional finalists will now participate in a selection process to name the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year. Each regional finalist will be interviewed and their portfolio reviewed by a state selection committee.

The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year serves as the North Carolina ambassador for the state's approximately 2,500 principals, the website states. The principal selected also serves in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education for a two-year term and serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Public School Forum.

Meyers/ from A1

"My job is to make sure that we do an election that is secure and accurate. That's what we do," he said, adding that to do the job of elections director properly, the county and the state need to invest personnel, equipment, and money. He said he has been satisfied for the most part with what has been provided of each.

Meyers said North Carolina's new voter ID requirements, which took effect for the first time with the October and November municipal elections, have gone smoothly despite predictions of chaos. Only two voters showed up without an ID for Edenton's Nov. 7 election, both of whom were able to vote within a few minutes after being issued photo IDs at the Chowan Board of Elections Office.

Meyers said most issues that have caused some to question election fairness do not apply to North Carolina.

Voting machines are not connected to the internet, and their electronics are sealed against tampering. Votes are tabulated by machines on site and collected on thumb drives protected by electronic "handshakes." If an outside thumb drive were to be inserted, it cannot be read, reducing the

chance that outside software will be introduced or results tampered with, he said.

Votes are recorded on paper ballots and then scanned on electronic voting machines, allowing for recounts of the original hard-copy ballots. All voting machines are checked before the election. While nothing is ever foolproof, Meyers said the elections system in North Carolina is sound.

"I always hear about

(elections in) Wisconsin, Georgia, and Arizona," he said. "I don't know whether there was anything done wrong in any of those places. I have no idea."

Meyers said he feels he has done his part to keep confidence high in Chowan's elections. He said he's also worked hard to be frugal with taxpayers' money. He purchases computer equipment at close-out prices and has returned money to the county for most of the years

he's run the elections office.

Meyers said that when he decided to retire a year ago, he was struggling with

a cancer diagnosis. While his recovery has not been smooth, he said that today, he is in complete remission.

Once Nixon takes over completely, Meyers said he plans to pursue his hobbies of fishing and boating.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-160, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tunika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

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Isabel/ from A1

Isabel pummeled haters and Ocracoke islands up through the inner Banks of North Carolina and north through the Tidewater of Virginia and Maryland.

The storm flooded homes and businesses in Edenton's downtown historic core, wiped out nearly 60% of Chowan County's tree cover, and left behind \$200 million in property damage in the community. The documentary will be shown on one screen on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 2 p.m. and on both theater screens Thursday, Jan. 18, at 5:15 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Foy Daniel "Dan" Ward

TYNER - Foy Daniel "Dan" Ward, 80, of 2044 Virginia Road, died Thursday, January 4, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Dan was born on April 26, 1943, was a lifelong resident of Chowan County, and the eldest son of the late Foy Alfred and Eunice Hobbs Ward of Hobbesville.

A graduate of Chowan High School, he was drafted into the United States Army and served a tour in Vietnam where he worked as a Helicopter Crew Chief. Dan loved life and enjoyed the many adventures it offered.

A loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, he is survived by his wife, of 40 years, Ann Bunch Ward; and their son, Jon Daniel Ward, his wife, Hope, and their children, Ellie, Jackson, and Molly of Hertford. Also surviving is his brother, Joe Ward (wife, Peggy) of Tyner; sisters, Nancy Perry (husband, Sidney L. "Bud", deceased) of Hobbesville and Robin Ward (husband, Glenn Jones) of Pittsboro; and several nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

Friends were invited to a gathering, sharing memories and a meal with the family, on Monday, January 8th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Nixon's Catering, 749 Virginia Road, Edenton. A private graveside service was held earlier in the day at Beaver Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 185, Tyner, NC 27980, or to the Eastern North Carolina Alzheimer's Association, 5171 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 101, Raleigh, NC 27612.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to all the caregivers and personal attendants that cared for Dan during his long period of declining health, and more recently to the staff of Anandays Hospice for the comfort they provided during the end of life transition.

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, is assisting the family with arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhnc.com.



Weather info added to town's website

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Thanks to a joint effort by the town of Edenton's Public Works Department and Public Information Office, residents can now access weather and tide information on the town's website.

A weather station, which the town purchased from Ambient Weather, now provides constant, real-time weather information. It can be accessed from the town's website either under the Residents

menu, the Edenton Harbor department page, or the Public Information page. Information may also be accessed directly at www.bit.ly/edentonweather.

Previously, the nearest weather monitoring information was gathered from Northeastern Regional Airport, four miles north-east of town.

Also included on the website is data from the town's tidal meters, hosted by the National Water

Prediction Service. Data from the NWS's website will be available, showing tidal and flooding information. Residents can see local data on the tides and water levels from Edenton's own equipment on the site which is now linked to a network of weather-monitoring equipment.

Information from Edenton's local hydrological monitoring equipment and the full network of flood and tidal sensors

is available on the town's website. Flood plain maps of the area and information from an experimental real-time flood inundation mapping service and other water predictions regarding the town's rivers and sounds are also available at https://www.weather.gov/owp/operations and https://www.weather.gov/. The town of Edenton's website is www.townofedenton.com.

Beekeepers group to offer course Jan. 27

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Beekeepers Association of Chowan County will offer an introductory beekeeping course through the N.C. Cooperative Extension on Jan. 27.

The class will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Extension office at 730 N. Granville Street in Edenton. The course will cost \$65, which includes membership in the beekeepers group, lunch, and snacks. Special discounts will be offered to students to help with the cost of setting up a beekeeping operation.

Class members can also

receive practical instruction in beekeeping at the association's teaching apiary on Brayall Road outside Edenton. According to Elizabeth Towe, the beekeeper group's education coordinator, students who complete the training should be in a position to begin beekeeping in the spring.

The Beekeepers of Chowan County operates a website at www.beekeepersofchowancounty.org and maintains a Facebook page. Beekeepers of Chowan County. The group's phone number is (252) 333-6965 and email

is beekeepersefchowancounty@yahoo.com.

TOWN OF EDENTON GARBAGE COLLECTION MLK DAY SCHEDULE 2024. MONDAY - JANUARY 15TH "HOLIDAY" NO COLLECTION. TUESDAY - JANUARY 16TH EASTSIDE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION. WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 17TH RECYCLE / DUMPSTERS. THURSDAY - JANUARY 18TH YARD WASTE. FRIDAY - JANUARY 19TH WESTSIDE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION / YARD WASTE.

CHOWAN MLK EVENT SET FOR MONDAY

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Chowan County's Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will be held Monday at noon at

Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolina, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy (Carolina Division), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University (ASU), New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratemakers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogeneration or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-127.3. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the utility and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Complaints from A1

In a statement on its website, town officials promised residents quick action on housing discrimination complaint.

"Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the Town Manager shall inform the NC Rural Economic Development Division and the North Carolina Human Relations

Commission about the complaint within ten calendar days," the notice reads. "The Town shall then assist the Commission and the complainant in filing an official written housing discrimination complaint with the commission, pursuant to the State Fair Housing Act and Title VIII."

The statement also promises that the town will assist the commission in investigating and working

to resolve housing discrimination complaints.

Housing discrimination complaints can also be lodged with the Town Manager's Office at (252) 482-7532 or the NC Human Relations Commission at (919) 807-4420 or (866) 324-7474.

To find instructions about making a complaint, visit the planning board section of the town's website at www.townofedenton.com/media/3671.

Baby from A1

Asked about giving birth to the first baby of the year at ECU Health Chowan, Maddie Small said it came as a surprise.

"I thought we would have a 2023 baby," she said. "We had some complications, and I was a high-risk pregnancy, so we are very, very glad that we made it to 37 weeks." Small had high praise

for the staff at ECU Health Chowan for the care she received while giving birth to her son.

"I can't say enough good stuff," she said. "The nurses were great, and Dr. (Crystal) Privette was, too."

Advertisement for S.T. WOOTEN featuring a truck, a person, and text: NOW HIRING, EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, FOREMAN & MANAGER, ADJUSTING TRIMMER OPERATOR, LABORER, CARPENTER, APPLICANTS, CHRYSLER, RAM, DODGE, VOLVO, AND MORE! Family Owned for 70+ years. Paid vacation, PTO, & bonuses. Scan Here To Apply. Now Hiring. Apply Today!

CHOWAN HERALD

ChowanHerald.com The Chowan Herald (ISSN 106-380) is published as print Saturday by Adams Publishers Group, 1550 Sugg Parkway, Greenville, NC 27834. Local office 423 S. Broad St., Edenton, NC

All subscriber newspapers are delivered by USPS Periodicals postage paid at Edenton, NC. Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Department, P.O. Box 1567, Greenville, NC 27835.

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2023, from 2A

Register of Historic Places (NHP) by the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service. The NHP is an official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Davis High School (later known as Davis School) was built in 1953 just west of the rural Hyde County fishing village of Englehard and served black students from the nearby communities of Englehard, Fairfield, Middletown, Nebraska, Slocum and St. Lydia.

Southern Shores elected to try a new traffic control method aimed at mitigating cut-through traffic heading north to Duck and Corolla from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Rather than barricade streets, the popular GPS and phone app company Waze was contacted for assistance in routing people along US 158 and NC 12 instead. Posting signs and closing streets just lightened traffic in one area and increase it in another.

Visitors were again reminded not to dig deep holes on the beach due to the danger they present to beachgoers and new agency response staff after a 17-year-old male from Chesapeake, Va. died on a Frisco beach. The youth was trapped under several feet of sand following a hole collapse east of ramp 49. Cape Hatteras National Seashore law enforcement rangers, Dare County Emergency Medical Services personnel and Hatteras Island Ocean Rescue staff assisted with extracting the teenager from the hole and administering CPR, but resuscitation efforts were not successful. Each year officials are called to fill in deep holes. Some have been large enough to have easily eaten an ocean rescue truck. Not only extremely dangerous to those who dig a hole, they also pose a hazard for other beachgoers, emergency responders and wildlife.

First Flight High School distance runner Tatum Dermatas pulled ahead of everyone on the final lap of the 3A girls 3000 meter run to win a North Carolina High School Athletic Association state championship on the NC A&T Irwin Park Track at Greensboro. After running most of the race behind North Lincoln's Macy Parks, Dermatas pulled ahead to clock a personal best 10:59.01. Her time was more than four seconds ahead of teammate Morgan Miller's second place 11:03.85 and well ahead of Parks in third at 11:08.89.

Founded in 1996, the collegiate summer baseball team Outer Banks Daredevils re-branded itself and became the Outer Banks Sallywags. The team returned to the original field at Manteo High School with a packed June through August game schedule.

North Carolina's first Wawa convenience store and gas station broke ground in Kill Devil Hills with plans to open the first quarter of 2024. Wawa representatives, local leaders and community members gathered for the groundbreaking across the street from the new Target. The privately held, family-owned chain of 1,000 convenience retail stores currently operates in six states and Washington, D.C. The move into North Carolina is the company's first state expansion in approximately 10 years. Another store is planned for Elizabeth City along with others in Rocky Mount, Greenville, Wilson and several east of 1-95.

Several hundred people gathered at the Old Lighthouse beach access in Buxton to watch the return of six rehabilitated sea turtles back to the ocean. Volunteers from

North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island and Network for Endangered Sea Turtles, along with the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, assisted in the release of four juvenile green sea turtles, a juvenile Kemp's Ridley and a 209-pound adult female loggerhead named "Miss Piggs." Volunteers assisted the turtles around the crowd for photos and a closer look at the marine reptiles before returning them to the sea after months at the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center on Roanoke Island.

A 33-ft. sailing vessel named the True Love washed ashore on the beach around midnight 10.5 in Nags Head. The United States Coast Guard had rescued the owner 90 miles off of Cape Hatteras who flew back to his residence in France. Due to hazardous weather conditions the vessel was anchored in place about 8 miles offshore but, according to Coast Guard officials, the owner had been unresponsive in coming back to claim his vessel.

After it was announced that the Pioneer Theatre, which opened in 1918, would close in 2023, new owners appeared and invested in a piece of Roanoke Island history to give the 105 year old theater new life. The new owners, Michael Beunight, Jamie and David Hatchell, and Derek and Sharon Hatchell, said the Pioneer Theatre will be expanding its reach to include not only new movies, but also classic movies, matinees and live entertainment.

Down 0-1 at halftime, The Manteo High School girls' soccer team came back in the second half of the 2A State Championship game against Weldon to post a 5-3 win. The team was recognized by Manteo

commissioners for their hard work and historical 2A State Championship win and a highway banner congratulating the team was given to them as well to display proudly at the school.

After taking over CenturyLink local assets at the end of 2023, Brightspeed began looking at ways to provide redundant paths for Internet service to Hatteras Island. Steve Brewer, director of government affairs for Brightspeed, updated Dare County commissioners with information about reducing public safety outages when fiber optic cable is damaged on Hatteras Island. Currently one fiber optic cable runs the length of Hatteras Island for internet, phone service and 9-1-1 operation.

Thomas Adkins, of Sutherland, Va., earned a spot in the record books when he caught a 17-pound, 1.9-ounce blue-line tilefish near Tower E, offshore of Nags Head. The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries recently certified that catch as a new state record. Also called gray tilefish (Caulolatilus mikrop), the fish measured 36-inches total length and had a 20.5-inch girth. It bettered the previous state record of 16-pounds, 8-ounces caught off Oregon Inlet in 2004. Adkins said he was fishing with his father when he landed the fish using cut bait and a Shimano 700 reel on a Trevalle rod.

While many area youth were heading to the beach with plans to chill out or just take things easy for the summer, the annual Manteo Baptist Church Summer Basketball Camp offered athletes ages 8 to 14 an opportunity to develop a number of important basketball skills. From coolers as the perfect place for both novice and seasoned players to learn new skills

and home some old ones, the camp was run by former Manteo High School boys varsity basketball coach Bud Hendrix.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein made a brief visit to Donal C. O'Brien Sanctuary and Audubon Center Pine Island near Corolla to learn more about the conservation and restoration efforts taking place there. A \$97,604 award from the North Carolina Department of Justice Environmental Enhancement Grant Program in 2020 helped pave the way for a landmark Marsh Conservation Plan that identifies a number of threats facing Currituck Sound along with blueprint on some of the best ways protect and restore a rare and valuable coastal ecosystem for both the people that visit there and the wildlife living there.

Columbia Early College High School played host to a Standard Response Protocol National Safety Training session with more than three dozen law enforcement and school officials from Tyrrell, Washington, Camden, Perquimans, Hertford and Bertie counties gathered for the four hour school safety training event. Tyrrell County Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Roseboro said after she became principal in October

she realized during some fire and evacuation drills that there were some discrepancies in expectations related to how school personnel and emergency management personnel responded. A North Carolina Department of Public Instruction grant for school safety provided an opportunity for Roseboro to contract with the I Love U Guys Foundation.

For the first time in 27 years, according to Currituck commissioner Owen Elheringer, the county increased its county-wide tax rate to \$0.56 per \$100 of assessed value, a 30-cent increase. Major reasons for the tax increase were said to fund education, construction costs, school resource officers, and to supply the

public safety departments with much needed updated equipment and vehicles. According to the last census, Currituck County is home to about 31,000 year round residents, but it is currently ranked as the second fastest growing county in the state. From 2010 to 2020, Currituck experienced a 20 percent population increase.

Michael Palkovics was introduced as the new Kitty Hawk police chief. Palkovics retired in June as lieutenant colonel and second in command over support operations for Henrico County, Va. He replaced Lieutenant James Helms, who was named interim police chief following the departure of Joel C.

See 2023, 6A

Light up your Mind AFTER DARK at All Saints Over 40 Classes for the Community The 13th Season January 22 to February 10, 2024 Course Catalog at http://all-saints-episcopal-church.coursestorm.com Registration Starts 8am Saturday, January 6, 2024 ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 40 Pinal Trail, Southern Shores Email: help.afterdark@gmail.com 252-455-2480 Course Catalog

No Gutters? Gutters protect your decks & home from water damage! abc SEAMLESS 441-2483

Shop in store, order online or call for curbside pickup! Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30 Saturday 9:30-5:00 Sunday 12:00-4:00 YARN and MORE 4904 S. Virginia Dare Trail, Surfside Plaza MP 12, Nags Head 252-715-2244 Coming Right to Your Door in January 2024 The Very Best in Drop Off Dinner Delivery Foods to Complement Every Occasion Dinner for 4 to 44 or More... Fresh Seafoods • Pastas • Family Style Meals • Party Platters to Full Service Catering We Deliver Delicious! Outer Banks Catering & Dinner Delivery 252-441-4116 • kellysobcatering.com

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking such testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Opinion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River). The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the purchasers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina. In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-177a. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source. The purpose of the hearing, held in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina. The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in an investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Aves, Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 6001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6001. Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statement. Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules 81-1 and 81-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION. This the 7th day of August, 2023. NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk

Increase, from 1A

The bureau's proposals in nearly a dozen far northwestern and far western counties, however, ranged from 4.5% to 8.5%. Proposed premium increases in Raleigh and Durham (39.8%), Greensboro and Winston-Salem (36.6%) and Charlotte (41.5%) were higher.

The proposed increase for the beach areas of Dare, Currituck and Hyde counties is 45.1% and 33.9% for coastal areas in those same counties.

The proposed increase for coastal areas in Tyrrell, Pasquotank, Camden, Washington and Perquimans counties is 25.6%.

For a full listing, go to ncdoi.gov/2024-territories-ncrb-proposed-rates/.

There are four ways to provide comments:

- A public comment forum will be held to listen to public input on the North Carolina Rate Bureau's rate increase request at the North Carolina Department of Insurance's Jim Long Hearing Room on Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Jim Long Hearing Room is in the Albemarle Building, located at 325 N. Salisbury St. in Raleigh.

A virtual public comment forum will be held simultaneously with the in-person forum on Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The link to this virtual forum will be: ncdoi.gov/ncrgov/j.php?M-TID=mbgetordid/8bbbed-d2a0ce48595db7e

- Emailed public comments should be sent by Feb. 2 to: NC-DOI-2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov.
- Written public comments must be received by Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III, by Feb. 2 and addressed to 1901 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201.

Associated Press and staff reports

2024 Proposed Homeowners Increase

TERRITORY	COUNTIES/CITIES LOCATED IN THIS TERRITORY	NCRB PROPOSED INCREASE
110	Beach areas in Currituck, Dare and Hyde Counties	45.1%
120	Beach areas in Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties	33.9%
130	Coastal areas in Currituck, Dare, Hyde and Pamlico Counties	33.9%
140	Eastern Coastal areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow & Pender Counties. Eastern Coastal area zip codes: 28403, 28404, 28405, 28406, 28407, 28408, 28409, 28410, 28411, 28412, 28422, 28428, 28443, 28445, 28459, 28460, 28461, 28462, 28467, 28468, 28469, 28470, 28480, 28511, 28516, 28520, 28524, 28528, 28531, 28532, 28533, 28539, 28553, 28557, 28570, 28577, 28579, 28581, 28584, 28589	71.4%
150	Coastal areas in Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Jones, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties	25.6%
160	Western Coastal areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow & Pender Counties. Western Coastal area zip codes: 28401, 28402, 28420, 28421, 28425, 28429, 28435, 28436, 28447, 28448, 28451, 28452, 28454, 28456, 28457, 28466, 28478, 28479, 28518, 28521, 28540, 28541, 28542, 28543, 28544, 28545, 28546, 28547, 28555, 28574, 28582	43.0%
170	Gates and Hertford Counties	30.4%
180	Bertie, Greene, Martin, Pitt, and Wayne Counties	57.8%
190	Duplin and Lenoir Counties	71.3%
200	Columbus County	63.1%
210	Edgecombe and Wilson Counties	57.8%
220	Cumberland and Sampson Counties	45.5%
230	Bladen and Robeson Counties	56.1%
240	Franklin, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, and Northampton Counties	40.8%
250	Harnett, Hoke, and Scotland Counties	39.9%
260	Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren Counties	39.3%
270	Cities of Durham and Raleigh. Durham and Wake Counties	39.8%
280	Chatham and Orange Counties	25.1%
290	Lee and Moore Counties	28.4%
300	Anson, Montgomery, and Richmond Counties	26.1%
310	Cities of Greensboro and Winston-Salem. Alamance, Davie, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes, and Surry Counties	36.6%
320	Cabarrus, Davidson, Randolph and Rowan Counties	25.1%
330	Yadkin County	22.3%
340	City of Charlotte. Alexander, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Wilkes and Union Counties	41.3%
350	Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, and Rutherford Counties	27.8%
360	Alleghany, Ashe, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Henderson, McDowell, Polk, Watauga, and Yancey Counties	20.3%
370	Avery and Mitchell Counties	7.6%
380	Haywood, Madison, Swain, and Transylvania Counties	4.2%
390	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, and Macon Counties	8.5%

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023)
) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobble Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public evidence in support of the Commission's determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electricity from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayer of the electric utility and to the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in 84C G.S. § 62-157(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Any statements by the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayres, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 901 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Final rule issued by NOAA of catch control rules

NOAA Fisheries has announced the final rule for the Comprehensive Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans for the Snapper-Grouper and Golden Crab Fisheries of the South Atlantic Region, and the Dolphin and the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic.

The final rule modifies the acceptable biological catch control rules for the respective Fishery Management Plans, to allow phase-in of acceptable biological catch changes, allow carry-over of an unharvested portion of the annual catch limit, and modify framework procedures to implement carry-overs of annual catch limits when allowed. Current catch levels for

species under the Snapper-Grouper, Golden Crab, and Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans will not change under the Comprehensive Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment and its final rule. Regulations will be effective February 2, 2024. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 3, 2024, at 89 FR 271.

Dare felony blotter for December issued

The Dare County Sheriff's Office has issued its blotter for December 2023. Five felony charges are reported. Dec. 1: Larceny. 200 block of Bayview Dr., Stumpy Point. Construction material reported stolen from a job site. Under

investigation. Dec. 12: Financial Card Fraud. 100 block of Rhodoms Dr., Colington. Unauthorized charges on subject's financial card. Charges occurred outside of Dare County.

Dec. 19: Breaking and Entering. 4700 block of Buxton Park Rd., Buxton. Dispute over an inherited estate. Under investigation. Dec. 14: Larceny. 9200 block of Piney Ridge Rd., Frisco. Subject returned from jail only to find various personal items had been stolen from a bag they left outside in the yard.

Dec. 19: Burglary. 100 block of Creeks Ridge Road, Roanoke Island. A wallet with cash and financial cards stolen from a residence during the night. After further investigation a suspect was identified. A variety of criminal charges have been issued.

Selected, from 1A

volunteer and moving up the ranks during his initial 18-year tenure at the Kure Beach destination. The last 13 of those years he oversaw the care of thousands of animals as the aquarium curator. In 2015, Fatzinger left Fort Fisher to become the director of the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, and successfully led that team for nearly four years before returning to Fort Fisher as its director in 2019. During his tenure at Fort Fisher, he has helped grow the organization from a small, local attraction to a nationally recognized aquarium.

He holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of the Virgin Islands. In addition to his role at the aquarium, Fatzinger serves on several

committees of the international Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) including program leader for Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE), Sharks and Rays, chair of the Aquatic Sustainability Committee, and member of the Advisory Committee for Aquarium Affairs.

"I'm honored to serve as director of the North Carolina Aquariums, a division recognized as leaders in conservation," Fatzinger said. "I'm grateful to be in good company among the state's greatest treasures and look forward to supporting a passionate team, the foundation of our success, which welcomes more than 1.4 million guests to our sites every year."

As director, Fatzinger will oversee the entire North Carolina Aquariums Division made up of aquariums in Fort Fisher, Pine Knoll Shores and

Roanoke Island, as well as Jemmett's Pier in Nags Head. He will also work closely with the board and staff of the North Carolina Aquarium Society, the nonprofit organization that manages fundraising and development for all four facilities and their conservation initiatives.

Visitor services coordinator Joanne Zaxell will serve as acting director of the Fort Fisher Aquarium until a new director is chosen. Former director White volunteers as a firefighter in Southern Shores.

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Off-duty police officer killed after witnessing crime

3 charged with murder in shooting death in Greensboro

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENSBORO — An off-duty police officer was shot and killed in North Carolina after witnessing a crime at a gas station and approaching the two suspects, officials said.

The police sergeant, Philip Dale Nix, was a 23-year veteran of the

Greensboro Police Department, according to a Sunday news release from the agency.

Three men have been arrested in the case, including Jamere Justice Foster, 18, who is charged with first-degree murder and larceny, according to police.

During a news conference Saturday night, Greensboro Police Chief John Thompson didn't specify what crime Nix

witnessed or provide additional details about the events leading up to the shooting.

Police were searching for two men in their 20s and a black Chevrolet Equinox, according to a statewide alert by the Greensboro Police Department. The Blue Alert was sent about two hours after the shooting and canceled roughly two hours later. A Blue Alert is used when a law enforcement officer

has been seriously injured, killed or gone missing.

Thompson said another off-duty Greensboro officer and a paramedic were on the scene when Nix was shot and immediately rendered aid. Nix was pronounced dead at a local medical facility.

"He was a loving husband, father, son and brother," Thompson said in prepared remarks.

The department didn't immediately respond to an

email Sunday seeking an update on the investigation.

Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan, who also spoke to local media Saturday night, said the department needs time to complete its investigation and bring the suspects to justice.

"Words are inadequate right now," she said. "There's really nothing I can say that's going to give the family or the officers any comfort. What

happened today was a senseless act of violence."

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, pledging "all available state resources to catch those who killed a Greensboro police officer." This story corrects the number of years Officer Philip Dale Nix served with Greensboro police based on updated information from the department. He served 23 years.

How to return Christmas trees to nature after holidays

Towns, counties have different disposal methods

JENNIFER ALLEN
CoastalReview.org

Editor's note: This article is being republished with permission from CoastalReview.org.

As the holiday season comes to an end, the stockings that were hung by the chimney with care are back in the box along with the keepsake ornaments and strands of lights that were just adorning the branches of your natural Christmas tree.

Now, what to do with the tree itself?

There are quite a few options here on the coast for proper disposal, from putting the tree on the curb for your town to pick up to donating it for dune stabilization. All require the tree be free of any decorations, including tinsel, lights, garland, hooks and ornaments.

The trees also can be used as a substitute for traditional sand fencing.

Trees as a sand fencing alternative is a long-standing practice on our beaches to help stabilize and grow the dune system," Division of Coastal Management regulatory section chief Jonathan Howell told Coastal Review.

There are rules for how the trees should be placed. Rows should be the width of a single tree, installed at a 45-degree angle to the shoreline, no more than 10 feet seaward of the toe of the natural dune, and there should be a minimum of 7 feet between trees. Trees should not impede emergency vehicle and public beach accesses or endanger sea turtles during nesting season, which kicks off in a few months.

"Following the sand fencing rules ensures the placement of Christmas trees allows for the continued enjoyment of the beach by the public and the protection of existing vegetation and habitat," Howell added.

Audubon North Carolina Coastal biologist Lindsay Addison reiterated in an interview that following the division's rules or obtaining the proper permit is the only legal way to leave your



Surfrider Foundation Bogue Banks Chapter Coastal Review.org. This aerial photo shows Surfrider Foundation Bogue Banks chapter members and volunteers during a past dune restoration project at The Point in Emerald Isle.

live Christmas tree on a beach or barrier island.

"There are rules about how sand fencing is set up to minimize harm to sea turtles and native beach ecosystems," she said.

She said a few years back, there were about 50 trees left on a protected island, prompting Audubon to post signs reminding visitors not to leave trees.

"People think they're doing good when they dump their natural trees on beaches or barrier islands, and I appreciate the thought but it's just not helpful in the long run," she said. "I've

seen trees washed into the marsh, out on the beach and half-buried in the foreshore where it's an impediment to sea turtles."

Though the tree is essentially debris and can cause harm to the wildlife, "there are many things you can do with your Christmas tree that's positive," Addison said, including composting the tree or donating it to a dune stabilization program.

Onslow County Extension Agent Emilee Morrison agrees that recycling the Christmas tree is a great way to help the environment.

"By repurposing your tree, you could improve your garden, provide wildlife habitat, create fish habitat, or even help stabilize sand dunes. Live trees take years of care and maintenance to grow to the size you purchase them as, so why not add that resource back to the environment rather than taking them to the landfill," she said.

Morrison suggested in a guide for recycling trees a handful of options including using a chipper to reduce small limbs to compost, place branches on top of landscaped beds, submerge the tree in a private fishpond to become a fish feeding refuge, check with area wildlife shelters to see if they can use the tree, or donate the tree for dune stabilization efforts.

Counties can recycle their live Christmas trees by the yard waste containers at one of the many convenience sites or taking the tree to the PGC Transfer Station in Beavertown.

Live Christmas trees are grown in the composting program, which turns trees and yard debris into compost and mulch. Compost and mulch produced through this program are available free to community members and those living in the surrounding areas.

Edenton allows residents to put the natural trees for collection at the curb. Public Works delivers the trees to the American Legion Fairgrounds for the Edenton-Chowan Educational Foundation to host an annual bonfire using the trees as a fundraiser for the school system.

Currituck County has eight recycling centers and each will accept live Christmas trees with all decorations and tinsel removed.

Pasquotank County residents can dispose of their natural tree at one of the county's convenience sites or the landfill. Trees will be placed with other yard waste and chipped into mulch.

Doctors' military relocation license OK'd

ALAN WOOTEN
The Coaster Square

For practicing physicians on North Carolina's military bases, the new year brings a change in state law that will provide help to both them and those who use their services.

Much of a broad bill passed in the General Assembly this year and signed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper on Sept. 29 went into effect immediately. A portion affecting relocating military members will be enacted Feb. 1.

North Carolina is home to six major military installations, chief among them Fort Liberty — the base formerly known as Fort Bragg.

The Health & Human Services Workforce Act will allow "military relocation licenses for physician and physician assistant servicemembers and spouses." The state board can issue a "military relocation license" to a "physician or physician assistant not otherwise actively licensed by the Board who meets" certain requirements.

Five criteria include being in the U.S. armed forces or a spouse of a service member; in North Carolina pursuant to military orders for military service; licensed in another jurisdiction with "substantially equivalent" or exceeding requirements of North Carolina; in good standing within that jurisdiction, with no disciplinary actions in the last five years or pending investigations by an occupational licensing

board; and actively practicing medicine an average of 20 hours per week in the two years before relocating to North Carolina.

The Army's Fort Liberty and Pope Air Force Base are in the southeast; Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is in eastern North Carolina; and Marine

Corps Air Station Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River are along the coast, not more than an hour's drive from the more inland MCAS Cherry Point. A Coast Guard base is on the northern coast at Elizabeth City; and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point is on the southern coast in Brunswick County.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking management public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Idemintion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

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In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-179(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The Commission exhibits in this proceeding will be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 7th day of August, 2023
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Proposed NC homeowner rate increases average 42.2%

Beach areas on OBX would see 45.1% hike

ALAN WOOTEN
The Center Square

Eight months into a pandemic, a negotiated settlement helped North Carolina homeowners against a staggering insurance rate increase.

They're hopeful again in 2024. Last Wednesday's request by the North Carolina Rate Bureau of the state Department of Insurance for average statewide homeowner insurance rate increases of 42.2% — including

71.4% in the coastal areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties — was made public by Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey on Friday at the close of business. Effective date, if granted, is Aug. 1.

The Rate Bureau got about one-third of its ask back in November 2020. That's when the pitch totaled an overall average increase of 24.5%. Causey, the first Republican insurance commissioner in state history, won a second term that month and negotiated an escalation of 7.9%.

If the Department of Insurance doesn't agree with the requested rates, a release says, "the rates will either be denied or negotiated with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If a settlement cannot be reached within 50 days, the commissioner will call for a hearing."

Residents can give input in person, at a virtual forum or via email. In no surprise, the biggest increases are along the coast. Beach areas with requested rate increases of 99% or higher are in Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender

counties — essentially from the midpoint of the coast to the South Carolina border. Farther north toward the Outer Banks, the beach areas of Currituck, Dare and Hyde counties would see an increase of 45.1%.

Coastal areas of Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Jones, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties have a proposal of 25.6%.

Eastern North Carolina counties encompassing Greenville and Goldsboro were among those at 57.8%. Cumberland (Fayetteville) and

Sampson (Clinton) were each 45.5%, while neighbors Bladen (Elizabeth town) and Robeson (Lumberton) were 56.1%.

Among the major metros the city of Charlotte and counties of Alexander, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Wilkes and Union have a proposed increase of 41.3%; the cities of Durham and Raleigh and counties of Durham and Wake have requests for 39.8% increases; the cities of Greensboro and

Winston-Salem and counties of Alamance, Davie, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes and Surry are proposed to go up 36.6%.

The smallest increase of 4.3% is in the mountain counties of Haywood, Madison, Swain and Transylvania. Asheville (Watauga) and Boone (Watauga) are within 11 counties where the increased request is 20.5%.

NC population grew by 4th-highest clip

Domestic migration accounted for most of state's increase

VICTOR SKINNER
The Center Square

North Carolina's population grew at the fourth-highest rate in the nation in 2023, swelling by 139,526 residents over the year, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures.

Census data released in the final two weeks of 2023 shows North Carolina's population increased by 1.3% to 10.8 million residents between July 2022 and July 2023. Coupled with the previous year's 1.28, 865, it is a gain of a quarter-million residents in two years.

The percentage change trails South Carolina (1.7%), Texas and Florida (1.6% each), and is equal to Idaho.

In terms of numerical growth, Texas gained the

most residents at 473,453, followed by Florida at 365,205, North Carolina with 139,526, Georgia with 116,077 and South Carolina with 90,600.

The majority of the growth came from domestic migration, which accounted for 97,264 new residents. That's about 1% less than the 98,524 who moved from other states between July 2021 and July 2022.

The figures are widely viewed as a reflection of states' economic policies and the opportunities they create, particularly in regards to domestic migration. North Carolina's in-migration of nearly 100,000 was only behind Florida (194,438) and Texas (186,767).

There were 12,657 more natural births (121,148) than deaths (108,491). The net natural change between July 2022 and July 2023 is 4,863 residents more than the prior three years combined.

Another 29,448 new residents came from abroad, which continues an increasing trend following the pandemic. International migration to North Carolina totaled 26,184 in 2022, 9,920 in 2021, and 679 in 2020.

Both the state's natural births and international migration follow national trends highlighted by the Census Bureau in December.

"U.S. migration returning to prepandemic levels and a drop in deaths are driving the nation's growth," Kristie Wilder, demographer at the Census Bureau, said in a statement. "Although births declined, this was tempered by the near 9% decrease in deaths. Ultimately, fewer deaths paired with rebounding immigration resulted in the nation experiencing its largest population gain since 2018."

In total, the nation's population increased by

more than 1.6 million people last year, a growth rate of 0.5% that brings the total to 334,914,895. More states had increasing populations in 2023 than any year since the start of the pandemic.

A total of 42 states and the District of Columbia had increasing populations, compared to 31 states and D.C. in 2022, and 34 states in 2021.

The South, the nation's most populous region and the only one to grow its population through the pandemic, accounted for 87% of the nation's growth in 2023. It added 1.4 million residents for a total population of 130,125,290 across 16 states and the District of Columbia.

New York lost the most residents between July 2022 and July 2023 with a decline of 101,984. Other big losers include California (75,423), Illinois (32,826), Puerto Rico (14,422) and Louisiana (14,274).

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Fentanyl trafficker gets 10 years

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Henderson man appearing in an Elizabeth City federal courtroom Monday was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for trafficking fentanyl and possession of firearms.

Tyrik Pettaway, 21, received the 120-month sentence after pleading guilty last July to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a quantity of heroin

and fentanyl, a press release from the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina states.

According to federal prosecutors, law enforcement arrested both Pettaway and a second man, Neno King, in Henderson after performing multiple controlled buys of suspected heroin containing fentanyl from the men in spring 2022.

In March of that year, officers executed a search warrant at a residence in Henderson used by Pettaway. They recovered a large-capacity magazine

and approximately 1,100 dosage units of a substance containing fentanyl, rifle ammunition, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Pettaway has felony convictions, federal prosecutors said, that include possession of a stolen firearm in 2020; possession with the intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver heroin in 2020 and 2021; and breaking and entering to terrorize in 2020.

King pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and gun charges in March 2023 and was sentenced to 180 months in prison in August.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determinations of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This is the 7th day of August, 2023.
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities – 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2118, Dobbs Building, 450 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher Ayres, Executive Director, Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4526 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4526 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Milestone

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nominate a Roanoke-Chowan area milestone achievement for any business, civic organization, or club who, in 2024, will reach a milestone year of 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150 years old or older.

We will feature our choices in the upcoming February edition of Crossroads Magazine.

Nominations are also solicited for centenarians in the Roanoke-Chowan area (individuals who will turn 100 years old or more in 2024).

Submit your Milestones nominations to the email or mail addresses listed below.

Submit your centenarian's photo with name and address along with what they attribute their longevity to:

By email:
cal.bryant@roanoke-chowannewsherald.com

By mail:
Cal Bryant, Editor
Roanoke-Chowan Publications, LLC
P.O. Box 1325 Ahoskie, NC 27910

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through storytelling.

In this Re-entry Simulation, you will learn about the many barriers individuals go through when they are released from jail. Participants experience the difficulties of finding a job, keeping a stable home, going to treatment regularly, and following release rules.

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Tuesday, January 30, 2024
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SOUL FOOD

Salvation Solution #1: Building faith and believing God

Over the years I've heard many New Year's Resolutions. Usually diet or fitness tops the list. Then there is being kinder and being more disciplined and quitting bad habits.



Wayne Proctor

The problem with resolutions is that more often than not we either don't keep them, or fall short. We might even feel worse because of guilt.

The story and experiences of Simon and Anna are not usually included in the Christmas narrative. They didn't make it to Bethlehem and did not give any special gifts, or follow any star or angel. They were just two old people who had dedicated their

lives to loving God, worshipping God, and waiting for Messiah (Luke 2:25-38). Messiah was their bucket list.

It was now day 41 of Jesus' young earthly life. On his 41st day he had been circumcised,

as was Jewish tradition.

Mother Mary had gone through the traditional 40 days of purification (after birth cleansing) and now they were in the temple in Jerusalem. What Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus were doing was an ordinary experience, offering a sacrifice of either two turtledoves or two young pigeons — meager gifts from the poor.

When old Simeon saw them, he immediately knew that this child was Messiah. He approached them saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to

the Jews of Israel."

Simeon understood that salvation would be found in this baby, who would offer eternal life for both Jews and Gentiles. However, Simeon then spoke to Mary with a heavy heart, knowing that this child would suffer a horrendous death, and his mother's heart would be broken.

Through the lives of these two old saints (I'll speak of Anna next time), we see the solution of FAITH, believing God. Believing faith is all about having the right spiritual relationship with God, that found through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

In our VBS, we teach

the children about salvation the ABC way. A — I admit I am a sinner. B — I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son; that he died on the cross for my sins and rose triumphantly from death. C — I confess Jesus Christ

as my Savior and Lord. I "go tell," based upon Romans 10:9-10.

Next week — Salvation Solution #2.

Wayne Proctor serves as the Pastor at *Eure Baptist Church*.

Church News

Unity Service
GATES — The Fellowship Circle will recognize the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with a Unity Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14 at New Piney Wood Chapel Church, Gates. For more information, call 252-287-6484.

Concert
SUNBURY — Beulah Baptist Church, located at 967 US Hwy 168 East, Sunbury, will host a concert by singer, songwriter, and storyteller Daryl Mosley at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 21.

The concert is free but a love offering will be taken.

For more information, call Patty Lindley at 602-362-0428.

Musicians needed
GATES — New Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Gates is seeking a musician. For more information, contact Deacon Tommie Jones at 252-506-3860 or Deaconess Mary Jones at 252-557-0371.

Bible Study
GATES — Miracle of Faith Praise and Worship Center, located at 348 Hazelton Road, Gates, will hold an in-depth study of the bible at 1:30 p.m. each

Sunday.
Noon prayer
SUNBURY — St. John A.M.E. Zion Church conducts prayer service at 12 noon each Tuesday. These are weekly fun-filled lessons on prayer, the benefits of prayer, and how to pray. Rev. Bert Davis leads the service.

Prayer/Bible Class
GATES — Ebenezer Gospel Church, located at 505 Hwy 37 N, Gates, will hold Noon Prayer from 12-1 p.m. and Bible Class from 6-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

For more information, call 252-357-4616.

Noon prayer
SUNBURY — St. John A.M.E. Zion Church in Sunbury is opening their doors to the community for noon day prayer, meditation and studies. It will be held each Tuesday at 12 noon.

Prayer & Bible study
GATES — New Piney Wood Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Gates will host prayer and Bible study at 12 noon each Wednesday. Light snacks are served.

Corporate Prayer and Bible Study
GATES — True Vine Church of Deliverance, located at 307 Smith Road, Gates, will hold Corporate Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study at 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

For more information, call 252-287-3520.

Marriage seminar
CORAPEAKE — Redeem Ministry will be hosting a marriage seminar at 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at 1550 NC Highway 32 North, Corapeake.

For more information contact Pastor Bruce McCants at 919-971-0108.

Praising God Ministry
Tune in to the "Praising God Ministry" with the Rev. Dr. Earl Norfleet each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning at 10 a.m. on WGAI 560 AM.

Rev. Norfleet will deliver inspirational messages that will strengthen you while giving God, the honor, the glory, and the praise.

Send Church News by email to calbryant@rcnews.com. Items can also be dropped off at the main office located at the intersection of

Main St. and Catherine Creek Rd., Ahoskie. Church News is printed free of charge.

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpartisan public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion Energy NC)), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University (d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

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The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent customers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

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Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R-13 and R-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The records and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tanika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OBITUARIES

ELSIE E. HILL
GATESVILLE — Elsie Rae Eatman Hill, 65, a resident at the Gates House, died Thursday, January 4, 2024 at RCU Health Roanoke Chowan Hospital, Ahoskie. There are no services sched-

uled at this time. Garrett-Sykes Funeral Service - Ahoskie Chapel - is handling the arrangements.

JACQUELINE CROSS-PARKER
COMO — Jacqueline Cross-Parker of Como

died Saturday, January 6, 2024. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2024 at Upper Room Assembly Church, Gatesville. Community of Hope Funeral Service, Hebbesville, is handling the arrangements.

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OFFICIAL COPY Jan 22 2024

Chowan Sheriff's Office probes another suspected overdose

VERNON FUESTON
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — The Chowan County Sheriff's Office is reporting that another person has overdosed on opioids in the county, just days after the agency and Edenton police reported that four county residents died last month from suspected drug overdoses.

The most recent overdose, which did not result in a fatality, was reported Dec. 24 in the northern part of Chowan County. Chief Deputy John McArthur said Thursday, Dec. 28, about a person who recently overdosed on what law enforcement believe was the drug fentanyl. The report followed four deaths from suspected drug overdoses in Chowan within 10 days.

Sheriff's Office does not know exactly what caused the rash of suspected fentanyl overdoses; all of the incidents are still under investigation. He said no drug paraphernalia was found at any of the places where the victims were found, and authorities do not know how the drug was ingested. As a result, they do not know the form of fentanyl that was used. He also said the deaths occurred in all areas of the county and across its demographics.

Though the deaths and the non-fatal overdose had all the hallmarks of fentanyl poisoning, McArthur said authorities cannot definitively say the drug involved was fentanyl until autopsy results are released. He also said the persons who died from suspected overdoses don't fit common stereotypes of illegal drug users. "They were spread out throughout the county and even spread out in age," he said. "It's not just young people, it's not just young people and

of overdoses, a good year or more," he said. "These overdoses were occurring regularly in the past. It seems that most of the (persons who had) overdoses in the past were brought back using Narcan or other life-saving measures. These deaths really caught us by surprise. They really bothered us and caused concern because people were dying."

The most recent overdose victim was saved by Narcan, an anti-overdose medication that was administered after emergency medical personnel arrived. It is usually administered as a nasal spray. McArthur said Narcan does save lives and is relatively easy to administer by non-professionals.

"Does Narcan save lives? Absolutely. It definitely does," he said.

He suggested anyone preparing to obtain Narcan first speak to a medical professional and learn about the medication, how it is administered, and what precautions they should take when using it.

McArthur said local law enforcement officials are most concerned right now about saving lives.

"We're concerned about the loss of life here in our community, and we want to make sure that people understand the dangers of drugs in general," he said.



VERNON FUESTON/CHOWAN HERALD
Chief Deputy John McArthur of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office speaks to a television camera crew Thursday, Dec. 28, about a person who recently overdosed on what law enforcement believe was the drug fentanyl. The report followed four deaths from suspected drug overdoses in Chowan within 10 days.

even some older than middle-aged people ... Some were here in Edenton, and some were out in the Rocky Hock area. It's kind of covering a wide range of folks."

McArthur said the Sheriff's Office has received information from a nearby county where marijuana laced with fentanyl was found.

"We have not had that here, but we can't rule that out" as being a cause of Chowan's rash of overdoses, he said.

McArthur said fentanyl had been a problem in the county before, but the rash of deaths is alarming.

"It had been a long time since we had such an influx

of overdoses, a good year or more," he said. "These overdoses were occurring regularly in the past. It seems that most of the (persons who had) overdoses in the past were brought back using Narcan or other life-saving measures. These deaths really caught us by surprise. They really bothered us and caused concern because people were dying."

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Happy New Year

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbie Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

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In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-327.6. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 7th day of August, 2023. NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Cooney, Deputy Clerk

T-STAR
Trillium Support
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as we explore empathy
through storytelling.

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8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Elizabeth City State University

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HEALTH RESOURCES

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(Behind Chowan Hospital)

Cole/from A1

One of the larger challenges Cole will spend time on in 2024 is the town's Riverfront and Community Plan. A grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration will help the town fund a design for its waterfront boardwalk and a new retaining wall. The riverfront plan is posted on the town's website.

"We hope to be able to soon work on getting that design furthered in compliance with the Riverfront Plan. From the docks to missing mill Park to the riverfront plan, she said. "We are working now on the implementation of that grant. After the design is done, then we want to begin construction but that will be a major challenge. Construction won't begin the next day because there is so much engineering work that has to be done."

The second thing Cole said is to focus on the town's housing rehabilitation plan.

"We have many houses that are vacant or blighted, dilapidated that make some of our communities look unattractive," she said. "We want to rehabilitate or demolish and build anew when needed. And in doing so, provide affordable housing for our residents and others who want to come to Hertford."

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OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Sawin challenging Goodwin in NC's 1st House District

Bookstore owner faces uphill climb against incumbent

PAUL NIELSEN
The Daily Advance



Goodwin Sawin

Susan Sawin knows she has an uphill battle to defeat Republican state Rep. Goodwin for the 1st House District seat but the Dare County Democrat said she is ready for the challenge.

Sawin and Goodwin, R-Chowan, will face off in November to represent a district that includes Chowan, Perquimans, Currituck, Tyrrell and Washington counties and part of Dare County.

Goodwin is running for a fourth term in the House and ran unopposed in 2022. Sawin called the heavily GOP district "gerrymandered" to keep

housing, she said. Sawin said the "slow defunding" of public education in the state must end. She said she is opposed to the state's Opportunity Scholarships program that many describe as a school voucher program, saying it benefits the rich.

"It is an absolutely transparent method of transferring our tax dollars to an elite few who choose to go to private schools," Sawin said. "When you look at every other state that has tried it, it has failed. It takes money away from public schools and it gives it to people who can already pretty much afford the private schools that they are in."

Sawin supports the recent expansion of Medicaid in the state but said that after the dust settles that there will still be holes in the healthcare system that will need to be filled. Sawin said filling those holes would likely include state funding to open local medical clinics.

"The lack of appropriate prenatal care in northeast North Carolina is a really big issue," Sawin said.

More HOUSE | A6

2 Family Dollars fined for scanner errors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Eighteen retail stores across North Carolina, including two Family Dollar stores in Hertford, paid nearly \$118,000 in civil penalties in the fourth quarter of 2023 because of excessive price scanner errors, according to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division.

The NCDACS said in a press release that the Family Dollar at 206 Ocean Highway, and the Family Dollar at 1678 Ocean Highway, both in Hertford, paid \$15,000 and \$5,585, respectively, in penalties during the fourth quarter.

According to NCDACS, the Family Dollar at 206

Ocean Highway failed 10 inspections between January 2022 and July 2023. A follow-up inspection in October found an error rate of 3% based on nine overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed a follow-up inspection in November and paid its penalties in October. The store's \$15,000 fine tied with another Family Dollar in Ahoskie

for the highest paid in the fourth quarter. The Family Dollar at 1678 Ocean Highway failed three inspections between June and September 2023, NCDACS said. A follow-up inspection in November found an error rate of 4.67% based on 14 overcharges in a 300-item lot.

More SCANNERS | A9

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogeneration or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in R.C.G.S. § 62-107(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements in the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4900.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9091 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Terrika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

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Ascendient to offer healthcare update

JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

Next Wednesday's Martin County Commissioners meeting offers two agenda items focusing on primary topics involving Martin County residents.

Ascendient Healthcare Advisors CEO Dawn Carter is scheduled to make a presentation outlining her company's progress concerning county healthcare amidst the closing of Martin General Hospital.

While not an easy task in the midst of the turmoil, Carter's presentation will include updates.

"The presentation on the 10th (of January) will include updates on the progress we're making on the potential long-term solutions for Martin County," said Carter.

The commissioners have been working behind the scenes at various times with Ascendient since 2024, when they originally engaged with the company. That engagement ended with Ascendient's report presentation in March 2023. At that time, months before Quorum Health announced the closing of

MGH, Carter and her team were working on possible recommendations to resolve the lack of healthcare in Martin County.

Ascendient advised the commissioners before the MGH bankruptcy that it was vital to maintain key services such as emergency care and access to local physicians and specialists remain in the community.

Carter based her recommendations on interviews, focus groups and a survey of more than 270 community members performed in 2022.

Back in March 2023, former Martin County Manager James Bennett issued a press release outlining Ascendient's relationship with the county.

"Martin County is making great progress in identifying long-term solutions for providing sustainable healthcare services locally," Bennett said at the time.

The progress Bennett spoke of came to an abrupt halt in August when MGH Provider, Quorum Health filed a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Petition in Delaware.

At that time the commissioners quickly re-engaged

with Ascendient hoping to find possible solutions to the hospital's closing. Carter's presentation is expected to outline progress to date.

The second agenda item was brought by Paul Robertson and deals with county finances. Robertson, a local resident and businessman, has been relentless in his investigation of Bennett along with Commissioners Emily Biggs, Ronnie Smith and Dempsey Bond.

Robertson has reached out to state agencies on numerous occasions regarding the trips and stumbles citizens are alleging the three commissioners have made for personal gains. Robertson has analyzed numerous credit card receipts and is in need of answers from the commissioners.

"Once I receive all the financial data, it is my plan to put it in the hands of the appropriate state agencies. I also plan on questioning some of the appropriateness of the expenses, including premature and extended hotel stays and related travel expenses beyond the dates of the

meetings and conventions," Robertson said.

Robertson had asked for and received the credit card statements of the three commissioners up until June 2022. He is waiting for the remaining months to be forwarded but has yet to receive them.

"I also will be asking for clarification and additional information from the county on certain expense irregularities, such as vehicle repair expenses outside of the county's motor fleet contract. I also will be seeking clarification on extended trips by manager Bennett and commissioner Biggs to Wilmington and a weekend stay, as I can't imagine what kind of county business they were conducting on a weekend," said Robertson.

Robertson usually presents his facts during the public comment session of the meeting, however, next Wednesday, he is scheduled to appear on the agenda.

"Chris and other items will likely lead to more public record requests related to the county," said Robertson.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@enterprise.com



Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin fills out a check awaiting Rep. Shelly Willingham's signature.

Yucca from A1

Like many things built in 1933, the Yucca House has seen its years of wear. Although the building looks pristine, its bones are in need of adjustment.

"Our original Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Resilient Neighborhood Grant of \$397,450, which I obtained with the Lord's help through the Department of Commerce, also prescribed other things to be addressed such as roof repairs, septic system replacement, trees removed and the bathrooms made handicap compliant," said Griffin.

Willingham's presentation of the \$210,000 grant, obtained through the Office of State Budget, will help complete the funding

needed for the restoration renovation, according to Griffin.

"The project is a major undertaking since the structure needs to be lifted."

"We are having to wait on Phase 1 environmental review before any work can begin. That is in progress and won't be finished until, at the earliest, late January. The problem is the foundation which will necessitate raising the structure and a new foundation constructed," said Griffin. "This means the HVAC and plumbing will need replacing and electrical will have to be updated."

A completion date has yet to be established for the project.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@enterprise.com

Claim from A1

Castro also asked the court to dismiss the case against Biggs, Bond and Smith as individuals since they are already named in the suit as the Martin County Board of Commissioners. He said the claims against the members are redundant and unnecessary.

The plaintiffs contend there were nine different violations of Open Meeting Laws beginning in February 2021 where

public business was transacted without proper notice, without opportunity for public access and without the creation of required minutes. The suit alleges these to be violations of both the open meeting laws and the public records laws.

The plaintiffs also claim Bennett was hired without proper procedure during those unannounced meetings.

"As a result, the plaintiffs request the court nullify the results and consequences of all illegal

meetings or approvals by the Martin County defendants regarding the hiring, compensation and of County Manager James Bennett which resulted in nearly \$60,000 in raises over two plus years to \$186,179 annually," according to the suit.

Smith, Bennett, Biggs and Bond came under fire in September when a budget amendment was introduced authorizing what would have been a third pay increase for Bennett. When questions by

Commissioners Ayers and Gurganus to the reasoning behind the raise went unanswered, Ayers asked for Bennett's resignation.

The motion calling for Bennett's "immediate termination" failed 3-2 with commissioners Ayers and Gurganus voting for Bennett's termination, while commissioners Biggs, Bond and Smith voted against the motion. Bennett submitted his letter of resignation on Thursday morning following the contentious meeting.

The question of who

authorized the raises still remains unanswered. However, Bond acknowledged he had never been involved in any discussions regarding Bennett's salary increase.

"Commissioner Ayers, no disrespect sir, but I have been to every meeting you have been to and this board has not voted for any raises in this room," Bond said during a commission meeting late last year.

Since Bennett has already resigned and a portion of his raises were

already rescinded by the board, Castro claims the allegations be dismissed as "moot."

"The Plaintiffs' claims should be dismissed as moot to the extent Plaintiffs have already obtained the relief requested in the complaint and to the extent Mr. Bennett has already resigned as County Manager," according to Castro's answer.

A Superior Court trial date has yet to be set.

John Foley can be contacted at jfoley@enterprise.com

Martin-Tyrell-Washington
DISTRICT HEALTH

Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Director, Nutritionist II

SALARY RANGE: \$46,177 - \$64,360 (Typical Hiring Salary Range) | **OPEN DATE:** Immediately

CLASS DATE: Open until filled

WORK LOCATION: Martin, Tyrell and Washington District Health Department

DESCRIPTION: The Nutrition Unit provides direct and consultative services to residents, pre-pregnant health agencies and community-based nutrition programs in Martin, Tyrell, Washington and adjoining counties. The Nutrition Unit implements the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children (WIC) as an adjunct to health care. The primary purpose of this position is to direct the operation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, WIC, in the tri-county area.

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Considerable knowledge of the principles of normal and therapeutic nutrition. Considerable knowledge and skill in nutrition and dietary assessment techniques (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), and in interpretation of data. Considerable knowledge of the physiology of diet and support techniques for "biochemical" diets. Knowledge of interrelationships between health and social service programs and of appropriate community resources for referral of clients. Knowledge of human behavior and counseling techniques for effecting behavior change. Ability to understand individual's socio-economic status and life-style with respect to individual differences. Skill in writing diet concise entries using established protocols in participants' health/medical records. Ability to monitor and maintain quality standards of nutrition care using current standards of practice. Ability to organize and manage time and resources.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Registered Dietitian with the Commission on Dietetics Registration; or Master's degree in Dietetics; Public Health Nutrition, or Nutrition, or graduation from a Commission or Accredited Dietetics Education approved/Recognized Program in Dietetics and two years nutrition experience; or Dietetic Internship. Registered with the Commission on Dietetics Registration with an in-depth area from an accredited four-year college or university and two years nutrition experience; or a Bachelor's of Science degree in Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition or Community Nutrition from an accredited four-year college or university and two years nutrition experience.

Dental Assistant

SALARY RANGE: \$32,154 - \$39,866 (Typical hiring range) | **OPEN DATE:** Immediately

CLASS DATE: Open until filled

WORK LOCATION: Martin Tyrell Washington District Health's Dental Unit

DESCRIPTION: The Dental Health Program will provide dental services, preventive and educational services to underserved non-elderly, Washington County Dental and Tyrell County dental offices provide services for all adults and children. The Mobile Dental Unit will provide services to school-aged children.

The Dental Assistant provides direct assistance for all treatment, provided by the Dentist and will also provide direct patient care under the direct supervision of the dentist as allowed by NC Dental Law for the purpose of diagnosis, preventive, restorative and emergency care for all ages, adolescents, and adults.

JOB REQUIREMENTS: Considerable knowledge of dental equipment, instruments, and procedures. Considerable knowledge of office procedures. Considerable knowledge of preparation methods and dental materials. Ability to maintain records, answer and patient inquiries. Ability to deal with patients in a cooperative and sensitive manner. Completion of SPICE Training. Certification in new Codes of Ethics and General Public Health.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Completion of a dental assistant program from an appropriately accredited institution and one year of on-the-job training as a dental assistant required x-ray training when needed. Or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Local Health Director

SALARY RANGE: \$103,280 - \$197,465

Classified as: GS-15

Open Date: 05/22/2023

Classifying Date: Open until filled

Description of Role: This position manages the Martin-Tyrell-Washington Health District with a staff of 60+ positions and an annual budget in excess of eight million dollars. This is accomplished in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes in addition to the Board of Health and three Boards of Commissioners' rules and regulations. Employees will be accountable for both administrative and management duties requiring compliance and adherence with federal, state and local policies and will direct complex health programs serving a large and diverse population. Employee will also ensure that effective public health services are provided to the citizens of the three-county district and for the implementation and maintenance of plans, activities, budgets and policies.

Essential Functions: Master's Degree in public health administration and at least one year of employment experience in health programs or health services; or a master's degree in a public health discipline other than public health administration and at least five years of employment experience in health programs or health services; or a master's degree in public administration and at least two years' experience in health programs or health services; or a master's degree in a field related to public health and at least three years of experience health programs or health services.

Minimum training and experience requirements are as accordance with GS 130A-40 and GS 130A-45. For master's degree related to public health, the determination must be made by the State Health Director.

Applicable Provisions: Preference will be given to candidates with extensive experience in the development and administration of a variety of health programs in a health organization. Candidates must complete and submit a North Carolina Employment Application (PW-07) along with a certified copy of college/university transcripts. Resumes will be accepted but will not serve as a substitute for the application. The successful candidate will be required to reside within the three-county district and to relocate to the area within six months after employment.

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To apply: Call Vickie Manning at 252-791-3139 for more information
193 Highway 45 N, Plymouth, NC 27962, 252-791-3133

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

} NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking meaningful public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The use of avoided cost rates is restricted to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable in the interests of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy as a part of its responsibility in these matters. The Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-127A. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Temika D. Cooney, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY Jan 22 2024

MARTIN COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

Man faces multiple drug charges after traffic stop

The Williamston Police Department initiated a traffic stop on Jan. 7 that led to an arrest of an individual.

Upon making the stop at Washington Street near Brentway Ave., Hugh Jeffery Bell was arrested and charged with possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver marijuana, manufacture/sell/deliver/possession controlled substance within 1000 feet of school, maintain vehicle/dwelling place controlled substance, possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to half ounce, driving while license revoked and open container was found.

The Williamston Police Department made the arrest.

MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Incidents
The Martin County Sheriff's Office reports of incidents include:
Dec. 29 Wire fraud was reported at 22928 NC Hwy 125 in Williamston.
Dec. 30 Destruction/damage/vandalism of property was reported at 1077 Goose Rd. in Robersonville.
Possession of stolen firearm was reported at Abbit Rd./Bonnie Best Rd. in Williamston.
Overdose was reported at 640 Patrick Ln. in Oak City.
Jan. 02 All other offenses was reported at 305 East Main St. in Williamston.
Warrant service other jurisdiction, assault by pointing a firearm and assault on a female was reported at 1127 Heartland Dr. in Williamston.
Breaking and entering and felony larceny was reported at 3660 Ballard Rd. in Williamston.
Communicating threats was reported at 2055 Jerden Thicket Rd. Lot 10 in Jamesville.
Jan. 03 Dead on arrival was reported at 1200 Tar Landing Rd. in



Jamesville.
Jan. 04 Destruction/damage/vandalism of property was reported at 212 East Barnhill St. in Everetts.
Jan. 05 Obtain property by false pretenses was reported at 305 East Main St. in Williamston.
Domestic violence was reported at 2141 Reason Rd. in Williamston.
Jan. 06 Larceny was reported at 303 East NC 11 in Oak City.
Simple assault was reported at 203 East Commerce St. in Oak City.
Resist, delay and obstruct was reported at 2295 Allen Williams Rd. in Williamston.
Jan. 07 Simple assault was reported at 1411 Free Union Rd. in Jamesville.
Arrests
Arrests do not indicate guilt or innocence, which is determined through judicial proceedings. The Martin County Sheriff's Office reports of arrests include:
Jan. 02 Darrick Wayne Rascoe was charged with all other offenses.
Darius Rodriguez Griffin was charged with assault on a female

and assault by point a firearm.
Gabrielle Alexia Zurko was charged with failure to appear.
Jan. 03 Michael Alan Skocs, Jr. was charged with assault on a female and communicating threats.
Adriana Lanise Barnett was charged with failure to return rental property and intimidating a witness.
Troy D. Kinchen was charged with warrant service other jurisdiction.
Jan. 05 Younert Lee James, Jr. was charged with obtain property by false pretenses.
John Michael Hunter was charged with larceny.
Larry Grant was charged with simple assault.
Freddie Freeman Vann was charged with resist, delay and obstruct.
WILLIAMSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Incidents
The Williamston Police Department reports of incidents include:
Jan. 05 Warrant service for offense(s) committed in another

jurisdiction was reported at 304 Washington St. in Williamston.
Obtain property by false pretenses was reported at 205 West Main St. in Williamston.
Prescription forgery was reported at 1560 US Hwy 17 in Williamston.
Larceny was reported at 1529 Washington St. in Williamston.
Assault with a deadly weapon was reported at 106 Victoria Ave. in Williamston.
Warrant service for offense(s) committed in another jurisdiction was reported at West Main St. near South MLK, Jr. Dr. in Williamston.
Possession of schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of marijuana, possession of less than 1/2 oz of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia was reported at West Main St. near South MLK, Jr. Dr. in Williamston.
Jan. 06 Impeding traffic was reported at East Blvd. near Park St. in Williamston.
Resist, delay and obstruct was reported at 826 East Blvd. in Williamston.
Simple possession of marijuana and possession of

marijuana drug paraphernalia was reported at Washington St. near Faulk St. in Williamston.
Jan. 07 Possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver marijuana, manufacture/sell/deliver/possession controlled substance within 1000 feet of school, maintain vehicle/dwelling place controlled substance, possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to half ounce, driving while license revoked and open container was reported at Washington St. near Brentway Ave. in Williamston.
Failure to appear was reported at 100 Commons Dr. in Williamston.
Arrests
Arrests do not indicate guilt or innocence, which is determined through judicial proceedings. The Williamston Police Department reports of arrests include:
Jan. 05 Marcus Renault Freeman, Jr. was charged with larceny.
Dominique Malik Thompson was charged with driving while impaired.
Teresa Swain Pitt was charged with larceny.
Tyheim Ralpheal Spruill was charged with failure to appear.
Deangelo Answod Godard was charged with possession of schedule I controlled substance and felony possession of marijuana.
Jan. 06 Brian Oneal Powell was charged with impeding traffic.
Jan. 07 Hugh Jeffery Bell was charged with possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver marijuana, manufacture/sell/deliver/possession controlled substance within 1000 feet of school, maintain vehicle/dwelling place controlled substance, possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to half ounce, driving while license revoked and open container.
Adrian Nelson Watkins was charged with failure to appear.

Martin-Tyrrell-Washington DISTRICT HEALTH
Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Operator, Nutritionist II
Dental Assistant
Local Health Director
To apply: Call Vickie Manning at 252-791-3133 for more information. 198 Highway 45 N, Plymouth, NC 27962, 252-791-3133

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION,
This the 7th day of August, 2023.
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 22 2024

NASH COUNTY DEED TRANSFERS

WJH, LLC to Janelle Andriks Johnson; 1173 Manor Drive, Rocky Mount; \$269,000
 Barnes Land Corporation to OMH Homes, Inc.; 10.56 acres and 42.04 acres; \$980,000
 Amanda R. Patterson to Jacqueline Barnes and Eddie Taylor; Section 2, Red Oak Hills Subdivision, Lot 58
 Andrew Bryan Ledford and Vickie Vick Ledford to Vickie Vick Ledford and Andrew Bryan Ledford; 11275 NC 97 West, Middlesex and 11305 NC 97 West, Middlesex, 24 acres on Hopkins Road in Middlesex and 12.43 acres on Hopkins Road, Middlesex
 Adams Homes AEC, LLC and Don J. Adams to Staven-side Watson; 8451 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$374,500
 Steven M. Crene and Vicki M. Crene to Thad A. Harris and Lori Brown Harris; 348-554 Avenir Street, Rocky Mount
 Ruby Smith Peoples to Charles Ray Taylor; 208 Erinella Street, Rocky Mount
 Four Seasons Contractors, LLC to Shari Vermeison and Eric Vermeison; Green Road Subdivision, Phase 1, Lot 22; \$408,000
 Debra Perry, Anthony Perry, Teresa Richardson, Katina Fox, Ricky Fox, Christine Mitchell and Andre Mizdell to Robert E. Richardson; 5619 Yick Road, Nashville
 Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Don J. Adams to Joseph Hannah and Renee Stewart

Hannah; 8414 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$374,500
 Little Bear Creek Properties S, LLC and Little Bear Creek Properties, LLC to Presday Construction, LLC; Beaver Creek, phase 6, Lots 72-77
 M. Charles Mullen, Pamela T. Mullen and Mullen and Company, Inc. to Mullen and Company, Inc.; property in Story Creek Township
 Gram Investments, LLC to Lesson Properties, LLC; 1.58 acres in Nashville
 Linda Paylor, Linda P. Paylor and Linda P. Paylor Trust to Linda P. Paylor Trust and Linda P. Paylor; 2075 Tenbark Drive, Nashville
 Linda Paylor and Linda P. Paylor to Linda P. Paylor Trust and Linda P. Paylor; 252 Pine Drive, Nashville
 Helen Toney, Helen M. Toney, Jennis Toney-Carpenter and Jennis Toney Carpenter to Shonae Hedgepeth; 327 Gum Avenue, Spring Hope; \$20,000
 Simon Vazquez Ramirez and Maritza Soza to Erick Pimentel Arceja; 6549 Gold Drive, Battleboro
 CJR Investments, LLC to 360 Holdings, Inc.; two tracts in Rocky Mount
 Kimberly L. Wayman to Jason P. Wayman; 1031 Rose Boulevard, Nashville
 The Howard Wilson Taylor and Linda Arnold Taylor Irrevocable Trust, Howard Wilson Taylor, Linda Arnold Taylor, Rhonda T. Capps, The Rhonda

T. Capps Revocable Trust and Linda Arnold Taylor to Linda Arnold Taylor; 873 Brittle Drive, Rocky Mount
 NWR, Inc. to Alexandra Milagros Mejia and Angelo Michael Scutierrez II; 9570 Juniper Road, Bailey; \$290,000
 Clara Leigh Cameron Private, John Cameron Private, Margaret High Private, John Cameron Private, Robert Alexander Private, Jackie Private, Robert Alex Private, Margaret Private and Robert Alexander Private to Bennie R. Watson; 3329 Winstead Road, Rocky Mount; \$252,500
 Jada Lynn Simonet and Jada Simonet to Williams Builders of Rocky Mount, LLC; 1.66 acres
 Alphazzen, LLC to Eduardo Romero-Cota, Eduardo Romero Cota and Elba D. Romero; 1417 Mimamy Lane, Rocky Mount
 Elizabeth B. Langston to Rooster Bay Properties, LLC; 123 Englewood Drive, Rocky Mount
 Alton Lorenzo Jones, Bettie Joyce Jones Johnson and Lemoyne Royster Jones to Alton Lorenzo Jones; Pine Terrace Extended, Lots 125-135
 Linwood Evans to Lindell Evans and Jasmette R. Evans; 14 parcels
 Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Barbara Jean Jones; 5086 Green Hawthorne Court, Battleboro; \$365,500

Caruso Builder Belmont Lakes, LLC to Chaoyu Liu, Douglas Peng, Jiecali Liu and Guochan He; Belmont Lake Preserve, Section II, Lot 54
 Wayne M. Alford to Wayne M. Alford Revocable Declaration of Trust and Wayne M. Alford; two tracts
 Joseph R. Tippetts, Joseph Rabon Tippetts, Michael Seth Wright and Michel Seth Wright to Storm Tippetts Wright
 Michael Tabron, Sandra Tabron, Charles T. Ashton, Sheel L. Tabron and Sheri Tabron; 5942 Old Smithfield Road, Spring Hope
 Sparrow Hawk Ln, LLC to Daryl C. Golm and Dorothy L. Golm; Section 1, Beaver Pond, Block C, Lot 15; \$272,000
 Derral Homes, Inc. to Aaron Hart Gentry and Talyana Brown; 12600 West Hanes Avenue, Middlesex; \$320,000
 Taylor Blake Keel to Ryan Shearff; 7769 Michelle Road, Rocky Mount
 Barry Page Drum and Karen Jones Drum to Darryl M. Davis and Vanessa Karen Davis; Lot 2, Block F, Section 2
 The Family-Nash County to Bealy Good, LLC; 51 acres on Burgess Road, Zebulon; \$560,000
 Barnes Land Corporation to the Tar River Land Conservancy; 246.66 acres; \$915,000
 CMH Homes, Inc. to Chris

topher S. Pock and Alaina C. Wheeler; Coble Ridge Subdivision, Phase 1, Lot 6
 Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Brittaney Dana Murray and Willie Elmer Murray Jr.; 8401 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$335,000
 Elaine S. Wordsworth, Steve A. Wordsworth and Stephen A. Wordsworth to Elaine S. Wordsworth and Steve A. Wordsworth; 3.38 acres, 7.22 acres, 1.67 acres and 3.96 acres
 Elaine S. Wordsworth and Steve A. Wordsworth to Nash Hospital, Inc.; 9.38 acres, 7.22 acres, 1.67 acres and 3.96 acres
 NVR, Inc. to Felicia Thorne; 8645 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$282,500
 Bfpx Healthcare Packaging, Inc., Resam Healthcare Packaging Inc., Owens-Illinois Healthcare Packaging, Inc. to LS Tractor USA, LLC; 9.71 acres; \$6,450,000
 Bfpx Healthcare Packaging, Inc., Resam Healthcare Packaging Inc., Owens-Illinois Healthcare Packaging, Inc. to LS Tractor USA, LLC; 9.71 acres

IMPORTANT NOTICE 2024 NASH COUNTY TAX LISTING

All taxable personal property and all changes made to real estate must be listed for taxation during the month of January. Taxable personal property includes mobile homes, unlicensed motor vehicles, farm equipment, business/personal property, airplanes, boats, jet skis and dogs. Real estate only does not have to be listed.
 Listing forms will be mailed only to those who listed personal property in 2023. If you did not list taxable property in 2023 and you now own taxable personal property, you may call (252) 459-1218 and a form will be mailed to you. Forms can also be found on line at www.nc.nash.nc.us. Go to Departments, click on Tax, scroll down to either Business Personal Property or Personal Property. Click on the appropriate link. You may print a form by clicking on the link entitled "print a form." All listings by mail must be postmarked (not mailed) no later than January 31, 2024, to avoid a late listing fee.
 Assistance in listing is available at the Nash County Tax Office in the Nash County Office Building, 120 W. Washington Street, Nashville, NC, 27856, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during the month of January. Any questions concerning listing should be directed to (252) 459-1218.
LIST IN JANUARY. LATE LISTING PENALTIES WILL BE IMPOSED AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

ELDERLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED EXCLUSION, DISABLED VETERANS EXCLUSION, CIRCUIT BREAKER DEFERMENT PROGRAM AND BUILDER PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

If you are interested in applying for an exclusion program, you may request an application by calling (252) 459-1222 and an application will be mailed to you. Applications are available in the collections departments of the Nash County Tax Office. They are also available on line at www.nc.nash.nc.us. Go to Government, Departments, click on Tax then on Tax Exemptions on the left and download the Application for Property Tax Relief if applying for the Elderly, Disabled Veterans and Circuit Breaker programs, or an Application for Builder Property Tax Exemption if you are applying for that program. All exclusion applications must be filed no later than June 1, 2024.
 Doris Sumner - Tax Administrator

NASH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER



Members of the Nash County Senior Center prepared stockings prior to the holiday. Pictured above, Gladys Butler scoops an snack for a stocking. Graphic photo by Nancy West-Drake



Cindy Taylor, left, and Connor Lee, center, pack stockings while Ashley Winstead, Senior Services Director, at right, assists. Graphic photo by Nancy West-Drake

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
 Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023)
) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonparty public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-116 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in 62-126, § 62-212(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Ms. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Sigs, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4321 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4321. The comments and exhibits to be prepared in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
 Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Nashville students earn honors at Western Carolina University

CULLOWHEE — Ava Moore, of Nashville, was named to the Western Carolina University's Fall 2023 Chancellor's List. Moore was among more than 1,600 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the

Chancellor's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours. Pamela Baez-Morales and Josephine Longfellow of Nashville were named to

the Fall 2023 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher while completing 12 or more credit hours.

NASH COUNTY DEED TRANSFERS

Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Travis Lamont Perry and Eric Perry; 8521 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$356,500
Gwendolyn T. Davis and Grady P. Davis II to Clinton Powell Jr.; 805 Cedarbrook Drive, Rocky Mount
Sherril M. King to Samuel Mills Jr. and Samantha Mills; 1005 Adair Lane, Rocky Mount
The Barbara J. Spencer Revocable 2003 Trust, Barbara J. Spencer and Bruce Alan Williams to Bruce Alan Williams; 3237 Spring Mill Trail, Rocky Mount

and Alejandra Lopez Gutierrez; 4,591 acres on EP Taylor Store Road, Nashville
Daughtridge Properties LLC to Hurl LLC; 808 South Brake Street, Nashville; \$75,000
Karan E. Winestead, Pamela Y. Scott-Holmes and Pamela Y. Scott-Holmes to Kanan Vinland, Lillian H. Scott, Pamela Y. Scott-Holmes, Terrance Y. Scott-Holmes and Sydney A. Winestead; 5.85 acres
Melissa Agostinelli, Melissa Ann Agostinelli, Susan Mallory, Tracy Anna Robbins, Michelle Agostinelli, Richard J. Agostinelli Jr., Linda O. Agostinelli and Sharon Mallory to Robin Agostinelli-Solivan; 1331 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Richard Julio Agostinelli Sr., Robin J. Agostinelli-Solivan, Robin J. Agostinelli Solivan to Edwardson, LLC; 1331 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount; \$45,000
H&H Constructors of Fayetteville, LLC to Nicole E. Atkins and Brandon E. Shaw; Walnut Cove, Phase 2, Lot 33; \$274,000
Assurity Property Buyers, LLC to Assurity Property Holdings, LLC; 209 Home Street, Rocky Mount
NFR, Inc. to Edmon Pierre and Roseanna S. Cortes-Vazquez; 3680 Slatney Hill Church Road, Bailey; \$245,000
Larry Roger Stallings Jr. and Cynthia Brown Stallings to Tristan Stallings and Alexis Stallings; 5166 Deaker Road, Battsboro; \$263,000
Melvin Lee Tillery and Joyce Marie Tillery to Kenya Nicole Tillery; 1.55 acres
Bobby L. Richardson and Deanna C. Richardson to Bobby L. Richardson and Bobby M. Richardson; 1.81 acres
Procity Construction, LLC to Charles Charles Chronopoulos and Sandra Jean Chronopoulos; Beaver Creek, Phase 3A, Lot 38; \$380,000
VGG Holdings, LLC to Jerrill Hudson and Ivy Hudson; 12650 West Hanes Avenue, Middlesex; \$310,000
Lavonne Jones and Hattie Parker to Trioxis Capital, LLC; 2144 Tanglewood Road, Rocky Mount; \$123,000
Trioxis Capital, LLC to NDW Investments Firm, LLC; 2144 Tanglewood Road, Rocky Mount; \$135,000
Edwin Jerome Vick and Diane V. Wick to Charlotte L. Wick; 1.03 acres in Jacksons Township
Jard Dussing to Liv Properties, LLC; 4205 Carrol Avenue, Rocky Mount; \$71,000
Jean J. Boseman to Joel M. Boseman; 26.99 acres in South Whitakers Township

Joel M. Boseman and Jean J. Boseman to Gold Rock Improvement Co., LLC; 26.99 acres in South Whitakers Township and 7782 NC Highway 46, Battsboro
Edward Wayne Parish Sr. to Carolina Legacy RE, LLC; 3312 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Mullen and Company, Inc. to Elizabeth Kinchloe Hedgepeth; The Oaks at Hunter Hill Subdivision, Phase 2, Section 1, Lot 21
Jane W. Davenport, Russell K. Davenport, Thomas W. King, Testamentary Trustees under the will of Edna K. Williams for the benefit of Kenneth W. Williams, Edna W. Williams, Thomas W. King and Kenneth W. Williams to Tony M. Sykes; Section II, TT West Subdivision, Block C, Lot 39
Adams Homes AEC, LLC to Rosa Lee Sharon Elliott, Myrl Bernara Elliott and Bahmir Shekhal Elliott; 8433 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$411,500
Edwardson, LLC to William Anthony Dunn and Dawn Marie Dunn; 2035 Dilson Road, Rocky Mount
Davis Thomhill and Peggy Thornhill to Cooper and Associates Real Estate Service, Inc.; 1027 Liberty Street, Rocky Mount; \$35,000
W.J.H. LLC to Juan Perez Isidro; 9316 Shallow Creek Trail, Bailey; \$300,000
Marie Antoinette Morris Whitley, Antoinette Morris Whitley, Dennis H. Whitley, William Reginald Morris, Brian Stanley Morris, William Graham Morris Jr., Sharon Denise Hunt, Angeline Elizabeth Morris Wolff, J. Michael Wolff, Laurie Morris Langston and Rupert L. Langston Jr. to Laurio M. Langston and Rupert L. Langston; one acre in Dry Wells Township; \$10,000
Noyes Building, LLC to McKinley Reed Strickland; Sanders Acres, Lot 7; \$303,000
Luther Andrew Green and Joyce P. Green to Mark E. Daughtridge; 1.441 acres; \$19,000
Lob C. Barnes to Sam Pablin Vick and Diana Bunn Coffey; 4286 South Halifax Road, Rocky Mount
VI Properties, LLC to Gary L. Gasson and Sabrina Renee Cloud; Section 1, Eastwood, Lot 7; \$236,000
River Rentals, LLC to Maya Ostin; 221 Adamsville Court, Rocky Mount; \$40,500
Trustees of Services of Carolina, LLC and Joseph Ray Cook to HSBC Bank USA, National Association, Pooling and Servicing Agreement, Fidelity National Title Insurance Co of New York; 334 South Pearl Street, Rocky Mount; \$59,000

Robert L. Alston, Robert Lamont Alston and Michelle D. Wilkins to Robert L. Alston; Roselle Subdivision, Lot 1
Flanell Baker, Linda M. Baker, Eddie H. Baker and Tammy Baker to Wanda B. Joyner; property along Highway 58
H&S Land, LLC to Justin J. Wu and Linda T. Wu; Castle Berry Subdivision, Section 2, lot 30
Chin Wook Paik, Sandra Paik, Young Sun Paik, Young Sun Hackett and Young Jin Paik to Chin Wook Paik, Chin Wook Paik and Sandra Yun Sook Paik Revocable Living Trust, Chin Wook Paik and Sandra Yun Sook Paik; Northham Village, Part 7, Section 1, Lot 216
Magnolia Living, LLC to Business Solution NC, LLC; 420 Cleveland Street, Rocky Mount; \$24,000
Village Capital and Investment, LLC to Sunridge Village Properties, LLC; 508 Golfers Lane, Nashville
Eric David Miller, Christine C. Miller and Christine Carroll Miller to The Miller Family Revocable Trust, Eric David Miller and Christine Carroll Miller; Northham Village, Part 6, Section 1, Lot 335
Lauran Woolley and Russell Oscar Low Martinize to Netzhah Group, LLC; 640 Beeson Street, Rocky Mount; \$35,000
Pacific Premier Trust Custodian FBO Aaron A Guyton IRA, Pacific Premier Trust, Aaron A. Guyton IRA and Aaron A. Guyton to Cory Lee Gibson Cole and Vickie Hillcoat Cole; 311 East Railroad Street, Spring Hope; \$190,000
Aston Development, LLC to H&H Constructors of Fayetteville, LLC; 221, 245 and 277 Yellowwood Avenue, Spring Hope; \$166,000
Pop Homes-PDU, LLC to Brenda Stanzil and Rhonda Leek; 3750 Baker Pond Trail, Nashville; \$247,000
Juan M Lopez, Juan Manuel Lopez Rodriguez, Maria Elena Gutierrez D Lopez to Jose Trinidad Hernandez Mendez

Building Permit Residential
Lanwood Kelly, 1115 Nick Coley Rd; dock; \$2,000
Kadeira Jernell, 4290 Lauren Dr; renovation/alteration; \$20,600
Hettie Rivers, 546 Casana Dr; new single family; \$147,000
Hettie Rivers, 576 Casana Dr; new single family; \$136,000
Hettie Rivers, 560 Casana Dr; new single family; \$130,000
Mitchell Shearin, 5079 Bend of the River Rd; new single family; \$380,000
Dear Holland, 3986 N Brownhorn Rd; new single family; \$350,000
Randy Godwin, 5445 Minnie Titi; new single family; \$340,000
Anthony Turner, Jr; 9855 Pica Rd; addition (covered); \$2,000
Rodrigo Rayo Reyes, 10607 Jack Rd; new single family; \$130,000
Kevin Lee, 1100 Old County Home Rd; detached accessory; \$20,000
Demolition Permit
Javier Reyes, 12334 W NC 97; \$7,000
Manufactured Home Permit
Frank Brown, 3836 Wck Rd; modular; \$319,000
James Varrel, 5943 Strickland Rd; multi-sectional; \$151,500
Thomas Norman, 2908 S NC 581; multi-sectional; \$152,865

NASH COUNTY BUILDING PERMITS

Financial transaction card fraud reported at 10501 E NC 97, Rocky Mount on 1/6/24
Warrant service at 12178 Selma Rd, Middlesex on 1/6/24
Assault-point gun reported at 2829 Othus Field Dr, Nashville on 1/1/24
Larceny misdemeanor reported at 4371 Massey Rd, Zebulon on 1/6/24
Assault with a deadly weapon reported at 4838 Raymond Rd, Bailey on 1/1/24
Larceny by employee reported at 5862 NC 58, Nashville on 1/5/24
Larceny by employee reported at 5501 E NC 97, Elm City on 12/31/23
Assault-simple; damage to personal property reported at 6952 Hill Rd, Spring Hope on 1/3/24
Domestic disturbance reported at 7540 Bayberry Ln, Spring Hope on 12/31/23
Possession marijuana less than 1/2 ounce; possession stolen firearm reported at 770 N Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount on 1/1/24
Missing persons reported at 7787 Jas Nic Dr, Bailey on 1/1/24
Larceny misdemeanor reported at 8211 West Mount Dr, Rocky Mount on 1/2/24
Larceny felony reported at 8356 Graham Brantley Rd, Bailey on 1/2/24
Possession heroin reported at 5677 E NC 97, Rocky Mount reported at 1/1/24
Possession schedule I controlled substance, felony reported at mile marker 143-195 N, Rocky Mount
DUI reported at mile marker 143-195 N, Rocky Mount on 1/8/24
DCW (gun) reported at Sunset Ave/S, Grace St, Rocky Mount on 1/2/24

NASH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS

Financial transaction card fraud reported at 10501 E NC 97, Rocky Mount on 1/6/24
Warrant service at 12178 Selma Rd, Middlesex on 1/6/24
Assault-point gun reported at 2829 Othus Field Dr, Nashville on 1/1/24
Larceny misdemeanor reported at 4371 Massey Rd, Zebulon on 1/6/24
Assault with a deadly weapon reported at 4838 Raymond Rd, Bailey on 1/1/24
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DUI reported at mile marker 143-195 N, Rocky Mount on 1/8/24
DCW (gun) reported at Sunset Ave/S, Grace St, Rocky Mount on 1/2/24



Nash County native Dana Austin Bass (left) was named to the 2023 Husky 100 as one of 100 University of Washington students. Pictured with Austin is his mother, Paulina Pangan Bass and his cousin Mekahai Balogtas Pangan. Contributed photo

Nash County native earns 2023 Husky 100

SEATTLE — Nash County native Dana Austin Bass was named to the 2023 "Husky 100" as one of 100 University of Washington students making the most of their time as a University of Washington student. Born in Rocky Mount, Dana Austin is now a Graduate student at the University of Washington in Seattle where he is now pursuing his Master of Architecture degree while helping to lead various student organizations on campus relating to architecture, mentorship and his

Filipino cultural heritage on his mother's side. Upon graduation, Dana Austin hopes to design socially responsible architecture while continuing to be a mentor and leader in the architectural community. In addition to the Husky 100 recognition, Dana Austin was recently named one of the UW HUB Excellence in Leadership Scholarship recipients, and the National Student of the Year for the National Organization

of Minority Architecture Students for his role as the President of the University of Washington Chapter. Dana Austin is the son of the late Nash County native Darrell Bass and Paulina Pangan Bass; the nephew of Nash County natives Jerry Wayne Bass, Mary Beth Hamlin, and Robert Ashley Bass; and the grandson of the late Nash County natives Simon Kinlaw Bass and Dixie June Whitley Bass, as well as Pablo Pangan Sr. and Rosita Cruz Pangan.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will convene on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).
The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratemakers of the electric utility and in the public interest; shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.
In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed for electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-327a. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.
The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.
The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its deliberations on the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff — North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.
The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to the Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.
Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.
Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party or record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-12 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.
ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 7th day of August, 2023.
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

AROUND THE COUNTY

CROSSWORD

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, Correspondent



HAPPY NEW YEAR! May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it; Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path; Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart; Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people need you most, and by making you care to be there to help. I pray God's love, peace, hope, and joy be yours for 2024.

The county has been decorated for the holidays and residents have been blessed with many light displays especially by the Cooper's in Alliance, the Burrough's in Bayboro, the Styrón's in Stonewall on Spain Farm Road, and the Hacker's on Trust Road in West Pamlico.

Epiphany Sunday is January 7, so the Christmas season will be officially over, but it will never be over in my heart. The Holly Music Channel is no longer on Sirius-XM playing Christmas Carols, but I still hum and sing them. I did not make any New Year's resolutions, but I will share a "star word" next Sunday with members of my church to give them a prayer book for 2024. My "star word" for 2023 was "COMPASSION," and I know my word for this year will be equally helpful for my prayer life.

Chubby's continues to work on their other location on highway 85 in Merritt and over the holidays a new long horned steer has taken up residence.

Wednesday night Bible Study at Stonewall Methodist Church meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and will be studying the Book of Nehemiah. This study is for anyone interested in studying the Bible, not just church members.

The Youth Group will meet at Stonewall this year and is open to all interested individuals in grades 6-12. There will be an organizational meeting on January 14 at 3:00 pm, but regular meetings will not start until February.

Celebrating birthdays in January are Janice Shorey (1/1), Reuben Phillips, Jeremiah Day, and Anne Watson (1/3), Kathy Tyndall and Barbara Varley (1/5), Kandy Broughton (1/6), Megan Rodgers (1/7), Amy Gatlin (1/13), Elizabeth Farmer Tillman (1/15), Keeli Hinson and Ruth Ireland (1/16), Ned Ferris (1/21), Kate Moye, Ellen Lupton, and Jenny Lupton (1/22), Desiree Brinson (1/25), Ann Smithwick (1/26), Willy Hope (1/28), Nan Gilbert (1/30), and Shari Roberts Hale (1/31).

Have a blessed week. Anxious? Take Spiritual Vitamin A. All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, Correspondent



Sitting here waiting for the midnight hour to see the ball drop in Times Square. Don't think I have ever missed it and I think to myself I am so glad I can sit in the comfort of my home instead of being there with thousands of people! I missed all the Christmas parties because I was suffering from a bad cold and sore throat.

We had two deaths during the holidays, my sister Lillian Wood and a cousin. As a son-in-law, I really hated to miss Kevin and Sully's party because Alex brought fresh oysters and grandson Harry made some delicious pizzas. I had lots of company during the holidays. Nice Lahn and Tom Orphelin from the Villages in Florida, and Ken, Rhea, and Jacob Tiller from Durham. Heard from the Hinners in Duluth, Joan Kilbourne in Pennsylvania and Don and Ann Walden in Wisconsin.

Watched the Centenary Methodist Church Concert with Gordon and Ann Kellogg singing and Ann Watson directing part of the program. The Pamlico Choral had such a wonderful "An Spirit of Christmas" concert. They always make me so proud that I had the opportunity to work with them all these many years! They did such a great job! I have given them the month of January off. There has been so much sickness, hopefully by the time we come back in February everyone will be well. Lunch at Bethel after the service today but I had to get home and start clearing out the house for someone coming New Year's Day.

Thought for the week, Y'all remember to cook your Black-eyed Peas and Collard Greens so you will have a prosperous year in 2024!

Happy New Year!

Vandemere Sandra Snipes, Correspondent



Happy New Year! May 2024 bring all many blessings, opportunities, and joy. Congratulations to the Town of Vandemere for winning the best float in the Government Competition for the Pamlico County Christmas Parade! It is nice to see a win for Vandemere as the community comes together.

All of the governing team for the town of Vandemere were sworn in on December 18, 2023 and are getting organized for

a productive year. The first regular Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for mid-January, after the Martin Luther King Holiday. We are looking forward to gaining interest and participation from the community in the name of progressing Vandemere forward. More information will follow as plans are confirmed.

Check out our website, www.vandemere.com, and experience what Vandemere is all about. Happy Holidays!

Aurora Joy McCracken, Correspondent



The last two big rains (storm on 12/17-2.86, and 12/27-1.55 inches) have got us caught up with precipitation. It's amazing to watch the wind shift east, then south and finally north east in just several hours. The warm weather has provided some Dandelions and Fire Ants on the lawn.

I went by Pamlico High School during their Pointsett sale and got a beautiful spotted one grown by the Horticulture students under the expert tutelage of Stephen Browne and Hannah Hardee. Their next sale will occur on Good Friday.

The sun rays on the water are so bright now one can, not look at them very long. Contrails are back because according to US Weather Service out of Morehead's Contrails require cold, humid air at the level a plane is flying, and now that we are in the cold season it becomes easier for contrails to form. All Duck hunters seem more numerous this year. Not many birds or ducks around lately. Have only seen a lone White Pelican, a Hufflehead and a few gulls. One night I went out and listened to the south of the creek and heard Tundra Swans. I've seen a few small flocks flying over Aurora.

There's a mom Deer and her offspring in the neighborhood, even coming into the yard near the road.

The Daylilies are finally starting to turn yellow and the hardy Anemones are still going strong with their foliage. Sweetgum leaves are the last to land on the ground.

Phoenix Farms has announced lots of great plans for the coming year: bee keeping, strawberries, vegetables, Thanksgiving Turkeys and Christmas Geese. They are a delightful addition to our local farm venues.

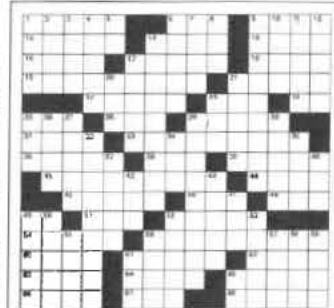


My Photo of the Week is of my Squirrel who shows up a lot now and has disagreements with the Mockingbird on the table feeder. Some birds dislike them coming around, but my guy apparently is more interesting to watch than the Possum for the cats. The Possum is so relaxed now he often just hangs out on the table taking a bath.



"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

-Groucho Marx



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleared
6. Skate-like fish
9. Diabetes management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Woody's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negative
17. Reversed
18. Self-examination by fire (sinal)
19. Amiga made by
21. Island nation name
22. Trade
23. Detegent bread
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Sulfur
28. Split pines
29. Extremely angry, highly incensed
31. Body part
31. American actor
36. David ___ US playwright

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Frost pretense (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Drowning
7. Christmas and New Year's have them
8. Type of bulb
9. Lark's plan
10. Tonic
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been exonerated
14. Indefinite time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Oat
21. Fragmented rock
23. They ___
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house in L.A.
38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret medication
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take 2
49. A radio band
51. Jaw of an animal
52. Short-haired male
54. Chinese province
56. Shards and undigested
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult male
62. Fall to entertain
63. Deter-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. Cottage river
67. Oxygen
68. Middle law
70. An act of nuclear intimacy
70. From which a later word is derived
72. Equal to 10 centos
74. Neither
75. Computer language
77. Sacred book of Judaism
80. A wooden cap of Scottish seamen
82. A way to dictate
83. Challenge
87. British Air Corps
89. Large, influential bank
90. Pretended
92. Cavalry sword
93. Vaccine developer
95. Napoleonic Wars general
96. Julius Swoop
97. Hip boot
98. ___ Chopin, musician
99. Jewel regulator
61. Deceptive scarf
65. Delaware

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
 Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023)
) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 50 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Wisconsin, Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), R.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, R.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be governed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-302(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing held in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consumer public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tanika D. Coyners, Deputy Clerk

AROUND THE COUNTY

CROSSWORD

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, Correspondent



This has been a work of wildlife watching for me. On Saturday as I was returning from Aurora, I saw fields full of flocks of snow geese on Bay City Road. In one of those same fields, I saw thirty wild turkeys, mostly hens but a couple of toms. In the royal area, I rode past a buzzard that was feeding on a skunk. The small identified the carcass for me without actually having to see it.

Then when I was close to home on Trent Road, I saw a flock of 8 wild turkeys less than a mile from my house. I have seen hawks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and small birds as well. Deer now feel safe enough to come out and graze around sundown and I have been blessed to see 4 or 5 on the farm some evenings.

On Epiphany Sunday, members of Stowe's Methodist Church received a "star word" to give them a prayer book for 2024. This "star word" will be helpful for their prayer and spiritual life.

Members of our community have been suffering with respiratory illnesses. Some have been to the doctor more than once. Whether it is the Flu, Covid, RSV, the common cold, or this "crud" that seems to be making so many cough, please keep them all in your prayers.

Wednesday night Bible Study at Stowe's Methodist Church meets at 6:30 pm and we are studying the Book of Nehemiah.

This study is for anyone interested in studying the Bible, not just church members.

The Youth Group will meet at Stoneval this year and is open to all interested individuals in grades 6-12. There will be an organizational meeting on January 14 at 3:00 pm, however, regular meetings will not start until February.

Speaking of February, Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Once again, the Bayboro United Methodist Church pastor, Reverend John Farmer will host the lunchtime worship services each Wednesday during Lent, but we want more clergy from around the county to take part. Please invite your pastor to attend the Thursday morning clergy breakfast at Charles each Thursday at 9:00 am. We would like all denominations in the county to be represented.

Celebrating birthdays in January are Megan Rodgers (1/7), Amy Galin (1/13), Elizabeth Farmer Tillman (1/15), Kelli Hinson and Ruth Ireland (1/16), Ned Ferris (1/21), Kate Moye, Ellen Lupton, and Jenny Lupton (1/22), Desiree Brinson (1/25), Ann Smithwick (1/26), Willy Hope (1/28), Nan Gilbert (1/30), and Shari Roberts Hale (1/31).

Have a blessed week. Want a blessing? Take Spiritual Vitamin "B" and "Be confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, Correspondent



We are about to finish the first week of 2024 with a very dismal rainy day yesterday but things are looking up for warmer weather this week. Missed church today because I brained my foot and did not want to go out and wade through the wet yard. They had a few more folks in attendance today. The former minister at Bethel, Reverend Coton is seriously ill and needs our prayers. He and his wife were loved so much by the people in Whortonsville. I am glad the holidays are over because I could never get past two deaths in our family doing Christmas. Joe and Colleen are back in their home across the creek. Just heard there is another house for sale here. Hopefully

we will get some great neighbors. The Pamlico Choral did such a wonderful concert for "The Spirit of Christmas" that we are taking the month of January off and will resume rehearsals on Monday, February 5th at 5:00pm. We would like to see new faces in the chorus when we start back. We will have a long weekend for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday next week.

Thought for the week-- "In Rome many people maintain the custom of throwing something out the window on New Year's Eve. What a relief to get rid of every old resentment, every old fear, old prejudices, old notions, old ways of doing things." (Dr. Norman Vincent Peale)

Vandemere Sandra Snipes, Correspondent



Greetings from Vandemere! The town had a great fall season and continues to organize for a productive 2024! The new governing team for the town will have its first regular Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at the Vandemere Town Hall at 7PM. All

are welcome to attend! We look forward to gaining interest and participation from the community in the name of progressing Vandemere forward.

Check out our website, www.vandemere.com, and experience what Vandemere is all about.

"Winter must be cold for those with no warm memories."

-Deborah Kerr

The Old Theater presents: 48 Hour Film Festival 2024

January 19 - Kickoff Event at 5:00 PM
January 26 & 27 - Film Screening at 7:30 PM
January 28 - Awards Presentation at 3:00 PM
Ticket to Film Screening - \$10 (\$8 for OT members, military, and students)
Children under 6 admitted free

The 48 Hour Film Festival is a competition for local filmmakers to produce a short film in only a weekend. Are you a moviemaker? The festival begins with the Friday night Kickoff Event January 19 when teams draw genres out of a hat and receive the required elements for their film. Then it is off to the races--writing, shooting, and editing - doing whatever it takes to submit a short film by 5:00 PM Sunday, January 21.

Put your team together--friends, fellow filmmakers, like-minded creatives. Show up at the Old Theater on January 19 for the Kickoff! Receive your genre, character, prop and line at the Kickoff. Make a movie! You have 48 hours to write, shoot and edit a short film. Upload your film by the deadline and make plans to attend the screening.

The big payoff for filmmakers is seeing your masterpiece on the big screen at The Old Theater the following weekend, January 26 and 27. There is nothing better than seeing your film with an audience and seeing firsthand how they react to your movie. Local judges will select the best films. At the awards event on Sunday, January 28, the winning films will be announced, and awards given from Best Acting to Best Directing to Best Film and more.

Can you meet the challenge? For more information contact TerryLynn at terrylynnetmody@gmail.com or call the theater at 252-249-0477.

Tickets for the screening of these films can be purchased at Nautical Wheelers or online at: <https://www.showbiz.com/event/48-hour-film-festival>.

The Old Theater is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides a venue for performing arts and cultural events for Oriental and Pamlico County.

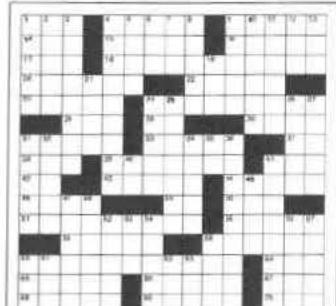
The Old Theater | 609 Broad St | PO Box 521 | Oriental, NC 28571.

PAMLICO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

NEW ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS beginning with the March 5, 2024 Primary
All affected voters have been mailed notification of those changes
If you have questions, please call the Pamlico County Board of Elections at 252-745-4821

ORIGINAL POLLING LOCATION	NEW POLLING LOCATION
Beaufort Town Hall 104 MAIN STREET BEAUFORT, NC 28520	Beaufort Town Hall 104 MAIN STREET BEAUFORT, NC 28520
Beaufort County Courthouse 74 BERRY STREET BEAUFORT, NC 28520	Beaufort County Courthouse 202 MARK STREET BEAUFORT, NC 28520
Blount County Courthouse 1075 NC HWY 208 WYOMING, NC 28155	Blount County Courthouse 1041 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE WYOMING, NC 28157
Blount County Courthouse 145 HOBOKEN SQUARE, NORA HOBOKEN, 28537	Blount County Courthouse 1041 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE WYOMING, NC 28157

All Early Voting will be conducted at the Pamlico County Courthouse, 202 Main Street, Beaufort, NC 28515, February 15, 2024 through March 3, 2024, 8am - 7:30pm, Monday - Friday, Saturday, March 3rd is the only Saturday, 8am-3pm.



CLUES ACROSS

- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Moved back and forth
- One-time coach of the Cowboys
- Last letter
- Came to become less intense
- Genre of two bags
- Body art
- Romance novelist
- Be filled with love for
- City
- Made vivid
- Horses
- Means Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #18
- Shorty
- A type of prejudice
- Whiffs
- Sea
- Old world, new

CLUES DOWN

- Indigenous people of Mexico
- Dietary supplement
- Having a particular sheet or water
- Views
- Academic Bill of Rights
- Automobile
- When you anticipate arriving
- Beef or chicken intestine
- Conspiracy
- Blood disorder
- Long-time NBAer Shaqu
- Time zone
- US, Latin America, Canada
- Ulysses S. Grant novel
- What a cow does
- Cavalry sword
- Ancient Greek war galley
- Sax
- Rebores
- Hest, all company
- Talk
- Not off
- Regis
- Car need them
- Computing architecture (abbr.)
- DFI
- Journalist, activist, writer
- Johns agent
- Lian
- Positively charged electrode
- Hart, colorless compound
- Inflammation of the pericardium
- Treat Remon's hand
- Simply dry fruit
- "You see" anath
- Google certification
- French cognac
- Motivator/coach/coach
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Billion year period
- Some are in a bottle
- Teas down
- Letal dose
- Humorists
- Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- Fireworks
- Wacker Billy
- More than
- Dog
- Habitual repetitions
- State of fine
- Lure
- Chemical compound
- Mass cognomen of reality
- A place to build
- Enactment that denotes disgust
- Suppleness with difficulty
- Very sick
- Hill at rocky peak

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of:
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, 2606 Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpart public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolina, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company of Virginia (Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion)), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the interests of the electric utility and the public utilities, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternate electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. §62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. §62-107A. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. §62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing called in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayres, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R15-05 and R15-09 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

James Warren to highlight January First Friday



By KERRY WATERS
Special to The Beacon

James Warren, a vocalist and guitarist featuring a variety of genres, kicks off 2024's First Friday events on January 5.

The event will be held from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Riverview Café in downtown Plymouth.

"I started doing this publicly about seven years ago," he said. "That's when I got involved with 'open mic.' I used to sit around and play the guitar at home for my own enjoyment. The first place I played publicly was The Coffee Shack in Greenville with Brian Burk. People

seemed to like my music and the music community was very supportive. Once I discovered open mics, I was hooked on performing.

"I guess my music started with rhythm and blues, but now it has more of a country theme. Growing up we listened to a lot of country and rock and roll. There was a variety of music in my life. My favorite show was Lawrence Welk. I am trying now to figure out my own sound. I prefer mostly rock-based songs in my own style. I like to put my spin on it.

"A lot of times people want to

know your genre. I like to do a mix of all of it. I am always surprised at what people enjoy.

"I have found that music brings a community together. Music is truly a universal language. People understand the emotion — that's what I try to get across.

"I have had no formal training. This is all self-taught. I was influenced by a friend of mine, Earl Gorham, who plays guitar. I wanted to learn. We have been friends for many years. He's like a brother to me. I started with the guitar at maybe 25. This is not what I had planned on doing

in my life. It's interesting to me that I can go out and make a living at this.

"I've never enjoyed life as much as when I am performing. It's wonderful! Doing what you enjoy doing. You should do it. You never know what it will do for you or where it will lead you. That's the lesson I've learned."

In addition to the musical entertainment there will be the popular classic car cruise-in. Food will be available and downtown shops and restaurants will be open.

Hardison's Carolina Barbecue is the sponsor for January.

County employees are honored for years of service

By DALE HERRING
Staff Writer

Sixteen county employees received longevity awards for service time at the Washington County employees' Christmas Party December 15 — including 20-year veteran Arlo Norman and 30-year employee Lynn Sweet.

Norman, the Washington County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy, expressed pride, gratitude and hope for his milestone.

"I consider it a privilege to still be here where I can do something to make a difference," Norman said. "I've enjoyed every day, trying to find the bright side and



Board of Commissioners chair Ann Keyes presents Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Arlo Norman with a plaque for his 20 years on the job.

make a difference even on the not-so-good days. I hope I can do

another 10 years."

Sweet, the county's DSS, said the accomplishment with an outside agency to provide child support services. Young Williams, a Raleigh group, will assume the duties in 2024.

Receiving recognition for 15 years of county service were Jacqueline Bell and Tammy Mixon in social services, Felicia Brooks at the detention center, Knapp Brabbie, airport director, and

worked that a long time."

Under a new strategy the county has contracted with an outside agency to provide child support services. Young Williams, a Raleigh group, will assume the duties in 2024.

Receiving recognition for 15 years of county service were Jacqueline Bell and Tammy Mixon in social services, Felicia Brooks at the detention center, Knapp Brabbie, airport director, and



SWETT

Darlene Harrison in the tax office. Honored for 10 years of service were Tiffany Crumley for her work at the detention center, Sacha Pledger in EMS and Jennifer Gardner and Carol Nixon in DSS.

Five-year honorees were Tina Dunlow in finance, Roberta Hoggard at DSS and Michele Simpson, Keith Standle and Kelly Tate in the sheriff's office.

FINE PRINT: News from Washington County's public records

Communications log

(The following is a sampling of calls received by the communications division of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.)

- December 23
- 7:36 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 7:54 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 10:26 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 10:40 a.m. Property damage in Plymouth.
- 10:49 a.m. Larceny in Plymouth.
- 3:56 p.m. Civil matter in Roper.
- 4:49 p.m. Hit and run in Plymouth.
- 4:59 p.m. Domestic situation in Plymouth.
- 5:18 p.m. Officer requested to unlock vehicle in Creswell.
- 8:24 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.

- December 23
- 1:25 a.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 2:57 a.m. Property damage in Plymouth.
- 6:53 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 8:11 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 9 a.m. Civil matter in Plymouth.
- 2:15 p.m. Officer requested to unlock vehicle in Roper.
- 2:35 p.m. Disturbance in Plymouth.
- 3:04 p.m. Disturbance in Plymouth.
- 5:15 p.m. Vehicle stolen in Plymouth.
- 6:35 p.m. Disturbance in Plymouth.
- 7:33 p.m. Lost or stolen item in Creswell.

- December 24
- 3:57 a.m. Vehicle accident in Roper.
- 6:33 a.m. Vehicle accident in Creswell.
- 7:10 a.m. Vehicle accident in Plymouth.
- 9:15 a.m. Animal control requested in Roper.
- 12:44 p.m. Structure fire in Plymouth.
- 3:31 p.m. Domestic situation in Plymouth.
- 4:21 p.m. Assault in Plymouth.
- 6:04 p.m. Breaking and enter in Plymouth.
- 11:35 p.m. Noise complaint in Creswell.

- December 25
- 5:16 a.m. Mutual aid for fire and EMS requested in Creswell.
- 7:49 a.m. Officer requested to unlock vehicle in Roper.
- 8:47 a.m. Officer requested to unlock vehicle in Roper.
- 11:13 a.m. Structure fire in Plymouth.
- 2:26 p.m. Four wheelers in the road in Plymouth.
- 3:47 p.m. Four wheelers in the road in Plymouth.
- 5:15 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 5:35 p.m. Disturbance in Plymouth.
- 7:33 p.m. Shots fired in Plymouth.

- 10:13 p.m. Shots fired in Plymouth.
- 10:48 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 10:49 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.

December 26

- 11:04 a.m. Fraud, scam, or counterfeit money in Plymouth.
- 12:13 p.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 2:59 p.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 3:44 p.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.

December 27

- 6:05 a.m. Assault in Plymouth.
- 7:44 a.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 10:53 a.m. Traffic stop in Plymouth.
- 11:41 a.m. Noise complaint in Creswell.
- 1:41 p.m. Noise complaint in Creswell.
- 5:54 p.m. Disturbance in Plymouth.
- 5:54 p.m. Officer requested to unlock vehicle in Roper.
- 8:19 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 10:34 p.m. Disturbance in Roper.
- 11:46 p.m. Suspicious activity in Plymouth.
- 11:53 p.m. Noise complaint in Plymouth.

Jail bookings

(The following persons have been arrested and booked into the Washington County Detention Center. It is important to remember that all persons are presumed innocent of these preliminary charges pending court action. The arresting agency is listed in parentheses.)

- December 22
- Jose Beasente, 41, Washington, no charge listed. Being held.
- December 26
- Spencer Reppas, 61, Harvey Court, Plymouth commencing threats. Being held. (Washington County)
- December 26
- Jaquez Jenkins, 22, Crowell Street, Plymouth, failure of sex offender to report new address. Being held. (Washington County)
- Aunan Johnson, 25, Highway 22 South, Plymouth, two

- counts driving while license revoked — not impaired revocation, possess up to 1/2 ounce of marijuana, expired registration card. Being held. (Washington County)

Pending Charges

(The charges have been filed in Superior Court and are pending further action. It is important to remember that all persons charged with a crime are innocent until proven guilty.)

Court date: January 31

- Shermo Letroy Belcher, habitual felon; first appearance. Possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, and manufacture, sell, deliver or possess a controlled substance at a child care center; one continuance.
- Joshua Kyle Carver, obtain property by false pretense and failure to work after being paid; three continuances.
- Richard A. Harris, statutory sex offense with child by adult, statutory rape of child by adult, crime against nature, indecent liberties with a child, and sexual act by substitute parent or custodian; one continuance.
- Pedro Lydell Noman, possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine; maintain a vehicle or dwelling place for controlled substances; possess drug paraphernalia; one continuance.

Carlo D. Simpson, three counts possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine; one continuance.

Quintarius L. Smallwood, possession of firearm by felon; four continuances. Habitual felon; first appearance.

Miguel Lamonty Swain, cruelty to animals and discharge firearm in city limits; three continuances.

Tosony Nebesani Ward, possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, maintain a vehicle or dwelling place for controlled substances, and pos-

sess drug paraphernalia; one continuance.

Jermone Lee Yungvis, two counts possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and two counts manufacture, sell, deliver or possess a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a park; five continuances.

Possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and manufacture, sell, deliver or possess a controlled substance within

1,000 feet of a park; four continuances. Habitual felon; first appearance.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Bennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobby Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexempt public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

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In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-312(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 7th day of August, 2023.

- seas drug paraphernalia; one continuance.

Under a new strategy the county has contracted with an outside agency to provide child support services. Young Williams, a Raleigh group, will assume the duties in 2024.

Receiving recognition for 15 years of county service were Jacqueline Bell and Tammy Mixon in social services, Felicia Brooks at the detention center, Knapp Brabbie, airport director, and

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- ports vandalism.
- Drug violations on Quail Drive.
- December 23
- Drug violations on Eighth Street.
- Somerset Court resident reports assault.
- December 26
- Ettery reports receiving counterfeit money.
- Report of threats communicated at the courthouse.

The following incidents were reported to Plymouth Police Department:

December 22

Jefferson Street resident re-

ports vandalism.

Drug violations on Quail Drive.

December 23

Drug violations on Eighth Street.

Somerset Court resident reports assault.

December 26

Ettery reports receiving counterfeit money.

Report of threats communicated at the courthouse.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Bennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2023

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Comyers, Deputy Clerk

River's Edge Restaurant

Located in Jamesville on the Roanoke River

★ OPENING JANUARY 4 ★

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OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Police recover weapon after New Year report

By DALE HERBERG
Staff Writer

Heavy gunfire rang out in Washington County in the first moments of 2024, but 911 operators took almost no calls about the New Year's ruckus. Plymouth police — responding to the sound of gunfire — recovered one firearm apparently tossed aside when a shooter fled on foot from a location near Sawmill Circle as police approached the scene. "What we heard was a mixture of gunshots and fireworks all over town," Police Chief Willie Williams reported the following day. "We responded to several locations. One officer saw what looked like gunshot flashes in the area of Sawmill Circle and saw someone throw what

looked like a gun. When he looked around the area, he found a gun laying on the ground." The recovered weapon was a .380 Smith and Wesson semi-automatic handgun. The chamber and magazine were empty when recovered. Williams says his officers responded heard a variety of gunshots and exploding fireworks throughout town, but made no arrests and discovered no injuries despite the barrage of gunfire. While discharging a firearm within the Town of Plymouth limits violates a municipal ordinance, there is no similar provision in the county, where hunting, and thus gunfire, is more common. Arlo Norman, chief dep-

uty in the county sheriff's office, says celebratory midnight gunfire on New Year's Eve, is not uncommon. He says the principal concern with the practice is about where projectiles fired into the air come back to earth, posing a threat to people or structures. Multiple tests and reports indicate that projectiles shot into the air can maim or kill when falling to earth. "It would be safer if people were shooting into the ground, but we don't think that's what they do," Norman says. Records from the county's 911 dispatch logs show just two gunfire-related calls to the center on New Year's Eve — one from Reno Road and one from the Bank Street in Roper.



Jamesville's aerial unit responded to a Weyerhaeuser fire in the bag house of a planer mill silo last week, along with units from Plymouth, Roper and Creswell. (Courtesy photo)

Volunteers quell fire at Weyerhaeuser plant

By DALE HERBERG
Staff Writer

Firefighters from Jamesville and supporting departments quelled a midday fire at the Weyerhaeuser plant Tuesday, January 2, remaining on the scene into early evening for cleanup and preventative operations. Martin County 911 operators dispatched the alarm about 11:30 a.m. Jamesville Fire Department (JFD) Chief Michael Pearce says units from Plymouth VFD were first on the scene, reporting a fire in the bag house at a

planer mill silo and applying water when Jamesville's aerial truck arrived. The bag house collects and contains combustible dust from the planing operation. According to the JFD Facebook post, the ladder truck assumed control of water delivery and multiple hand lines were put in place at interior and exterior locations. According to the post, the main body of fire was knocked down quickly, but other pockets of flame were more troublesome. Pearce says the Weyerhaeuser silo facility is

about 125 feet high at its peak. The JFD aerial unit extends to 100 feet. Crews completed overhaul operations and departed about 6:30 p.m. In addition to Jamesville and Plymouth departments, manpower from Roper and Creswell fire departments assisted, along with EMS personnel. Weyerhaeuser spokesman Nancy Thompson says damage was contained to the bag house section of the planer mill and repairs would be complete and operations resumed by January 5.



Planning and Inspections Director Allan Pittman presents Kahe Walker with a plaque in appreciation for her nine years of service on the board and the positivity she brings to the position. (Staff photo by Arthur Howell)

POLICE BEAT

New Year's Eve drug bust

By DALE HERBERG
Staff Writer

A Columbus man was charged and detained briefly on New Year's Eve on drug charges in Plymouth. Joseph Combs, 41, was charged with possession of eight grams of crack cocaine and assorted related charges. Plymouth officers stopped Combs about 6 p.m. on Robin Drive after noticing a fictitious registration tag on his vehicle during routine patrol. Subsequent inspection revealed suspected marijuana in a door pocket and the crack cocaine. Combs posted \$20,000 bond and was released the same evening. He's due in district court April 30.

Sheriff's office adds new hires

By DALE HERBERG
Staff Writer

The addition of an experienced patrol sergeant and a handful of young deputies bolster the ranks of Washington County's Sheriff's Office going into the New Year. Sgt. James Patterson returned to service with the

WCSO last week, along with several law enforcement rookies who will train on duty, while pursuing BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) credentials. Patterson worked previously as a Washington County deputy 2015-2021 before joining law enforcement in Chowan County. "I'm glad to be back," he said last week after completing his first shift. "I plea to finish here; we have a good team with Sheriff (Johnny) Barnes and Arlo (Norman, chief deputy). I want to be a part of it."

An Edenton native, Patterson points out that he launched his law enforcement career as a Plymouth

Police Department officer in 1992.

In addition to Patterson, the other new hires add to the WCSO roster, even though the new deputies remain in training. Recent legislative changes mean the new hires will have status as sworn law officers with full authority and arrest powers, according to Chief Deputy Norman.

"The practice of employing beginner law officers and supporting their certification efforts has become more common as recruitment for the position has become more difficult.

"They'll be working with training officers, of course," Norman says.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023 } NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

River's Edge Restaurant

Located in Jamesville on the Roanoke River

★ NOW OPEN ★

Tuesday thru Saturday 11 am - 2 pm
Dinner 4 pm - 8 pm

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(252) 792-2631

Roper Fire Department & Roper Ruritan Club

BBQ Chicken Fundraiser: 1/2 Chicken, Boil Potato, Green Beans & Roll

Cost: \$12.00

Date: February 16, 2024 11:AM to 2:PM

Pick Up: Roper Fire Department

Scan the QR Code, See a Roper Ruritan or Firefighter, or go the website to purchase tickets

<https://ticketstripe.com/events/1038074>

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Defendant faces new charges after attacking judge

BY KEN RITTER AND RIO YAMATA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — Moments after a defendant in a felony battery case tried to convince a Nevada judge that he was turning his violent past around and didn't need to be locked up, his sentencing went sideways: He leaped over a defense table and the judge's bench, landing atop her and sparking a bloody brawl with court officials and attorneys.

The violent scene on Wednesday was captured by courtroom video showing Clark County District Court Judge Mary Kay Holthus falling back from her seat against a wall as the defendant flung himself over the judge's bench and grabbed her hair, toppling an American flag onto them. The judge suffered some injuries but was not hospitalized, courthouse officials said.

The defendant, Deobra Delone Redden, was jailed on \$54,000 bail and refused to return to court on Thursday on new charges, so a judge rescheduled his next appearance for Jan. 9, Redden, 30, faces 13 counts including extortion and coercion with force. Seven of the new counts are battery on a protected person, referring to the judge and officers who came to her aid.

Redden had to be wrestled off the judge Wednesday by several court and jail officers and courtroom staff members — including some who were seen throwing punches. One courtroom marshal was hospitalized for treatment of a bleeding gash on his forehead and a dislocated shoulder.

"It happened so fast it was hard to know what to do," said Richard Scow, the chief county district attorney, who was prosecuting Redden for allegedly attacking a person with a baseball bat last year.

Redden's sentencing was not immediately rescheduled.

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said the suspect's criminal record is marked by mostly violent offenses and includes prior convictions for three felonies and nine misdemeanors. He said Redden should be held without bail as "an extreme danger to the community and a flight risk."

"He's been violent his entire adult life," Wolfson said.

Redden's defense attorney on Wednesday, Caesar Almase, declined to comment Thursday. At the sentencing hearing, Redden wasn't shackled or in jail garb because he had been released from custody as part of a deal with prosecutors, in which he pleaded guilty in November to a reduced charge of attempted battery resulting in substantial injuries. He was initially charged in the baseball bat attack with assault with a deadly weapon, court records show.

On Wednesday, he wore a white shirt and dark pants as he stood next to his attorney and asked the judge for leniency while describing himself as "a person who never stops trying to do the right thing no matter how hard it is."

"I'm not a rebellious person," he told the judge, later adding that he doesn't think he should be sent to prison. "But if it's appropriate for you, then you have to do what you have to do."

As the judge made it clear she intended to put him behind bars, and the court marshal moved to handcuff him and take him into custody, Redden yelled expletives and charged forward — amid screams from people who had been sitting with him in the courtroom audience, including his foster mother.

Records show Redden, who lives in Las Vegas, was evaluated and found competent to stand trial in the battery case before pleading guilty to the reduced charge. He previously served prison time in Nevada on a domestic battery conviction, records show.

Holthus was a career prosecutor with more than 27 years of courthouse experience when she was elected to the state court bench in 2018.

WEALTH

FROM PAGE A5

Recognizing the value of A.I.'s contribution, there is still a problem. Where does A.I. get the newspaper texts and other necessary information to assemble and write its report? Who, if anyone, must it compensate for the use of these materials?

The New York Times took an important step towards finding an answer to this question last week when it sued A.I. entities, including OpenAI and Microsoft, owners of the popular A.I. program ChatGPT.

The lawsuit accuses the defendants of

stealing a free ride on "The Times's massive investment in its journalism" and alleges that OpenAI and Microsoft are "using The Times's content without payment to create products that substitute for The Times and steal audiences away from it."

However the lawsuit turns out, A.I. is here to stay.

I wish Professor Solow were here to explain how and how much it could increase the nation's wealth.

D.G. Martin, always, served as UNC-System vice president for public affairs and hosted PBS-NC's North Carolina Bookwatch.

Employers added surprisingly strong 216,000 jobs last month

BY PAUL WISEMAN
AN ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The nation's employers added a robust 216,000 jobs last month, the latest sign that the American labor market remains resilient even in the face of sharply higher interest rates.

Friday's report from the government showed that December's job gain exceeded the 173,000 that were added in November. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7% — the 23rd straight month that joblessness has come in below 4%.

Some details of the report, though, will likely disappoint the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve, who might now be inclined to delay any cuts in their benchmark interest rate. Average hourly wages rose 4.1% from a year earlier, up from a 4% gain in November, which could make it harder for the Fed to slow inflation back to its 2% target.

"All measures of wage growth remain too hot for the Fed, which would prefer to see annual wage growth around 3.5%," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Despite the low unemployment and cooling inflation, polls show that many Americans are dissatisfied with the economy. That discontent, which will likely be an issue in the 2024 elections, has puzzled economists and political analysts.

A key factor, though, is the public's exasperation with higher prices. Though inflation has been falling more or less steadily for a year and a half, prices are still 1.7% higher than they were before the inflation surge began.

In December, the proportion of people who either have a job or are looking for one fell to 62.5%, the lowest level since February. The Fed prefers having more people in the labor force to help ease pressure on employers to sharply boost pay to attract or retain workers. Companies typically pass their higher labor costs on to consumers by raising prices. The number of Americans in the labor force actually fell by 676,000 in December, the sharpest such drop

since January 2021.

The strength of the December hiring, combined with strong wage gains and a declining labor force, could complicate the Fed's efforts to guide the United States to a "soft landing" — cooling the economy enough to tame inflation without causing a recession. So far, the Fed has managed to significantly slow inflation without causing much economic pain.

Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics, pointed to some aspects of Friday's jobs report to suggest that it "was not quite as good as it looks at first glance."

Ashworth noted that the government revised down its previous estimate of job gains for October and November by a combined 71,000. And he said that, just as in November, December's job growth was concentrated in just a few industries: Leisure and hospitality companies added 40,000, healthcare 38,000 and governments 52,000.

Indeed, from October through December, private-sector employers have added just 115,000 jobs a month — the lowest three-month average since companies were laying off workers in mid-2020 during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell warned of hard times ahead after the central bank began jacking

up interest rates in the spring of 2022 to attack high inflation. Most economists predicted that the much higher borrowing costs that resulted would cause a recession, with layoffs and rising unemployment, in 2023.

Yet the recession never arrived, and none appears to be on the horizon. The nation's labor market is still producing enough jobs to keep the unemployment rate near historic lows. For all of 2023, employers added 2.7 million jobs, a healthy gain but down from 4.8 million jobs added in 2022.

The resilience of the job market has been matched by the durability of the overall economy. Far from collapsing into a recession, the U.S. gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — grew at a vigorous 4.9% annual pace from July through September. Strong consumer spending and business investment drove much of the expansion.

At the same time, average hourly pay has outpaced inflation over the past year, leaving Americans with more money to spend. Indeed, as they did for much of 2023, consumers, a huge engine for U.S. economic growth, hit the stores in November, shopped online, went out to restaurants or traveled.

Since March 2022, the Fed has raised its

benchmark interest rate 11 times, lifting it to a 22-year high of about 5.4%. Those higher rates have made borrowing costlier for companies and households, but they are on their way toward achieving their goal: Conquering inflation.

Consumer prices were up 3.1% in November from a year earlier, down drastically from a four-decade high 9.1% in June 2022. The Fed is being satisfied enough with the progress so far that it hasn't raised rates since July and has signaled that it expects to make three rate cuts this year.

But Friday's robust jobs and wage figures could lead the Fed to push back the start of any interest rate cuts if it decides that inflation will take longer to tame.

"Today's report speaks to the bumpy road ahead for the Fed's journey back to 2% inflation," said Andrew Patterson, senior international economist at Vanguard.

Patterson suggested that the Fed might have to wait for the second half of the year to start cutting rates. Many investors had anticipated cuts sooner than that.

Beyond a hard hit to the housing market, higher rates haven't exerted much damage across the broader economy. Many industry sectors, including health care and government, have proved relatively resistant to higher interest rates.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

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Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this matter which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Double Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. For the purpose of taking notice of public notice (as a part of its 2023 Biennial Determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University (ASU), New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the purchasers of the electric utility and, in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rate and contract terms to be allowed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-327a. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff — North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at the public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a petition under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such petitions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

LAWS

FROM PAGE A5

here, nor in half the states; in fact, it's no longer a crime in more than half the states when possession for medical use is included.

It need not be a crime under federal law either, but rather subject to the same kinds of regulations that govern possession of alcoholic beverages.

As part of last year's pardons, Biden called for a review of marijuana's controlled status. It's high time for Congress to do its job and rewrite the law. Until then, proportional justice will require the president to periodically pardon people who should never have been prosecuted in the first place.

Looking Back: January 13



This photo originally ran in the book "Images in History, Roanoke Valley 1860-1960," produced by The Daily Herald. The photo, submitted by the Roanoke Canal Museum and Trail, shows the Roanoke Rapids football team in 1923. The team won seven games that year, lost three and tied one. The Looking Back featured photo is published in the weekend edition of The Herald. If you would like to see your old photographs printed, please bring them by the office at 1025 Roanoke Ave. in Roanoke Rapids. Photos may also be put into the dropbox, addressed to Tia Beale with a phone number and information. You will be called to pick up your photo. Photos may also be emailed to tbealewell@dailyherald.com and must be at least 25 years old.

NEED TO READ

Roanoke Rapids Public Library staff's picks of the week

ADULT FICTION

"Cold Sassy Tree"
by Olive Ann Burns

July 5, 1906, was a benchmark day in Will Tweedy's life. That was the day his life began to change. That day his grandfather, a widower of only three weeks, eloped with a woman half his age. But even bigger than that, July 5, 1906, was the day that Will Tweedy

survived being run over by a train.

ADULT NON-FICTION

"In Cold Blood"

by Truman Capote

It is Nov. 15, 1959, in Holcomb, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Clutter, their daughter Nancy, and their son Kenyon are brutally murdered with a shotgun blast to their faces. No one

knows why, and not a single clue to the perpetrators. This is the true account of four senseless murders, the consequences of this heinous crime, and the ultimate discovery of the perpetrators.

YOUNG ADULT

"Cold Calls" by Charles Benoit

Eric, Shelly, and Fatima go to different schools. They have different friends and different interests. They have only two things in common: each of them has a secret — and a mysterious caller who threatens to tell



all if they don't follow instructions. The problem is that the instructions are going to get them into even more trouble than their secrets.



caught in the rain without an umbrella? Check out this book to learn one little girl's creative solutions for these predicaments and more.

CHILDREN

"Solutions for Cold Feet and Other Little Problems"

by Carey Seakechaff

What would you do if your ice cream cone started melting? What would you do if you were

Titles selected for PKs of the Week are in the collection of Roanoke Rapids Public Library. Titles may not be present for check out at the time of a patron visit. The library staff will be glad to place a title on hold for a patron if the book is not available.

CHURCH BRIEFS



The Oak Grove Boys and Tammy, pictured, will be in concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at Church of Jesus Christ. This Apostolic Holiness church is located at 116 Emory St. in Roanoke Rapids. This will be an evening of song, praise and testimony. For more information, call Pastor Rick Jordan at 252-578-2880.

ENON BAPTIST

Sunday school will be held by phone at 9 a.m. Sunday at Enon Baptist Church. The dial-in number is 609-663-4763. The lesson will be "Faith and Trust," with Scripture from Proverbs 3:1-8. The lesson will be taught by Deacon Mehin Anderson and Diane Faulcon. The Rev. William T. Powell, pastor, will participate.

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN

LITTLETON — A winter worship schedule is being observed through Feb. 25 at Lakeside Lutheran Church, 2427 Eaton Ferry Road. A combined service will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, with Adult Christian Education at 10:45 a.m. The service is also live-streamed at youtube.com/@lakesidelutheran-church or streaming.lakesidelutheran-church.com.

ST. LUKE

LITTLETON — Sunday school will be at 9:45 a.m., followed by worship services at 11:15 a.m. Sunday at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 6154 Bowers Road. Guest messenger for the month of January is the Rev. Bronchie D. Hart of Wilson.

MOUNT ZION

MARCBETT'SVILLE — Sunday school will be at 10 a.m. Sunday at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 802

MOUNT ZION CHURCH

ROAD. An installation service of officers will be observed during the regular worship service. The Rev. Keyator Taylor, pastor, will deliver the message and the choir will provide music. The service will be held in the church sanctuary and via phone at 1-878-990-5000, access code 828298. Masks are optional, however temperature checks and social distancing are encouraged.

COOL SPRING

GASTON — Sunday school will be at 10 a.m., followed by worship services at 11 a.m. Sunday at Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church. The Rev. Travis T. Judkins, pastor elect, will deliver the message. The Rev. Sheila High will serve as worship leader and the Male Chorus will provide music.

ROANOKE SALEM

LITTLETON — Worship services will be at 10 a.m. Sunday at Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church. The Rev. Gloria Stephenson, associate minister, will bring the preached word. Music will be provided by the church musicians.

ALLEN GROVE

A Fellowship Day service will be at 11 a.m. Sunday at Allen Grove Baptist Church. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. John Berham, pastor, with music by the

SENIOR CHOIR

under the direction of Larry Solomon. Other participants are Sadornis Lewis, Jerame Neal, Shequanna Lewis and Andrew Pittman, program chairman.

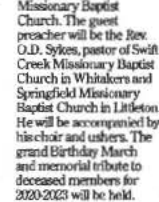
SOUTH STREET

Worship services will be at 11 a.m. Sunday at South Street Missionary Baptist Church. Songs of praise will be provided by The Friendly Gospel Singers. The message will be delivered by the Rev. Robert L. Fankon, pastor. Masks and social distancing are mandated.

GASTON MISSIONARY

GASTON — The Rev. Tony M. Flood Sr. and the Volunteer Workers Ministry will hold their annual Birthday Climax Worship Service at 4 p.m. Sunday at Gaston Missionary Baptist Church. The guest preacher will be the Rev. O.D. Sykes, pastor of Swift Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Whitakers and Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Littleton. He will be accompanied by his choir and others. The grand Birthday March and memorial tribute to deceased members for 2020-2023 will be held.

Rev. O.D. Sykes



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-190, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, DeLoe Building, 400 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominate), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, *et alia*, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory assembly, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

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The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to the Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

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Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-8 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominate, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Want home delivery? Call 252-537-2508

LIFESTYLES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Left, shown here are the Christmas gifts that Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. of Murfreesboro donated to three local families. Right, Travis Robinson (right), founder and CEO of Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc., is pictured with Dr. Robert Cole of Toys for Tots.

Sickle Cell Foundation gives back to local community

MURFREESBORO - Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. of Murfreesboro partnered with Toys for Tots this year to sponsor three families for Christmas.

With Sickle Cell Disease, the cooler seasons can cause people affected by it to go into a vaso-occlusive crisis and other complications.

Sickle Cell families often have no support system. Caregivers have

to stay home or at the hospital and lose wages; some can't work because of their sick child; most are on a fixed income which can cause poor nutrition that can lead to complications; and some have a hard time getting to and from doctor's appointments.

Toys for Tots distributed toys to Sickle Cell families in Hertford, Gates, and Pitt counties. Robinson's Sickle Cell

Foundation, Inc. opens for doors for anyone affected by Sickle Cell Disease, but its service areas (Berth, Gates, Hertford, Northampton and Pitt) are priority.

Locally, the toys were delivered to the families by Travis Robinson, a local nurse who is the CEO and founder of Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. Robinson is affected by Sickle Cell Disease

himself.

He along with his mother, Julia Robinson, founded Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. on May 1, 2016. "This came after losing my sibling, Tyrell Robinson, who lost his life on Christmas Day 2014," said Travis.

"Our mission is to help improve the quality of life for people living with Sickle Cell Disease through community

awareness, advocacy, education, and providing resources to those with the disease," he added.

"Robinson's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. wants to send our sincere thank you with gratitude for the toys donated," Travis stated. "Thanks to Dr. Rodney Coles from Pitt County Toys for Tots and Angela Artis from Hertford County Toys for Tots for making this a success with helping

us to bring awareness to Sickle Cell Disease."

For those needing help or to learn more about Sickle Cell Disease, contact Travis Robinson at 252-686-5111 or email us at therobinsonsociety@gmail.com.

"We will be glad to assist you in any way we can," Robinson concluded.

Learn more at www.robinsonsicklecellfoundation.com.

Nomination period opens for Governor's Volunteer Service Award

WINTON - Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

The awards program, created by the Office of the Governor in

1979, recognizes North Carolina's most dedicated volunteers.

Through the years, the award has been bestowed on thousands of North Carolinians who have shown concern and compassion

for their neighbors by volunteering in their local community.

Each county selects up to 10 individuals or a group to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to their communities. Of the

submitted, one may be recommended for the Governor's Medallion Volunteer Service Award, which is awarded to approximately the top 80 volunteers in the state. A local

committee evaluates the nominations.

To submit a nomination online or to download the nomination form go to <https://go.ncsu.edu/2024gva>

If mailing, return

the completed forms to: Hertford County Cooperative Extension, Attn: Rebecca Castello 301 W. Tryon St. Winton, NC 27986.

The nomination deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2024.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Trade Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority and shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogeneration or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C. G.S. § 62-3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C. G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

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The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Coopers, Deputy Clerk

Introducing:
Dr. Harsh Chawla

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OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

SPORTS

Balanced scoring leads Ridgcroft over Lawrence

Rams place four in double digits; improve overall record to 9-3

By CAL BRYANT
Editor

AHOSKIE – Ridgcroft School had four players in double figures as the Rams defeated Lawrence Academy, 70-59, here Friday night in Tarheel Independent Conference varsity boys basketball action.

Lawrence, who led on only one occasion, used a pair of Mari Larry baskets and one from Mike Lee to highlight an offensive flurry early in the fourth quarter that got the Warriors to within four points (52-48).

Ridgcroft – highlighted by three baskets by Jay Gaston and an old-fashioned three-point play from Bill Vaughan who was fouled when scoring off an offensive rebound – answered with a 9-2 run, building their lead back to double digits, 61-50, with a shade over three minutes remaining.

A three-pointer by Antron Gray and back-to-back baskets from Baylor Edwards and Gaston inside the game's final 60 seconds sealed the deal for the

Rams, who improved to 9-3 overall and 1-0 in league play.

Plunging to the basket three straight times in transition, Edwards scored the game's first six points.

Lawrence scored only once from the field in the first quarter and trailed 13-3 after Vaughan stuck in back-to-back baskets off his offensive rebounds during the final 39 seconds of the opening period.

Ridgcroft's lead grew as high as 12 points (23-11) just past the midway mark of the second quarter thanks to a trey from Edwards and a deuce by Gray.

Lawrence's offense finally heated up prior to halftime as Conner Ferebee scored once from the field and added three free throws to highlight a rally that got the Warriors to within 27-26 at halftime.

Ridgcroft was able to maintain its advantage, using a pair of baskets from Gaston and one each by Vaughan and Gray, to lead by eight (37-29) at the midway mark of the third quarter.

Lawrence rallied as Ferebee and Mike Lee each finished off old-fashioned three-point plays to fuel a 10-4 run that allowed the Warriors to trim their deficit to 41-39. Larry then buried a trifecta from deep in the left corner that handed Lawrence its first lead of the game (42-41) with 1:06 left in the third period.

But that advantage was short lived as Frank Jones and Taylor Gunter connected on baskets inside the final 60 seconds of the period, allowing the Rams to hold a lead (45-42) that they never again would surrender.

With the loss, Lawrence fell to 9-4 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

Ridgcroft (70)
Baylor Edwards (21), Jay Gaston (16), Antron Gray (14), Bill Vaughan (11), Grafton Williams – 4, Taylor Gunter – 2, Frank Jones – 2.

Lawrence (59)
Mari Larry – 20, Conner Ferebee – 16, Nike Wiggins – 14, Mike Lee – 9.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM ANTHONY
Baylor Edwards eyes the basket as he prepares to launch a shot during Friday's win against Lawrence Academy. Edwards scored a game-high 21 points.

Chowan sweeps Erskine

From Staff Reports

DUE WEST, SC – Chowan University's men's and women's basketball teams each earned Conference Carolinas victories here Saturday at Erskine College.

The Chowan women opened the afternoon doubleheader with a 61-57 win, improving their record to 4-5 overall and 4-1 in league play.

Dameesha Briggs led the way for Chowan, scoring a career-high 19 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field. Imani Hickman added 10 points.

Meara Carter collected seven points and a team-high nine rebounds. Yasmine Brown added seven points with four rebounds and four assists.

Chowan built a double-digit lead at the half after shooting 75% (9-of-12) from the floor in the second quarter.

In the men's game, Chowan didn't shoot the ball very well (25-of-65 from the floor and 9-of-19 at the free throw line) but still managed to pull out a gritty 71-67 win. That victory allowed the Hawks to improve to 9-5 overall and 3-2 in conference action.

Preston Le Gassick led Chowan with 19 points. RJ Wilson collected his seventh double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Keith Reese Jr. hauled in a career-high 14 rebounds to go with nine points. Daylan Askew added 10 points, five rebounds, and five assists.

Both Chowan teams return to action on Wednesday, Jan. 10 when they host league foe UNC Pembroke. The women tipped the doubleheader at 5 p.m. followed by the men's game at 7 p.m. inside the Hawks Athletic Center.

LADY RAMS:
Continued from 18

the period. Lawrence led 36-31 at the end of the third quarter.

Lady Rams (48)
Hannah Slaughter – 15, Makenzie Slaughter – 15, Kate Chambliss – 10, Klaira Cherry – 4, Camryn Taylor – 2.

Warriors (42)
Trinity Congleton – 12, Claire Smith – 8, Jaslene Ethridge – 7, Ellie Farmer – 6, Addie Phelps – 5, Samantha Hughson – 4.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities – 2023)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Pabot Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

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Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4525 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
This the 7th day of August, 2023.
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

EVENT/ from A1

from raffle ticket sales, food donations and souvenir sales will be used to fight hunger through donations to A Touch of the Father's Love food pantry in Moneysville.

"This night is for the community and to benefit A Touch of the Father's Love. Please have fun," Braswell told the gathering.

Nashville Town Councilman Bill Lutzpopp was in attendance and was impressed with the event's

energy and excitement. "It's a wonderful event for our town, and I'm excited to see the egg drop," Lutzpopp said. "I'm thankful to the Braswell family for putting this on."

N.C. Rep. Allen Chesser, R-25th District, was also in attendance.

"I think it's great to see the community come out and have something to rally around," Chesser said, commending all the teamwork that went into putting on the event. "This event proves that when you

pour love into the community, it's going to give it right back to you."

Mitch and Karen Roberts of Red Oak were enjoying the high-energy country music of Real Rowdy about an hour before the egg was dropped. Mitch Roberts was pleased that Nash County now has its own themed New Year's celebration.

"I think it's pretty good," he said. "Raleigh has its own. Now we have something here, too. I think it's great."



Real Rowdy of Raleigh performs at Nashville's first annual Egg Drop event on New Year's Eve.

COUNCIL/ from A1

more transparent approach to governance and decision-making will emerge in the weeks to come in City Hall. I am optimistic, but will remain sober in my expectations until I see the results."

Six of the seven council members responded to questions about Roberson's hiring. Councilman Tom Harris, when reached by phone Thursday, declined to comment about the matter.

In his biography on the LinkedIn career-oriented website, Roberson had posted that he is the city of Rocky Mount's new communications manager. Until a Jan. 2 email from Roberson, that was the only confirmation of the new hire that the Telegram could obtain.

City of Wilson Communications and Marketing Director Rebecca Agner said Roberson's last day with Wilson was Dec. 8. He is making \$125,000 as the city of Rocky Mount's new communications manager.

An advertisement posted during the Nov. 10-11 timeframe on the Indeed career-oriented website

indicated the city of Rocky Mount was seeking a communications manager. Not long afterward, the advertisement was amended to say it had expired.

The city of Rocky Mount's website continues to list Kirk Brown as the city's communications, marketing and public relations director.

Brown, who has attended city council meetings regularly since he was hired in January 2022, was not present for the Nov. 27 and Dec. 11 regular council meetings.

Rogers declined to answer questions about Brown's employment status after the Dec. 11 council meeting because he said he does not talk about personnel matters on the record.

In response to a Nov. 30 email citing the Public Records Act and requesting information about Brown's status as a city employee, the city provided a brief emailed printout Dec. 19 listing Brown as an active status city employee with the position of director of communications, but with the abbreviated words "dep dir" in parentheses. The printout said Brown's salary was listed at slightly

more than \$115,000. Requests for clarity on Brown's current title have not been addressed by the city.

On Dec. 11, the city was also asked for a list of the municipality's current employees, citing the Public Records Act, but those public records have not been received.

Councilman T.J. Walker over the phone Thursday shed some light about the matter.

According to Walker, Rogers said there would be some personnel changes in the city's Communications, Marketing and Public Relations Department.

"I did not know the actual name of the new individual, but I knew that there were some personnel changes," Walker said.

Walker noted that Rogers has not approached the one-year mark of service as city manager. Rogers reported for work in March 2023.

"And so, there's just a lot of different things that he needs to have in place in order to be successful as a manager and in order for the city to be successful under his leadership," Walker said. "He has to build his team and he needs

to utilize players that will fit his actual scope and his team vision."

Walker said as the city's mayor pro tempore last year, he had been meeting once a week with Rogers.

Walker served two consecutive years of service as the city's number two elected official. He successfully nominated Councilman Lige Daughtridge to the appointed position at the Dec. 11 council regular meeting. Daughtridge will serve as the mayor pro tempore for 2024.

In a phone interview Thursday, Daughtridge said he first found out about Roberson being the new communications manager by reading the newspaper.

Asked whether Roberson has reached out to him or contacted him, Daughtridge said, "I don't even know the person."

Councilman Jabaris "JKelly" Walker, when asked over the phone Thursday whether Rogers or any high-ranking official at City Hall had communicated about Roberson being the city's new communications manager, said, "I have no information on that."

Councilman Richard Joyner, when reached by phone Tuesday and asked whether Rogers or any high-ranking official at City Hall had informed him about Roberson's hiring, said, "Personally, myself, I haven't heard that."

Joyner said he would like to give Rogers the benefit of the doubt in making sure he and the rest of the council members are informed about key hires.

"I don't know if there's a new guy or not because I haven't heard," Joyner said. On Dec. 21, Roberson

was spotted at the Rocky Mount Target, where the Rocky Mount Police Department was having its first-ever Shop with a Cop event to help needy families. As he was heading for his vehicle in the store's parking lot, Roberson would only say he would "be in touch soon" to discuss his new role as the city's spokesperson.

Roberson had been a city of Wilson employee for a total of 5 1/2 years, first as a utilities key accounts manager in 2018 before becoming energy services manager in 2021.

On his LinkedIn page, Roberson also cites extensive experience in journalism, including nearly 8 1/2 years at The Wilson Times newspaper, where he was a photographer, and more than 6 1/2 years teaching broadcasting at Wilson County Schools.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking interested public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, that be just and reasonable to the purchasers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-302(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogenerators and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9061 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-2 and R1-13 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Advertisement for The Links at Cotton Valley. Features a golf course scene and lists rates for Monday-Friday (\$24.00), Wednesday & Friday (\$30.00), and Saturday & Sunday (\$38.00). Includes contact information for inquiries at 824-0818.

Advertisement for Edgecombe Community College. Headline: "Better Skills. Better Jobs. Better Future." Includes a photo of students in a classroom and text: "Retool, skill up, or learn a new field. Enroll now in spring classes. Spring semester begins January 5." Contact info: edgecombe.edu/future, admissions@edgecombe.edu.

Advertisement for PCA Personal Care Service. Headline: "ALL IN ONE HOME CARE. That's how we do it over here. We do what others don't do." Includes a photo of a caregiver and text: "PERSONAL CARE SERVICE. PCA • CNA • RN 252-443-6399 • 252-813-7275." Contact info: Melissa-Jenny Williams, First Lady of the Williams.

OFFICIAL COPY Jan 22 2024

Motel robbery not random

A man and a woman were jailed in the Nash County Detention Center in connection with what police said was a recent armed robbery in the early morning hours at a motel in the northern part of the city.

Albert Bullock, 32, and Christina Vinson, 43, are accused of taking personal property from a person who was staying in a room at America's Express Inn in the 300 block of Mosley Court, police said.

Officers responded to the motel at 3:10 a.m. Jan. 3, police said, and during the investigation discovered that the accused and Vinson knew each other and that what happened was not a random act.

Bullock and Vinson both were charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery, police said. Vinson also was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

Drugs seized in traffic stop

A recent traffic stop off North Glendale Avenue in the Meadowbrook area resulted in two arrests and in the confiscation of 115 dosage units of heroin, along with other drugs and cash, the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office said.

Turkise Petway, 29, was charged on Jan. 3 with five drug-related offenses and three driving-related offenses and Rashad Thomas, 24, was charged with three drug-related offenses, the sheriff's office said.

According to the sheriff's office, narcotics detectives saw a Chevrolet Impala LT with a fictitious North Carolina temporary registration plate. After conducting a traffic stop, detectives said they saw one of the suspects trying to stuff items in his pants. Both suspects were detained.

In addition to the heroin, detectives said they found the suspects to be in possession of cocaine, marijuana, a small amount of methamphetamine and \$325 in cash.

Boy shot with stolen gun

A man is in the Nash County Detention Center in connection with the accidental shooting of a 10-year-old boy in the Little Raleigh area, police said.

James Mercer Jr., 39, was arrested Saturday and charged with failure to secure a firearm from a minor and possession of a stolen firearm, police said. Nash County sheriff's records online said Mercer is being held without bond on the stolen firearm charge.

State law requires people to properly store firearms to prevent minors from having access to them. In a press release, police said a shooting with injury happened when three juveniles began playing with a firearm they found unsecured in a house.

Officers responded to a call about the shooting at 11:52 p.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of Dexter Street, police said.

Police said the 10-year-old was shot in his left thigh and is expected to make a full recovery.

Teens face larceny charges

Two teenagers are being charged with felony larceny and possession of a stolen motor vehicle in connection with a Dec. 30 incident just west of Little Easonburg, police said.

Officers responding to the 200 block of Thunder Road shortly after 10:30 p.m. found the stolen vehicle near the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Sunshine Drive, police said.

According to police, three male juveniles were seen fleeing from the vehicle. Two of the suspects, ages 16 and 17, were detained, police said, and taken to the juvenile detention center in Wake County.

The vehicle was returned to the owner, police said.

The third juvenile has not been identified, police said.

The case remains under investigation.

From staff reports



A rendering of the Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant.

COURTESY CUMMINS ROCKY MOUNT ENGINE PLANT

CUMMINS/ from A1

Nash County, increase the tax base of the county, create substantial tax revenues, and generally serve area residents by increasing employment opportunities.

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Steve Pinkston, Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant Manager

April 1, 2026, and continuing until April 1, 2032.

Rocky Mount Engine Plant is a 1.3 million-square-foot manufacturing plant that produces

mid-range engines. The plant has been in operation since 1983 when it started as a joint venture with Case Corp. earned Consolidated Diesel Company.

ACADEMY/ from A1

returning to the region, new vehicles are on the way for the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office. Edgecombe County Manager Eric Evans told county commissioners at the last board meeting that 18 Dodge Durangos have been ordered and are on the way.

The total cost, which includes the vehicles, upfit and radios, was \$1,238,263 — or \$68,792.39 per vehicle.

County commissioners appropriated \$1 million from the sale of county property to cover the bulk of the cost. With \$125,000 already allocated in the county's budget for the vehicles, the remaining balance will come from insurance claim proceeds from cars involved in accidents a few months ago.

The process to obtain much-needed vehicles has been a protracted one that included multiple presentations from Enterprise Leasing and resulted in a 4-3 vote to purchase rather than lease.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION KALEIGH DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking unopposed public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEP), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, (ASU), New River Light and Power Company (New River). The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis that avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina. In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-127(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source. The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina. The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements by the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff — North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements. Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION. This 7th day of August, 2023. NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

ALL IN ONE HOME CARE That's how we do it over here. We do what others don't do. PERSONAL CARE SERVICE PCA • CNA • RN 252-443-6399 • 252-813-7275 Bishop Jimmy Williams Past Lady Linda Williams

OFFICIAL COPY Jan 22 2024

This week in HISTORY

Dec. 31, 1988

Chicago Bears beat Philadelphia Eagles in freaky fog bowl

On Dec. 31, 1988, the Chicago Bears defeat the Philadelphia Eagles, 30-12, in a playoff game plagued by a thick fog starting late in the first half. Playing conditions at Soldier Field in Chicago become problematic, and fans in attendance and television viewers struggle to see the game, dubbed the "Fog Bowl" by media.

The freak conditions were caused when cold air over Lake Michigan was blown by a breeze toward warm air at Soldier Field on the lakeshore, according to the National Weather Service. Meteorologists said the fog was so thick that it was like having clouds on the ground.

"It will be remembered as the best game you never saw," Fred Mitchell wrote in the first sentence of his game story in the next day's *Chicago Tribune*.

"We couldn't see anything—absolutely nothing." CBS-TV play-by-play broadcaster Verne Lundquist told the Associated Press. "We had to look at the TV just like everyone else." Lundquist's color man, Terry Bradshaw, told viewers the game should have been suspended.

Bears defensive end Al Harris likened the bizarre conditions to playing in a cemetery. "I never saw anything like this," he said.

The NFL considered suspending the game, but the league ultimately left the decision to referee Jim Tunney and the NFL commissioner's representative.

"We felt the playing conditions were satisfactory," Tunney said. "They were really tough in the middle of the third quarter. No word came to me that either coach wanted to stop play." Other NFL games have been plagued by thick fog. In 2011 in Foxboro, Mass., fog was so thick for a game between the New England Patriots and Atlanta Falcons that NBC relied on its Skycam for most in-game coverage instead of the usual sideline cameras.

The week after the Fog Bowl, the Bears lost to eventual Super Bowl champion San Francisco in the NFC Championship Game.

with the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimack) off Hampton Roads, Va., in one of the most famous naval battles in American history—the first time two ironclads faced each other in a naval engagement.

After the famous duel, the Monitor provided gun support on the James River for George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. By December 1862, it was clear the Monitor was no longer needed in Virginia, so she was sent to Beaufort, N.C. to join a fleet being assembled for an attack on Charleston, S.C.

The Monitor served well in the sheltered waters of Chesapeake Bay, but the heavy, low-slung ship was a poor craft for the open sea. The U.S.S. Rhode Island towed the ironclad around the rough waters of Cape Hatteras. Since December is a treacherous time for any ship of North Carolina, the decision to move the Monitor could be considered questionable.

As the Monitor pitched and swayed in the rough seas, the caulking around the gun turret loosened and water began to leak into the hull. More leaks developed as the journey continued. High seas tossed the craft, causing the ship's flat armor bottom to slap the water. Each roll opened more seams, and by nightfall on Dec. 30, the Monitor was in dire straits.

The Monitor's commander, J.P. Bankhead, signaled the Rhode Island that he wished to abandon ship. The wooden side-wheeler pulled as close as safety allowed to the stricken ironclad, and two lifeboats were lowered to retrieve the crew. Many of the sailors were rescued, but some men were terrified to venture onto the deck in such rough seas. The ironclad's pumps stopped working and the ship sank before 18 crew members could be rescued.

Although the Monitor's service was brief, it signaled a new era in naval combat. The Virginia's arrival at Hampton Roads terrified the U.S. Navy, but the Monitor leveled the playing field. Both sides had ironclads, and the advantage would go to the side that could build more of them. Northern industry would win that battle for the Union.

message that the age of détente and the friendlier diplomatic and economic relations that were established between the United States and Soviet Union during President Richard Nixon's administration (1969-74) had ended. Carter feared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in which an estimated 30,000 combat troops entered that nation and established a puppet government, would threaten the stability of strategic neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan and could lead to the USSR gaining control over much of the world's oil supplies.

The Soviet actions were labeled "a serious threat to peace" by the White House. Carter asked the Senate to shelve ratification talks on SALT II, the nuclear arms treaty that he and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev had already signed, and the president called U.S. ambassador to Moscow Thomas J. Watson back to Washington for "consultation," in an effort to let the Kremlin know that military intervention in Afghanistan was unacceptable. When the Soviets refused to withdraw from Afghanistan, America halted certain key exports to the USSR, including grain and high technology, and boycotted the 1980 summer Olympics, which were held in Moscow.

The United States also began to covertly subsidize anti-Soviet fighters in Afghanistan. During Ronald Reagan's presidency in the 1980s, the CIA secretly sent billions of dollars to Afghanistan to arm and train the mujahedeen rebel forces that were battling the Soviets. This tactic was successful in helping to drive out the Soviets, but it also gave rise to the oppressive Taliban regime and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

Jan. 2, 2006

13 coal miners are trapped in Sago Mine disaster; 12 die

An explosion rocks the Sago Mine in Sago, West Virginia on Jan. 2, 2006. 13 coal miners were trapped, and all but one eventually died. The tragedy, exacerbated by false reports that 12 of the

miners had been rescued, brought scrutiny upon the media, the company that owned the mine and the administration of then-president George W. Bush.

The explosion occurred early in the morning of Jan. 2, as two groups of miners entered the mine. The cave-in trapped the first group of 13 inside the mine, and the group behind them soon found the air too contaminated with carbon monoxide for them to attempt a rescue. According to the account of the lone survivor, Randall McCoy, Jr., the trapped miners were equipped with emergency oxygen "rescuers," but several of them failed to function. As crews above tried and failed to locate the miners, those trapped took emergency action to shield themselves from the fumes but were eventually overcome. McCoy recalled the group praying together and writing letters to their loved ones as, one by one, they lost consciousness.

When rescuers finally reached the miners over 40 hours after the explosion, they found McCoy in critical condition and the others dead. He was rushed to a hospital, where he remained unconscious for days. The source of the rumors is still unknown, but it was widely reported that 12 miners had survived, prompting newspapers and networks across the country to spread the false story of a "miracle." The national media had quickly descended upon Sago, with CNN's Anderson Cooper Fox News' Geraldo Rivera filming live from outside the mine, and locals later accused the national media of inflicting emotional damage by running with unverified reports.

Just as the source of the false news has not been identified, the cause of the explosion has never been determined. Some believe a lightning strike or seismic activity was to blame, while others suspect sparks from the re-starting of equipment after the New Year's holiday ignited the explosion. Multiple investigations and hearings sought to determine who was responsible, with many focusing on the fact that the Bush Administration had stalled regulatory

See History, Page 9A

Dec. 31, 1862

U.S.S. Monitor sinks

On Dec. 31, 1862, the U.S.S. Monitor sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras. Just nine months earlier, the ship had been part of a revolution in naval warfare when the ironclad duelled to a standstill

Jan. 2, 1980

U.S.-Russia détente ends

On this day in 1980, in a strong reaction to the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asks the Senate to postpone action on the SALT II nuclear weapons treaty and recalls the U.S. ambassador to Moscow. These actions sent a

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Allowed Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room #115, Dobie Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking testimony from interested parties to the 2023 biennial determination of allowed cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayer as the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the allowed cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C. G.S. § 62-127a. The rates established pursuant to N.C. G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the allowed cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the utility and consenting public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayer, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable John Sizer, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless they contain verbatim statements submitted at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in this matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rule R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Responsible trash management

By ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special to the CT

Roadside litter and illegal dumping continue to be a chronic problem in Person County. The good news is that we have the services and regulations needed to help us combat this issue. As we kick-off the new year, everyone should be aware of these resources and make a new year's resolution to consistently apply them so we can solve our litter problems.

The best solution is to minimize the creation of trash in the first place. This is done by reducing the use of disposable items, reusing items so they don't become trash, and recycling where ever possible so that the item can be converted back to raw materials for remanufacturing.

We are fortunate in Person County to have a self-service recycle center located at 741 Martin St. in Roxboro. The center's hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. on Monday through 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Residents can offload their unbagged recyclable materials into the containers located on either side of the drive through lane on the west side of the building. This is a free service for most materials such as, aluminum, glass, paper, plastic and steel (including white goods (washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.). A complete list of all the accepted recyclable materials and fees (if any) can be found on <https://www.personcountync.gov/government/departments-1-2/> person-industries.

Items that can't be reused or recycled should be properly disposed of at a landfill via a trash pickup service. If a pickup service is not available to you, Person County residents can take advantage of free disposal at the Republic Landfill located at 9650 Oxford Road in Rougemont. The landfill's hours of operation are 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and the first and third Saturday of each month, with exceptions for holidays.

The Republic Landfill provides for free disposal of 2,000 tons of household trash per year for Person County residents. Residents can take their household trash to the landfill and proceed directly to the convenience center where large containers are located for offloading their household waste by hand into the containers. The free disposal service is intended for bagged and unbagged residential waste only. This free service is not intended for commercially generated waste or for recyclable materials.

Burning as a disposal method should never be used for trash materials which include paper, cardboard, tires, rubber products, building materials, wire, plastics and synthetic materials, asphalt shingles, oils, paints, and household/agricultural chemicals. Many of these restricted materials contain toxins which are released when they are burned. These chemicals pollute our air, and remain behind in fire residues which pollute our soil, and water resources. All these chemicals pose potential health risks for humans, and negatively

impact plants and wildlife. Under the Person County Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance, which went into effect July 1, 2023, open burning is strictly limited to leaves, grass clippings and other natural organic matter which originated on the land owner's property. Recreational fires for the cooking of food or social entertainment using natural materials are permitted. Violation of the Open Burning ordinance will result in a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for the second offense. Illegal burning activity should be reported to the Person County Fire Marshal's Office at 336-330-2315. After normal business hours, please call 336-558-2187 or 336-587-6545.

Trash of any kind should never be left on our roadsides. Under North Carolina's anti-littering law, individuals may be fined and face community service for intentionally and unintentionally littering. Intentional littering in the amount of 15 pounds or less is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$1,000 and up to 24 hours of community service. Unintentional littering in the amount of 15 pounds or less is an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$100 and up to 12 hours of community service. Littering activity should be reported to the Person County Sheriff's Department at 336-597-0500 or to the Department of Transportation's Swat-A-Litterbug Program at 800-331-5864.

Roadside litter is not only an eyesore but has serious environmental and economic impacts for the citizens of Person County. If everyone would manage their trash in a responsible manner using the resources available, we can dramatically reduce our roadside litter problem in 2024.



Student Highlight
Lily Dale
10th Grade

Lily and her family moved from New York state this summer and has become a beloved member of our RCA family. Lily excels academically, is a leader and is a friend to all. Lily is also a gifted singer and actress. She has become involved in Roxboro Little Theater and was in both the ADAMS FAMILY and THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER!

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Conference Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy - Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority and shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogeneration or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-137(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the utility and commission public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Eiers, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Road Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tuzika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Fike girls surge past Southern Nash's Ladybirds



Southern Nash's Deana Artis (2) shoots as Fike's Jewel Brewington (1) guards her during a game in the Farris & Thomas Holiday Tournament at Fike. Shatton Vick | Special to The Enterprise

By Craig Moyer
cmoyer@springhopeenterprise.com
252-265-7607

WILSON — It was a tale of two halves in a girls' basketball contest between Fike and Southern Nash in the Farris & Thomas Holiday Tournament on Dec. 27.

The Golden Demons were able to overcome a sluggish first half that head coach Marcus Johnson coined their worst of the season on the way to a 55-29 victory over the Ladybirds.

"Going into halftime, I got on them about that being our worst half of basketball," Johnson said. "We just weren't in sync and it was nowhere near the way we practiced during the week. We got on them and tried to ignite the fire and they came back out with vengeance."

Fike improved to 7-2 on the year with its sixth consecutive win, advancing to Friday's title game. The Ladybirds fell to 3-6, setting up a Thursday consolation-round match with Hunt.

A low-scoring first half on the tournament's opening day saw Southern Nash hold a 15-12 lead after two quarters.

Needing a spark on the offensive end, the Golden Demons and Jewell Brewington more than delivered in the third quarter.

The duo combined for 19 points in the third, as Fike held a 23-4 advantage in the quarter to turn a three-point deficit into a 16-point lead heading to the final frame.

Over the first 6:20 of the third, Brewington and Skinner combined to lead the Golden Demons on a 16-0 run to flip the game on its head.

"It was pretty cool," Skinner said. "Jewel (Brewington) is really good, so it was awesome to be on the same level as her for a quarter."

The pair traded 3-pointers in the opening minute. Brewington accounted for nine of the points during the run, with the other



Southern Nash's Allyah Croll (14) shoots over a Fike defender during a game in the Farris & Thomas Holiday Tournament at Fike. Shatton Vick | Special to The Enterprise

seven coming from Skinner.

On the night, Brewington finished with a game-high 23 points, with Skinner following with 16.

Everything seemed to fall for the Fike pair in the third, as Brewington's final bucket of the 16-point run came when her floater in the lane bounced several times on the rim before dropping in.

Later in the frame, Skinner also got a shooter's bounce, as the sophomore banked in a 3-pointer from the wing.

In the final minute of the third, Jalis Daniels added a pair of free throws for the Golden Demons, while Kylar Horvath beat the buzzer on a jumper to extend the lead to 35-19 after three quarters.

Already holding a commanding lead, Fike closed the game on a 15-3 run to cap the dominant second-half performance.

Brewington capped her big night on the offensive end with 11 of the points in the game-ending run. The junior finished with 20 points in the second half.

The Golden Demons also got four points from

accounted for 42.1% of the Firebirds' total offensive yardage. He also caught five passes for 68 yards, four for touchdowns, and returned a couple of punts for TDs.

"He's that guy that, if you're the other team, when he gets it, you worry," Batchelor said. "Like, from a defensive standpoint, I'm always looking at the other team and I'm

See FIREBIRDS, 10

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 154

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. §62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-162(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and concerning public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4106.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stebbins, Attorney General's Consumer, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 70th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Firebirds

continued from page 7

we were definitely weak in that position as far as depth. I challenged him to kind of step up and make plays. And that's what he was able to do. In a lot of games, in big spots, he really stepped up and made plays."

Mitchell said there was a bit of an adjustment mov-

Warriors

continued from page 7

Jordan Scott, who finished with a game-high 23 points, scored the next four points of the run to put Hunt ahead 65-56 with 1:37 left to play.

Southern Nash was unable to respond, as a 3-pointer from Israel Whitaker proved to be its lone points of overtime as the Warriors claimed the nine-point victory.

"We're trying to use this as a lift going into conference play," Taylor said. "We've got to learn from these games. I feel like we're getting better and we'll get ready for conference play."

Hunt closed the first quarter on a 9-3 run to take a 19-14 lead, as it would extend its lead to seven (22-21) heading into halftime.

The Firebirds erased the deficit in the third quarter. A layup by Jayden Whitaker just before the buzzer tied the game at 41 heading to the fourth.

An action-packed fourth quarter saw the teams trade scores. The Warriors were eventually able to go on a 7-0 run to take their largest lead of the frame at 51-46 with 2:38 left in the game.

A pair of free throws from Jayden Hartsfield followed by a score by Brandon Hill would quickly pull Southern Nash back within a point.

Scott connected on a floater in the lane inside the final minute to put Hunt up by

Warriors

continued from page 7

three before Hill responded with a score on the other end with 27 seconds left. With 10 seconds left, Scott would go 1-of-2 from the foul line, as Jayden Whitaker drew a foul on his way up the court on the ensuing inbound play.

The rivalry calmly connected on both free throws to tie the game. Austin Joyner's 3-pointer clanged off the rim at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Along with Scott's game-high 23 points, Joyner added 20 points on the Warriors, while Hines also finished in double figures with 12.

Israel Whitaker led Southern Nash with 15 points, while Jayden Whitaker chipped in 11 and Hill finished with 10.

SOUTHERN NASH (8)
J. Whitaker 11, Hartsfield 9, I. Whitaker 15, Saunders 2, Hill 10, Lynn 10, Hill 10, Hartsfield 2
HUNT (6)
Hunt 15, Joyner 20, Scott 23, Alston 1, Price 3, Chaves 1
SCORING LEADERS
Southern Nash 147, 20, 31, 19
Hunt 138, 12, 28, 19

Farris & Thomas Holiday Tournament

GLANCE

All games played at Fike High Gym.

Opening Game, Dec. 27
Brewington 54, Hunt 49
Fike 54, Southern Nash 48

Thursday, Dec. 28
Hunt 54, Southern Nash 51, Hunt 49
Fike 54, Southern Nash 48

Friday, Dec. 29
Hunt 54, Southern Nash 51, Hunt 49
Fike 54, Southern Nash 48

Sharpsburg mayor stripped of duties after DWI arrest

By Olivia Nealey
olivia@springhopeenterprise.com
252-265-7679

SHARPSBURG — Town commissioners called on Mayor Robert Williams to resign and voted to strip him of his duties Thursday following a drunken driving arrest last month. His power has been transferred to the mayor pro tem.

Commissioners held a special meeting to discuss legal options and address Williams' conduct. Police charged him with DWI on Dec. 21 following a traffic stop in Rocky Mount.

By unanimous vote, the Sharpsburg Board of Commissioners declared Williams "mentally and physically incapable" of performing his mayoral duties due to "his serious issues with alcohol," according to the motion.

Commissioners delivered a Dec. 22 letter to Williams less than 24 hours after his arrest detailing other allegations, including claims that police officers found Williams impaired while parked at a local laundromat and that he made a voicemail "threat" to the town's police chief.

Commissioner Beverly Davis said she wasn't happy about the unfortunate position in which the board found itself.

"However, it is a position that Mayor Williams' action has put us in," Davis said. "As commissioners, we cannot and will not subject our citizens and



Residents listen as Sharpsburg commissioners and the town attorney discuss their legal options in a special meeting Thursday following Mayor Robert Williams' DWI arrest on Dec. 21. Olivia Nealey | Enterprise NewsMedia

our town to this type of conduct that is unbecoming to anyone, let alone our mayor. It is an embarrassment to our town."

Williams is prohibited from being on Sharpsburg town property and contacting any town employees while the board's actions are in effect. He wasn't present for Thursday's meeting.

Williams pleaded guilty to DWI in January 2019 following an impaired driving arrest the day he was elected mayor in a May 2018 special election.

Many residents attended Thursday's special meeting. Before commissioners voted to sideline the mayor, Town Attorney Brian Pridgen presented a timeline of Williams' alleged misconduct and explained the board's legal options.

Williams' blood-alcohol level on Dec. 21 registered 0.21, nearly three times the legal limit, Pridgen said, citing the Rocky Mount Police Department letter that stated.

Pridgen said witnesses corroborated the officer's account. Williams refused medical assistance and was taken home by his wife, officials said.

After Williams was released from jail following his DWI arrest, he called Sharpsburg Police Chief Michael Thomas' cellphone and left a voicemail message saying, "Yeah, mother—, I'm gonna

deal with you, bye," according to documents. Commissioners said that recording constituted a threat against a town employee and sworn law enforcement officer.

"NUMEROUS CONCERNS
Pridgen said Williams contacted him after receiving commissioners' letter and said he would respond after consulting with his attorney. Williams notified Pridgen on Jan. 2 that he was in an assessment for detox and potentially would enter a facility for treatment but would not resign, Pridgen said.

Williams then contacted the board and said he "regretted any misconduct" but would not be "intimidated" or "coerced" and that "the more his rights were violated, the more the dollar amount will rise," Pridgen said.

Pridgen also noted "numerous" concerns regarding Williams' conduct toward board members and town employees as well as "suspected" intoxication incidents that weren't detailed in Thursday's meeting.

"THIS IS ENOUGH
Davis said her prayer is for Williams to seek help. She believes the Dec. 21 traffic stop "served lives on the highway and possibly his own life."

"Driving drunk is something that this board

See **MAYOR, 3**

obligation to our town and its citizens to provide a safe environment for them to live and work in."

Commissioners unanimously voted for Pridgen to draft a proposed resolution condemning the mayor's actions and conduct.

The board is expected to vote on that resolution during its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday.

Voters reelected Williams by a 19-vote margin in 2021. His current term expires in November 2025.

LAUNDROMAT, VOICEMAIL ALLEGATIONS

Two days prior to Williams' Dec. 21 arrest, a Sharpsburg police officer found the mayor in the Clean-Clean Laundromat parking lot in an "obviously severely intoxicated condition," according to commissioners' letter to Williams.

"As your vehicle was in the parking lot, it appears that you drove to the location in an intoxicated condition, jeopardizing the safety of our citizens," the letter states.

Pridgen said witnesses corroborated the officer's account. Williams refused medical assistance and was taken home by his wife, officials said.

After Williams was released from jail following his DWI arrest, he called Sharpsburg Police Chief Michael Thomas' cellphone and left a voicemail message saying, "Yeah, mother—, I'm gonna

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk



Visitors browse vendor booths during a May 2023 flea market held at the Spring Hope railroad depot. Hannah Whitley Camarena | Enterprise file photo

Depot

continued from page 1

bids for the work.

"We have had a surge of events coming to town the last couple of years — I think more than ever before — and an event center with catering facilities will draw even more events to town, weekends and weekdays alike," Pritchard said. "It will be great for commerce in Spring Hope and nearby, help local businesses as more and more visitors come to town and give residents more and new activities to do. It will be great, and it's nice to hear from so many residents, businesses and event organizers that are excited to see it open."

The contract Pritchard signed covers repair and replacement of building systems and components, including but not limited to "life safety, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, structural, interior and exterior finishes, accessibility and the construction of a kitchen area and outdoor eating and entertainment space (deck)."

"The depot will not materially change in exterior appearance, and the interior will be designed by the architect and reviewed by the board," Town Manager Andrew Delonno said in a Dec. 29 email. Before Spring Hope was an incorporated town, the community sprang up around the train depot built when a segment of railroad tracks from Nashville to Pine Valley was completed

in August 1887, according to a previous story in *The Enterprise* that chronicles the depot's history.

"The depot was called Spring Hope Depot because the nearest post office 4 miles southeast was called Spring Hope," the article states. A turntable was constructed a few yards past the depot to train engines could turn around and head back toward Nashville, Guy Sturgeon of the Spring Hope Historical Museum said in the story.

Delonno said he will likely sit down with an architect to "hammer out a tentative project schedule" sometime in January.

The next Spring Hope Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 5 at Town Hall, 118 W. Railroad St.

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Vol. 78, No. 2
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The Enterprise Main Office
113 N. Ash St.
Spring Hope, NC 27882
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to noon

62023 The Enterprise
(595) 52-2660
Published Wednesday by
The Enterprise
113 N. Ash Street
Spring Hope, NC 27882
Newspaper postage paid at Spring Hope, NC

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Enterprise
113 N. Ash Street
Spring Hope, NC 27882

Nutrition important before, after surgery

Q I'm having surgery soon and I'm worried about recovery. Are there any foods I can eat that will help? LY, Winterville

A It's great that you have some time to prepare yourself for surgery. Good nutrition is important both before and after surgery. Taylor Stamey, a Brody medical student, has information to share with you. Here is what she wants you to know.

It is essential to eat a wide variety of foods in order to promote wound healing. Including adequate micronutrients and macronutrients in your diet will aid in recovery from surgery. Macronutrients are the nutrients we need in large quantities. You know them as fat, protein and carbohydrates.

Micronutrients are nutrients needed in smaller quantities or vitamins and minerals. There are many types of cells involved in wound healing, and all require protein for proper functioning.

Formation of new blood vessels and collagen, the main structural protein found in skin and connective tissues, requires protein. Proteins also are involved in the immune response — your body's way of fighting off disease.

Sources of protein include chicken and turkey, lean beef, fish and shellfish, eggs, almonds, Greek yogurt, milk, lentils, peanuts, and beans. It is recommended to multiply your weight by 0.7 to find how much protein you need daily. For the average American, that's 100 grams or in a day that could be one chicken breast, an egg, a serving each of milk, almonds, Greek yogurt and beans.

The specific amino acids — arginine and glutamine — are building blocks of proteins involved in wound healing. Arginine is essential for the inflammatory process, collagen synthesis, promotion of tissue growth and activation of immune system cells.



KATHY KOLASA

Some foods with arginine are lean red meat, chicken, and turkey, fish, nuts and seeds, legumes, whole grains and low-fat dairy products. Some foods with glutamine are beef, pork, chicken, dairy products, spinach, parsley and cabbage.

Carbohydrates are necessary for production of cells creating collagen, white blood cell function, and secretion of hormones, like insulin, helping tissue growth. Quinoa, beans, oats, and berries are all examples of healthy carbohydrates. Fats have a structural function in all cells of the body and also form compounds involved in the inflammatory process necessary for wound healing. Some healthy fats are nuts, seeds, fish, canola and olive oil.

Vitamins are important micronutrients involved in wound healing. Vitamin A helps immune function and inflammatory processes, as well as skin and collagen synthesis. B vitamins help produce immune system cells and tissue growth, and collagen synthesis. Vitamin C helps collagen synthesis, antioxidant activity, and formation of new blood vessels. Vitamin D keeps tissues strong, allows substances to move between cells, and lowers inflammation.

Include in your diet foods like kale, spinach, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, squash, tomatoes, bell peppers, peas, mushrooms, avocado, cantaloupe, mango, bananas, oranges, nuts, milk, eggs, lean meat, fish, whole-grain breads, cabbage, kale and spinach.

It also helps in preventing wound infections. Glutamine is necessary for antioxidant production, transport of amino acids in the body and the inflammatory process.

Foods rich in vitamin D include fish such as salmon, swordfish and tuna, as well as egg yolks and fortified foods. The usual serving size of fish is 4 ounces, with the recommended amount of fish in a week being 8-12 ounces. It is not recommended to eat more than that to promote wound healing.

Zinc and iron are important minerals involved in wound healing. Proliferation of cells involved in inflammation and tissue growth requires zinc. Zinc is also involved in fighting infection. Iron carries oxygen throughout your body, which is important for feeding tissues and producing collagen.

Foods containing zinc include cooked oysters, beef, crab, oats, dairy products, peanuts, eggs, salmon and rice. Iron-containing foods include meat, poultry, seafood, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, whole grains, legumes, tofu and dark leafy greens such as spinach and broccoli. It is not recommended to eat raw oysters if you have a compromised immune system, such as after surgery, as raw oysters may harbor bacteria.

New research has demonstrated possible but not proven benefit of curcumin for wound



FILE/SHUTTERSTOCK

healing, but supplementation is not currently recommended. Curcumin is a curcuminoid found in turmeric and may prevent unnecessary inflammation and promote proliferation of tissues and collagen. Curcumin can be found in mango ginger and curry powder. Side effects and needed dose are not known.

Eating an adequate diet of a wide variety of foods can prevent macro- and micro-nutrient deficiencies which will aid in wound healing. After any surgery, ask your doctor if you need to see on a special diet and ask a registered dietitian nutritionist (RD) to review your usual intake to ensure you are getting the right amount of nutrients to aid wound healing.

Talk to your doctor or RD before taking any dietary supplement including arginine, glutamine, zinc, iron, curcumin, turmeric or a vitamin-mineral supplement. Dr. Kolasa can send you a handout on wound healing and diet. Write her at kolasa@ecu.edu

Professor emerita Kathy Kolasa, a registered dietitian nutritionist and Ph.D., is an affiliate professor in the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. Contact her at kolasa@ecu.edu

Study: Moderate salt reduction can lower your blood pressure

EBONY WILLIAMS
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Cutting back on sodium intake can be challenging, especially during the holiday season, when so many activities are centered on food. But according to a new study, cutting back moderately on sodium can lead to much lower blood pressure.

According to a study released in JAMA, almost everyone — including those already on blood-pressure-reducing drugs — can lower blood pressure by cutting out a teaspoon of salt daily.

"We found that 70-75 percent of all people, regardless of whether they are already on blood pressure medications or not, are likely to see a reduction in their blood pressure if they lower the sodium in their diet," said co-principal investigator Norrina Allen, PhD, the Quentin D. Young Professor of Health Policy in the Department of Preventive Medicine in a press release.

Participants in the study consisted of 213 men and women in their 50s, 60s and 70s, who reduced their current salt intake by one teaspoon daily. A week later, 72% of participants saw a decrease in their systolic blood pressure.

"The fact that blood pressure dropped so significantly in just one week and was well tolerated is important and emphasizes the potential public health impact of dietary sodium reduction in the population, given that high blood pressure is such a huge health issue worldwide," said co-investigator Cora Lewis, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, high blood pressure accounts for nearly 500,000 deaths in the United States each year. While limiting salt intake can help lower blood pressure, there are other lifestyle changes that can help too, according to the Mayo Clinic:

- Exercise regularly
 - Eat a healthy diet
 - Limit alcohol
 - Quit smoking
 - Get at least six hours of sleep per night
- "Maintaining an awareness of your numbers can alert you to any changes and help you detect patterns. Tracking your results over time will also reveal if the changes you've made are working," advised the American Heart Association.

ASK THE DOCTORS

Resistant starches the new topic in gut microbiome talk

Q I've been learning about the gut microbiome, and the terminology keeps changing. I understand probiotics. Then came prebiotics and postbiotics, which I think I finally get. But now people are talking about resistant starch. What is it, and why is it important?

A It's fascinating how quickly academic research into the gut microbiome moves into the public domain. In the last decade, we have gone from rarely hearing the word "probiotics" to seeing it every day, and seemingly everywhere. Probiotics are in countless dietary supplements, as well as personal products such as shampoo and conditioner, makeup, lotions, soaps and deodorants. They are even infused into clothing. And, as you point out, our gut-related vocabulary is constantly expanding as well.

The theory that the body contains beneficial microbes reaches back centuries. The idea of "probiotics," introduced by a German scientist in 1953, is far more recent. Today, the word refers to the live bacteria and other microbes that support health and bodily functions. It is also commonly used to indicate products and supplements that contain those microbes.

In the last decade, the terms prebiotic and postbiotic have come into the conversation, too. Prebiotic refers to compounds that serve as a food source for the microbes in our guts, and which foster their growth and well-being. Postbiotics are certain substances produced by the microbes, which also benefit human health.

And this brings us to resistant starch. We have discussed it here before, but it's so interesting, we're happy to address it again. Resistant starch is a carbohydrate that resists digestion. Instead of being broken down and absorbed by the small intestine, resistant starch moves on, largely unchanged, to the large intestine. There, it is fermented and consumed by the trillions of microbes in the

gut. Skipping the small intestine means resistant starch doesn't contribute to blood glucose levels. Research has linked it to improved intestinal and colonic health.

Studies have found diets that include resistant starch help with blood sugar control, yield more healthful blood lipid levels and improve feelings of satiety after eating. They have also been linked to lower risk for colon cancer.

As bacteria in the gut ferment resistant starch, they create compounds known as short-chain fatty acids. These include butyrate and propionate. The former is associated with lower rates of colorectal cancers. Propionate has been shown to lower inflammation in the body and also improve immune support.

Foods that are high in resistant starch include nuts, seeds, beans, legumes, whole grains, unripe bananas and plantains.

It has also been found that cooking and then cooling certain high-carb foods transforms those carbs into resistant starch. These include rice, potatoes, yams, whole grains such as oats and barley and pasta.

Someone looking to increase their consumption of resistant starch should consider allowing those foods to cool completely before consuming them. Research shows that for the first four days after cooking, each chill day increases the percentage of resistant starch.

A caveat: If foods high in resistant starch are new to your diet, add them gradually in order to avoid gas and bloating.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.

Recycle this newspaper.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities – 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing on this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket, including cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolina, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VA) (Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion)), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, et/ia, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be offered by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-327a. The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rate and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to: Mr. Christopher J. Ayres, Executive Director, Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to: The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4324. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Jan 22 2024

Vaping/*from A1*

Hodson reminded the board that several schools had incurred physical damage to plumbing systems due to students flushing vape cartridges to avoid detection, which is one of the reasons Pitt County Schools became part of the lawsuit.

District 6 representative Worth Forbes asked if the new weapons detection equipment schools began using in August 2023 was capable of discovering vapes. Superintendent Ethan Lenker said the OpenGate systems could detect vapes, depending on the sensitivity setting.

Erickson said weapons detectors could be set so that they can detect something as small as a paper clip. But he said vape detectors function differently

and are designed to give schools more opportunities to uncover vaping on campus.

The biggest difference would be metal detectors will pick it up coming in the building but if it was to happen to get by depending on how it's set that day at the school, then the vape detector will actually pick up them using it in the building," he said. "It's in the same category as a smoke detector."

Erickson said vape detectors cost about \$1,000 each, with an additional annual subscription fee for software access. This compares with \$17,500 per set for portable weapons detectors.

In her report to the board, Hodson showed a schedule of settlement payments through December 2027 that would provide the school district with

amounts ranging from about \$46,000 to \$51,000 a year from a \$580,742 settlement reached with JUUL Labs in March 2023. She reminded the board that PCS also has \$174,904 coming from its September 2023 settlement with Allria, a co-defendant in the e-cigarette litigation.

Settlement proceeds are to be used to compensate Pitt County Schools for damages from vapes and to address youth vaping and nicotine addiction.

"We are also looking into options for prevention education as well as cessation and substance abuse counseling programs for students," Hodson said. "The Truth campaign actually offers a cessation program that we think is promising. It has been highly successful for around 600,000 students and adults."

While the school district has said that it does not expect any additional settlements in the e-cigarette case, it is now part of another multi-district litigation. The Pitt County Board of Education voted in November 2023 to join a multi-district litigation in the Northern District of California titled "Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation."

In other business Monday, the board:
■ Recognized the Pitt County Educational Foundation as this month's Community Partner. The foundation, established in 1987, awarded more than \$75,000 in scholarships and more than \$40,000 in mini-grants last year, Executive Director Beth Uffers said.
■ Recognized Kurt Garner for

being named the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year. Garner is a business teacher at J.H. Rose High School and is a former Pitt County teacher of the year and a former North Carolina Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Adviser of the Year.

■ Recognized Hope Middle School Principal Jennifer Johnson and Wintergreen Primary and Intermediate schools Principal Paul Briney for achieving the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Lighthouse Award. Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence assists schools in assessing the quality of their academic and instructional programs and in developing a school-wide action plan to ensure measurable student achievement.

Theater/*from A1*

Barber said that Aaron also was not made aware that he had to leave his mother at the theater when security asked him to leave the premises. At some point, Barber said that Aaron mentioned his own discussions with attorneys, which prompted the reverend to turn over discussions to Daniels and company.

Daniels was joined by local attorney Tyrell Clemons, who will serve as Barber's counsel in Pitt County, as well as disability activists at Monday's event. He said that right now, counsel is still "at the table" and willing to handle the situation with

diplomacy. No legal proceedings have been filed, though Daniels said he is willing to get litigious.

Daniels also said that Barber does not want the employees who contacted security and police to be terminated, but rather to receive training to prevent such incidents in the future. He said that the chair at no point caused a fire hazard, citing his own experience in the U.S. Air Force where he served as a fire fighter in Iraq.

"This is a legal matter," Daniels said. "We are optimistic that we can come to an amicable resolution through diplomacy. I understand that litigiousness is not always an approach.

"This is a clear violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act," Daniels has experience in eastern North Carolina's legal scene, having represented the family of Andrew Brown after the man was shot and killed by three Pasquotank County sheriff's deputies on April 21, 2021, in Elizabeth City. In that case Pasquotank County and Brown's family reached a \$3 million settlement.

Money is not the object in Barber's case, though, according to Daniels. He said that he wants to help bring about systemic change that will ensure more acceptance and accommodation for people with disabilities at AMC locations.

Insurance/*from A1*

Last week's bureau filing offered stark differences in proposed increases depending on where a homeowner lives. The bureau proposed an increase of 99.4% for properties in the beach areas within Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties — where structures are at greater risks from storms. Proposed increases on inland properties in those same counties would be 71.4% or 43%, depending on the ZIP code.

The bureau's proposals in nearly a dozen far northwestern and far western counties, however, ranged from 4.3% to 8.5%. Proposed premium increases in Raleigh and Durham (39.8%), Greensboro and Winston-Salem (36.6%) and Charlotte (41.3%) were higher.

Judges skeptical of Trump immunity claim

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With Donald Trump presiding for the first time in months, federal appeals court judges in Washington expressed deep skepticism Tuesday that the former president was immune from prosecution on charges that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The panel of three

judges also also questioned whether they had jurisdiction to consider the appeal at this point in the case, raising the prospect that Trump's effort could be dismissed.

During lengthy arguments, the judges repeatedly pressed Trump's lawyer to defend claims that Trump was shielded from criminal charges for acts that he says fell within his official duties as president.

That argument was rejected last month by a lower-court judge overseeing the case against Trump, and the appeals judges suggested through their questions that they, too, were dubious that the Founding Fathers envisioned absolute immunity for presidents after they leave office.

"I think it's paradoxical to say that his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed

allows him to violate criminal law," said Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, an appointee of former President George H.W. Bush.

The outcome carries enormous ramifications both for the landmark criminal case against Trump and for the broader, and legally untested, question of whether an ex-president can be prosecuted for acts committed in the White House.

Crypto/*from A1*

"If you completely reverse it, act like it was never on the books, a crypto company can still come to the city and apply ... and it would go to the board of adjustment and never come back to council," City Manager Michael Cowin said.

Blackburn asked if staff proposed the zoning ordinance to put extra restrictions in place. Gooby said Compute North asked for the ordinance because it didn't want to go through the special use permit process.

The special use permitting process allows the board of adjustment to put conditions on how a business would operate, if a business doesn't follow the conditions, the board of adjustment can revoke the special use permit if it finds the company didn't follow the conditions.

It was pointed out that the ordinance allowed modular data processing facilities by right, meaning a company that wants to locate in Greenville doesn't need council approval under the current ordinance.

"The concern is that this particular ordinance left a scar on our community," Blackburn said. "If we want to have standards for data processing centers and say no modular data processing, let's make that decision," she said. "My intention is to direct staff to look at what removing this ordinance looks like and to let us as a council decide what we as a council would like to see, if anything."

Gooby said community comments and council concerns led staff to create an ordinance that put

additional requirements and restrictions on modular facilities, including limiting their locations, requiring extra distancing from property lines and noise mitigation.

Organized opposition to data processing facilities began in 2021 when Compute North tried to locate a facility less than one mile from Belvoir Elementary School.

"There is more to data processing than crypto," said City Manager Michael Cowin.

Banks, insurance companies and weather analysts are some of industries that use the type of data processing offered by Compute North.

Compute North, at the time, only served cryptominers. Several months after Greenville added data processing to its list of ordinances, Compute North filed for bankruptcy. The cryptocurrency market in general tumbled in 2022 and throughout 2023.

Prior to council discussion, five citizens used the public comments period to argue in favor of removing or changing the data processing facilities ordinance, citing negative effects similar facilities had in other communities.

"I think what we are asking for here is for staff to take a look at the ordinance, bringing everybody up to speed on the ordinance ... and maybe provide some input on things that could be tweaked, could be changed, in order to achieve the goal of tonight," Cowin said. "To remove it ... I don't think it would be in the best interest based on the information discussed tonight."

company from coming to community.

Daniels agreed, noting that their first option was locating in northern Pitt County near a lower income community.

"Even if we do outside Greenville we are looking at our most underserved individuals and that's not something we want to see happen," Daniels said. She asked Blackburn to not take away power to govern data processing center operations.

Gooby said she would be consulting with the North Carolina League of Municipalities, an organization that represents the interests of towns and cities in the state and provides consulting and training, to see if the city have any authority to ban the use.

Cowin asked the council to think about the current cryptocurrency climate.

"We do not have cryptocurrency companies beating down our doors to come to Greenville," he said. "That ship has sailed and is out to sea."

Prior to the discussion, the council approved with unanimous votes:

■ A \$261,000 contract with Hudson Brothers Construction Company to build a gateway sign near the intersection of Stan-tonbury and Allen roads.

■ A \$4.4 million contract with S.T. Wooten of Wilson for the city's 2024 street rehabilitation and preservation project along with a \$273,269 contract with TransSystem for inspections and testing services of Wooten's work.

■ Valley View Consulting to provide investment advisory services. The payment contract will be on a sliding scale fee and estimated to be \$42,500 annually.

Advertisement for 'Just Chillin...' featuring a dog and a sign that says 'Hurry In! Good thru February 20, 2024. 15% off bags of Winter Blend Seed or Winter Blend Seed Cylinders'.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH. DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 194. BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

MARKET ROUNDUP

Inside Business

For an in-depth look at the business community in Hampton Roads, check out the weekly Inside Business tab. Read online at insidebiz.com. Subscribe by calling 757-446-9000.

STOCKS

Wall Street started 2024 with a slump, giving back some of its powerful gains from the year before. The S&P 500 fell 0.8% Tuesday. The Dow edged 0.1% higher, and the Nasdaq composite fell 1.5%. Some of the market's

sharper drops came from stocks that were last year's biggest winners. Apple had its worst day in nearly five months. Much of Wall Street had been proving for at least a pass in the most recent rally.

The equipment supplier to automakers and other makers said it is taking support requests in China from the Dutch government on certain machines. The web server company remains on its plan to buy JOY's remaining operations in China. Sharp prices could help the electric vehicle maker increase its North American vehicle sales by at most 20%.

Shares of the company fell 4.3% to \$116.32. The equipment supplier to automakers and other makers said it is taking support requests in China from the Dutch government on certain machines.

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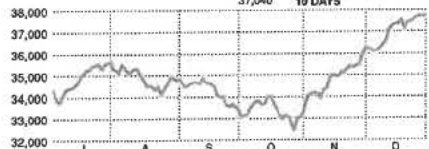


Table with market indices: Nasdaq (-245.41, -1.63%), S&P 500 (-27.00, -0.57%), Russell 2000 (-14.27, -0.70%).

Table with commodity prices: Gold futures (+0.7 to 3594), Silver (+2.00 to \$2,054.40), Platinum (+1.10 to \$1,618.51), Euro (+0.080 to \$170.38), Crude Oil (-1.27 to \$70.38).

Table with market movements: Dow (+0.5), NASDAQ (-1.5), S&P (+0.1), Dow (+1.4), NASDAQ (+3.7), S&P (+3.8), Dow (+12), NASDAQ (+13), S&P (+12).

LOCAL STOCKS

Table of local stocks with columns: STOCK, CHG, CLSE, DIV, STOK, CHG, CLSE, DIV. Includes companies like Dominion Energy, Albemarle, and others.

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Table of most active stocks with columns: STOCK, CHG, CLSE, DIV. Includes companies like Pfizer, Amazon, and others.

LARGEST COMPANIES

Table of largest companies with columns: STOCK, CHG, CLSE, DIV. Includes companies like Apple, Microsoft, and others.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Table of foreign exchange rates with columns: CURRENCY, CLSE, CHG. Includes rates for Euro, Pound, and others.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 194 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2023 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 330 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2023 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying generation and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEP), Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a, New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rate and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. 62-155 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. 62-3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to replicate statements in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION This the 7th day of August, 2023. NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION Thanks D. Coyner, Deputy Clerk

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MARKET ROUNDUP

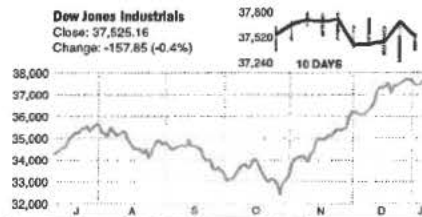
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STORY STOCKS

Most of Wall Street slipped, giving back some of the big gains from the day before. The S&P 500 fell 0.1% Tuesday, coming off its best day in nearly two months. The Dow lost 0.4%, and the Nasdaq composite edged up 0.1%, mostly on tech gains.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and Russell 2000.



Summary table for Nasdaq, S&P 500, and Russell 2000 with columns for Close, High, Low, and Previous.

Table for Major market growth and decline showing 5-day, 30-day, and 1-year percentage changes for Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P.

LOCAL STOCKS

Table of local stocks with columns: Stock, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes companies like Albemarle Inc, Albemarle USA, and Albemarle Chemical.

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Table of most active stocks with columns: Stock, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes companies like Albemarle Inc, Albemarle USA, and Albemarle Chemical.

LARGEST COMPANIES

Table of largest companies with columns: Stock, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes companies like Albemarle Inc, Albemarle USA, and Albemarle Chemical.

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of largest mutual funds with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, and Volume.

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State of North Carolina Utilities Commission Raleigh. Docket No. E-100, Sub 194. Notice of Public Hearing regarding the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities.