

Dominion Energy Services, Inc.
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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

February 14, 2022

Ms. Kimberly A. Campbell, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
430 North Salisbury Street
Dobbs Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

**Re: Docket No. E-100, Sub 175
Dominion Energy North Carolina
2021 NC Biennial Avoided Costs Proceeding**

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Enclosed is an Affidavit of Publication which will serve as proof of publication of the Public Notice as required in ordering paragraph 10 of the Commission's August 13, 2021 *Order Establishing Biennial Proceeding, Requiring Data, and Scheduling Public Hearing* ("Order") in the above-referenced docket.

Pursuant to the instructions in ordering paragraph 10 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 3, 2022. Copies of tear sheets from each of the newspapers in which the public notice ran are also enclosed.

Due to scheduling errors at the newspapers, the ad placement in the Coastland Times, originally scheduled to run January 5, 2022 and January 12, 2022, ran on January 12, 2022 and January 19, 2022; the ad placement in the Bertie Ledger Advance, originally scheduled to run January 6, 2022 and January 13, 2022, ran on January 13, 2022 and January 20, 2022; and the ad placement for Roxboro, The Courier Times, originally scheduled to run January 5, 2022 and January 12, 2022, ran on January 13, 2022 and January 20, 2022. A copy of the letter from the publisher explaining the errors is 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: Tim Dodge, Esq.
Layla Cummings, Esq.



Virginia Press
Services

February 8, 2022

Letter of Explanation

RE: Dominion North Carolina Public Notice Docket No. E-100, SUB 167 – January 2022

The following scheduling errors occurred in the scheduling of the referenced public notice:

The Bertie Ledger Advance - missed the originally scheduled ad on 1/6/22, due to issues in their computer system. It was rescheduled and ran on 1/13.

The Coastland Times - missed the originally scheduled ad on 1/5, due to human error in scheduling ad. It was rescheduled and ran on 1/12.

The Roxboro Courier Times - missed the originally scheduled ad on 1/6, due to human error in scheduling ad. It was rescheduled and ran on 1/13.

Sincerely,

Susan Wineland-li
Advertising Sales Director
Virginia Press Services
susanw@vpa.net
804-521-7580



Virginia Press Services

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
(Order #22013DD0)

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 175 was published in the following North Carolina and Virginia newspapers on the dates listed in the year 2022.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bertie Ledger Advance 01/13/22, 01/20/22 | Butner Creedmoor News 01/06/22, 01/13/22 |
| Coastland Times 01/12/22, 01/19/22 | Edenton, The Chowan Herald 01/06/22, 01/13/22 |
| Elizabeth City Daily Advance 01/04/22, 01/11/22 | Gates County Index 01/06/22, 01/13/22 |
| Hertford Perquimans Weekly 01/06/22, 01/13/22 | |
| Martin Co Enterprise (changed name from Williamston Enterprise) 01/06/22, 01/13/22 | |
| Nashville Graphic 01/06/22, 01/13/22 | Pamlico News 01/05/22, 01/12/22 |
| Plymouth Roanoke Beacon 01/05/22, 01/12/22 | Roanoke Chowan News Herald 01/05/22, 01/12/22 |
| Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 01/04/22, 01/11/22 | Rocky Mt Telegram 01/04/22, 01/11/22 |
| Roxboro, The Courier Times 01/13/22, 01/20/22 | Spring Hope Enterprise 01/05/22, 01/12/22 |
| The Daily Reflector 01/04/22, 01/11/22 | Virginian Pilot 01/04/22, 01/11/22 |

Julia Wigginton

Signature

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 8th day of February 2022.

My commission expires: 9/30/2024

[Signature]

[Notary Public]



FROM PAGE ONE

BARMER

Continued from A1

Barmer emphasizes the mutual support the various agencies give each other, with the Bertie Sheriff's Department assisting the Hertford County Sheriff's Department or Windsor PD assisting Aulander PD. Likewise, such support extends beyond the borders of these two counties to Northampton or Gates or Chowan and even across the state line with Southampton County, Va. often assisting local folks. And that path extends both ways.

Aulander Town Commissioner Jeanette Thrilham immediately noted of Barmer, "He does an outstanding job cooperating with surrounding law enforcement agencies to provide mutual aid in surrounding counties and municipalities."

"Always exhibiting professional, he maintains a rigorous program of certification and training for himself and any other officer in the program," according to Thrilham.

"Ever mindful of public safety," he continues to build our police force by recruiting and hiring additional qualified officers, allowing for more hours of

coverage and protection for our citizens."

To do so, he is constantly seeking grants and opportunities to acquire additional funding for the department.

Currently, the force consists of the Chief and seven others — Tyler Burden, Eddie Hoggard, Jessie Mizelle, Brian Knowles, Ricky Morris, William Barmer and Carl Conner, all dedicated to the concept of service.

Born in Ahsolde on September 18, 1966, Barmer has spent almost his entire life in the region, leaving only for military service. It's his home, and he wants to give back to it. He's been doing so in one form or another, working at least two jobs at a time since the day he turned 16 when he began working for Little Mint and Bell Brothers in Windsor.

Barmer credits Hoggard, Mike Williams and Scott Orlan with sparking his interest in law enforcement.

When Barmer was working for Ahsolde Body Shop, he met them and became interested in the work they were doing. While working full-time with Ahsolde Body, he commuted to Beaufort Community College for night classes. The men became friends, and Barmer credits and thanks Hoggard and Williams for mentoring him and helping him be-

come the officer he is today.

In addition to his work in law enforcement, he served with the National Guard, with stints in Windsor, Lenoir and Rocky Mount. At the time of his retirement, after twenty-seven years, he was assigned to the Edenton National Guard Unit.

He has also served as a volunteer firefighter with both Ahsolde and Aulander fire departments and currently, along with his sons, coaches a baseball team in Aulander that includes his grandsons, Dylar, 13, and Austin, 9.

Aulander Mayor Larry Drew notes that Barmer has actively supported the Aulander Youth League for the past fifteen years.

Talking with Barmer, one immediately realizes his enthusiasm for his job, what Thrilham calls "his passion for public safety."

He notes highlights, such as rescuing a child from a burning home in Aulander or transporting an infant to the hospital after a drive-by shooting at the intersection of N.C. 561 and R.C. 11, in both cases saving the lives.

He says he loves the work, and it is obvious he does. Once told, "if you ever wake up without the desire to get out there, it's time to get out," he says that's never

happened to him, and he cannot imagine doing anything else — in spite of the fact that he "gets out there" 75-80 hours per week.

Noting that law enforcement can be very hard on families, especially spouses, he credits Sherree, his wife of twenty-seven years, with the support he has needed to be the successful officer he is.

As a dispatcher for many years with the Bertie and Hertford County sheriff's departments, she understands what the job entails. Calling her "his rock," he says he realizes her importance to him and to his work every day.

Describing Aulander as a tight-knit community with good police-community relations, Barmer emphasizes that the job of law enforcement is always to serve and protect. He is there for the citizens, and they know they can always call on him. In fact, he freely gives his cell phone number to any and all.

When Marlene Thomas, Manager of Family Dollar in Aulander, was asked for her impression of Barmer, she immediately noted that she has his cell phone number with instructions to call whenever she needs him, and she said he always responds.

"He is here when we need him," she said. She describes Barmer as "an all-around good guy."

In a time when "it's not easy being blue," Barmer has found the secret to good community-police relations.

According to long-time Aulander resident, Dr. W. J. "Bubba" Peele, "the most successful relationship between police and the community is the one in which the town policeman gets to know the citizens, young and old alike, and builds up mutual respect."

"This is the real strength of Chief Jimmy Barmer," he said. "He takes pride in the responsibility of safe-guarding our citizens. He knows hundreds of us by name. He is interested not only in police-related business, but also in the daily activities and special events in the community. He is known to be a good neighbor. Just recently Jimmy saw me outside in our backyard wrestling with a problem. He stopped, got out of his police car, and spent some valuable time assisting me."

In that way, according to Mayor Drew, "the town and surrounding communities have definitely benefited from Jimmy's making himself available to help whenever a need arises."

His patrolling and police

ing have led him to meet nearly everyone in Aulander and have made it one of the safest communities in the area with one of the lowest crime rates."

Both Commissioner Thrilham and Mayor Drew echo Peele's sentiment, noting that Barmer is involved in many community activities. Drew cites Barmer's participation in the Aulander Elementary School Career Day and programs at Sallie Harrell Jenkins Memorial Library as well as his avid support of the Aulander Peanut Festival, Christmas Parade, and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Thrillham states, "Chief Barmer takes pride in being a part of the community of Aulander. The Town Council and citizens are proud to call Jimmy Barmer Chief of Police."

Mayor Drew adds, "We are blessed to have Jimmy serving our town."

Peele further adds, "We value him not only as our law enforcement officer, but also as our friend."

Not only does Barmer see the citizens as friends, but to him, they are family.

So, when asked, "Who's the hero in your family?" all can answer "Chief Barmer."

Seniors can be reached via email at bertie-news@ncweeklies.com.

SCHOOL

Continued from A1

and water lines.

An improved sewer system for Windsor Elementary on Cooper Hill Road, if built, would help eliminate an odor the school reportedly has.

Total cost for the four schools (Alewille Pre-K, Aulander Elementary, Windsor Elementary and Bertie Early College High School) came to \$824,500 estimate, or roughly \$205,000 per school.

"Keep in mind this is just a rough price," Bond noted. "It could be higher, or it could be lower."

In his recommendations to the school board, Superintendent Smallwood said the improvements could be done in two phases: Phase-I during the 2022-2023 school calendar, with Phase-II during 2023-2024.

He also branched two topics near to garner further discussion: a relocation of Bertie Ea-

ly College High School to the District office complex on U.S. 13 North (the old Bertie High School).

"There's more than enough space to hold those kids over there," Smallwood explained.

He said the strengths of relocation would be having the same campus location as Martin Community College (CBE programs, it wouldn't be considered a "community school," this avoiding community push back, and, of course, the cost savings.

Weaknesses included transporting meals, as there is no working cafeteria at the Central Office Complex, and lastly, updating the building layout to keep office area separate from classrooms.

Opportunities include better collaboration on projects and extra curricular activities between the high school and the early college, with MCJ courses offered at the same times.

While the "identity" of a stand-alone early college would be lost, he pointed out that most early colleges

statewide are not located on stand-alone campuses.

Prilly, Smallwood banded about the idea of transitioning Pre-K learning now done in classrooms at a central location making changes, including reverting back to home-schooling.

"You know we already have Pre-K at West Bertie and at Coleman (elementary schools)," the Superintendent noted. "It would have to be addressed for Aulander and Windsor, and there is empty classroom space there which could conceivably be moved to those buildings."

"There are empty classrooms in all of the buildings, even at the new schools," he maintained.

Board Chair Tarsha Dudley said the review of information provided was vital.

"This is based on the fact that we do have a decline in enrollment here in Bertie County Public Schools, and from an economic standpoint it's just not feasible to have all these schools open at one time," she said. "But

we now have this information and can sit down and discuss what we can do that's in the best interest of the students of Bertie County. We have to be cognizant of the students' needs."

Dudley said retreat planning sessions for board members on these topics are scheduled for later this winter and spring.

"I understand not wanting to lose a community school," remarked Cherry. "But at the same time, if it is not financially or educationally productive, we have to

make hard decisions. We're not losing, we just don't have the number of students we used to have."

Gene Motley can be reached via email at bertie-news@ncweeklies.com.

GRANT

Continued from A1

travel to the main campus is required.

"The Universal Technical Training Center will allow us to partner with the community and NC Works Career Center at the college to increase access to training for unemployed community members including veterans," explains

Wendy Vann, dean of continuing education and workforce development.

"Certification courses include the advanced manufacturing institute, facility maintenance, industrial arts, HVAC, plumbing and electrical, masonry, welding plate certification, and others. A new certification and licensure course for commercial truck driver's license was recently added at the college. Plans are to serve 250 students over two years.

"The new training center will enhance the existing courses we now offer and allow us to expand our scope of training to offer new classes to meet local needs," concluded Vann.

Golden LEAF also awarded \$410,000 through the Community-Based Grants Initiative to the college for adult continuing education in Northampton County.

make hard decisions. We're not losing, we just don't have the number of students we used to have."

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rate for Electric Utility Purchases from) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, DeLoe Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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, et al., 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 utility and cogenerating 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, 6724 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6000.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent cogenerators in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Siro, 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 verify 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 R1-6 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 4, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

CADA
Charlotte Area Development Association of NC, Inc.

CADA seeks qualified applicants for Weatherization Technician I. Applies Weatherization Technologies generated by diagnostic energy audits to housing units; Staff in this position must demonstrate ability to follow instructions, use carpentry tools requiring measurements and be or become efficient with the blower door and combustion analyzer and have or acquire BPI Certification. Education/certification/special training and work experience with electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, and carpentry are preferred. Must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to use a computer and input data. Salary: \$16.48 per hour/ Dependent on education and experience

A CADA application and three references must be submitted by January 21, 2022. Job Descriptions and applications are available online at www.nc-cada.org. Applicants can also inquire at NCWorks or call CADA @ 252-539-4155 for an application.

Applications may be submitted electronically, mailed to CADA PO Box 530, Rich Square, NC 27869, or placed in a drop box at any CADA office. Applicants selected for employment must successfully complete a criminal record check and drug screening.

CADA is an equal opportunity employer and agency. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The TDD number is 1-800-735-2962 or dial 711.

Christopher S. Moody
Executive Director
December 28, 2021

FROM PAGE ONE

Local COVID numbers continue to surge with omicron

The Ledger-Advance

More than 1,000 people in Bertie and Martin counties have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks as new cases due to the omicron variant continue to surge.

A total of 474 new cases of the virus were reported in Martin County between Dec. 29 and Wednesday, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. A total of 525 new cases were reported in Bertie County between during the same time frame.

Both counties reported single-day highs for the virus this month, with 64 new cases in Martin on Jan. 6 and 72 new cases in Bertie on Jan. 3, according to the DHHS COVID-19 dashboard.

Vaccination rates in both counties remains low, with 52 percent of Bertie County residents fully vaccinated and 48 percent of Martin County residents fully vaccinated.

Hospitalizations have climbed in nearly their highest level since the pandemic began, area health officials report, with unvaccinated residents making up the bulk of the those admitted and in intensive care.

Nearly 4,100 were hospitalized statewide as of Tuesday including 249 in Bertie. Health hospitals and 457 the 33-county Eastern Health Preparedness region.

New deaths in the area remained low. A total of 77 people have died in Martin County as of Wednesday, with a recent death on Jan. 2 and another on Dec. 28. The most recent death prior to that was on Nov. 18.

In Bertie County, at least 54 people have died from the virus, with the most

recent death occurring on Dec. 9.

Local health officials are reminding the public that COVID-19 testing is not being offered to patients without symptoms at Martin General Hospital.

Testing for COVID-19 is being offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at Scout Hut at 117 S. Smithwick St. in Williamston, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at East End at 1121 3rd St. Extension in Robersonville and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday

through Thursday at the Cahoon Center at 1206 U.S. 64 East in Columbia.

Testing is also available from 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at Washington Regional Medical Center in Plymouth.

Testing also is offered today and Friday at Vidant Bertie Hospital, 1403 S. King St. Windsor, from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Tests are free and no appointment is needed. Many area pharmacies also offer free testing.

Vaccinations remain

widely available for people age 5 and up. Third shots also are available for eligible persons. Visit vidanthealth.com and walmart.com/cp/4531.

Vidant Health is offering free vaccinations daily to people 12 and older at the Greenville Vaccine Clinic, 2380 W. Arlington Blvd. Call 252-847-8000 or visit vidant-health.com/vaccinate.

WEATHER

Continued from A1

communication officer, said if conditions become more severe, all primary routes in Martin and Bertie counties will be treated.

The NCDOT suggests motorists to stay off the road unless absolutely necessary if wintry conditions exist.

When driving, maintain a safe following distance and pass with extreme caution. Do not use cruise control and approach bridges and overpasses with caution.

If you begin to slide, remove your foot from the gas and climb the steering wheel in the direction of the slide. Avoid using your breaks and wait for your vehicle to slow down enough to regain traction before gently accelerating.

Colder weather also raised concerns about home heating safety after residential fires in the region. A mother, father and their 4-year-old son were killed Sunday in a fire in the Pitt County community of Bell Arthur.

The fire was attributed to overloaded extension cords. A space heater also was in use, officials said. A similar

incident displaced three people from their home in Grifton on the same day.

The American Red Cross on Monday urged residents to take care when heating their homes.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires, the local agency reported. Since Dec. 1, the Eastern North Carolina Region has helped 362 peo-

ple with urgent needs like emergency lodging, financial assistance and recovery planning after home fires.

"Colder temperatures often bring the increased risk of home heating fires, and we want everyone to stay safe by properly warming their home," said Barry Porter, Regional CEO, American Red Cross Eastern North Carolina. "The Red

Cross recommends families be mindful when heating their homes, especially with the use of space heaters."

Among other advice, the agency said residents should plug space heater power cords directly into outlets — never an extension cord. They should be turned off in empty rooms and while sleeping.

Visit redcross.org/fire for more information.

ECU HEALTH

Continued from A1

Vidant Health and dean of the Brody School of Medicine.

"The new partnership will create a national academic model for providing rural health care," Waldrum said. "Together as one, ECU Health will have profoundly positive impacts on the health and well-being of those we serve," he said.

The two organizations are

working together to evaluate and modify existing practices to improve quality and coordination of care.

The release said it will involve integrating some management structures and strategic planning efforts, developing a plan for shared services to support the integrated entity, leveraging the capabilities of each organization to advance the collective research and education infrastructure, and coordinating philanthropic initiatives.

The joint operating agreement received board approvals in November and became official on Saturday. The agreement provides a structure that allows the two organizations to more effectively and efficiently address current issues facing the region — such as health disparities and care delivery obstacles — while also better anticipating future health care and educational needs.

"The close partnership between Brody and Vidant cre-

ated a strong foundation upon which to build ECU Health," said Dr. Jason Higginson, executive dean of Brody.

"The ability to combine academic excellence with high-quality, state-of-the-art health care delivery will elevate care, research and education opportunities available to the people of eastern North Carolina. We look forward to continuing to work together and introduce ECU Health to the community later this year."



WALDRUM (LEFT) AND HIGGINSON (RIGHT) ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ECU HEALTH AT THE VIDANT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING RECENTLY WITH DR. JASON HIGGINSON.

PRISON

Continued from A1

says were used to conceal the profiles of Leary's illegal activities. Investigators also recovered a number of firearms and illegal drugs.

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said Leary is believed to have provided drugs to individual drug dealers who were operating in Perquimans. White said his office helped with the investigation, and added that nearly

every county in the region had at least one officer who contributed to the probe.

Pasquotank Sheriff Turmy Wooden said Leary was also a supplier for drug sellers in Pasquotank. He said his office and the Elizabeth

City Police Department both have officers known as "task force officers" who are certified to work on federal investigations. Those officers, who are assigned to work with the Albemarle Drug Task Force, assisted with the Leary in-

vestigation.

In his press release, Easley said agents with the FBI, IRS's Criminal Investigation division and N.C. State Bureau of Investigation led the investigation of Leary that led to his ultimate conviction and sentencing. But those agencies were assisted by a number of other law enforcement agencies, including the sheriff's offices in Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans, Dare, Hertford and Pasquotank counties and the Elizabeth City Police Department.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY

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MONDAY, JANUARY 17
STARTS AT 12 P.M.

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2021 IGAA Artist of the Year & People's Choice
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DR. KENNETH HAMMOND
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MARTIN COUNTY AUDITORIUM
1740 Gordon Ave., Williamston, NC 27892

This production is supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a Department of the State of North Carolina. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

) **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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Debo Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 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. § 62-127a. 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 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 27699-4306.

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, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-5001.

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 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Jean K. Snyder, Chief Clerk

COMMUNITY

Healthy way to start a new year...

After an overindulgent and very long holiday season we often look toward healthier habits for the new year. Many make New Year's resolutions to improve their lifestyle, but these resolutions can come back to haunt you year after year.



CHERYL ORR
EDENTON EPICURIAN

Babylonians and Romans making promises to God to better their behavior in the year to come, it is now primarily the western culture with lies to the practice of lent and self-sacrifice.

Today, roughly half of the U.S. population claims to make New Year's resolutions. Improving physical and mental health is at the top of the list of popular resolutions which emphasize more exercise and eating and drinking less. Not only eating less, but eating better seems to be a priority for many.

The best way to plan a healthier meal is to use fresh simple ingredients. One entrée that comes to mind is a hearty salad with a variety of vegetables and proteins. A Salade Nicoise is perfect for a lighter meal and is dressed with a flavorful vinaigrette made with healthy olive oil.

This salad originated in the French city of Nice and is traditionally made of tomatoes, hard-boiled eggs, Nicoise olives and anchovies.

Many recipes use canned tuna packed in oil, but I like to use a tuna steak and slice it fanned out atop this pretty composed salad. Other fish can also be used such as swordfish or salmon. And if you avoid fish or seafood grilled, chicken also works well.

Flavorful additions for a fully vegetarian recipe are roasted baby artichoke hearts and fava beans.

This week I have included my recipe for Salade Nicoise.

Cheryl Orr is the chef and owner of The Cotton Gin Inn in Edenton.

SALADE NICOISE

- Serves 6
- INGREDIENTS**
- ¼ cup red-wine vinegar
- 2 ½ tablespoons minced shallot
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 large garlic clove minced and mashed to a paste with ½ teaspoon salt
- Rounded ½ teaspoon anchovy paste
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 ½ teaspoons minced fresh thyme
- 1 ½ tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil
- ¼ lb. haricots verts trimmed
- 1 ½ lb. small potatoes
- 1 ½ lb. (1-inch thick) tuna steaks
- Olive oil for brushing
- ¼ cup drained bottled capers (1 ½ oz.)
- ¼ lb. Baby lettuce
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes
- ½ cup Nicoise or other small brine-cured black olives
- 4 hard-boiled large eggs quartered
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley and/or basil
- PREPARATION**
- Whisk together vinegar, shallot, mustard, garlic



paste, and anchovy paste in a small bowl until combined well, then add oil in a slow stream, whisking until emulsified. Whisk in thyme, basil, and salt and pepper to taste.

• Blanch beans in boiling salted water until crisp-tender, 3 to 4 minutes, then immediately transfer with a slotted spoon to a bowl of ice and cold water to stop cooking. Add potatoes to boiling water and simmer, uncovered, until tender, 15 to 20 minutes, then drain in a colander. Halve potatoes while still warm and toss with 2 tablespoons dressing in a bowl, then cool.

• Brush tuna with oil and season with salt and pepper, then grill on lightly oiled rack, uncovered, turning over once, until browned on outside but still pink in center, 6 to 8 minutes total. Let tuna stand 3 minutes, then break into large (3-inch) pieces. Transfer tuna to a large platter and drizzle with 2 to 3 tablespoons dressing and top with capers.

• Transfer potatoes to platter with tuna, reserving bowl. Drain beans and pat dry. Toss beans in bowl with 1 tablespoon dressing and salt and pepper to taste, then transfer to platter. Toss lettuce in bowl with 2 tablespoons dressing and salt and pepper to taste, then transfer to platter. Toss tomatoes in bowl with 1 tablespoon dressing and salt and pepper to taste, then transfer to platter.

• Arrange olives and eggs on platter and sprinkle salad with parsley and/or basil. Serve salad with remaining dressing on the side.

Check out the Libby/Overdrive audio books collection...

It's 2022. Really. Yay! A new year means time for reflection on the previous year and looking forward to the coming year. I really hope 2022 is going to be great. I know that I have some resolutions to work on - mainly making myself go to bed earlier. That's an annual resolution.

This past week I've been staying up too late listening to audiobooks downloaded from our Libby/Overdrive collection online. If you haven't used this wonderful resource yet - please stop by for a lesson.

I'm sure the folks who jumped in to rescue the Cuyale House and start the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library never imagined books magically delivered through the air to a handheld device that plays sound in your ears without wires.

Technology has changed a lot about the way we access information and entertainment but the primary role of the public library has stayed the same: providing access to the community at no cost. And 101 years later - we're still doing that.

Happy New Year!

- New Books**
- Juvenile Fiction*
- The Smartest Kid in the Universe: Genies Camp - Chris Grabenstein*
- Juvenile Non-Fiction*
- What was the Plague? - Roberta Edwards*
- Who was David Bowie? - Margaret Gurevich*
- Young Adult Fiction*
- Killer Instinct - Jennifer Lynn Barnes*
- Adult Fiction*
- Autopsy - Patricia Comwell*
- Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone - Diana Gabaldon*
- Large Print*
- Forever My Own - Tracie Peterson*
- The Walnut Creek Wish - Wanda Brunstetter*
- Adult Non-Fiction*
- The Big Book of Questions That Will Make You Think Again - Sarah Herman*
- The Less of Us - Sam Quinones*
- Audio Book*
- The Only Plane in the Sky - Garrett Graff*
- Jennifer Flinley is the librarian of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.*

Starting a community garden...

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise.

Some use community gardens because they lack adequate space at their house or apartment to have a garden. Others take part in community gardening to build or revitalize a sense of community among neighbors.

Regardless of why people choose to take part in a community garden or how a garden is organized, the activity of gardening with others can be both rewarding and challenging.

Starting a community garden? Whether you are involved in a volunteer group or part of a local agency, the basic steps for moving from an idea to planting the first seed are the same. The following 10 steps can serve as your guide.



The Chowan, Gates and Perquimans County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers recently expanded the popular Grow To Eat community garden program with an on-site community garden at the Perquimans County Senior Center.

- **Step 1** — Talk with friends, neighbors and local organizations about your idea. As you talk to people, collect names and numbers of those who are interested.
- **Step 2** — Hold a meeting with anyone interested in the garden. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the feasibility of starting a garden, to brainstorm ideas and to address some basic questions.
- **Step 3** — Find and evaluate potential garden sites. Be sure to consider churches, nonprofits agencies and businesses as potential partners. These groups may own land and have an interest in being a part of your garden.
- **Step 4** — Identify local resources needed for starting a garden. Gardens can require a fair amount of tools, equipment, supplies, infrastructure, knowledge and other forms of support.
- **Step 5** — Hold a second meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the notes from the previous meeting and hear reports from the people who volunteered to find and evaluate possible locations for a garden and identify local resources for starting a garden.
- **Step 6** — Draft a lease agreement. It is in everyone's best interest to have a written agreement that outlines your group's and the landlord's obligations and responsibilities and includes a "hold harmless" clause that states that the landlord is not responsible if a gardener is injured on the property.
- **Step 7** — Develop a site plan. The plan for your garden can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. Consider including the following elements in your plan: The boundary of the lot. The location and size of garden beds. The location of the water source.
- **Step 8** — Establish gardener guidelines and draft the gardener application.
- **Step 9** — Prepare and develop the site. There are many ways to go about this, and much will depend on the condition of your site.
- **Step 10** — Celebrate your success. Don't forget to take a step back and recognize your accomplishments.

This article was adapted from the University of Missouri Extension Community Garden Toolkit. Find more information online, visit extension.missouri.edu/imp900 — or call (262) 482-6356.

Katy Shook is an Arm Horticulture Agent.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-190, SUB 173

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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. § 62-127(b). 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 taxing 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 John 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 R-1-5 and R-1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Jenna R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

SPORTS

Currituck Knights knock off home-standing Aces

BY ANDRE ALFRED
Sports Writer

EDENTON — The Currituck County Knights traveled to conference rival John A. Holmes Friday.

The Knights came for one purpose, to defeat the Aces at home. That purpose was fulfilled as the Knights slipped by Holmes, 45-32.

Currituck's first score came from a monster dunk by 6-4 senior Ernest Harris within the first 15 seconds of the tipoff. On the following possession, the Knights Carmillo Burton banged a trey to give Currituck a quick 6-0 lead.

Minutes later, the Knights would send Neal Hill to the free throw line for two shots. Hill was only able to make both baskets, upgrading the scoreboard to 6-2 Currituck.

Harris was fouled en route to the basket and only salvaged one of two free throw attempts, but Currituck increased its lead, 6-2.

Mat Winbourne chimed in with a three-pointer, bringing Holmes within one point. But that would be as close as the Aces would come. The Knights had a six-point run, bringing the quarter to end with the Knights leading 12-5.

The Knights defense rendered the Aces inside offensive game basically unplayable. The Knights were long, tall and rotated extremely efficiently, making inside plays hard to come by.

Almost two minutes had elapsed before either team scored.

At the 5:58 mark, R.J. Seymour broke the spell for the Knights with a two-point basket. Teammate Tanner Dowley followed suit with an additional two points. The Aces found themselves behind 16-5 and called a time-out.



Najhar White shoots over Knights center Ernest Harris.

ANDRE ALFRED/CHOWAN HERALD

Following the Holmes' timeout, the Knights would go on a quick five point streak, which consisted of a three-pointer from Christopher Iorio and a two points from Burton, increasing the Knights lead to 21-5. The Aces finally found the inside of the rim after almost four minutes of play

basket was scored by White with 1:07 left to play in the first half. Meanwhile Currituck would continue scoring, ending the first half leading 27-11. The Aces seemed determined and rejuvenated at the start of the third quarter. Their aggressive

offensive unit seemed to have stalled in the third quarter. The Knights would only score one more time.

The Aces chiseled at the lead with baskets from White and Hill.

A mixture of good defense, bad shot selection and missed shots ended the third quarter with the Knights still leading, 30-18.

Fresh into the fourth quarter, Twine committed larceny for two points.

Harris, who had been pretty quiet since his dunk in the first quarter, added two-points for the Knights.

Twine found another spot, deep in three-point territory and flushed a trey through the rim. Twine re-loaded, set his sights again and banged another trey with 4:56 left in regulation, revising the scoreboard to 34-26 in Currituck's favor.

The Knights answered back with an eight-point surge, running the score up 42-26.

The Aces' finally stopped the scoring frenzy of the Knights, with a basket from Hill and a timeout taken with 2:35 left to play and the Aces still behind 42-28.

Burton was quickly fouled by the Aces to stop the clock. But Burton cashed in the two free throws.

Currituck was forced to use a timeout to save possession as one of its players was trapped by the Aces' defense. Subsequently Knights K.J. Skirmer was fouled after the time out and only made one basket.

The Aces' Hill scored the last two baskets before the buzzer sounded.

Andre Alfred can be reached via email at aalfred@nowweeklies.com.

Thadde White can be reached via email at thwhite@upgpc.com.

Aces girls handle Currituck

BY ANDRE ALFRED
Sports Writer

EDENTON — John A. Holmes Aces hosted 2A/AA Northeastern Coastal Conference rival Currituck Knights Friday.

The Aces improved their record to 2-1 and are currently sitting third in the league, after defeating Currituck 48-40.

Currituck made their intentions known, as they started with a three-pointer from Octavia Everett within two minutes of the tipoff. But the Holmes team was not phased as Linza Bond committed larceny of a basketball which translated into two-points. The Knights would temporarily hold a one point lead, 3-2.

Currituck's aggressive defense sent Sydney Spears and Kael Drew to the free throw line. They were only able to one of two of their attempts, however those baskets put the Aces ahead 5-3.

Knights' Makenzie Gaither answered with a basket, knotting the score at five.

The Knights' defense placed Sydney Spear on the charity strip again, but this time she collected both attempts and placed the Aces back in the lead 7-5.

Aces' junior Carson Ray made a long-range connection for a trifecta, bumping the Aces lead to 10-5.

Ederton would not score for the remainder of the



Andre Alfred/Chowan Herald
Aces' Kael Drew shoots over Knights Riley Parker.

quarter, but it wasn't so for the Knights as Ebani Bailey added a basket to the scorebooks. With the last seconds of the first quarter ticking away, the Knights' Riley Parker took a shot under the boards and scored the put back at the buzzer. The first quarter ended with Holmes leading, 10-9.

With just a minute gone in the second quarter, Currituck would earn its first basket with a Gaither fast break. But Holmes answered back with two points from Drew.

The Knights spent a time out at 6:43, with the Aces leading 12-11.

Following the timeout, Drew continued with the hot hand for Holmes. Currituck put Drew on the free throw line, but she was only able to make one of the shots from the charity stripe.

Drew stole the ball on Currituck's next possession and was fouled as she made

the basket, but was unable to finish the "and one." Edenton maintained the lead, 17-11.

Baskets were exchanged as the physicality of the game became more intense and both teams sent their opponent to the free throw line and the game tied at 21 with 2:46 left in the half.

Aces' sophomore Amari-oliver was foul and was able to make one of two attempts giving Holmes the lead at halftime, 22-11.

Holmes opened the third quarter with two points from Dymon Rankins, followed by one free throw made by Linza Bond.

Currituck followed with same combination with Bailey scoring two points and Everett sinking one free throw. Currituck continued to chase Holmes' lead, 26-24. But the chase would fall short.

After Knights' Makenzie Meekins basket at 2:44, the Aces would go on a 10-point excursion. Oliver contributed six and Sydney Spears added the remaining four of those 10 points. The quarter ended with Currituck facing a 10-point deficit, 36-26.

The Aces started off with the heated hand of Drew. She produced the first two baskets of the fourth quarter to improve Holmes' lead to 40-26.

Gaither was fouled, but couldn't take advantage of the two free shots.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-190, SUB 175
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities—2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2113, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpart public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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. § 62-17. 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 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

Vikings fall to Green Hope

By Amanda Dixon
amanda@butnercreedmoornews.com
| 919-434-1785

CREEDMOOR — The match up between South Granville and Green Hope could be told as the tale of two halves. The Vikings controlled the first half of the Dec. 30 contest, but Green Hope managed to steal a win from the Vikings.

Traevon White's back-to-back driving baskets gave the Vikings an early lead.

The Falcon's Michael Kaleta knocked down a pair of 3-pointers to snatch the lead back from the Vikings.

Oliver Roberts drove to the right and fired up a basket. Khawon Bobbitt followed with a basket off of the dribble in the paint. Jarrod Lyons scored on a soft floater from the left side of the lane and the Vikings took an 13-8 lead.

Green Hope battled back with Kaleta and



Pierce Pettit drives to the basket for the Vikings in the Dec. 30 game against Green Hope. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

Rashaun Tart scoring to take a 16-13 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Pierce Pettit drained a 3-pointer and White scored on a nifty up-and-under move to take the lead back for the Vikings.

The teams then traded points until Tre Taylor scored a driving basket in the lane to give the Vikings a 26-24 lead.

Bobbitt made a free throw and Pettit and Roberts scored to send the Vikings into the break with a 34-26 lead.

The Vikings returned to the court with a little swing in their step. Pettit bombed a 3-pointer and Bobbitt worked in the paint to increase the lead to 40-29.

Green Hope tried to inch



Oliver Roberts pushes the ball up the floor for the Vikings in the second half of the game against Green Hope. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

back in, but Bobbitt and Pettit kept the Vikings in the lead.

Roberts scored and Keyvon Riley answered for the Falcons to trim the lead to 10 at 47-37.

Pettit connected with a long-range 2-pointer and White hit a short jumper from the right side to give the Vikings a 51-37 lead. Green Hope called a

timeout to regroup. The timeout worked as the Falcons scored the next 14 points to tie the contest at 51 all.

Bobbitt's basket at the end of the third quarter gave the Vikings a 53-51 lead with one quarter remaining.

Bobbitt took over in the fourth quarter scoring using a quick first step from

the top of the key. Green Hope called on Riley and Kaleta to keep them in the game.

Bobbitt scored with a spin move in the paint and a floater in the lane. But the Vikings could not hold off Green Hope down the stretch and the Falcons claimed the 65-61 win. South Granville has not posted any statistics.



Paint and other household materials were collected at the fall recycle event. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

Successful fall clean-out event collects tons of trash

From staff reports

The Granville Expo and Convention Center in Oxford hosted the fall clean-out event on Nov. 20. By the end of the day, more than 72,000 pounds of materials had been collected for recycling and safe disposal by vendors, in addition to a substantial amount of pet food and supplies collected by the Granville Humane Society.

The full collection totals from the event were reported by Teresa Baker, Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator for Granville County and Granville County Public Schools: Veolia Environmental

Services: 39,880 pounds of paint and 15,797 pounds of miscellaneous cleaning materials and other hazardous household waste; Department of Agriculture Pesticides Division: 439 pounds of pesticides; Shred-Ac: 5,960 pounds of shredded paper; Blue Rhino: 19 propane tanks; Granville County Sheriff's Office: 175 pounds of medications and medical waste; METech Recycling: 6,234 pounds of electronics; Interstate Batteries: 568 pounds of various batteries; Scrap Metal: 3,660 pounds; Granville Humane Society: 150 pounds of kibble, 40 cans of dog and cat food.

Residents who participated in Granville County's bi-annual clean out events leave knowing that these waste materials will either be recycled or properly disposed of instead of harming the local environment.

Granville County Environmental Services would like to thank all vendors, staff, volunteers, and participants who helped make the Fall "Clean-Out" event a great success. The next clean-out will take place in the spring. Details will be announced closer to the event date.

For more information about Granville County Environmental Services, visit www.granvillecountync.org/residents/solidwaste/.



Commissioners Zelodis Jay, left, and Jimmy Gooch dump materials into the shred containers. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News



Old lawn mowers and scrap metal were collected at the fall recycle event. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 13th day August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OBITUARIES

Maurice Daniel 'Danny' Howell

OXFORD, N.C. — Maurice Daniel Howell, 72, died Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Service arrangements are entrusted to Eakes Funeral Home - Creedmore.

Susie Wester Ortmann

BUTNER, N.C. — Susie Wester Ortmann, 84, died Sunday, January 9, 2022. Service arrangements are entrusted to Eakes Funeral Home - Creedmore.

Nona Cone Spencer

BUTNER, N.C. — Nona Cone Spencer, 89, died Saturday, January 8, 2022. Service arrangements are entrusted to Eakes Funeral Home - Creedmore.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobie Building, 530 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonsecret public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 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(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 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, 4726 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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4726 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 13th day August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Seydler, Chief Clerk



Firefighters responded to a reported structure fire at the senior center in Creedmoor on Thursday afternoon. No injuries were reported on the scene. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

Creedmoor firefighters respond to senior center fire

By Amanda Dixon
amandad@butnercreedmoornews.com
1919-424-1785

CREEDMOOR — Firefighters responded to a reported possible structure

fire on Thursday afternoon. The Creedmoor Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the South Granville Senior Center on Douglas Drive around 1 p.m.

The initial call was for a structure fire. Upon investigation, firefighters determined that a plastic cooler had been placed on a stove eye that was still warm enough to melt the

outside casing and cause a structure fire. Upon investigation, firefighters determined that a plastic cooler had been placed on a stove eye that was still warm enough to melt the outside casing and cause the smoke detectors to activate. Everyone at the facility was evacuated, and there were no injuries reported at the scene.

Granville school board adjusts reconfiguration time line

By Amanda Dixon
amandad@butnercreedmoornews.com
1919-424-1785

OXFORD — Granville County's school board amended its decision during its meeting on Jan. 10 to change all elementary schools to K-6

next year. The board decided 7-0 in December 2021 to change the elementary school configuration to K-6

beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Board member Leonard Peace presented his take on what should be done with students and schools before the board decided to amend its previous action.

The board decided to push the reconfiguration out to the 2023-2024 school year with a 6-1 vote. Peace was the lone no vote.

Dr. Alisa McLean told the board that the School Choice Pair is just around the corner and the district needs time to properly prepare for next year.

"We want to have everything in place for parents, students and staff for next year," McLean said.

The board expects to receive the results of the Hawley Middle School closure study draft next month and will begin working through those results along with additional information. A public forum has not been scheduled.

The board voted to leave the mask and social distancing requirements in place as long as a high community spread status.

According to information provided by Granville-Vance Public Health on Jan. 10, Granville County was at 26.33% positive test over the seven-day average.

The target is 5% or less positive test results. The board approved op-

tional masking should the seven-day average drop to low-moderate.

The board approved contracting with Express Employment Service to recruit and place temporary staff in classified, custodial and clerical positions. It also approved contracting with Consolidated Medical Staffing to fill 11 temporary school nurse positions.

Granville County Public Schools launched its new website on Jan. 13. The new website should make finding information as easy as three clicks, according to McLean.

The board will meet again at 6 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Mary Potter Center of Education.

Butner Police Log

For The Butner-Creedmoor News

Dec. 31
PSO C. B. Slate arrested Eliza Monique Harrell, 31, of Creedmoor, during a disturbance and charged her with resist, delay, and obstruct and disorderly conduct. Ms. Harrell was issued a written promise to appear in court by Magistrate H. G. Herring Jr. and released.

PSO C. B. Slate arrested Christian Donnell Lucier, 20, of Chapel Hill, for an outstanding failure to appear. Mr. Lucier was issued a secured bond of \$200 by Magistrate H. G. Herring Jr. and placed in the Granville County Detention Center.

A breaking and entering was reporting on Still Meadow Drive. The suspect(s) entered an unlocked motor vehicle and went through the vehicle's glove box and console. Nothing was stolen during the incident.

Jan. 1
PSO C. L. Duke arrested Darryl Wayne Stephens, 39, of Durham, and charged him with resist, delay, and obstruct. Mr. Stephens was issued a \$300 secured bond by Magistrate C. P. Bostic and placed in the Granville County Detention Center. Mr.

Stephens also had an outstanding failure to appear. Mr. Stephens was issued an unsecured bond of \$1,000 for that charge.

Jan. 2
A larceny was reported on Central Ave. The suspect stole a bottle of medicine. As a result of the incident, PSO J. W. Aaron issued a citation to Tra'von Jahreck Taylor, 18, of Durham, charging him with larceny.

An assault was reported on Holly Drive. As a result of the incident, PSO J. W. Aaron arrested John Raymond West, 45, of Creedmoor, charging him with assault on a female. Mr. West was issued no bond by Magistrate R. W. Pearce and placed in the Granville County Detention Center.

Jan. 3
Larceny was reported on Ridgeland Drive. The suspect(s) stole medicine belonging to the victim.

Jan. 4
An attempted larceny was reported on Highway 56. The suspects put merchandise in a trash bag but was stopped before leaving. The suspects left the business in a silver Acura before the store staff could notify law enforcement.

Jan. 5
PSO C. B. Slate ar-

rested Troy William Pugsley, 40, of Butner, for an outstanding warrant for larceny. Mr. Pugsley was issued an unsecured bond of \$1,000 by Magistrate R. Roberts Jr. and was released.

A breaking and entering was reported on East C Street. The suspect(s) entered an unlocked motor vehicle and stole a pistol. Special Events/Notices

On the second Thursday of every month Butner Public Safety will be hosting its monthly Community Watch meetings at the Butner Town Hall. We at Butner Public Safety urge the public to attend these meetings to learn vital information pertaining to the safety of their neighborhoods.

During each of these meetings, information such as recent arrests, crimes and safety concerns are addressed with the public. Butner Public Safety also accepts any and all information or concerns from the public so that they can be resolved or addressed.

For more information, contact Sergeant N. Williams at 919-575-6561 ext. 111. The next scheduled meeting will be determined at a later date. Butner Public Safety encourages everyone to keep their parked vehicles locked.

LOCAL & STATE

DURHAM

Fatal shooting tied to celebration

Police in North Carolina say that a fatal shooting in Durham was "likely related to celebratory gunfire."

The Raleigh News & Observer reports that the shooting occurred on a shortly before 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Durham Police said officers initially responded to a call about a woman being in cardiac arrest. She was found unconscious in a driveway.

Police said the woman was taken to a hospital, where it was determined that she had been shot. She later died of her injuries.

Authorities said that preliminary reports indicate that the shooting was related to celebratory gunfire. Police did not elaborate, but the investigation is ongoing.

HIGH POINT

Patrol car strikes, hurts pedestrian

Police in North Carolina say that a person has suffered life-threatening injuries after being struck by a patrol vehicle.

High Point police said in a news release that the incident occurred shortly before 8 p.m. on U.S. 29.

Police said the marked patrol car struck the pedestrian as the vehicle entered an exit ramp. The person was wearing dark clothing and had stood "directly in the middle of the travel lane and was not visible to the moonset on the highway until a collision was imminent."

Police said the person received immediate medical treatment and was taken to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

ELIZABETH CITY



A turtle soaks in what little bit of sunshine peeks through the clouds off the boardwalk behind College of The Albemarle, Saturday.

LEWISVILLE

Winning \$1M lottery ticket unclaimed

North Carolina lottery officials say that someone is yet to claim a \$1 million ticket that was bought in Forsyth County.

The Winston-Salem Journal reports that the Mega Millions ticket was bought on New Year's Eve.

The North Carolina Education Lottery said in a news release that the \$2 ticket was bought at a Circle K in Lewisville. The ticket matched numbers on five white balls. The odds of winning were one in 12.6 million.

People who have a winning ticket must claim their prize within 180 days.

From Associated Press reports

Little time to rule as NC remapping trial begins

Supreme Court wants ruling on maps' legality by Jan. 11

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — A fast-moving redistricting trial began Monday, designed to determine whether North Carolina's new congressional and legislative maps contain unlawful gerrymanders that must be redrawn or otherwise can be used in this year's elections.

Three state trial judges began hearing evidence from lawyers for plaintiffs in lawsuits that allege district boundaries approved by the Republican-controlled legislature in November are tainted by extreme partisanship and racial bias that make GOP majorities almost unbreakable. Republicans say the lines are lawful, crafted using a transparent process that avoided racial and partisan data.

Outside groups analyzing the lines project GOP candidates would be favored to win at least 10 of the 14 U.S. House seats next fall, and to preserve or expand current Republican majorities in the state House and Senate, even as North Carolina's statewide elections are usually closely divided.

North Carolina gained an additional House seat based

on population growth in the 2020 census. Republicans currently hold eight of the state's 13 congressional seats, so the state's GOP remap could help the party take back the U.S. House.

This case is on a fast track, with 30 opening statements and just three days to present evidence to the three judges. Closing arguments are Thursday.

The quick timetable is the result of the state Supreme Court, which last month ordered the judges to hear redistricting litigation and rule by Jan. 11 — after which appeals are expected. The justices delayed last month the March 8 primary until May 17 in the meantime.

The three Superior Court judges — Graham Shirer, Nathaniel Peovey and Dawn Layton — initially refused last month to issue preliminary injunctions against the boundaries, declaring there was reasonable doubt whether the lines violated the state constitution. But the justices told them to look again.

In 2019, a different three-judge panel declared there was evidence that GOP legislators created extreme partisan gerrymanders when drawing U.S. House districts in 2016 and legislative districts in 2017. The legislature redrew the maps in time for the 2020 elec-

tions.

One of the lawsuits heard Monday was filed by the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, mathematicians and voters, with the other filed by voters supported by a group affiliated with the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

University of Michigan political science researcher Lowell Chen, a key witness for the Democratic plaintiffs, compared the newly enacted U.S. House map with computer-generated boundary lines that follow population changes and rules approved by legislators.

Out of 1,000 computer-generated congressional plans, Chen testified, no more than 3% of them generated proposals where Republicans were projected to win 10 seats based on recent statewide election outcomes. And the districts created by Republicans protect GOP candidates so much it's almost impossible for Democrats to win more than four seats in a good year for their party, Chen's data indicates.

The plan "is a statistical

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the most common outcome still gave Republicans a good chance to win nine of the 14 seats. And very few results would give Democrats a solid opportunity to win seven of the seats — a result that many in the party consider a fair outcome.

On cross-examination, Patrick Lewis, a lawyer for Republican legislators, sought to dampen beliefs that lawmakers produced an extreme map. He pointed out Chen's analysis found



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021
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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2112, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 (VA) Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Wakefern Food Corporation (WFCU), and Appalachian State University, a/k/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. § 62-174. 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, 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 John Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9901 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 R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.
ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 12th day August, 2021
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

WASHINGTON

Medicare must reassess premium hike

U.S. health secretary Xavier Becerra on Monday ordered Medicare to reassess a big premium increase facing millions of enrollees this year, attributed in large part to a pricey new Alzheimer's drug with questionable benefits.

Becerra's directive came days after drugmaker Biogen slashed the price of its \$6,000-a-year medication, Aduhelm, to \$28,200 a year — a cut of about half.

"With the 50% price drop of Aduhelm on Jan. 1, there is a compelling basis — to re-examine the previous reauthorization," Becerra said in a statement about his directive to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

More than 50 million Medicare recipients who pay the \$170.10 monthly "Part B" premium for outpatient care will see no immediate change to their costs, but Monday's move could open the way for a reduction later in the year.

NEW YORK CITY

Safety features failed in high-rise fire

Investigators sought answers Monday for why key safety features failed when fire broke out in a New York high-rise, funneling thick smoke through the tower and killing 17 people, including eight children, in the city's deadliest blaze in three decades.

A malfunctioning electric space heater apparently started the fire Sunday in the 19-story building in the Bronx, fire officials said. The flames damaged only a small part of the building, but smoke poured through the apartment's open door and turned stairwells — the only method of escape in a building too tall for fire escapes — into dark, ash-choked death traps.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the apartment's front door and a door on the 16th floor should have been self-closing, blunting the spread of smoke, but the doors malfunctioned and stayed fully open.

Dozens of people were hospitalized, including several in critical condition. Mayor Eric



Emergency personnel use a manual resuscitator on a fire victim during a high-rise fire in New York City, Sunday.

Adams called it an "unspeakable tragedy" at a news conference near the scene Monday.

"This tragedy is not going to define us," Adams said. "It is going to show our resiliency."

Adams lowered the death toll from an initial report Sunday, saying that two fewer people were killed than originally thought. Nigro said patients were taken to seven hospitals and "there was a bit of a double count."

WASHINGTON

Insurers must cover home virus tests

Starting Saturday, private health insurers will be required to cover up to eight home COVID-19 tests per month for people on their plans. The Biden administration announced the change Monday as it locks to lower costs and make testing for the virus more convenient amid rising frustrations.

Under the new policy, first detailed to the AP, Americans will be able to either purchase home testing kits for free under their insurance or submit receipts for the tests for reimbursement, up to the monthly per-person limit. A family of four, for instance, could be reimbursed for up to 32 tests per month. PCR tests and rapid tests ordered or administered by a health provider will continue to be fully covered by insurance with no limit.

From Associated Press reports

LAWSUIT

Continued from A1

the group is "evaluating our options," it likely will appeal to the N.C. Court of Appeals. She noted that Sermons himself appeared to suggest "that interpretation of the statute" governing expenditure of occupancy tax revenue "was better addressed" by the state's appellate court.

"You should note that the trial court judge did not issue a formal legal opinion — merely an email with a cryptic statement that he found for the Defendants on the Summary Judgment motion followed by (the line) 'these are very interesting legal issues and I look forward to how my appellate colleagues will view them,'" she said in a statement.

An attorney for the Corolla Civic Association followed by Marzetti's statement with one even more strongly indicating Sermons' ruling will be appealed.

"While the plaintiffs are disappointed in the recent trial court ruling, they remain steadfast in their position on the county's unauthorized use of occupancy tax proceeds,"

Cooley C. Varnell, an attorney with the Sharp, Graham, Baker & Varnell law firm in Kitty Hawk, said in an email. "The plaintiffs are currently conversing with appellate specialists regarding the appeal of the recent ruling. We are very optimistic that this decision will be reversed by our Court of Appeals."

The Corolla Civic Association's May 7, 2019 lawsuit claimed Currituck is improperly spending revenue from its 9% tax on room and cottage rentals on expenses like law enforcement and public safety services. It asked the court to order Currituck to transfer back to the county's general fund more than \$40 million in occupancy tax revenues the group claims was misused.

The lawsuit also noted that when the General Assembly agreed to let Currituck raise its occupancy tax rate from 4% to 9% in 2004, lawmakers stated the funds could be used only for tourism-related and marketing expenses and for beach nourishment. The legislation also mandated, the suit claimed, that facility construction or county services such as law enforcement, garbage, or emergency medical services

were no longer a permitted use of occupancy tax revenues.

Currituck noted in its press release that Sermons' Dec. 22 ruling was just the county's latest victory in the lawsuit.

In October 3, 2019, Sermons denied the Corolla group's request for a preliminary order stopping Currituck from using occupancy tax revenue for public safety purposes. Then in July 2021, Sermons dismissed the group's claim that Currituck had violated the North Carolina Constitution, which mandates that taxes only be imposed if the revenues from them are spent according to restrictions put in place when they're authorized.

As part of the July 2021 ruling, Sermons also granted Currituck's motion to dismiss former County Manager Dan Scudon and members of the Board of Commissioners from the lawsuit, clarifying that the defendants were Currituck County and its Tourism Development Authority.

According to the Corolla citizens group, the N.C. Travel & Tourism Coalition filed an affidavit in September supporting its motion for partial summary

judgment in the lawsuit. The coalition is a private, nonprofit trade association made up of professional sports teams, resort attractions, and other business groups that, according to its website, "promote(s) public policies that encourage the growth and development" of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry in the state.

Both Marzetti and Varnell pointed to the Travel & Tourism Coalition's affidavit in their responses to Sermons' ruling, suggesting its support could prove persuasive in an appeal.

"It should be remembered that the organization that was the driving force behind getting the NC Legislature to change the language of the OT (occupancy tax) statute, the NC Travel & Tourism Coalition, agrees with us," Marzetti said.

Varnell said the Corolla group's lawsuit has "garnered the support of many of those across our state involved" in the tourism industry.

"The plaintiffs find it important to note that the (coalition) concurs with the merits of our lawsuit, as evidenced by the supporting affidavit it authored and filed in this

matter," he said. "Given that NCTTC represents the greatest interests of the tourism industry on a statewide level, as well as having been instrumental in our General Assembly adopt-

ing the uniform regulations by which Currituck County's occupancy tax expenditures are governed, the plaintiffs remain confident in their course of action."

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HOMELESS

Continued from A1

count of all homeless or sheltered people. A Point-in-Time count typically happens on one night in the last 10 days of the month.

Staff at River City Community Development Corp. are scheduled to conduct Elizabeth City's annual Point-in-Time count later this month. River City CDC helps people who are homeless by paying for nights at local hotels, but the nonprofit is currently waiting for additional funding in order to be able to resume that program.

Some churches and area nonprofits also provide some emergency housing funds on a limited basis, but the need regularly pushes the limits of what is available.

Area churches used to operate a ministry called Room at the Inn but that was sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic and has not resumed, she said.

Whitehurst also said it's her understanding that Elizabeth City doesn't have any homeless shelters operating right now.

In the past years, SOULS has referred families with children to social services, offered emergency shelter to about 55 people, helped 10 people secure permanent housing, assisted three people in securing employment, provided emergency heat for three people, and funded one client for a drug rehab program.

The organization also has passed out coats, socks, shoes, blankets, survival bags, sleeping bags, clothes and many other winter items, in addition to operating its ongoing meals ministry.

Whitehurst said SOULS is focusing increasingly on serving as a resource for people, helping to steer them toward other resources that are available. A retired social worker, a SOULS volunteer, is helping with those efforts,

she said. SOULS has provided referrals to rehab, bought bus tickets so people could get home to their families, helped people get housing

and others find furniture for their houses.

"Sometimes we are the first point of entry in this town for people who are in need," Whitehurst said.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking comments on the Commission's proposed 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 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. § 62-156 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 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 R-1-5 and R-1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 at 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 12th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

LOCAL NEWS

COVID-19 cases rising across the Roanoke-Chowan

Area death toll climbs as the virus claims another life in Hertford County

Newly reported cases of COVID-19 are increasing locally, statewide, and across the nation.

All four counties in the Roanoke-Chowan area are seeing a rise in new cases.

The biggest local increase is in Hertford County where 12 new cases were diagnosed last week. The county reported a total of 26 active cases during that time period, compared to 14 the previous week.

Gates County also experienced a double-digit increase of cases last week, going from 16 to 26.

Northampton County had 25 active cases last week, up from 17 the previous week.

The number of active cases increased from 36 to 38 in Bertie County.

There was one local death last week attributed to COVID-19. Albemarle Regional Health Services reported a death in Hertford County. This individual was in the 65 and older age group. This death is not associated with a facility outbreak.

The death toll in the Roanoke-Chowan area now stands at 222 since the pandemic began in March of 2020. Northampton County and Hertford County each have lost 74 of their citizens to the virus followed by Bertie County (55), and Gates County (19).

Meanwhile, Vidant Health is reporting a 191% increase in the weekly average of COVID cases in the region.

In a press release sent Dec. 30, Vidant said the number of completed tests (685) on Nov. 28 yielded 44 positive cases.

Exactly one month later (Dec. 28), Vidant said it had completed 2,619 tests with 706 positive cases. Those figures

work out to be a 27 percent daily positive rate.

Health officials are seeing an increase in the number of the highly contagious Omicron variant. That surge is coming on the heels of the holiday travel period.

Data suggests that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 may cause less severe illness for people who are vaccinated. However, those who are unvaccinated or who have underlying medical conditions are at highest risk of severe illness and hospitalization. 89% of people in intensive care are unvaccinated. Hospitalizations are likely to increase as the trend typically lags four to five days after an increase in cases.

"We are concerned that even a very small proportion of these cases ending up in the hospital could overwhelm our hospital system and increase the loss of lives of those most vulnerable," said incoming NCDHHS Secretary Kodie H. Kinsley. "Everyone can help save lives and protect hospital capacity by getting vaccinated if you haven't already and getting boosted if you are eligible."

Across the state, there were 1,941 COVID cases reported on Nov. 28. As part of the latest information available from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), there were 18,571 cases reported on Dec. 29. That marks the highest number of newly diagnosed cases in a single day in the state.

"Now is the time to get your booster shot," said Kinsley. "We have plenty of vaccine in the state, and getting a booster shot, or getting vaccinated if you aren't already, dramatically

decreases the risk of severe illness and hospitalization from the Omicron variant."

NCDHHS has also adopted updated guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which outlines what individuals should do if they contract or are exposed to COVID-19 to help slow the spread to others:

If you have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status - get tested and isolate from others while you wait for a result. If you are not able to be tested, follow the guidance below as if you are positive.

If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are

not vaccinated - stay away from others for 5 days, get tested on day 5 after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for 5 additional days.

Vaccinated and eligible for a booster, but have not yet been boosted - stay away from others for 5 days, get tested on day 5 after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for 5 additional days.

Vaccinated, and have either received your booster or are not yet eligible for a booster - you do not need to stay away from others, but you should wear a mask for 10 days.

If you test positive, regardless of vaccination status, and

Do not have symptoms - isolate yourself from others for 5 days, then wear a mask for 5 additional days when you return to normal activities.

Have symptoms - isolate yourself from others until you are fever-free and your symptoms

are improving. You should isolate for at least 5 days since your symptoms began. Once you stop isolating, you should wear a mask for 5 additional days.

People who have received two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines are eligible for a booster shot after six months. Those who got a Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine initially should receive a booster after two months. According to the CDC, those who are eligible for boosters and have not received them should follow the stricter guidance for quarantine and masks.

The CDC guidance differentiates between those who are boosted and those who are eligible but not boosted. Initial data from South Africa showing that two mRNA doses provide 36% protection against infection. With a booster shot, that increases to 75%.

In all cases, a well-fitting mask (CDC guidance) is recommended. If possible, wear a surgical or procedure mask, a KN95 or an N95 respirator. In general, the CDC recommends all unvaccinated people 2 years old or older wear a mask indoors. To find a no-cost community testing event or a testing site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/gettested. Please do not visit the emergency room to get tested.

Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years and older. To find a vaccine or booster vaccine near you visit MYSpot.nc.gov.

More than a year after the vaccine was rolled

out, new cases of COVID-19 across the United States have soared to their highest level on record at over 265,000 per day on average, a surge driven largely by the Omicron variant.

New cases per day have more than doubled over the past two weeks, eclipsing the old mark of 250,000, set in mid-January, according to data kept by Johns Hopkins University.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has rescheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 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 2021 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to the 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. § 62-157(7). 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 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

John R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

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OMICRON:
Continued from 1

number of inpatients increased from 52 on Dec. 1 to 147 as of Monday of last week.

"These test numbers are more than double what they were even during the Delta surge," Floyd noted. "And our inpatient numbers are reaching back to the volume that they were at the height of some of our previous strains of COVID, and that's a result of the significantly high volume of COVID-19 that's in our community."

In the Roanoke-Chowan area, the Northampton County Health Department is reporting the largest weekly increase of COVID-19 cases. As of Jan. 5, that number stood at 240. On Dec. 22, there were 25 active COVID-19 cases in the county.

Hertford County's active cases jumped to 88 as

of Jan. 4, up from 26 one week earlier. Three days later (Friday, Jan. 7), that number nearly doubled to 174 active cases.

Hertford County also reported three COVID-related deaths last week.

In Bertie County, 90 active cases were reported on Jan. 4, rising from 39 cases one week prior. By Friday of last week, Bertie reported 165 active cases.

The reported number of active cases in Gates County fell from 26 to 16 during the same time period, but then quickly doubled to 32 cases by Friday of last week.

"With COVID-19 cases rising, getting a booster of the COVID-19 vaccine or getting vaccinated if you aren't already, dramatically decreases the risk of severe illness and hospitalization from the Omicron variant," said R. Battle Betts Jr., Health Director of Albemarle Regional Health Services. "Vaccines remain the

most important thing we can do to keep ourselves and our loved ones from becoming seriously ill from the COVID-19 virus. In addition, it is also important to follow the updated guidance from NC DHHS and the CDC which outlines what individuals should do if they contract or are exposed to COVID-19 to help slow the spread to others."

The surge in cases also places a strain on hospitals as they must balance between meeting the needs of COVID patients as well as treating non-COVID patients.

"When we see this significant surge in caring for patients with COVID-19, it also stresses our system for those that have other conditions, many of which are far more emergent and critical," said Floyd. "And so why we're asking for the public's help so much is to prevent the spread as much as we can... only use our resources when

necessary so that we can be here to take care of all the other many conditions Eastern North Carolina needs us for."

As eastern North Carolina continues to see rising COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and demand for testing, the COVID-19 vaccine and booster is now more important than ever. Vidant Health is offering the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone 5 and older. They are also offering third dose and booster appointments to eligible community members. To learn more about how to get vaccinated or if you are eligible for a booster, visit VidantHealth.com/vaccine.

Vidant Health has 14 testing locations across eastern North Carolina to help you get tested for COVID-19. If you need a test, please visit VidantHealth.com/safe-communities to find a Vidant testing location near you. Due to significant

demand for COVID testing, please expect delays.

COVID vaccinations are also available, by appointment, at the Gates County Health Dept. (252-337-1300), the Bertie County Health Dept. (252-794-5322), and the Hertford County Health Dept. (252-862-4054).

Northampton County residents can call 252-534-5811 to schedule an appointment for either a COVID-19 vaccine or a booster shot.

Meanwhile, the NC DHHS and CDC now recommend the following:

If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are not vaccinated... stay away from them for five days, get tested on day five after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for five additional days. If you are vaccinated and eligible for a booster, but have not yet been boost-

ed - stay away from others for five days, get tested on day five after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for five additional days. Vaccinated, and have either received your booster or are not yet eligible for a booster - you do not need to stay away from others, but you should wear a mask for 10 days.

If you test positive, regardless of vaccination status, and do not have symptoms, isolate yourself from others for five days, then wear a mask for five additional days when you return to normal activities. If you have symptoms, isolate yourself from others until you are fever-free and your symptoms are improving. You should isolate for at least five days since your symptoms began. Once you stop isolating, you should wear a mask for five additional days.

WRECK:
Continued from 1

tree on the driver's side door before coming to a stop.

The incident occurred shortly before noon on Wednesday.

Boseman told the News Herald on Friday that Deputy Lipscomb is still in critical condition at the hospital. He suffered multiple injuries in the crash, including a brain bleed, broken pelvis, broken tailbone, and internal bleeding.

Boseman said Lipscomb was on duty at the time of the accident, but they're not sure yet if he was responding to a call. The crash remains under investigation.

VIDANT:
Continued from 1

masks will no longer be permitted.

Visitors should also be aware of Vidant's new screening process and are encouraged to visit VidantHealth.com/checkin to register prior to their visit.

For inpatients, including those having surgery, they are permitted to have one healthy adult visitor screened and masked at all times. Visitor may not switch out with other visitors.

The visitor must stay in patient's room unless visiting the café.

One healthy adult visitor may be designated to stay overnight. Overnight visitors may not switch out with other

visitors. In the Labor/Delivery/Maternity departments at all Vidant hospitals, four designated adult visitors, including the labor partner, are identified on admission and our system for those that have other conditions, many of which are far more emergent and critical," said Floyd. "And so why we're asking for the public's help so much is to prevent the spread as much as we can... only use our resources when

For surgical outpatient procedures that require sedation or anesthesia, those patients are allowed one healthy adult visitor screened and masked at all times in the waiting room as social distance requirements allow. Visitors are not allowed in the surgical recovery area.

At Vidant medical practices/outpatient clinics, those patients are permitted to have one healthy adult visi-

tor screened and masked at all times.

Vidant kindly asks that patients bring visitors only if absolutely necessary.

This is an evolving situation and Vidant continues to monitor the spread and examine local data, including COVID-19 cases in our region and in hospitals, and will adjust visitation restrictions accordingly.

For the latest information on Vidant's visitor restrictions, please visit VidantHealth.com/VisitingVidant.

Originally scheduled to fully reopen on Jan. 1, the Greenville Wellness Center will open with limited services only starting on Jan. 1, such as personal training, private lessons, fitness orientations and tours. The fitness

center, indoor track and pool will remain closed for general membership for the time being. Community members signed up to become members of the Greenville Wellness Center will receive additional details directly from the Wellness Center.

Vidant leadership, with guidance from our infectious disease experts, will continue to review the COVID data and spread throughout the coming weeks to determine a date for a full reopening.

The Wellness Centers in Ahoskie and Washington will continue their current operations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.vidanthealth.com/services/wellness-prevention/vidant-wellness-centers/#covid-19-update>

TREE:
Continued from 1

- Walter Jennings Evans
- Noah and Dot Felton
- Camilla Glenn
- Betty Hall
- Capt. Jesse B. Hall, Jr.
- Roy Hall
- LeRoy Hand, III (Corbett)
- LeRoy Jr. and Iris Hand
- LeRoy Sr. and Jimmie Hand
- Bill Harrell
- Danise Harrell
- Bobby and Carol Hewitt
- Duke and Elizabeth (Betty) Hill
- Addie Hinton
- Eleanor and Bill Hinton
- Harriet and Bob Homans
- Kimberly Homans
- Leon and Angelina Howell
- R.A. and Shelby Howell
- Raleigh Howell
- Beverly Jean Howell
- Sarah Hayes Hurdle
- Walter K. and Sue Jones
- Lucy Knight
- John A. Lane, Sr. & Louise Lane Boone
- John Roger Lane, Jr.
- Malcolm and Ruth Langston
- Fred Rea Lassiter
- Roy Lassiter
- Tommy Lawrence
- Nancy Lewis
- Jesse and Dorothy Liles
- Glenn N. Lilley, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn N. Lilley, Sr.
- Thomas and Eloise Lilley
- Paul Matthews
- Reverend Andrew Meeder
- Bobby and Erleen Miller
- Paul and Agnes Mizelle
- Frank and Irene Moore
- Costen, Syrvilla and Gail Morgan
- George and Beulah Morgan
- Hunter (Pop) and Beth Morgan
- Fred and Dorothy Nelson
- Julian and Hattie Ruth

- Owens Frank and Louise Pearce
- Amy Riddick Perry
- Kilby and Fannie Perry
- Peggy Taylor Pierce
- Conrad N. and Mary Katherine Plyler
- Leroy Gillette Plyler
- Robert Ernest Rawls, Sr.
- Mary Louise Rawls
- Robert Ernest Rawls, Jr.
- Catherine Lee Rawls
- Tommy Redmond
- Robert Robertson
- Matilda Louise and William Roessler
- John Stokes Rooker
- Frank S. Rountree
- Bryan J. Salter
- Benjamin Saunders, Sr.
- Roy Selvey
- Freddie Smith
- Parker and Ellen Smith
- Louise Beines Spain
- Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Stallings, Jr.
- Ernest and Hulda Stallings
- Janet Weeks Stallings
- Ray Stallings
- Terry Stallings
- Ed and Myra Stokes
- Cecil Taylor
- Matthew Taylor
- Millard and Norene Umphlette Taylor
- Phillip Taylor
- Edmund Randolph Temple, Sr.
- Willard and Ada Turner
- Alex Vance
- George Asa Ward
- Peggy Allen Ward
- Glenn Webb
- Webb Loved Ones
- Essie D. Wheedbee
- Willard Ray and Emma Leo White
- Cynthia and John Willey
- Jimmy K. Wyatt
- Ruth and Robert Yahn
- Russell Yahn
- Robert and Hazel Yahn
- All who gave their lives protecting our freedom
- In honor of: Sarah Lane Temple Adams
- Welsford and Sarah Artz
- Leticia H. Askew
- Cochie Beamon
- Ricky Blowe
- Paul Booth
- Jackie Bundy
- Gabbie Burnham
- Ada W. Carroll
- Horace Clark
- Sandra Close
- John and Ginny Cruckler
- Amy Perry Dickson
- Zachary and Joanna Perry and Quinn Dickson
- Barbara, Sarah and Kathy Eure
- Bessie J. Eure
- Ellen Eure
- Mary Ann Eure
- Faye Lane Freeman
- Colton, Cameron and Cayden Fry
- Christopher Hall
- Joehua and Crystal Hall
- Hand Children
- Jean Hinton
- Mary Turner Lacey
- John and Linda Lane
- Roger and Rita Lane
- Gwen E. Lassiter
- Bruce and Ann Milam
- Sean, Amber, August and Indigo Miller
- Aubrey Ann Moore
- Chris and John Ormon
- Hulda and Eric Ormon
- Paras Family
- John E.R. and Brenda Perry
- Dr. John Perry, III & Elaine Chappell Perry
- Olivia, John IV, Isabel and Hugh Perry
- Mr. and Mrs. Warren Perry
- Caitlyn and Chandler Perry
- Conrad Norfleet, Jr. and Patsy Pyle
- Sailor Grey Riddick
- Ellis, Caleb and Sawyer Rountree
- Tom Smith
- Iris Stallings
- Neil and Ben Stallings
- Edmund Randolph Temple, Jr.
- Elizabeth Villegas
- Barbara E. Wiant
- Mary and Tom Willey
- John Yahn & Jan Yahn
- Gatesville United Methodist Church Women
- Members of Gatesville United Methodist Church
- Members of Zion United Methodist Church
- Members of Philadel-

phia United Methodist Church Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren of Mary Ann Eure Our American military men and women fighting to keep us safe

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpartisan public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by 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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Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-15 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4322. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
James R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

FROM PAGE ONE

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

BABIES

Continued from A1

They are doing unexpectedly better than what they thought they were going to be for 26 weeks."

Peterson had a busy night. When she checked into the hospital, she tested positive for COVID-19. She said she has not experienced any symptoms. New visitor criteria put forth by the hospital on Dec. 29 meant that only four adults, including Fleming, were permitted to visit her bedside throughout the stay.

"I did not have any symptoms or anything," Peterson said. "It is just very important for people to follow the guidelines even if you do not want to. You never know who is sick."

It was different from her

two previous labor experiences Peterson said, but the pregnancy itself was also unique.

"This whole experience being pregnant with them has been different," Peterson said. "I have a 5-year-old, her name is Kalisha, and a 7-year-old, his name is Dijon. They are very excited."

"When I went in for my first ultrasound, and I am laying there and see these two sacks, I was just quiet. (The specialist) said 'are you going to say anything? You are having twins.' I knew it was something."

"Twins are not entirely unexpected," Peterson said. Fleming's mother is a twin, as is his grandfather. All of his first cousins have had twins as well, including a pair with birthdays on Jan. 2.

"It is very different and it is very challenging, especially

if you have health concerns," Peterson said. "They really did take care of me and did the best they could."

Peterson said she is most excited to get her newborns healthy, home and bonding with them. Despite the concerns around their birth and the positive COVID test, the easiest part was finding them names.

"I wanted to give the little boy something closer to his daddy's name," Peterson said. "I decided to do Cayman with an M. My little girl, her grandparents named her. We called them and asked what rhymes with Cayman and they said Camira. We said alright, that is the names. The thinking process was not that long."

Vidant Health and Women's Services at Maynard Children's Hospital delivered more than 3,700 babies in 2021, the hospital said.

FUN RUN

Continued from A1

per month."

A truck bed full of pet food collected at the event is being donated to the Pet Food Pantry of Eastern North Carolina, and Fleet Feet is accepting further donations of dry pet food for the duration of January.

Parker said a New Year's resolution is not always a solid broodlock for good health.

"Get up and move," he said. "It does not matter if you run, walk, swim, hike, garden. The most important thing is you get off your couch and just move. It starts in your mind. The whole idea of setting resolutions, do not do it. Make a new habit."

Fleet Feet was in charge of putting the race on. Rachel Craft, a general manager of the store, said that the business is focusing on bettering the community in 2022. She said that Fleet Feet will partner with a different organization each month.

"We just want to inspire people to join us with that hands-on support in the community with friends and family," Craft said. "To make them aware of the awesome nonprofits that are in our community first of all, and support them as best we can."

"The pet food, we have seen a lot," Craft said. "Stephanie Hinnant down at the Hilton brought by a bunch of bags of dog and cat food. For her



PHOTO BY THE DAILY REFLECTOR

Teasha Dozier-Grady, left, and Amy Rogers pose with pet food they brought as donations to the Pet Food Pantry of Eastern North Carolina.

secret Santa at work she actually asked people to donate that food."

"It was actually our first donation to get started and get us out and about," she said. "I had never even heard about the Pet Food Pantry or really thought about people needing to decide between feeding themselves and their animals."

Some runners said that their goals for the year also are to be giving.

"My best friend works here and asked me to come run and push for the Ainsley's Angels," said run-

ner Cole Higgins. "I love these runs. They keep me in shape, get me moving. I need to go for a run cause I have only really been lifting weights for the past couple months. We will see how it goes."

Higgins said he does not have any resolutions, just a desire to stay healthy. Ainsley's Angels is an organization that promotes inclusion for people with medical, mental or physical disabilities through action like races and other events.

Rebecca Parker and her husband, Robert, said that they were ready to set the tone for the year early.

"It is a social event for us," Robert Parker said. "We love animals and wanted to come out and support the cause."

"We really like Fleet Feet and get us out and about," she said. "I had never even heard about the Pet Food Pantry or really thought about people needing to decide between feeding themselves and their animals." Some runners said that their goals for the year also are to be giving. "My best friend works here and asked me to come run and push for the Ainsley's Angels," said run-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camira, left, and Cayman Fleming receive attention in the NICU at Vidant Health's James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville on Jan. 1. Both mother Lakelsa Peterson and babies are doing well, the hospital said.

NEW YEARS

Continued from A1

staffing with a lot of sick people. I am ready for it to get back to normal," Keesee said.

Keesee joined her husband, son and mom at Town Common, creating their own little pod in the crowd. The family had attended Raleigh's First Night celebration several years ago and when they saw Greenville was hosting a night of music and fireworks, they knew they wanted to come.

"We are hoping that being vaccinated, having our boosters, playing socially distanced and all those things are going to keep us safe," said Deb Brady, Keesee's mom.

Brady is senior manager of McConnell-Baab Hope Lodge in Greenville, which provides housing for adults undergoing cancer treatment at Vidant. Her new year's wish is the wish she has every day.

"My wish is a cure for cancer. At least research and development that will help the people we work

with," Brady said.

Jan. 23 is the 20th anniversary of the McConnell-Baab Hope Lodge so Brady had another wish.

"I'm hoping our wonderful Greenville community will continue to support (Hope Lodge guests) as it always has ... to provide services for people who are struggling with cancer," Brady said.

Mother and daughter Latreina and Precious Koonce of New Bern also stood by themselves and swayed to the music.

"I've been here for a couple of other events and I really enjoy the atmosphere here," Latreina Koonce said. "I've been to Greenville for quite a few events."

Mother and daughter said they had a few concerns about coming to possibly crowded New Year's celebration, especially after Latreina Koonce's original plans had been canceled because of the omicron variant.

"I had a whole cruise that I was supposed to be on right now, eight days, canceled be-

cause of (omicron)," she said. "So I was concerned, but it's an open area outside. It is what it is, but we know when to take safety precautions. We're standing by ourselves so I don't think we have anything to worry about."

"Being able to get outside, have fun without having to worry so much is better," Precious Koonce said. "I am glad they had this here, in this wide-open space."

Greenville Assistant City Manager Ken Graves said staff knew it was possible to host a safe event because of the outdoor setting. The city didn't host a kids zone at this year's event and there were no alcohol sales, creating more space for people to spread out, which they did.

"The main reason to have this event is to try to figure out how to live with COVID because we know it's not going to go away," Graves said. "We are going to have to still maintain our lives, go to work, school, church, whatever. We have got to push through to normalcy."

Bethany Ange and Austin

Harder of Washington said since they are vaccinated they didn't worry about accepting their neighbor's invitation to drive over to watch the fireworks.

"We've got to kiss during the fireworks to ring in the new year," Ange said.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)
Brennan Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Potts Building, 450 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpartisan public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial Determination of Avoided Cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket on 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 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 most and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-1(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 as 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 Ms. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4526 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4700.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent costurers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0001.

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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4725. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This is the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

ECU

Continued from A1

testing regardless of residential status. That rule applies to individuals involved in any on-campus activities including classes or labs. The school's COVID dashboard shows that 78 percent of students and 89 percent of employees are vaccinated.

The update clarified that employees and off-campus students who are fully vaccinated or have been positive for the virus in the past 90 days are not subject to re-entry testing requirements.

Surveillance testing will continue in the spring semester for students who have not been exempted from testing and for employees who are unvaccinated.

Face coverings will continue to be required in all indoor spaces for students, faculty, staff and visitors regardless of vaccination status.

"I am confident we will navigate the initial increase of positive COVID-19 cases this spring as we did at the beginning of Fall 2021," said Chancellor Philip Rogers said in the update. "That success was due to all of Pirate Nation masking following our community standards and bringing our campus vaccination rate up to 80%."

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is for you to get vaccinated and to receive your booster as soon as you are eligible," Rogers said. "We know there will be cases on campus as students and employees return. ECU's COVID Coordination Committee will

continue to follow the guidance of our local and state health officials and adjust plans as necessary."

The following testing times and locations were also provided in the update beginning next month:

Main Campus Student Center Ballrooms

■ Thursday: 12:30-3 p.m.
■ Friday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
■ Jan. 10-12 : 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Make Testing Site (old FedEx Building)

■ Thursday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
■ Saturday-Sunday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
■ Jan. 10-14 : 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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NATION & WORLD

MONEY & MARKETS

Safety features failed in NYC fire

Self-closing doors didn't work to blunt fire's spread.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investigators sought answers Monday for why key safety features failed when fire broke out in a New York high-rise, fanning thick smoke through the tower and killing 17 people, including eight children, in the city's deadliest blaze in three decades.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency personnel use a manual resuscitator on a fire victim during a deadly high rise fire that broke out on Sunday in the Bronx borough of New York.

A malfunctioning electric space heater apparently started the fire Sunday in the 19-story building in the Bronx, fire officials said. The flames damaged only a small part of the building, but smoke poured through the apartment's open door and turned stairwells — the only method of escape in a building too tall for fire escapes — into dark, asphyxiated death traps. Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the apartment's front door and a door on the fifth floor should have been self-closing, blunting the spread of smoke, but the

doors malfunctioned and stayed fully open. Dozens of people were hospitalized, including several in critical condition. Mayor Eric Adams called it an "unspeakable tragedy" at a news conference near the scene Monday. "This tragedy is not going to define us," Adams said. "It is going to show our resilience." Adams lowered the death toll from an initial report Sunday, saying that two fewer people were killed than originally thought. Nigro said patients were taken to seven hospitals and "there was a bit of a double count." The dead included children as young as 4 years old, City Council Member Oswald Feltz said. Some people could not escape because of the smoke, Nigro said. Others became incapacitated as they tried to get out. Firefighters found victims on every floor, many in cardiac and respiratory arrest, Nigro said. Lirip children were given

oxygen after they were carried out. Some who fled had soot-covered faces. Firefighters continued making rescues even after their air supplies ran out, Adams said.

"Their oxygen tanks were empty and they still pushed through the smoke," he said. An investigation was underway to determine how the fire spread and whether anything could have been done to prevent or contain the blaze, Nigro said. A fire department official said the space heater had been running for a "prolonged period" before the fire began. What caused it to malfunction remains under investigation, spokesman Frank Dwyer said.

Fire then spread quickly to nearby furniture and bedding, Dwyer said. Large, new apartment buildings are required to have sprinkler systems and interior doors that swing shut automatically to contain smoke and deprive fires of oxygen, but those rules do not apply to thousands of the city's older buildings.

Democrats fight for voting legislation

Biden and other top Democrats cite Jan. 6 insurrection in fight for Senate rule changes.

BY BRIAN SLEBYSKO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats are mounting an impassioned bid to overhaul Senate rules that stand in the way of their sweeping voting legislation, arguing that forces unleashed by Donald Trump's falsehoods about the 2020 election demand an extraordinary response.

In fiery speeches and interviews, President Joe Biden and top congressional Democrats have acted on the one-year anniversary of the Jan. 6 insurrection as a reason to advance their long-stalled voting, ethics and elections

package. Senate Republicans, who have repeatedly blocked the legislation, excoriate the measures as a "passion power grab" and warn that any rule changes will harm Democrats someday under a GOP majority.

Trump's false claims of a stolen election not only incited the mob that stormed the Capitol, Democrats say. His unreeling campaign of disinformation also sparked a GOP effort to pass new state laws that have made it more difficult to vote, while in some cases rendering the administration of elections more susceptible to political influence.

Democrats' voting legislation would usher in the biggest overhaul of U.S. elections in a generation, striding down hurdles to voting enacted in the name of

election security, reducing the influence of big money in politics and limiting partisan influence over the drawing of congressional districts. The package would create national election standards that would trump the state-level GOP laws. It would also restore the ability of the Justice Department to police election laws in states with a history of discrimination.

Many Democrats say the moment has come to act decisively in what they view as the civil rights fight of the era. Changing Senate rules early in 2022 offers perhaps the last best chance to counteract Republicans' state-level push before the midterm elections, when Democrats' House majority and slim hold in the 50-50 Senate could be wiped out.

"If Republicans continue to hijack the rules of the chamber to prevent us from protecting our democracy, then the Senate will debate and consider changes to the rules," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Friday.

Yet what action they will take remains highly uncertain, depending on the often elusive support of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va. Key Democrats have been meeting with Manchin for weeks, brainstorming options while also enlisting outside allies to lobby his support.

No progress after Ukraine talks

BY MATTHEW LEE AND KONSTANTIN MANENKOV

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The United States and Russia locked horns over Ukraine and other security issues Monday with no sign of progress from either side at highly anticipated strategic talks.

Low expectations from both Washington and Moscow about the high-stakes session in Geneva appeared to have been met as senior diplomats from the two countries emerged without offering any hint of success.

Neither characterized the meeting as a complete failure, but neither did they offer any easing of the increasingly worrisome standoff over Russia's military buildup on its border with Ukraine that the West sees as a fundamental threat to European security. Nor was there any indication of movement on other, perhaps less-explosive matters that have vexed the U.S.-Russia relationship.

Moscow insists on guarantees to halt NATO's eastward expansion and even roll back the military alliance's deployments in Eastern Europe, while Washington firmly rejects the demands as a nonstarter.

With both sides dug in on their positions and Ukraine's future hanging in the balance, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said "no progress" was made on the central demand on NATO expansion, although he in-

sisted: "We have no intention to invade Ukraine."

Ryabkov spoke following talks with his U.S. counterpart, Wendy Sherman, part of a flurry of diplomatic activity in Europe this week aimed at defusing the tensions. Sherman called the talks a "frank and forthright discussion."

"It was not what you would call a negotiation," she told reporters. "We're not to a point where we're ready to set down texts and begin to go back and forth."

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Alphabet Inc C	GOOG	1721.55	3032.00	2774.80	+312.8	+11%
Alphabet Inc A	GOOGL	1711.71	3019.83	2773.39	+330.05	+12%
Amazon.com Inc	AMZN	2891.00	3773.08	3228.72	-213.6	-7%
Apple Inc	AAPL	152.21	182.84	172.19	+0.2	-0.1%
Bank of America	BAC	29.57	49.31	45.83	-2.5	-5%
Barclays Bank B	BKFB	226.10	320.20	218.33	-8.5	-3%
Deere Co	DE	278.95	400.24	378.86	+12.1	+3%
DePuy De Mears	DD	86.37	82.27	81.87	-0.22	-0.3%
Duke Energy	DUK	85.56	108.38	104.56	+0.6	+0.1%
Fet Citz Banc A NC	FNCA	571.90	3427.1	606.00	-68	-1%
Ford Motor	F	8.82	24.95	23.85	-0.5	-2%
GlensouthKline PLC	GSK	33.53	44.36	44.84	+0.95	+2%
Highwoods Prop	HW	36.90	48.98	46.81	-0.4	-1%
Hyster Yale Material	HY	35.30	102.17	92.38	-4.75	-3%
JPMorgan Chase	JPM	127.35	172.96	163.32	+1.6	+0.1%
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	151.47	179.90	173.00	-0.86	-0.5%
Lowes Cos	LOW	150.84	253.31	247.80	-3.46	-1%
Lumen Technologies	LUMN	10.42	16.00	13.85	-1.2	-9%
Meta Platforms Inc	FB	244.81	364.33	328.07	-37.2	-11%
Microsoft Corp	MSFT	212.03	349.67	314.27	-2.3	-0.1%
Moderna Inc	MRK	141.59	231.80	172.66	-40.8	-23%
NACCO Inds	NC	20.05	44.00	34.31	+1.5	+4%
Novell Brands Inc	NWL	20.30	30.10	23.28	-1.2	-5%
Nile Inc B	NKE	125.44	179.10	150.44	-6.53	-4%
Northrop Grumman	NOC	282.88	408.03	402.23	-4.81	-1%
Oracle Corporation	ORCL	115.87	346.47	274.00	-15.3	-5%
Phillip Morris Int'l	PM	78.34	106.51	100.29	-1.14	-1%
Procter & Gamble	PG	121.84	155.32	140.52	-2.22	-1%
Royal Bk Cda	RY	80.50	112.38	112.80	+0.29	+0.3%
Stanley Black & Deck	SWK	188.77	225.80	188.00	-4.07	-2%
Tesla Inc	TSLA	536.49	1043.48	1058.12	+311.8	+30%
Travel Financial Cp	TFC	47.89	65.42	65.29	-0.29	-0.4%
Tyson Foods	TSN	82.59	91.69	90.77	-0.4	-0.3%
US Cellular	USCI	28.53	39.96	31.74	-7.4	-2%
UnitedHealth Group	UNH	200.35	509.23	465.00	+40.4	+1%
Wells Fargo & Co	WFC	29.08	55.10	56.35	+0.8	+1%
Weyerhaeuser	WY	30.87	41.60	40.15	-1.19	-3%

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 173

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, LLC, 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. § 62-1(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 its 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 27699-4700.

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 Jack 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 this matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 11th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-108, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Duke Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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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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 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 12th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joan R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

2A

Weekly North Carolina gas price update

Average gasoline prices in North Carolina have fallen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.04 per gallon Monday, January 10, 2022, according to GasBuddy's survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina. Prices in North Carolina are 7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 86 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in North Carolina was priced at \$2.73 per gallon Sunday while the most expensive was \$3.49 per gallon, a difference of 76 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging

\$3.20 per gallon Monday. The national average is down 5.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 97.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in North Carolina and the national average going back 10 years:

January 10, 2021: \$2.38 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$2.31 per gallon)
January 10, 2020: \$2.44 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$2.59 per gallon)
January 10, 2019: \$2.08 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$2.25 per gallon)
January 10, 2018: \$2.37 per gallon (U.S. Average:

\$2.51 per gallon)
January 10, 2017: \$2.27 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$2.36 per gallon)
January 10, 2016: \$1.90 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$1.97 per gallon)
January 10, 2015: \$2.22 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$2.14 per gallon)
January 10, 2014: \$3.29 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$3.30 per gallon)
January 10, 2013: \$3.38 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$3.31 per gallon)
January 10, 2012: \$3.41 per gallon (U.S. Average: \$3.37 per gallon)

"Oil prices have remained stubbornly strong, touching nearly \$80 per barrel last week, pushing gasoline prices higher even as U.S. gasoline demand starts to struggle. Some of this is

typical seasonal weakness, but the lack of demand is likely enhanced by omicron cases surging and Americans who are just a bit more hesitant to get out right now," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "In addition, unrest in Kazakhstan, the 18th largest oil producer, is likely leading to impacts on oil production, while continued unrest in Libya also worries markets and overpowers the seasonal drop in gasoline demand. Without improvement or stability in oil producing countries, we're likely to continue to see upward pressure on oil prices."

GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.gasbuddy.com>.

Sewer, from 1A

Owens called for a second. He again called for a second. Owens announced the motion had failed for the lack of a second.

Dare County's project was stopped.

Ottun initially made "the ask" to hook up to the Manteo system at the board's last meeting, Dec. 15, 2021. He also asked for a waiver of the \$1,240,800 tap fee.

At that meeting, Ottun laid out the plans for the Bowserstown project for workforce housing. He said "we can't just do nothing," saying the need for workforce housing is "critical."

Dare's plan called for building 120 mixed income units with 20% for people making up to \$34,600 and 63 of 320 units for moderate income folks. Rates would range from \$730 to \$900 for one bedroom and \$875 to

\$1,150 for a two-bedroom apartment. The project would be public-private partnership with the private partner able to charge market rate for 33 units.

At the January meeting, Ottun addressed some of the questions from the previous meeting. He took the fee waiver off the table.

The board asked questions about annexation, which Ottun said was okay.

The building height would be three to four stories, not a high rise hotel, said Ottun.

The board delved into ad valorem tax revenue that might be realized. It would depend on the ownership of the project.

What about traffic generated by the project? "We know there's a problem with traffic," said commissioner Sherry Wickstrom. She said a traffic study is being requested.

Ottun made a final plea. "We're stymied," he said. He needed to know "whether we have or don't have sewer capacity."

Manteo's board answered no.

Manteo's wastewater treatment system is at 50% capacity. When it reaches 80%, the town must stop giving hook-ups. The town has engaged a consultant which is now working on the carrying capacity of the

collection system and finishing a project that will let the town calculate the anticipated load of new projects.

Dare County is now exploring options, like a package treatment plant or peat system, reports Ottun.

Three planning and zoning matters were on the Jan. 5 agenda.

The first was a proposed zoning text amendment to modify the ordinance to allow multi-family use in the B-1 Village Business District without the requirement of commercial use or retail on the first floor of the building.

At the hearing, two people spoke against the proposal, Jamie Anderson told the commissioners that adopting the change would "create a slippery slope."

Commissioners expressed concern that the residential units would be turned into Airbnb properties. No, said a representative for the developer.

Borland made the motion, moving to deny the zoning amendment. Wickstrom seconded. The board agreed and voted to deny the application.

The second planning and zoning item was to consider a special use permit for the project needing the zoning text amendment. That item,

was withdrawn.

The third matter, requesting another zoning text amendment, was moved to a February agenda.

The board made the following appointments:

Planning and Zoning Board: Reappointed Nicole Northrup and Jamie Daniels and appointed Dave Stempel. Northrup was tapped as chair of the committee.

Board of Adjustment: Reappointed Clarence Lewis and Stuart Westcott and appointed Hannah Forslund.

Cemetery Board: Reappointed Jamie Daniels and appointed Christine Walker and, to serve as commissioner liaison, Ruth Stetson.

Special Events Committee: Appointed Hunt Thomas to the committee and tapped Stetson as commissioner liaison.

Commissioner Eddie Mann suggested that the committee rules need to be adjusted to include committee members who have three unexcused absences should not be on a committee. He also suggested a town transportation plan, but was told that one exists. He suggested that the Planning Board review it.

The next Manteo Board of Commissioners meeting is Jan. 19, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Duck, from 1A

were effective and opinions on returning to business as usual or incorporating some of the accommodations for post pandemic operations.

Although only a handful of survey responses came back, there was enough support in favor of extending the temporary accommodations to sway council.

In favor of an extension, a couple of council members also felt there needed to be some way to monitor compliance.

"I'm not sure about enforcement," said Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau. "I have not heard of a lot of problems, but I have to agree that people are getting used to being outdoors. I think people find it more comfortable and a lovely experience."

Rob Mooney added that while you cannot cure apathy, he felt the town needs a better way to connect with businesses.

"If we know this is important we need to make the effort to contact more people," explained Mooney. "We need to figure out a better way to connect with people on these important issues. Realistically we get the best benefit, but we need more input from more people."

Joe Heard, director of community development, pointed out that timing

might have been a factor in the low number of responses. After a busy summer season most area businesses are closed at this time of year.

Thibodeau added that the holiday season may well have been a distraction because she was busy and missed the deadline herself.

The council recommendation will now go to Mayor Don Kingston, who was unable to attend the meeting, and he will direct the town manager on what steps to take.

Other business for the evening included a swearing in ceremony for Town Council member Mooney, who was absent from the December council meeting, approval of a consent agenda with minutes from the November 3, November 17 and December 1 meetings in addition to a resolution setting micro-purchase thresholds for the purchase of goods and services using federal funding.

Council also approved a capital project ordinance to properly account for revenues and expenditures specific to the upcoming beach nourishment project.

According to town manager Drew Havers, the capital project ordinance is very similar to an annual budget except that the project is likely to extend from one fiscal year to another.

"This is similar to the

annual budget you approved," explained Havers. "A major difference is that the budget has an end date and this does not. It will live on with our current beach nourishment project to show specific project revenues and expenditures."

He then added that it is important to report these separately from the town's general finances as any debts issued and grant monies coming to the town specific to the project.

Council also heard a report that the Duck Trail improvement project between Blue Heron Lane to Oyler Catcher Lane has begun and is expected to be completed before March. The Rain Garden and Wetland area sign is finished with a temporary sign in up and a permanent sign expected later in January.

During public comments, there were also thanks offered for the steps council took to help business during the past year and concerns voiced that overflowing garbage cans may be contributing to a growing number of rats and coyotes in the community.

Thibodeau concluded the meeting saying that while public comments are not responded to they are listened to and that the next scheduled meeting will be the 1 p.m. mid-month meeting on Wednesday, January 19.

Regional COVID-19 update

Reported COVID-19 case numbers have risen rapidly in the area. Dare County had 393 active positive cases on Jan. 18.

The total number of new positive cases reported in Dare County for the past week was 978, states the weekly COVID-19 bulletin from Dare County's Department of Health and Human Services. Due to the number of positive cases being reported in Dare County, contact tracing is no longer possible on all resident cases.

All positive resident cases receive a phone call and text message from Dare County Department of Health & Human Services' Public Health

Division providing isolation and quarantine guidance and asking individuals to notify their direct contacts of the exposure. Contact tracing and support phone calls are being provided to the elderly, those with children and facilities where there are outbreaks or clusters (i.e., churches, childcare centers, businesses, etc.). In light of this, a number of data metrics are no longer able to be accurately reported (i.e., asymptomatic/asymptomatic, vaccination status, direct contact), according to the county's bulletin.

Currently, based on the reported positive cases, there are 393 active COVID-19 cases among

residents of Dare County. Eleven residents are hospitalized due to complications from COVID-19. Deaths of Dare residents since the start of the pandemic number 27, an increase of one death. A hospitalized patient died on Jan. 11, 2022. In Dare County, 74% of population has received one shot; 73% of population is fully vaccinated.

Vaccination numbers come from the state's COVID-19 dashboard, unless noted otherwise.

Hyde County as of Jan. 14

Hyde County at the end of last year had 10 positive cases. On Jan. 7, 2022, the county's health department posted 47 active positive cases; on Jan. 14, the number had dropped to 34 active positive cases.

- Active Cases: 34 residents.
- Deaths: 14 residents, remains the same.
- Vaccinated: 69% one dose; 65% fully

Tyrrell County as of Jan. 14

• Active Cases: 17 residents

- Deaths: seven residents, remains same
- Vaccinated: 51% one dose; 48% fully, from Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health

Tyrrell House has a total of nine active staff cases and 16 resident cases.

Currituck County as of Jan. 14

• Active cases: 60 residents

- Deaths: 30 residents, remains the same
- Vaccinated: 45% one dose; 41% fully

• Currituck House: 16 resident cases and nine staff.

Currituck Health and Rehab: seven active staff cases and one resident case.

Camden County as of Jan. 14

• Active cases: 19 residents

- Deaths: nine residents, remains same.
- Vaccinated: 51% one dose, 49% fully

Pasquotank County as of Jan. 14

• Active Cases: 120 residents

- Deaths: 177 residents
- Vaccinated: 56% one dose; 50% fully

Albemarle District Jail: two staff, nine residents

• Citadel: eight staff; no residents

- Elizabeth City Health and Rehab: 24 staff; 45 residents, five deaths.
- Waterbrooke: nine staff, 12 residents

School districts: Dare County Schools as of Jan. 14

• Jan. 14, 2022: student total 82 active cases; 136 quarantined

• Jan 8, 2022: student total: 14 active cases; 24 quarantined

• Cape Hatteras Elementary: three active cases; six quarantined

• Cape Hatteras Secondary: eight active cases; one quarantined

• First Flight Elementary: nine active cases; 13 quarantined

• First Flight Middle: six active cases; 21 quarantined

• First Flight High: four active cases; three quarantined

• Kitty Hawk Elementary: seven active cases; 18 quarantined

• Manteo Elementary: 13 active cases; 15 quarantined

• Manteo Middle: five active cases; 31 quarantined

• Manteo High School: seven active cases; seven quarantined

• Nags Head Elementary: 20 active cases; 21 quarantined

• Staff: 22 active cases; five quarantined

Hyde County Schools

On Jan. 14, 2022, Hyde County Schools issued the following information: A staff member on the Mattamuskeet Campus tested positive for the coronavirus on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. This staff member has not been on campus since Friday, Jan. 7.

A student at Mattamuskeet Elementary School tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, and a staff member tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday, Jan. 13. The student was last at school on Monday, Jan. 10 and the staff member was last at school on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Tyrrell County Schools

On Jan. 14, Tyrrell County Schools had 32 active positive student cases with 186 in quarantine. The system posted 10 active positive staff cases with eight in quarantine.

Ten days earlier, the numbers were one active case for students and none for staff; six students quarantined.

A mandatory mask mandate now in place. On Jan. 13, during an Emergency Call Meeting the Tyrrell County Schools Board voted 4-1 to return to a Mandatory Mask Policy for the district. Effective tomorrow, January 14, 2022, all students,

staff and guests are required to wear a NCDHHS approved mask in all Tyrrell County Schools buildings. The district will have extra masks on hand for individuals who may need one. Students or staff members who had prior approved mask accommodations are allowed to return to those previous measures, stated an announcement from TCS.

Currituck County Schools

At a Jan. 13 meeting, the Currituck County Board of Education delayed its decision to make masks optional on Jan. 18. Masks remain required in schools and on buses. The decision was unanimous.

Week ending Jan. 14, 2022. Total positive cases: 101. Total quarantined: 78

Week ending Dec. 12, 2021: Total positive cases: 19. Total quarantined: 16

• Central Elementary: 12 active cases; 17 quarantined

• Griggs Elementary: 11 active cases; two quarantined

• Jarvisburg Elementary: five active cases; two quarantined

• Knotts Island: 18 active cases; zero quarantined

• Moyock Elementary: three active cases; two quarantined

• Shawboro Elementary: 12 active cases; three quarantined

• JP Knapp: five active cases; five quarantined

• Moyock Middle School: four active cases; seven quarantined

• Currituck County Middle: six active cases; zero quarantined

• Currituck County High: 25 active cases; 12 quarantined

• Central Office: zero active cases; zero quarantined

- Staff: 20 cases

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Debois Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 J. Ayck, 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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4322 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4322. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

Hiker rescued in mountains during snowstorm

ASHEVILLE (AP) — A man who planned to hike and camp along a trail in the mountains of western North Carolina had to be rescued after he became stranded during a storm that pummeled the area with snow and sleet.

The man was rescued Sunday on the popular Art Loeb Trail near the Shining Rock Wilderness area, Haywood County Search & Rescue said in a Facebook post.

The News & Observer reports that a team of six rescuers found the hiker

mostly uninjured a few hours after the call came through.

"It sounds like mostly cold injuries, maybe some frost bite, that kind of thing," Allison Richmond, spokesperson for Haywood County Emergency Services, told WLOS-TV. "That's not unexpected in this kind of weather when you just can't get warm. Once you get wet, things get really cold, really fast."

Search & Rescue said the man realized as weather conditions deteriorated that it might be "more than he was prepared to handle." Temperatures lingered just above freezing with a

wind chill of 27 degrees when rescuers received a call about the stranded hiker Sunday morning.

Rescuers entered at the Black Balsam trail head to search for the hiker using four-wheel drive trucks. But the team was halted by worsening weather conditions, Haywood County officials said. They were forced to continue on foot wearing snow shoes until they found the hiker.

"The hiker was in good spirits, despite the long night he just endured and was able to walk out on his own power alongside the team of rescuers," Search & Rescue said. The hiker's name was not released.

Planning, from 1A

for all end-of-grade and end-of-course test areas; reduce achievement gaps; increase high school graduation rate; expand options for students to receive college credit; analyze Career and Technical Education enrollment, credentialing and internship placement data.

Talent Development: analyze staff assessment of professional development opportunities and activities; evaluate teacher

working conditions survey data; monitor teacher retention rates; utilize Education Value-Added Assessment System Teacher Effectiveness Data; track National Board Certification Data.

Community Partnerships: analyze stakeholder survey data; utilize website and social media analytics; collect and study volunteerism and school visit attendance data; track financial support data.

Farrelly said the system had made "significant

progress in 16 of the 18 indicators." The two indicators needing work are in the Active Learning core value: closing the achievement gap and increasing overall proficiency in end-of-grade test areas.

One notable achievement is progress on graduation rate. The district's graduation rate has increased from 90.5% to 93.7% since 2018, reported Farrelly.

In 2018, the selected vision statement was "Together we are building extraordinary schools."

Bridge, from 1A

is, a sand and water slurry from the dose by beach is pumped into big bags.

NC DOT is proposing to use a 50-foot long sandbag that has four to five compartments that are filled with dry sand by using regular sand-moving equipment like excavators. A variance is sought because the new bag does not meet the definition of sandbag.

The new sandbags would run west-to-east across the old NC 12 path. Existing sandbags filled and placed in 2012 will

remain.

The NCDOT proposal, which was denied by the Division of Coastal Management, will be before the Coastal Resources Commission at its February 9-11, 2022 meeting in Beaufort. A variance is requested.

Regarding parking at the south entrance to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, the December's update meeting slides say "The idea is that no parking will be allowed in the cul-de-sac and certain other areas. This will be by ordinance & this can be enforced."

No parking signs are already in place along NC 12.

The closest public beach access is about a mile south at Dare County's Public Beach Access adjacent to the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo water plant. It has parking.

Access within the national refuge will be provided at the north end of the bridge. A work area will be turned into a parking lot with three spaces for campers and RVs and 24 other parking spaces. A kiosk with information will be installed in the parking area.

CRIME

Cooper charged with possessing a controlled substance

On Dec. 29, Erinn Dwan Cooper, 24, was charged with flee to elude with a motor vehicle, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, resist, delay & obstruct, reckless driving to endanger and two counts of warrant service for offense(s) committed in another jurisdiction.

Jan. 2
All other offenses was reported at a non-disclosed location.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported at a non-disclosed location.

Breaking and entering a public officer was reported at 5190 Bear Grass Rd. in Williamson.

Martin County Sheriff's Office Incidents

The Martin County Sheriff's Office reports of incidents include:

Dec. 27
Breaking and entering was reported at 111 Circle Dr. in Hamilton.

Breaking and entering was reported at 115 East Circle Dr. in Hamilton.

Dec. 28
Assault on a female was reported at 293 South Front St. in Hamilton.

Larceny and resisting public officer was reported at Duck Thrut, 400 South Front St. in Hamilton.

Dec. 29
Attempted breaking and entering was reported at 14304 U.S. 64 Alt. in Williamson.

Dec. 30
Larceny was reported at 9479 U.S. 17 in Williamson.

Dec. 31
Destruction/damage/vandalism of property was reported at 13301 Old U.S. 64 in Jamesville.

Jan. 1
Simple assault, communicating threats and assault by pointing a gun was reported at 303 West Academy St. in Robersonville.

Jan. 2
Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported at a non-disclosed location.

Breaking and entering a public officer was reported at 5190 Bear Grass Rd. in Williamson.

Breaking and entering a public officer was reported at 5190 Bear Grass Rd. in Williamson.

Dec. 28
Failure to appear was reported at 800 Slade St. Apt. 3 in Williamson.

Dec. 29
Injury to personal property was reported at 216 Williams St. in Williamson.

Jan. 1
Queshelle Latree Hollis was charged with simple assault, all other defenses, communicating threats and assault by pointing a gun.

Jan. 2
Shirone Ford was charged with traffic violations.

Dec. 29
Deshaun Andrews was charged with probation violation, true bill of indictment and failure to appear.

Dec. 30
Quaraine Sprull was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Dec. 31
Kerlin McCoy Williams was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and resisting a public officer.

Jan. 1
Simple assault, communicating threats and assault by pointing a gun was reported at 303 West Academy St. in Robersonville.

Jan. 2
William Weldon Coburn was charged with hit and run-property damage.

motor vehicle and larceny of a firearm was reported at 407 South M.K. Dr. in Williamson.

Involuntary commitment was reported at 920 West Main St. Apt. 1 in Williamson.

Burglary/breaking and entering was reported at 311 Martin St. in Williamson.

Dec. 28
Failure to appear was reported at 800 Slade St. Apt. 3 in Williamson.

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gly Wiggy, 712 Washington St. in Williamson.

Obtain controlled substance by fraud or forgery was reported at Mast Pharmacy, 307 West Blvd. in Williamson.

Larceny was reported at Walmart, 1529 Washington St. in Williamson.

Communicating threats was reported at Magnuson Hotel, 101 East Blvd. in Williamson.

Breaking and entering and abandonment of animal was reported at 309 East Church St. in Williamson.

Dec. 30
Simple assault and assault on a child under 12 was reported at 223 West Pine St. in Williamson.

Jan. 1
Assault by pointing a gun was reported at 147 Willow Acres in Williamson.

Arrests
Arrests do not indicate guilt or innocence, which is determined through judicial proceedings. The Williamson Police Department reports of arrests include:

Dec. 28
Quandaren Montrell Knight, 23, was charged with failure to appear.

Dec. 29
Erinn Dwan Cooper, 24,

was charged with larceny.

Erinn Dwan Cooper, 24, was charged with larceny.

Erinn Dwan Cooper, 24, was charged with flee to elude with a motor vehicle, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, resist, delay & obstruct, reckless driving to endanger and two counts of warrant service for offense(s) committed in another jurisdiction.

Dec. 30
Shernika Latoya Nicholson, 25, was charged on failure to appear on misdemeanor.

Dec. 31
Kelly Howell Coburn, 41, was charged with driving while license revoked.

Jan. 1
Christopher Jordan Hawthay, 23, was charged with operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway while the defendant's driver's license was revoked and two counts of warrant service.

Jan. 2
William Weldon Coburn was charged with hit and run-property damage.



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CADA Head Start seeks qualified applicants for the following positions:

Child Development Center Manager (1-Halifax County) Entry: \$19.66 per hour:
Candidate must possess knowledge of North Carolina Child Care Laws and Regulations, as well as North Carolina state regulations for sanitation and fire safety codes. General knowledge of child growth and development and programs to appropriately meet the physical, mental, and social needs of children. General knowledge of techniques of organizing and planning program activities and procuring of required supplies and equipment. Knowledge of good health practices. Ability to establish and maintain working relationships with preschool children (HS), or infants/toddlers (EHS), parents and other staff members. Must have the ability to supervise a small child development center staff. Ability to exercise good judgment in appraising situations and making decisions. Experience in working with young children preferably involving some supervisory experience. Graduation from a four-year college or university preferably with a degree in Early Childhood Education, preschool education, or extensive experience in working with young children in a nursery school, kindergarten, or day care facility, or an equivalent combination of experience and training. Early Childhood Administration Level III preferred. Must possess an Early Childhood Administration Level II, or its equivalency, is required. Possession of a valid health certificate issued by the County Health Department or a physician and valid North Carolina driver's license. Computer Skills and Computer Record Check required. **Closing Deadline: Open until filled**

Program Operations Manager (1-Northampton County) Entry: \$21.07 per hour:
Four-year degree in Business, Child Development, or equivalent in education and experience. Knowledge of NC Child Care Licensing requirements and inspections, and federal and state transportation codes and standards for children ages 0-5. Knowledge of procurement policies and facility leasing / rental agreements and contracts. Must maintain accurate records on cost estimates and expenditures. Must have a valid NC Driver License. Must have background and experience in the supervising of staff in an Early Childhood setting with good working knowledge of Early Childhood practices, principles and theory. This person should also possess administrative skills and have the ability to work with other staff members and institutions. Criminal Record Check required. **Closing Deadline: Open until filled**

Custodian (1- Hertford County) Entry: 10.10 per hour: Knowledge of cleaning procedures, ability to follow instructions, and ability to perform medium to heavy physical work. Must have a NC Driver's License and acceptable driving record. Must meet licensure requirements to work at a Head Start Center. Ability to read and understand product labels. Criminal Record Check and Health certificate required. **Closing Deadline: Open until filled**

Application Process: Submit a CADA Application and three references to:

CADA
Human Resources
Post Office Box 530
Rich Square, North Carolina 27889

Application Deadline: Open until filled
Job descriptions and applications are available on our website at www.nc-cada.org. Applicants can also inquire at NCWorks. Applicant selected for employment must successfully complete a criminal record check and drug screening. CADA is an equal opportunity employer and agency. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Contact information is (252) 539-4155. The TDD number is 1-800-735-2962 or dial 711.

Christopher S. Moody
Executive Director
December 20, 2021

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 175
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021) 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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2113, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking proposed public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 Charlotte, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VA) Dominion Energy North Carolina (Domestic), 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. § 62-3c(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contracts, 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, 432A 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, 3001 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 9, 2022. 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 replies to be presented in this proceeding to formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

LIFESTYLES

Vidant family medicine residency program emphasizes rural care

By Vidant Health News

A rural family medicine program is helping Vidant Health meet unique health care challenges faced by rural communities and train providers to serve those communities.

The Rural Family Medicine Residency Program is a partnership among Vidant Medical Center, East Carolina's Brody School of Medicine and its rural Federally Qualified Health Centers — Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center in Aledo and Goshen Medical Center in Beaufort.

It exemplifies how health care can help meet the needs of rural communities, as highlighted every year during November's National Rural Health Day, an initiative of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health to shine a light on the vital health needs of an estimated 67 million people living in rural America.

The program is designed to equip physicians with



AUDREY GREY WHITMAN

specialized training in caring for patients in rural and underserved communities.

The providers are exposed to the very high disparities in the diagnoses of diabetes and cardiovascular disease seen in many eastern North Carolina counties.

Rural communities also face challenges in terms of access to health care due to limited infrastructure including transportation and less technology available for online appointments with providers.

Dr. Audrey Grey Whitman oversees the Rural Family Medicine Residency Program, which is in its first year, and includes four interns who work with approximately 32 faculty at Vidant and Brody and six faculty at the rural training sites.

During the course of the program, residents will

Rural communities face challenges in terms of access to health care due to limited infrastructure including transportation and less technology available for online appointments with providers.

spend a majority of their first year of training at VMC and ECU's Family Medicine Center in Greenville. After this, the residents will spend the next two years training at the sites in Aledo, Beaufort and Kenansville.

One of the key experiences for the residents is the exposure to the breadth of family medicine with a focus on complex, high-acuity patients in resource-abundant academic medical center environments and resource-scarce rural environments.

This program prepares residents to provide comprehensive care in a wide variety of practice settings.

"Having residents working in ENC communities, they observe firsthand the social determinants that exist in a rural setting and their understanding of these challenges will help these residents find solutions to better serve rural communities," Whitman said. "Our faculty are highly-experienced clinical educators who serve as mentors and provide invaluable support, instruction and encouragement to residents."

In addition to the support of physician faculty, the rural program has incorpo-

rated experienced rural physicians into the faculty to provide oversight, training, guidance and mentorship to program residents as faculty also live and work in the rural communities where these residents call home.

Each faculty member has an area of clinical focus, including maternal, infant, child and adolescent care and procedural skills, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, practice management and rural medicine.

"The Rural Family Medicine Residency Program helps augment the great work being done with the health care centers already in these communities and helps expand the footprint in these areas to meet the goal of more access to health care," Whitman said. "This increases the number of providers for a community, one of the issues making a positive effect on health care in rural areas."

According to Whitman, residents find the work challenging, but rewarding, and it gives them a true feel for what it is like and how it might entice them to stay in eastern North Carolina.

Some residents in the program grew up in rural settings, and they see this opportunity as a way of giving back to the patients they can strongly identify with and find ways to make health a priority in their lives.

"One of the important experiences for the residents is how they are accepted," Whitman said. "They are welcomed with open arms and they become a part of the fabric of that community."

National Rural Health Day, the third Thursday of the month, shines a spotlight on the unique health care needs of these communities and puts the focus on the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, where rural hospitals are often the economic foundation of their communities in addition to being the primary providers of care.

Highlighting Your Health is an educational segment courtesy of Vidant Health News.

Stop wasting food, money by safely storing leftovers

Q I don't want to waste food, but I fear getting food poisoning when eating leftovers. What tips do you have? MEM, Winterville



KATHY KOLASA

A Thanks for joining those of us concerned about the enormous amount of food we waste in the U.S. Experts estimate it's about one pound per person per day. We can do better safely. One way is to plan the appropriate amount of food for each person eating with you. The other is to make good use of leftovers, and Haley Grace Anderson, a senior ECU dietetic student will share some ideas with you. Here is what she wants you to know.

We are glad to know that you want to eat healthy and safely while reducing food waste and saving money. Leftovers are a great way to do this. To keep leftovers safe, the food must be handled and stored properly. This reduces foodborne illness, also called food poisoning, which is caused by harmful bacteria contaminating the food. Although foodborne illness is preventable, approximately 56,000 people in the United States become ill each year.

The most common site of foodborne outbreaks is in the home, even though many consumers do not believe their home is a dangerous environment. Since many consumers do not believe they or someone in their family is at risk of foodborne illness, they do not follow all recommended food safety procedures. In one study, people who prepared meals less frequently and had less food preparation knowledge had a higher likelihood of mishandling food. Taking time to learn about safe food handling does improve your own food safety. Here are a few recommendations.

Since bacteria grow quickly in the temperature danger zone from 40-140 degrees Fahrenheit, maintain hot food at an internal temperature of 140 or above. I remember growing up my great-grandmother kept her stew out on the stove for hours and did not re-heat it to a safe temperature before

servicing it again. That may have worked then, but it doesn't work now. It is best if you refrigerate the food within two hours of cooking. This ensures enough time for the food to cool before being in the temperature danger zone for too long. It really is important to use a food thermometer when re-heating food to ensure it reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees. I know Dr. Kolasa gives food thermometers to lots of friends and family as presents and encourages them to use them. It is especially important for those with conditions like diabetes and cancer whose immune systems are compromised to follow that advice.

Experts tell us to cool the food by dividing large amounts of food into smaller, shallow containers allowing the food to reach a safe refrigeration-storage temperature of 40 degrees or lower quickly. If you have, for example, a large amount of roast beef, split the roast beef into small containers to speed cooling. Then store in the refrigerator (three-four days) or freezer (two-three months). Don't let the food get lost in the fridge or freezer; plan to serve again or make a stew or soup to use it up and still have good flavor and texture.

Another way to cool leftovers is by chilling — cut large amounts of food into smaller parts and quickly cool in an ice or cold-water bath before refrigerating. You can store most leftovers using plastic wrap, airtight packing, or storage containers specifically for up to four days in the refrigerator or frozen for three to four months. Use freezer wrap or bags if storing in the freezer. We do not recommend storing food in a take-out container as they usually are not airtight, may leak or spill and more likely to become contaminated.

There are some dishes that are safe to eat after being frozen but do not freeze well including guacamole, raw and cooked eggs, some fried dishes, cooked pasta and rice. Plan to keep them in the refrigerator and use soon. I keep a list of what's in the freezer and try to keep the oldest in clear view so I use it up.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Bilateral Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities — 2021) 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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking sworn public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial determination of a 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 (Domestic), 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 purchasers 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. § 62-151.27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, on or the terms 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 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 Stern, 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 R1-5 and R1-9 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 contents 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

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BEAR GRASS CHARTER SCHOOL
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January 1 - February 3, 2022

Number of openings listed in parenthesis by grade level:

- 6th grade (60)
- 7th grade (0)
- 8th grade (0)
- 9th grade (0)
- 10th grade (0)
- 11th grade (0)
- 12th grade (0)

Applications are available online at:
www.beargrasscharter.org

Completed applications should be mailed to:
BEAR GRASS CHARTER SCHOOL
Attn: Donna Moore
6344 E. Bear Grass Rd.
Williamston, NC 27892

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Feb 14 2022

LOCAL COLUMN

Nash County Animal Friends' Notebook

BY CAROL VIEIRA LASH NASH COUNTY ANIMAL FRIENDS

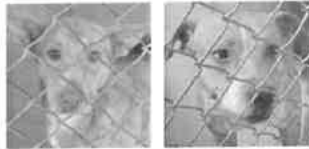
Everyone should be responsible for the stray dogs that are in your area, especially if you take pity on it and start feeding it. At that point, you are starting to become the owner. Now remember, please, that a stray dog may have an owner. They may have taken off on an adventure. There are several things you must should do. First secure it, so it will be safe. Then report the found dog to the Shelter, in case the owner is looking there (besides it is the law), and also check for a microchip at any vet or the Shelter. You can also post on Lost/Found pet groups including on our sister Facebook page "Lost & Found PETS of Nash & Edgecombe Counties, NC" which includes Rocky Mount and also post in the Community section on Craigslist. Once you have done all this and

an owner doesn't show within a short period of time, you may rehoming, find a rescue or keep. Remember, that some dogs are lost a long time and their condition doesn't necessarily mean the owner was bad. Neither does behavior as dogs change when lost or things may have happened to them to make them flinch when you try to touch. Yes, there are bad owners, but don't assume. Just love them as they are, with the mystery past. Don't forget to have the females fixed as soon as possible because she may have adventured when she was in season! By the way, all of the above also applies to cats, if they are friendly!

If you cannot keep safe, even for a short time, they should go to the Shelter. There they will be safe from the roads, weather and have plenty of food and water. There they will have a chance to find the owner or a Rescue or an adopter. We will photograph and try to do just that. Just because it is an Animal Control facility doesn't mean an automatic death! Because you care, we thank you!



Adopt A Pet



The shelter is open Mon. - Fri. 1-4 p.m. 921 First Street Ext, Nashville - 459-9855



NASH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS

Fugitive from justice reported at 100 N Boodle St. on 12/29/21
Resisting arrest/hinder and delay reported at 1801 Leesfield Lane, Bailey on 12/31/21
Larceny after breaking and entering; felony breaking and/or entering reported at 2254 Tom George Rd, Nashville on 12/31/21
Assault on a female at 2260 Tom George Rd, Nashville on 12/26/21
Obtain property by false pretense at 2655 Tanbarck Drive, Nashville on 12/28/21
Breaking and entering, no larceny from auto at 3304 Benvenue Rd, Rocky Mount on 12/27/21
Obtain property by false pretense at 2530 Wagon Wheel Rd, Rocky Mount on 12/28/21
Missing persons reported at 3792 Stoney Hill Church Rd, Bailey on 12/28/21
Warrant service at 3905 Red Rd, Nashville on 12/27/21
Felony breaking and/or entering; larceny/felony breaking and/or entering; ADWR/no injury reported at 3382 W Castalla Rd, Nashville on 12/31/21 and 12/30/21
Larceny felony reported at 7546 Vaughan Rd, Elm City on 12/27/21
Breaking and entering auto, larceny from auto reported at 8836 Medin Way, Rocky Mount on 12/29/21
Fleeing/attempt to elude law; resisting arrest/hinder and delay at E Cannon Ave/Walmart, Zebulon on 12/31/21
Firmam by felon mile marker 27 US 264 W, Middlesex on 12/28/21
Carrying concealed weapon; failure to stop for light and siren; possession marijuana paraphernalia; possession marijuana less than 1/2 oz at mile marker 448 US 64 W on 1/1/22
Speeding; simple possession schedule VI controlled substance at mile marker 456 US 64 E, Nashville on 1/1/22
Possession stolen firearm; firearm by felon at mile marker 467 US 64 W on 12/29/21
Simple possession schedule IV controlled substance at S Halifax Rd/Kings Way, Rocky Mount on 12/29/21
DWI at S Halifax Rd/OK Mill Rd, Rocky Mount on 1/1/22
DWI Womble Rd, Nashville on 12/31/21

NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Incident Reports
Fraudulent deposits of money; identity fraud was reported to Nashville Police Department on 12/31/21
Misdemeanor larceny was reported at 1205 Eastern Ave on 12/27/21
Carrying a concealed weapon was reported at Red Oak Rd/US 64, Nashville on 1/1/22
Fail to maintain lane control; DWI were reported at mile marker 459 US 64 W on 1/1/22
Larceny by employee was reported at 100 East Evans Drive on 1/1/22
Misdemeanor larceny was reported at 508 Richardson Court on 12/29/21
Arrest Reports
Shermanuel Wilkins was charged with fail to maintain lane control on 1/1/22

STOP Creditor Harassment. Debt Consolidation, Debt Elimination, Bankruptcy Relief. H. Frank Allen Attorney at Law 977-0143

Questions, Anyone? Learn more about federal government programs, benefits, and services. Just call toll-free 1-800-FED-INFO or visit www.public.gov.guide

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IMPORTANT NOTICE 2022 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 2021. If you did not list taxable property in 2021 and you now own taxable personal property, you may call (252) 459-9816 and a form will be mailed to you. Forms can also be found on line at www.co.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 metered) no later than January 31, 2022, to avoid a late listing fee.

Assistance in listing is available at the Nash County Tax Office in the Claude Mayo Administration Building, 120 W Washington Street, Nashville, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during the month of January. Any questions concerning listing should be directed to (252) 459-9816. LIST IN JANUARY. LATE LISTING PENALTIES WILL BE IMPOSED AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

ELDERLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED EXCLUSION, DISABLED VETERANS EXCLUSION, CIRCUIT BREAKER DEFERRMENT PROGRAM AND BUILDER PROP-ERTY 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 listing and collections departments of the Nash County Tax Office. They are also available on line at www.co.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 on Application for Builder Property Tax Exemption if you are applying for that program. All exclusion applications must be filed no later than June 1, 2022. Boris Sumner - Tax Administrator

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-106, SUB 175 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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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. § 62-5127a. 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 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snykers, Chief Clerk

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OFFICIAL COPY Feb 14 2022

NASH COUNTY DEED TRANSFERS JANUARY 3- JANUARY 7

D.R. Horton, Inc. to Eric A. McDaniel and Sabrina McDaniel, Section IV, Ford's Colony at Rocky Mount, Lot 100... D.R. Horton, Inc. to Samantha Sanford, Worthington Farm Phase 2, Lot 25... Keith S. Evans, Keith Stephen Evans and Dille M. Evans to Irene Ben Group, LLC, 118 Howell Street and 523 Jefferson Street, Rocky Mount... John T. Aveni and Jacqueline H. Aveni to Kamora Lisette Aveni, 2545 Tom George Road, Nashville, \$50,000... William Hedgepeth and Donna Hedgepeth to Robert L. Hill and Teresa Hill, 4013 Taylors Store Road, Nashville; \$170,000... D.R. Horton, Inc. to Yanira Rosa Acevedo and Ines Acevedo Plaza; Worthington Farm Phase 2, Lot 13... Arthur Kalmowitz and Billie C. Kalmowitz to Kourinty D. Sanders; 1025 Turnstone Drive, Rocky Mount; \$217,500... Bernaro Carrillo Galindo to Martin Ramirez Tovar; 7639 Daughite Road, Bailey; \$102,000... Kenneth David Burns and Rose Marie Burns to CMH Homes, Inc.; 12.77 acres in Middlesex; \$40,000... Sapory Creek Properties, LLC to York Investment Enterprises, LLC; 501 East Center Street, 111 South Lumber Street, Nashville; \$130,000... Gene M. Myrick and Lucinda A. Myrick to Best Investment Realty, LLC; 520 Hammond Street, Rocky Mount; \$44,500... John Britton Medley and Paula E. Medley to Akliah Hunte; 10 Winders Creek Drive, Rocky Mount; \$151,000... Woodruff Irrevocable Trust and Lisa Roberts to Glenn Brooks Ferritt; property on Woodruff Land; \$180,000... Nancy C. Naron to Eric Matthew Brock and Stacey W. Brock; 13.32 acres in Bailey township... Carolyn Gibson Briggs, Phillip Lynn Briggs, Rebecca Briggs Wornell, Phillip Lynn Briggs, Kristal B. Briggs and

Rebecca Briggs Wornell to Roger A. Whitford Jr; lot 2, western half of lot 3, Block D, Section 1, Northern Hills Sub-division... James Lee Sharpe Jr. and Juliet Barnhill Sharpe to Anthony Barnes and Paulson Ricker; Section 1, Ketch Point, Block E, Lot 1... Lucille J. Seely Revocable Trust, Lucille J. Seely, John F. Seely and Ann S. Seely to Ann S. Seely; 22 acres, 3799 Ridge Road... Larry S. Francis to 5 Felias Investments, LLC; Section 2, Hunter Hill Block B, Lot B47; \$235,000... The Rosalind A. Battle Revocable Living Trust and Rosalind A. Battle to Timotheus Dukes; Section 1, Northgreen Village, Part 7, Lot 394... Larry S. Francis to 5 Felias Investments, LLC; Section 4, Hunters Park Phase 1, Lot 29; \$235,000... Larry S. Francis to 5 Felias Investments, LLC; 2242-2244 Goose Branch Drive, Rocky Mount; \$235,000... Margie S. Herson Restated Revocable Trust and Margie S. Herson to Tracy L. Wood and Kimberly D. Batts; 748 Carriage Trail, Rocky Mount; \$35,000... Barbara Edwards, Linda H. Moody, Carolyn D. Jones, Fay Frances Thompson, Veronica Eileen Thompson, Brenda Thompson, James B. Cobb, Bettie Ann F. Cobb, Patricia Cobb, John Cobb, Ricky Cobb, Joyce Ann Cobb, Dennis R. Cobb, Letitia Cobb, Karen D. Cobb, Kennedy Cobb and Doris C. Robinson to Betty Plummer Brown; one acre; property along Alston Street... Claude P. Vaughan, Jr. to Claude P. Vaughan, Jr.; 94 acres, lots 5 and 6, Section 2, Fencdill Estates... Farrah Bertrand to Derek and Matthew Bissette Farms Partnership; 52 acres on Brassfield Lands... Jeffrey Lerner Richardson and Tonya Renee Richardson to William Gorman Richardson Jr and Chiquita Lenora Rich-

ardson; Lot 8, Block B, Brooklyn Extension... Shannon L. Davis and Carey C. Davis to Craig Lauricella and Carol Lauricella; Fox Chase Subdivision, Lot 19; \$400,000... Laura Elizabeth Dale and Adam Hardee to Charlene B. Smith; Section 2, South Creek Phase 2, Block B, Lot 16; \$195,000... Robert Andrews and Robert Andrews Jr. to Robert Andrews Jr., Samantha Monique Andrews and Robert Andrews; 4334 Northstar Court, Rocky Mount... Herman Junior Tayborn and Agnes Tayborn to Ensky Solutions Investments, LLC; property in Bailey... Kadesthia Latrel Whitley and Alvin Whitley to Vicki Tolson Boykin; Autumn Ridge Phase 51, Block A, Lot 43... Branda Cohen, Robert Cohen, Dennis Womble, Charlene Womble and Connie McCann, Gregory Womble, Deborah Womble and Clarence Womble to Dennis Did R, LLC; one acre, 2.77 acres... Richard Warren Wilson to Graziano De Luca, Laciromara Mariana Halcuz; 6168 Deans Street, Bailey; \$250,000... Wendy Johnson, Wendy Adkins Johnson and Darrell Johnson to Sara Rose Sykes; 1309 Fairway Terrace, Rocky Mount... Bruce Allen Bullock and Peggy Wheeler Bullock to Brandon L. Baughan and Sarah M. Baughan; 25.06 acres... Edward Scott Woelfel to Michael R. Rinschammer; Fisher Farm, Block A, Lot 2... WHJ LLC to ET-6 LP; 18 Ashlar Court, 24 Ashlar Court, 30 Ashlar Court, 34 Ashlar Court, 27 Ashlar Court, 1054 Manor Drive, Rocky Mount; \$1,883,500... Ihab W. Masry to Estelle Masry; 436 Forest Hill Avenue and 821 West Haven Boulevard, Rocky Mount... Sheila L. Freeman, Joshua Drake Freeman and Shana

Deans Freeman to Joshua Drake Freeman, Shana Deans Freeman and Sheila L. Freeman; 184 acres in Castalla township... Claudette D. Reges, Roger D. Reges, Becky D. Smith, Jonathan D. Smith Family Trust, Jonathan D. Smith, Brian S. Smith and Susanne S. Wilford to East Coast Timberland, Inc.; property along Nick Coley Road... Claudette D. Reges, Roger D. Reges, Becky D. Smith, Jonathan D. Smith Family Trust, Jonathan D. Smith, Brian S. Smith and Susanne S. Wilford to East Coast Timberland, Inc.; 39.139 acres... Joan Harriet Webb to Holan Mae Thomas; Section 3, Weatherham Hill Phase 2, Block B, Lot 31... Trade Bridge Properties, LLC to Gregory Allen Chessner II and Jessica Bowen Chessner; 9578 Valley Road, Middlesex; \$390,000... Guadalupe Garcia to Guadalupe Garcia and Salvador Tadpo Gonzalez; 2030 Bowden Road, Spring Hill... Ginger Berthel Sopan and Calvin H. Bogan Jr. to Milissant M. Jones; 2613 Amherst Road, Rocky Mount; \$145,000... Homasense Solutions, LLC and Homeesense Solutions, Inc to Jacquay Bland and Monica P. Bland; 1505-1507 Wintberry Drive, Rocky Mount; \$280,000... Filtration Futures, LLC to Erika Jazmin Centeno Rodriguez; Section B, Open Field Subdivision, Lot 1... Freeman Cotton to Solution 2 Properties, LLC; 226 Dowdy Street, Rocky Mount... Alyon Wiedrich to Chereese E. Gould and James H. Gould; 230 Clifton Road, Rocky

Mount; \$169,000... Betty B. Jones and William T. Jones to Madlyf Holdings, LLC; 4732 Honeysuckle Lane, Rocky Mount; \$43,000... D.R. Horton, Inc. to Beulah Irene Arts and Ana Miranda Arts; Section IV, Ford's Colony at Rocky Mount, Lot 38... Ned B. Coleman, Edward J. Cozart Jr. and Rachel G. Cozart to The Leonard B. Shaffer Family Trust and Leonard B. Shaffer; 35.89 acres; \$650,000... Ned B. Coleman, Edward J. Cozart Jr. and Rachel G. Cozart to The Leonard B. Shaffer Family Trust and Leonard B. Shaffer; 38.73 acres; \$650,000... Lanera Bush Batchelor, Earl Batchelor and Alphasus Earl Batchelor to Jermal Strong; 968 Jeffreys Road, Rocky Mount; \$230,000... Randy Kuanne Nalemaile and Ashley M. Nalemaile to Stevenson Heriveauux and Amanda J. Heriveauux; Woodfield, Block F, Lot 4, \$250,000... Dalton A. Harper and Stephen John Harper; 600 Holey Drive, Nashville... James Edmund Kehoe to James Edmund Kehoe and Michelle Kathleen Kehoe; Section 1, Birchwood Meadows, Block A, Lot 2... John W. Jones, Cheryl F. Jones and Cheryl F. Bowen to John W. Jones, Cheryl F. Jones and Cheryl F. Bowen; 2116 Old Sport Road, Rocky Mount... Joann Corbin and Richard Corbin to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road; \$112,500... Martha P. Ball to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road; \$112,500

Kimberly Moss to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road; \$75,000... William R. Moss Jr. and Candee Lynn Moss to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road; \$75,000... Blinn W. Moss to Harry Christopher Moss; 398.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road... Harry Christopher Moss to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road; \$75,000... Ohway B. Moss III and Catherine S. Moss to O.B. Moss Farms, LLC; 388.28 acres off NC 581, McCum Road and Edwards Road... HD Home Sales Inc. to Jiny R. Mercer and Melissa J. Mercer; Section 3, Springhaven, Block A, Lot 5... Ricks Properties of North Carolina, LLC to Robert Steven Ricks and Wendy Viverette Ricks; 5437 Sapony Creek Drive, Nashville... Chesapeake Homes, LLC to Robert Leslie Godwin and Linda Deans Godwin; 7289 Old Smithfield Road, Bailey; \$230,000... Mavis Surles Smith, Linda Smith Hawkins and Darryl Ray Hawkins to Aael Pulido Cabrera; Green Heights, Lot 14; \$115,000... Self Help Community Development program to Nelson L. Douglas and Nelson Lester Douglas; property along Falls Road... Mary Hill Jones and Orville Stephen Jones to Alexander John Lockhart; Section 1, Claude Mayo Jr., Block B, Lot 4; \$130,000... swimming pool; \$64,000... Salma Bano, 4517 S. Hallfax Rd; renovation/alteration; \$15,000... Manufactured Home Permit... Chris May, 7768 Praescher Joyner Rd, singewide; \$91,000

NASH COUNTY BUILDING PERMITS DEC.27-JAN.7

Building Permit Commercial Brian Rollins, 922 Old Wilson Rd; renovation/alteration; \$14,900... Michael J. Lovell, 12811 White House Rd; detached accessory; \$50,532.21... Michael Joseph Keffler, 8480 Red Oak Blvd; renovation/alteration; \$100,000... Matt Baldwin, 5541 Liberty Rd; new single family; \$260,000... Michael Lamm, 5830 Deans Rd; detached accessory; \$18,000... Edwin Brantley, 7914 Seven Path Rd; deck; \$1,000... Andy H. Brown, 6315 River Walk Dr; deck; \$5,000... Brain Strutz, 8133 US 264A;

LOCAL COLUMN

Nash County Animal Friends'

BY CAROL VIERELA NASH COUNTY ANIMAL FRIENDS Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way." Martin Luther King Jr January 17, 2022, is Martin Luther King Jr Day (born Jan 15, 1929) and would have been Betty White's 100th birthday. She was an animal activist. Many have suggested to celebrate Betty White's birthday, that you may wish to donate to a local animal

advocacy group or rescue in her name. We would like to also suggest that in honor of the man that did so much for people and cared for animals, that you may wish to do the same for a charity in his name and reread the "I Have a Dream" speech. Two remarkable people, whose names will live forever in history and our hearts. If you can do a donation in King's or White's name, we would appreciate it, or rather the homeless pets will. Please see details below on how to donate. Promoting Animal Welfare in NC (PAWNC), is a 501c3 charity. PAWNC is the partner of Nash County Animal Friends of NC (NCAFN) and handles the financial support, when there is sufficient funds. For example, funds are needed to support

our efforts to spay/neuter every adopted pet from the Nash County Animal Control Shelter in Nashville NC. Every bit adds up, so if you can just do just \$1, it will help. We also provide vaccines, wormer and other needed care and support to the shelter, including emergency vet care when shelter pets are injured or very ill. *SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS are tax deductible! PAWNC is a 501c3 charity. *PAYPAL: pawncarolina@gmail.com Best to do as family/friends-gift. *CHECKS: Promoting Animal Welfare in NC (PAWNC), 2455 Hun Drive, Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Thank you for your help and caring. -Carol (NCAFN) & Shidley (PAWNC)

Adopt A Pet Call Today 459-9855 The shelter is open Mon. - Fri. 1-4 p.m. 921 First Street Ext, Nashville - 459-9855 Images of various animals: Diamond, Bronzy, Niala, Shire, Amber, Bella, Zeki, W/dright, Princess, and a LOVE logo.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 7671 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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2113, Double Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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. § 62-136 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. § 62-136 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, 4726 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 27699-9901. 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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4327 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The documents 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 9, 2022. ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION. This the 13th day August, 2021 NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION Joshua R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY Feb 14 2022

IN MEMORY 2021

January
Richard "Dick" Dale Liles, Oriental, formerly of Hartsville and Rensselaer, Ohio
Martha Jeanette Gregory Miska, 87, Pamlico
Stephen Wall, 77, Merritt, formerly of California
David William Rea, 64, Arapahoe
Charlene Douglas Haley, Jr. (Chuck), 77, Pamlico County
Edward Lee Orwell, 85, Stoneville
Leron Norris Johnson, 79, Merritt
Keith Martens, 58, Oriental, formerly of New Haven, CT and Lee Summit, MO
Ramona Ineland Willis, 88, Grantaboro
Richard A. Piskalis, 80, Arapahoe
Annie Eleanor Thompson Gorton, 93, Grantaboro

February
Brenda Sue Barnette Van Winkle, 74, New Bern
George J. Pawlikowski, 84, Minnesott Beach
Larry Earl Smith, 89, Aurora
Richard Quinn (Dick) Boyles, 83, Oriental
Roy Hughes Buck, Jr., 85, Grantaboro
William "Bill" H. Carawan, Jr., 85, Ullington, formerly of Grantaboro
Sue Riddick Slaymaker, aka Granny Sue, 81, Minnesott Beach
Aileen Nuth, 90, White Hall, MD, formerly of Pamlico County
Derril Belmont Hardison, 79, Buxton, NC
Jean Audrey Eaton Ormond, 83, New Bern, formerly of Pamlico County

March
Yukiko "Katy" Hoashi Hiram, 88, Merritt
George Lee Styron, 78, Oriental
Brenda Edwards Towler, 77, Morehead City, formerly of Pamlico County
Susan Park Williams, 78, Columbus, NC, formerly of Oriental
Vernon Dalhart Baker, 88, Grantaboro

Sarah Jane Brinson, 37, Grantaboro
Richard W. Hudson, Jr., 81, Bayboro
Patricia "Pat" Ann Holmes Lee, 72, Grantaboro
Glen Schwandy, 72, Oriental
Audrey Lewis Price Seigh, 92, Grantaboro
Jerald Dean Hughes, 89, South Creek, Aurora
Richard Stanley Henries, Sr., "Sammy", 78, Grantaboro
Betsy McGowan Lee, Formerly of Greenville
Margaret Simpson Harries, 72, New Bern
Thomas "Tommy" Woodrow Boyd, 82, Arapahoe
Glarence Spencer Holton, (C.S.), 90, Pigeon Forge, TN, formerly of Olympia

April
Christopher "Chris" Louise Hancock, 41, Wilmington, formerly of Pamlico County
Raymond William Stewart, "Butchie", 82, Oriental
William Thomas Gainey, Sr., Arapahoe, formerly of Garner
Cecilia Ann Yelverton Stroup, 78, Pamlico County

May
Meriha Jean Spehr (see Nellis), 101, Catawba, OH
Sherry Esbanks Rice, 70, Bayboro
Susan Smith Inland, 71, Raelaboro

June
Arlen "Dave" Hunter Davis, 83, Grantaboro
Gordon Alan Harrell, (Col., NCNG, Retired), 81, Morehead City
David Gooding, 64, Barnardville, formerly of Pamlico County

Sarah Lynn McCabe Calleson, 83, Raleigh
Captain Richard "Dick" Jefferson Flaherty
Robert (Bob) Wayne Cowden, 78, the Vilages, Florida, formerly of Stoneville
Sonny Lowery, Jr., 72, Robeson County
Grace Bunham Evans, 91, Oriental
James Edward Phillips, Sr., 71, Pamlico County

July
Barty Murray Arnold, 83, Stoneville
Charles Duval Hardison, 78, Arapahoe
Sydney Frances Anderson Austin, 82, Aurora
Martha M. Heflinger, 87, Sterling, Illinois, formerly of New Bern
William Columbus "Chip" Helm, III, Stoneville
Gary Steven Johnson, 88, Grantaboro
Delias Ray Nobles, Sr., 59, Bayboro
Doris Miller Harris, 93, Oriental

August
Jackie Simpson Houston, 74, formerly of Pamlico County
Brenda Watson Lewis, 80, New Bern
Rachel B. Vandrick, 90, Oriental
Angela "Gay" Huffman, 88, Merritt
Donald Lee Smithwick, 81, Karawah, Oriental
Ruth Swinford Walker, 87, Merritt Island, FL, formerly of Hobucken
Stephen King Gwaltney, 61, Oriental
Hazel Burroughs Whitford, 72, New Bern

September
Randy Harold Sides, 73, Arapahoe
Ernest Christopher "Chris" Jarman, 80, Oriental
Cole Levi Norfleet, Infant
Guy Ernest "Buddy" Lee, Jr., 45, Raelaboro
Guy Swain Jones, 80, Florence
Jimmy Lee Durham, 75, Grantaboro
Johnny Wayne Hill, 69, Dawson Creek
Dennis George Price, 69, Oriental
Clement (Clem) A. Paffe, Jr., 88, Ashaboro

October
George Nacwiedzy, 75, Holy Springs
James William Colavito, 73, Oriental
Paul Stuart Powers, 71, New Bern
Danny Philip Bennett, 67, Pamlico County
Donald "Don" James Franklin, Sr., 78, Aurora
Elizabeth Lavonne Gould, 90, Oriental

Vivian Jeannette Hardison, 74, Minnesott Beach
Eleanor Georgette Pakkala, 78, Arapahoe
David Lee Purfoy, 74, New Bern
Doris Edinson Roberts, 87, Grantaboro
Miriam Taylor Hall, 85, New Bern
Madison Abigail Williams, 20, Arapahoe

November
Joseph "Joe" James Mele, 88, New Bern
Shannon "Todd" Willis, Jr., 34, Grantaboro
Betty Lee Boyd, 81, Pamlico County
Joseph "Joe" James Mele, 88, New Bern
Shannon "Todd" Willis, Jr., 34, Grantaboro
Elizabeth "Libby" Isanhart Powers, 85, Alliance
Rachel Lewis Barnes, 85, Cash Corner
Cian Gibbs Radloff, 87, Stoneville
Leo Luca Ruggiero, 88, formerly of Oriental
Daisy Lee Marshall Miller, 92, Maribel Community
Edward Bryan Hagg, Jr., 83, Raleigh, formerly of Minnesott Beach
Kozane Russell Bond, 86, Oriental

December
Walter "Bryan" Willis, 80, Grantaboro
Elizabeth Ann Hatheway Montgomery, 75, Wilmington
Donna Marie Spain Walker, 61, Grantaboro
Aiston "A" Whitfield Daniels, Sr., 87, New Bern
Paul Lindsey Woodard, 87, Whortonsville
Olivia Lee Dees, 74, Grantaboro
Herman Jackson Buick, 89, Alliance
Ernest Walter Humphries, 84, Pamlico County
Harriet Del Matthews "Baby Del", 88, formerly of Aurora
Charlie Gordon Cummings, 96, Bayboro
Gladys Alyene "Gator" Ellis Sprwey, 80, Blounts Creek
Sherwood "Woody" Fuller, Jr., 92, Oriental
Stella H. Ross, 78, Lowland

"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice."
- T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*

The famous man from Tally Ho One on One with D. G. Martin Who is the most famous North Carolinian today?

If you check the latest edition of the World Almanac as I do this time every year, you will find a list of "Famous North Carolinians."

That list includes the following people but not today's most famous person from our state.

Read over the names on the World Almanac list and then I will tell you today's most famous person: David Brinkley, Shirley Caesar, John Coltrane, Stephen Curry, Rick Dees, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Dale Earnhardt Sr., John Edwards, Ava Gardner, Richard Jordan Gatling, Billy Graham, Andy Griffith, O. Henry, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Michael Jordan, William Rufus King, Charles Kuralt, Mesdowlark Lemon, Dolley Madison, Thelonious Monk, Edward R. Murrow, Richard Pury, James K. Polk, Charlie Rose, Carl Sandburg, Enos Slaughter, Dean Smith, James Taylor, Thomas Wolfe.

But that list does not include the North Carolinian most talked about across the world these past few days: a man who grew up in the Tally Ho community of Granville County.

On Christmas Day a \$10 billion giant telescope to replace the aging Hubble scope was launched from French Guiana. So far, the launch has been successful. The device is already preparing to begin its observations by unfolding its antenna, mirror, and tennis-court-sized sunshield, as it moves toward a final orbit.

The Hubble, at work for more than 30 years, was named for Edwin Powell Hubble, an American astronomer who died in 1953. He was an important astronomer whose work provided evidence that the universe is expanding.

The new observatory telescope will be about 100 times more sensitive than the Hubble. As described by Dennis Overbye in the Oct. 20, 2021, edition of *The New York Times*, "Orbiting the sun a million miles from Earth, it will be capable of bringing into focus the earliest stars and galaxies in the universe and closely inspecting the atmospheres of nearby exoplanets for signs of life or habitability."

So, what does all this have to do with Granville County and the most talked-about North Carolinian?

The new telescope is named the James Webb Space Telescope. Like the Hubble, the James Webb Space Telescope, or JWST, or Webb Telescope, or simply the Webb, will be in almost every news story about space exploration for many years. Every young person studying astronomy or reading about space will see his name. It will be everywhere.

Why is this critical device named for Webb?

Lewis Bowling, who, like Webb grew up working in the tobacco fields and barns of Granville County, explained in his column in the December 30, 2021, edition of the *Oxford Public Ledger*, Granville County's twice-weekly newspaper, "James Webb, who grew up in the sticks like me, surrounded by great big fields of tobacco was the man most responsible for leading us to the moon. Let me clarify something: James Webb was born in Tally Ho near Stem, so he was a country boy like me, but obviously a lot smarter. Webb knew and worked for several presidents and was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration director under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. As North Carolina Congressman L. H. Fountain once said, 'for the first time since the beginning of the world there are now footprints on the moon, and the major share of credit goes to a distinguished son of Granville County, James E. Webb.'"

Photo Cut Line: NASA Administrator James E. Webb holds a model of an early version of the *Granville Lunar Excursion Module (LEM)* and a model of the *Boeing Lunar Orbiter*. Although the photograph bears a date stamp of 1966, the photo (based on the version of the LEM model) was originally taken circa 1962/63.

I would make a bet that there will be a new entry in the 2023 World Almanac's list of "Famous North Carolinians."
James Webb from Tally Ho.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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 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 by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-7(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 27699-4300.

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, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-5001.

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 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

Did you know?

Though new flooring and ceiling tiles might not offer the wow factor of a remodeled kitchen, a 2018 study from researchers at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University found that replacing floors and ceilings was the most popular home improvement project in the United States in 2017, the most recent year for which data was available at the time of the study. More than five million homeowners replaced carpeting, flooring, paneling, or ceiling tiles in their homes in 2017. The popularity of such projects may have something to do with the relatively low cost associated with them, as the experts at BobVila.com note that overhauling surfaces underfoot and overhead costs an average of \$3,283. That places floor and ceiling tile replacement projects among the least expensive home improvement projects homeowners can undertake, even though such renovations can immediately and dramatically transform the look of a room.

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WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!



The Old Theater
Oriental, NC

The Old Theater
Launches Sunday Classic Cinema

Friday Flicks began 20 years ago at The Old Theater with an idea, a donated projector, and free popcorn. Over the years it was the place to gather on the third Friday of the month to have a beverage, enjoy candy and free popcorn, Flash Gordon or cartoons and a movie. Friday Flicks filled a void in the local entertainment opportunities.

The Old Theater has tried to keep up by showing newly released movies, a variety of family and holiday movies to attract more of an audience. While there is still a loyal audience, the overall numbers have dropped even before Covid-19.

With the popularity of online streaming and the increased number of Oriental venues providing Friday night entertainment, Friday Flicks can no longer compete. Therefore, the Board of Directors has made the tough decision to discontinue Friday Flicks effective immediately. Also, there is no matinee on Sunday, January 9th.

The Old Theater will launch Sunday Classic Cinema on a trial basis through the end of our season in May. At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, Flash Gordon, plus soft drinks and bottled water by donation will be available. Sunday Classic Cinema will continue if there is enough attendance to justify it. We will continue to comply with state and local Covid-19 guidance and recommend wearing masks while indoors, given the recent local spike in cases. Just a reminder that The Old Theater installed professional grade air purifiers in September, which are fully operational at all times.

Please join us at 3:00 p.m. for Sunday Classic Cinema in 2022:

- January 16 Flash Gordon returns with 4 TV episodes from 1950's
- February 20 2 Flash Gordon episodes and Nothing Sacred (1937)
- March 20 2 Flash Gordon episodes and His Girl Friday (1940)
- April 17 2 Flash Gordon episodes and Road to Bali (1952)
- May 15 2 Flash Gordon episodes and McClintock (1963)

Stronger. Better. Together.

CIT IS NOW A DIVISION OF FIRST CITIZENS BANK

In late 2020, we announced a merger between First Citizens Bancshares and CIT Group. As of January 4, the legal merger is complete. Today, First Citizens is the largest family-controlled bank in the United States, and we're a top 20 U.S. bank, with over \$100 billion in assets.

CIT has been a leading national bank focused on empowering clients through key commercial lines of business. These include commercial finance, equipment finance, community association banking, factoring, railcar financing, treasury and payments services, and capital markets and asset management. CIT's consumer banking segment includes a nationwide online direct bank and regional branch network operating as CIT Bank and OneWest Bank.

As we integrate both companies, we look forward to bringing you even more products and services, more locations and more opportunities to help you manage your finances. For now, continue to bank as you normally do and we'll keep you informed of our progress along the way.

Not Just A Bigger Bank. A Better Bank For You

This merger helps us deliver on our mission to provide stability, quality service and a lasting commitment to the communities we serve.

Together:
We'll operate a network of more than 600 branches in 22 states and a nationwide online direct bank.
Our strong commercial banking segment will provide a wide array of best-in-class lending, leasing and banking services to middle-market companies and small businesses from coast to coast. Our specialists will continue to bring a depth of expertise that helps businesses and individuals meet complex goals specific to their industries.
We'll continue to strengthen our commitment to giving back by investing in our communities.

Looking To A Brighter Future
This merger is an important milestone, but there's still a lot of work to be done. Over the next year, we'll bring together the products, services and operations of First Citizens and CIT. When all is said and done, we'll still be the First Citizens you've come to know. Our name will stay the same, we'll continue to be headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and our associates will remain committed to providing you service and advice you've come to expect.

Thank you for letting us share this news.
We look forward to working with you for many years to come.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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. § 62-32.7(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 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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Sryder, Chief Clerk

Continued from page A1
Hurricanes are Conference Champs



2021-22 Conference Wrestling Champs

Pamlico-Landon wrestles with against Southside

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

County falls from 'high' to 'substantial' COVID transmission

Active coronavirus cases remained at 27 in recent report

BY JULIAN BURKE
The Daily Advance

New COVID-19 cases, active cases, congestive housing cases and new COVID hospitalizations all rose last week in Albemarle Regional Health Services' eight-county public health district.

There was at least one enco-

aging sign, however, the COVID-19 transmission rate fell from "high" to "substantial" in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties and remained "moderate" in Hertford County. ARHS also reported no new COVID-related deaths last week.

ARHS released data Tuesday, Dec. 28, reporting 313 new COVID cases since the agency's last report on Dec. 21. Active COVID cases also rose to 317, an increase of 58 from the report released Dec. 21.

Curtis County saw the larg-

est number of new cases (76) in the partial week. It also had the largest number of active cases, 72, which is 21 more than the Dec. 21 report.

Pasquotank County saw the second-largest number of new cases (51) and had the second-largest number of active cases (56). Pasquotank's number of active cases was actually three fewer than in the previous report.

Chowan County was third in both new cases (40) and active cases (50). Hertford County was fourth

in new cases (36) and tied for sixth — with Gates County — in active cases (26).

Bertie was fifth in new cases (31) and fourth in active cases (38).

Among the eight counties, only Perquimans didn't report any increase in active cases. It reported 25 new cases but its active cases remained at 27.

Perquimans and Pasquotank saw their COVID transmission rates fall from high to substantial, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID data tracker.

Perquimans' case rate per 100,000 people wasn't available but its positivity rate — the percentage of COVID-19 tests that come back positive — was 8.1%, the third-lowest in the public health district.

Pasquotank, meanwhile, saw its case rate fall to 61.22 and its positivity rate drop to a region-low 6.48%.

Hertford County continued to see only moderate transmission of COVID. Its case rate was 42.2 and its positivity rate was 7.76%.

MONUMENT

Continued from A1

family as well, "just to help to get some perspective."

Heath said he, board Chairman Wallace Nelson and vice Chairwoman Fundella Leigh are actively meeting to discuss language for signs that would be posted near the monument.

"We're not going to rush into it," Heath said. "We're going to try to get something that is historically accurate and is measured and not rushed."

The Board of Commissioners voted Sept. 7 to pursue two recommendations from a study panel on the Confederate monument, which is currently located in front of the courthouse.

One recommendation was to erect an informational sign or signs giving context to the Confederate monument. The other recommendation was to ask the owners of the Colored Soldiers Monument to consider relocating their monument to the courthouse lawn.

The board's vote on Sept. 7 called for proposed language

for the signs to come back before the full board for final approval. Heath, Nelson and Leigh were also tasked with providing a cost estimate to the board.

The decision to include contextual signs was a compromise with opponents of the leaving the monument in front of the courthouse.

Commissioner Joseph Hoffer expressed displeasure with keeping the Confederate monument on county property. He said it would be more appropriate for the monument to be located on private property and prefer-

ably in a cemetery to clarify its memorial purpose.

Not everyone is happy about the idea of contextual signage at the monument either.

Terry Swope, a citizen who repeatedly expressed opposition to moving the monument, said at the September board meeting that commissioners appeared to be ignoring two dozen people who spoke at a public hearing in opposition to placing signs near the monument.

Nelson said placing signage at the monument can

ensure the whole story is told.

The county commissioners said no signs would be placed on the monument itself but would be on posts in the ground adjacent to the monument.

The working for the signs will require agreement from two-thirds majority of the county commissioners in order to be approved. Commissioners also have to agree on the cost before any signage is placed.

Nelson said that he believes the sign's wording could be positive and provide an opportunity to bring something positive out of a challenging situation.

"Signage is not an enemy of this monument," he said.

TRANSITION

Continued from A1

Hurdle said the plan is to convert the S-Bridge truss into some kind of walkway or fishing pier for the public.

Cole, who was appointed interim town manager

last month, said her focus during her first three days at Town Hall — Dec. 28-30 — was learning as much as she could about town operations from Hurdle, who has 23 years of experience working for the town.

"I'm learning 23 years in three days," Cole said.

But Hurdle said she will remain just a phone call away as Cole moves into the role of acting town manager.

"We'll be communicating afterwards," Hurdle said.

Cole, a local attorney who is a former District Court Judge, former federal prosecutor and former chair

of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, said she is looking forward to working with the town.

"I'm excited about it," Cole said. "It's a lot to learn in a short period of time. It's a little overwhelming but I'm excited about the challenge."

JACKSON

Continued from A1

had not been returned as of Dec. 30, according to town officials.

Jackson and Norman lost their bids for reelection to the Hertford Town

Council in the November election.

Town Council voted 3-2 at a special meeting Dec. 9 to adopt a resolution calling on Jackson and Norman to return town-purchased computers and other town equipment by Dec. 14.

Jackson and Norman cast the "no" votes.

At an organizational meeting of the town council on Dec. 13 the oath of office was administered to new Town Councilors Sandra Anderson and Corrie Brothers.

Jackson is currently seeking a seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners.

SHERIFF

Continued from A1

the office (not employees) the board reduces the number of qualified candidates willing to take the position.

How could one claim a fair election (allowing the people to choose their candidate) if the field of candidates is culled in advance by an elite group?

Swope noted his comments are not a reflection on the sheriff himself.

"It is the process that is bad practice," Swope said. "I made these same comments on Dec. 8, 2020, concerning the election and compensation reduction (for the) reg-

ister of deeds. The process is not right, and I would ask you give it up in the future."

Heath said the election-related salary reduction resolution gives the county more flexibility providing an opportunity to set the salary for sheriff based on experience.

Heath noted there is a minimum salary range for the position, "so they will get an adequate salary regardless."

"All county positions have a salary range based on experience," Heath said.

"Register of deeds, which is also an elected position, is treated the same way."

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NOTICE PERQUIMANS COUNTY TAX LISTING DATES

All persons who own property subject to taxation must list during the month of January. Any persons who fail to do so will be subject to penalties prescribed by law.

Due to legislation, real property and licensed vehicles do not require listing by the taxpayer. However, if you have made any improvements to your real property, you must list that with the Tax Department. All other personal property such as boats, jet skis, unlicensed vehicles, IRP's, farm equipment, businesses, etc. can be listed with the lister in the county Assessor's Office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday starting January 2 through January 31, 2022. You may also list on the abstract that was mailed to you. If you have personal property or made improvements to your real property and did not receive an abstract, please contact our office. These abstracts must be returned to our office by January 31, 2022.

If you are a business and you need an extension, our office needs a letter requesting an extension by January 31, 2022.

If you are 65 years old or older, or totally and permanently disabled, and your income is less than \$31,900, you may qualify for a tax reduction. Persons owning real property under cultivation, in forest management or horticulture land may qualify for a tax-reduced valuation (land use). If you are not already in the land use program and you feel you qualify, please contact The Tax Office for qualification.

The Tax Office is located at 107 N. Front Street (in the back of the courthouse) Hertford, NC. Our telephone number is 252-426-7010 or 252-426-5564.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of: Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Debra Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking management public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 (VA) 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 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. § 62-142.7(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. Witness 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, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4306.

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 Stern, Commission, 600 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 witness statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rule R-15 and R-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Jeanne R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY Feb 14 2022

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

ARHS: COVID cases surge by more than 1,000 in 3 days

ARHS also reports 7 more deaths, one in Perquimans

BY JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance

After reporting Jan. 4 that new COVID-19 cases rose by more than 1,000 in one week, the region's health department released data Friday showing new infections in the eight-county health district surged by another 1,063 in just three days.

According to Albemarle Regional Health Services, confirmed COVID cases rose from 22,532 on Jan. 4 to 23,595 on Friday — a more than 4.6% increase. Active COVID-19 cases,

meanwhile, nearly doubled during the three-day period, rising from 454 to 860.

More significantly, the positivity rate — the percentage of COVID tests that come back positive — rose by nearly 17.5% in two weeks' time to 28.73%. That's the highest positivity rate in the region since the pandemic began 22 months ago and is just under the 31.2% positivity rate reported statewide on Friday.

ARHS also reported seven new deaths related to COVID-19 since Jan. 4. Three residents were from Currituck County, three others were from Hertford County and one was from

Perquimans County. That raises the region's death toll from COVID to 374.

Four of the persons who died were over 65; three others were between the ages of 50 and 64. One of the Hertford deaths was reported at Accordus at Creekside, a nursing home in Ahoskie.

Cases at nursing homes, assisted living centers and jails also rose dramatically over the three-day period. After reporting 114 cases at 10 facilities on Jan. 4, ARHS reported 169 cases at 13 facilities on Friday. Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation Center had the largest current COVID outbreak: 63 staff and resident cases.

Accordus at Creekside was second with 45 staff and resident cases.

The number of COVID-19 patients at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth has also doubled since Jan. 3. According to SAMC, 17 COVID patients — 20% of inpatient beds — were being treated on Friday. That compares to Jan. 3, when only eight COVID patients — 10% of inpatient beds — were at the hospital. By far the largest percentage of those testing positive for COVID-19 in the region now are between the ages of 25 and 49. ARHS data show that age group accounted for more than 45% of the positive COVID tests

reported the week ending Jan. 1. Persons in that age group have also accounted for 44.06% of infections since the current COVID wave began Dec. 3.

A spokeswoman for ARHS said the higher positivity rate for the 25-49 age group correlates to its lower vaccination rate. ARHS data show that fewer than 17% of the region's residents ages 25-49 are fully vaccinated. That contrasts with persons ages 50-64, whose positivity rate on Friday was 18.4% and vaccination rate was 36.7%, and residents ages 65 and older, whose positivity rate was only 0.8% and vaccination rate was 77.89%.

ARHS data show 79% of the new cases reported since Jan. 4 were in four counties in the health district: Bertie (214), Hertford (211), Pasquotank (189) and Chowan (191). Those four counties also had the largest increases in active cases. Hertford's active cases nearly doubled to 174; Bertie's also nearly doubled to 156; Pasquotank's nearly doubled to 181; and Chowan's rose by 65 to 148.

Even counties reporting fewer active cases on Tuesday saw dramatic increases. Perquimans County's active cases more than doubled to 64. Gates County's doubled to 32 and Camden's tripled to 36.

911

Continued from A1

time table is for filling them. Jonathan Nixon, emergency services director for Perquimans County, told the Perquimans Board of Commissioners Monday night that the change has not caused any disruption

of service in either Perquimans or Gates. In December the Perquimans 911 center received a combined 768 calls for both counties.

Two Gates County emergency telecommunicators have been working at the Perquimans County 911 emergency communications center under the temporary arrangement.

Reiterating what Wilson previously said, Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath told county commissioners that Gates experienced a severe staffing shortage. Heath said the two counties currently are working on more formal types of agreements that commissioners in both counties will need to vote on in the next few

months. Heath said the county is looking at a backup center arrangement with Gates similar to what the county now has with Chowan County. Under that arrangement, the Perquimans 911 center will step in to help the Chowan 911 center in an emergency and Chowan will do the same with Per-

quimans. Board of Commissioners Chairman Wallace Nelson said a Gates commissioner he had spoken with expressed appreciation for Perquimans' cooperation and support. The commissioner "raved" about Perquimans County and its staff, Nelson said. Nixon said the memoran-

dum of understanding for the shared 911 operation with Gates might be ready to bring to Perquimans commissioners in February. He added that he would hope a neighboring county would offer the same kind of help to Perquimans if the county found itself in a situation similar to the one Gates is in.

PARK

Continued from A1

Grant money will pay for everything in the engineering services agreement with Moffatt & Nichol so no local funds will be needed, Heath told commissioners Monday night.

Plans for the park began a decade or so ago and steady progress has

occurred over the past couple of years. Located on 71 acres along the Perquimans River just northwest of the county's Parks and Recreation Center, the park began as a satellite or "sister site" of the N.C. Seafood Industrial Park in Wanchese.

In July 2019, East Coast Steel Fabricators acquired an existing 5,000-square-foot metal building at the

park site as part of its relocation to Perquimans from the Hampton Roads area. In December 2020 Perquimans was awarded a \$180,000 Building Reuse Program grant to help East Coast Steel complete a 14,000-square-foot expansion to its facility.

East Coast Steel Fabricators Inc. is already adding about 50 jobs at the park. Construction of the

basin will enable larger companies to locate at the

park, and the county expects 200 additional jobs

to be created once the basin is completed.

TRUSS

Continued from A1

the proposed commercial and residential development along the waterfront and around the bridge" and asks "that the funding for the saving of this important piece of history be granted."

Hertford officials were expected to adopt a similar resolution at Town Councils Jan. 10 meeting.

The town's Riverfront and

Community Development Plan, adopted by the council in September, includes the relocated S-Bridge truss among a number of proposed park-related amenities that include: a public walkway on top of the inland retaining wall; walkways on piers that include educational signage about the role of wetlands; fishing piers and viewing platforms; public restrooms near the amphitheater; picnic pavilions with grills and seating;

children's play equipment near the pavilions and central to the park; a water play area; paths accessible by bike, pedestrians, and handicapped individuals; public open grassed areas adjacent to the retaining wall; and upgraded sidewalks along Grubb Street.

The plan also addresses a range of community concerns including housing, infrastructure and downtown business development.

to his ultimate conviction and sentencing. But those agencies were assisted by a number of other law enforcement agencies, including the sheriff's offices in Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans, Dare, Hertford and Pasquotank counties and the Elizabeth City Police Department.

Hertford officials are pleased with the transition. "Sheriff White is doing an excellent job servicing the Hertford community," Mayor Earnest Brown said. "They are responsive and pro-active addressing the needs of our citizens."

BERTIE

Continued from A1

and the Elizabeth City Police Department both have officers known as "task force officers" who are certified to work on federal investigations. Those officers, who are assigned to

work with the Albemarle Drug Task Force, assisted with the Leary investigation.

In his press release, Easley said agents with the FBI, IRS's Criminal Investigation division and N.C. State Bureau of Investigation led the investigation of Leary that led

SHERIFF

Continued from A1

into their roles and showing a willingness to help each other out as needed.

White noted that when there was an armed rob-

bery recently at the Dollar General-Dollar Tree store he had two investigators on the scene rather than just one, which is a benefit of staffing the office to provide law enforcement services both inside and outside Hertford.

Hertford officials are pleased with the transition. "Sheriff White is doing an excellent job servicing the Hertford community," Mayor Earnest Brown said. "They are responsive and pro-active addressing the needs of our citizens."

Public Open House Meeting Flood Risk and Resilience in the Town of Hertford

The Town of Hertford has partnered with the Resilient Coastal Communities Program to identify areas of the community at risk from flooding and other natural disasters. Information gathered will help the town develop projects to improve the resiliency of the community.

Please join us for a public open house meeting on
Tuesday January 18 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm
at Historic Hertford, Inc. building,
110 W. Academy Street Hertford, NC.

Learn about local flood risks and share your experience with flooding in Hertford

- Learn about steps you can take to prepare for flooding
- Help identify the most important places to protect
- Includes a kids activity and light refreshments

Safety First: Please plan to wear a mask indoors to help protect others.



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION KALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Bilateral Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for New Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 bilateral determination of avoided cost rates for purchasers 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), West 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 purchasers 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. § 62-142(a). The rate 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, 4526 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4506.

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 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 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 71-5 and 71-14 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

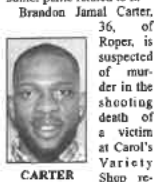
This is the 13th day August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

YEAR 2021 IN REVIEW

sumer panic related to it.



CARTER

Brandon Jamal Carter, 36, of Rogers, is suspected of murder in the shooting death of a victim at Carol's Variety Shop remained at large.

Four Bertie County men were injured during an early Saturday boating accident in the Albemarle Sound just outside of Washington County.

Two Washington County men, James Cameron, 35, and Ladarius Hunt, 28, died in a crash when their vehicle collided with equipment on a farm tractor on Route Hwy 45 in Bertie County.

Plymouth Town Council voted unanimously to make a \$4,000 contribution to the fund raising efforts of the coming Black Bear Festival.

Washington County Building Inspector Alan Pittman ordered a crumbling duplex located at 101-103 West Water Street to be demolished after a recent collapse toppled more of the rear wall that was already in ruins.



97-year-old James Hays was the eldest among many of the Memorial Day service.

William Louis Bland, was charged with the repeated rape of a young girl over the course of five years and was taken into custody after federal mar-

shals and Virginia police picked him up in Suffolk County, Virginia.

Superintendent Linda Jewell Carr placed a 10-day quarantine on Pines Elementary School following the discovery of two students that contracted the COVID-19 virus.

June

Plymouth's annual Award Winning Black Bear Fest kicked off on the first weekend of the month, flooding Plymouth's downtown with tens of thousands of visitors through it's duration.

Plymouth Town Manager Chris Layton, proposed a significant rate increase the water, sewer, sanitation and landfill fees, which all appeared together on residents monthly water bill.

Billy Ray Askew replaced Hallet Davis as the new principal of N.E.R.S.-B.A. Following Askew's ascent, Davis became the Executive Director of the facility, focusing on outreach and networking.

Plymouth voters were forced to wait until March 8, 2022, to cast ballots for the town's mayor and six council members in an election that was to occur November 2, 2021.

Gunfire erupted twice more at or near the residence of accused murderer, Terrence Williams, in mid-June, leaving Plymouth police officers to beef up security in the area.

Derrick Jerome Allen, 30, was taken into custody following a dangerous vehicle and foot chase that ended in the discovery of a

North Carolina agricultural departmental designated Mt. Tabor Road's long-standing Phelps Farm, as a Century Farm.

Three men, all in their 30s, were flown from Plymouth to Vidant Hospital following a mid-afternoon triple shooting on Commodore Drive.

Tyrrell County Sheriff's Office deputies charged Columbia resident William Adam Armstrong, 35, and Jessica Armstrong, 31, with bilking an elderly victim by stealing and using the victim's checks.

After nearly 81 years in operation, Womble Drugstore closed its doors. Another drugstore, O'Neal's Pharmacy of Belhaven, began making moves to fill the void left behind.



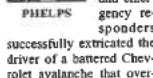
Roper's African American Museum opened briefly on June 19 to celebrate Juneteenth, otherwise known as Black Independence Day.

The farm, which is now owned by Loretta Phelps, has remained in the ownership of the same family for 100 years.

Brandy Pedreira, 26, and 26-year-old Teressa Blackledge, were both charged on July 16 in an underwear store aimed at smuggling illicit drugs in the detention center.



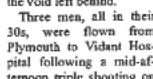
BLACKLEDGE



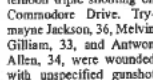
PHELPS

successfully extorted the driver of a battered Chevrolet avalanche that overturned late in the afternoon.

Along with two inmates and repeat criminals Fero Askew, 34, and Danny Stanley Champ, 30, were charged.



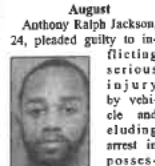
ASKEW



CHAMP

Outlaw Drag Boat Association raced down the Roanoke River at break neck speeds, during the annual boat races Saturday, July 31.

Superior Court judge Waylon sermons denied a motion, by District Attorney Seth Edwards, to revoke the bond of accused murderer Terrence Williams.



JACKSON

Anthony Ralph Jackson, 24, pleaded guilty to inflicting serious injury by vehicle and eluding arrest in possession of a firearm by a felon.

Eight allegations to the State Auditor's hotline about the Town of Plymouth led to an investigation and a "finding" that council did not maintain minutes for 32 of 51 meetings held during 2020.

A wave of destructive house fires left Washington County's volunteer firefighters weary.

See '2021,' Page 9

that included demolition of 101-103 East Water Street; hiring, firing and re-hiring a manager, then accepting her resignation and paying more than \$37,000 in severance; and closing the intersection of Water and Washington Streets for months.

The 51st annual Blackland Farm Managers Tour was hosted on Wednesday, August 4, at Dark Water Enterprise. The event is typically held outside where growers demonstrate the fruits of their labor.

Melvin Gilliam was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon. He was released on \$15,000 unsecured bond without posing any security and later placed on house arrest.

See '2021,' Page 9

Advertisement for River's Edge Restaurant, located in Jamesville on the Roanoke River. Opening January 6, Tuesday thru Saturday 11 am - 2 pm, Dinner 4 pm - 8 pm. 1407 Water Street, Jamesville, NC. (252) 792-2631

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH. Docket No. E-100, Sub 175. BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission.

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OFFICIAL COPY Feb 14 2022

Cooper extends vaccine, testing for state employees

By JOHN TRUMP
Carolina Journal

Gov. Roy Cooper on Tuesday, January 4, said health experts, doctors, and scientists are learning more about COVID-19, and state officials and politicians are using that knowledge to keep schools open and to avoid more onerous shutdowns and suppressions.

In a news briefing, Cooper said people have to start learning to live with the virus, which isn't going away, and that state health experts and officials will do whatever is necessary to help residents return to relative normalcy. That includes encouraging masking indoors, getting vaccines and boosters, and getting tested.

At the same time, Cooper extended an executive order requiring state workers in cabinet-level

agencies to either to get a vaccine or submit to weekly COVID testing.

"All other state and local government agencies are strongly encouraged to voluntarily adopt similar policies," his order reads.

Eighteen state workers have been fired over their refusal to comply with the order, The Associated Press reported Christmas Eve. "The 18 fired state employees include six workers from the Department of Health and Human Services, five from the Department of Public Safety, three from the Department of Transportation, and one each from four other cabinet-level agencies. They represent just 0.03% of the workforce Cooper's order covers," The AP says.

Testing sites around the state are deluged with people who want a test, although at-home

tests can skew results, meaning the positivity rate is likely higher than reported. As of Tuesday, North Carolina reported more than 10,000 COVID cases. Nearly 30% of tests are returning positive. Testing last month peaked on Dec. 31 with 91,700 tests.

The omicron variant is more contagious than previous surges, but vaccines and especially boosters will likely prevent severe illness, Cooper and state Health Secretary Kody Kinzley said in the news conference.

"That is the strongest protection we have to fight this virus and live normal lives," Cooper said of vaccines and boosters. The state, too, is working to open additional test sites, said Kinzley, who this year took over for Dr. Mandy Cohen, who resigned late last year.

North Carolina has adminis-

tered more than 14 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with some 69% of adults fully vaccinated. Still, Kinzley said, the state is breaking COVID records almost daily.

"Testing before you gather can help slow the spread of omicron," Kinzley said in a statement over the holidays. "And if you test positive, quickly seeking out treatment can help reduce the risk of severe disease."

Many health experts are now saying the mainstream media, which tend to raise fears anyway, may be better served to focus reporting on hospitalizations and deaths, as opposed to the rise in positive cases. For instance, left-leaning news website The Guardian, reporting on comments by Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Biden's lead COVID adviser, said it may be time to focus less

on just the case count, which has soared close to 500,000 reported new daily infections.

A number of experts have questioned if such reports cause unnecessary worry. The Guardian says in its U.S. edition, and they suggest deaths and hospitalization data should better inform mitigation efforts.

"The answer is, overall, yes," Fauci told ABC. "This is particularly relevant if you're having an infection that is much, much more asymptomatic and minimally symptomatic, particularly in people who are vaccinated and boosted."

"The real bottom line that you want to be concerned about is: Are we getting protected by the vaccines from severe disease leading to hospitalization?" The toll on mental continues as well.

Boone named county's Employee of the Year

By DALE HEBERLING
Staff Writer

Louis Boone — an employee with service in five decades — is Washington County's Employee of the Year for 2021.

Commissioner Chairwoman Tracey Johnson announced the recognition in the January 3 meeting, recognizing Boone for "over 40 years of service."

County records indicate Boone began his county employment January 3, 1980 when he was first employed in the housekeeping department. He later moved into building inspections and worked in the maintenance worker II classification before becoming maintenance supervisor.

"He puts up with everyone's attitudes from

each department and everybody wants their projects or work orders done as soon as they put them in," Johnson observed in her remarks. "They don't realize he has 27 buildings to maintain. He can't satisfy everyone even though he tries. He puts in many hours to get everything done."

Boone was at a loss for words in response to the honor. "I don't know quite what to say," he offered later in the week. "I'm surprised. It's a good thing for me. Anything they need, I'm game for it and they know that. I guess it's why I've been here for 42 years."

Boone's picture will be displayed in the county administrative building and he receives a \$250 award for the honor.



BOONE

HONOR ROLL

- Honor Roll**
- Third grade:** Allison Morgan, Morgan Eubanks, Tara Burleson, Brantley Roscoe, DJ Woodard.
- Fourth grade:** Julie Weathersbee, Ben Scarcy, Lean Shean, Kaylee Benson, Squires Tunstall, Paul Scarcy.
- Fifth grade:** Vanessa Harris, Noah Lozon, Emma Grace Spinner, Troy Wright, Garris Holland, Savan Johnston, Carter Stowe, Carter Johnston.
- Sixth grade:** Clara Weathersbee, Tripp Elliott, Lindsey Newberry, Alyssa Boycine, Tanner Carawan, Austin Harrison, Karrigan Arnold.
- Seventh grade:** Piper Williams, Harley James.
- Eighth grade:** Seth Meijer, Ryan Ange.
- Ninth grade:** Gracie Cox, Lakin VanEsseledt.
- Tenth grade:** Kaylee Robinson, Niyah Swain.
- Eleventh grade:** Levi VanStaalduinen.



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Duke Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonpartisan public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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. § 62-127(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 as 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 27699-4306.

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 this matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules RI-2 and RI-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 12th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY

Feb 14 2022

SPORTS

WOMEN:

Continued from 1B

Valkyries handed the lead back to Converse, 41-40. Jones added a pair at the stripe before Sharpe knocked down a jumper at the buzzer to give the Hawks a 44-43 lead heading into the final stanza.

Converse would regain the lead with the first tally two minutes into the period. After another Valkyries' bucket, Sharpe put the Hawks on the board

with a layup. Gaither added a layup to flip the lead back to Chowan, 49-47.

Bland connected from deep to put the Hawks up 51-49 with 3:09 remaining. Robinson added a layup to give the Hawks some cushion following a Converse turnover. Bland knocked down a pair at the stripe with 1:40 remaining to offset the Valkyries' bucket, 55-51.

Jones added a layup with less than a minute to go to force the Valkyries to foul. Bland

picked up five points and Destiny Robinson added one from the stripe as the Hawks slat-ed away the game at the stripe.

Chowan (7-4 overall and 7-2 in league play) was scheduled to take on Francis Marion on Tuesday following the postponement of the Belmont Abbey contest on Saturday. The contest against Francis Marion has been postponed. The Hawks will look to take on Mount Olive on Thursday, January 13 at home.

CHOWAN:

Continued from 1B

point at the stripe before Koonce connected from the left elbow and a floater to even the score with 16:23 remaining. Traore went 1-2 from the line prior to Koonce connecting from deep to push the lead to 46-41.

Donavon Martin slammed in a while Koonce continued the hot shooting with a three-pointer from the right wing and a jumper to push the advantage to 54-48 before the media timeout.

Barnett offset a Converse pair of free throws with an old-fashioned three-point play in transition. He then added a deep pull-up jumper to extend the lead to 60-52. The Valkyries regained the lead 63-62 after an 11-2 run over the next 3:41 to force a Chowan timeout.

The run continued for the Valkyries with a layup before Koonce connected from the stripe

for a pair. Koonce would come up with a steal with a minute to play and went 1-2 from the stripe to even the score at 65-61 with 55 seconds remaining.

Converse would pick up a point at the stripe with 39.2 seconds remaining. With 21.4 seconds remaining, Martin gives the Hawks a 67-66

lead finishing off the alley-oop from Marcus Elliott. Converse would answer at the other end following a timeout to regain the one-point lead with 7.9 seconds left.

The Valkyries would come away with a steal on the final possession to hand the Hawks a one-point loss.

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Advertisement for The Children's Center School Bus. Features a \$750 bonus and a 'NOW HIRING: BUS DRIVERS & MONITORS' section. Includes details about part-time positions, full benefits, and a valid CDL driver's license requirement.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH. DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175. 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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobble Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT More Than 1 Million Seniors Have Taken Advantage of This "Retirement Secret"

With home prices soaring and interest rates at all-time lows, there's never been a better time to consider a reverse mortgage

It's a well-known fact that for many older Americans, the home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 45% of their total net worth. And with interest rates still near all-time lows while home values remain high, this combination creates the perfect dynamic for getting the most out of your built-up equity.

But, many aren't taking advantage of this unprecedented period. According to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than 9.23 trillion dollars* of unused home equity. Home Values at All Time Highs

Not only are people living longer than ever before, but there is also greater uncertainty in the economy. With home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be shortsighted when looking for the best long-term outcome.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan; however, the borrowers are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective



Thanks to the money received through an AAG Reverse Mortgage, seniors everywhere are enjoying their retirement and worrying less on how to pay monthly bills.

way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions. Available If You Still Owe on Your Home or Own Nothing

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group insurance and, if required, their HOA fees. Today, HECM loans are simply an effective

with their loans. While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners — especially in times like these.

Use the Extra Cash for Almost Anything

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for almost any purpose. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a safety net for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make the best decision for your financial future.

We're here and ready to help. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a FREE, no obligation Reverse Mortgage Guide by calling toll-free at

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Advertisement for AAG Reverse Mortgage. Features a 'Your Guide to a Better Retirement' booklet and DVD available for free. Includes contact information for AAG Reverse Mortgage Company and a list of featured news outlets: ABC, CBS, CNN & Fox News.

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HEALTH NEWS

NCDHHS expands program helping low-income families pay water bills

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on Monday announced the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program will expand to include all low-income households needing assistance in paying their water bill.

LHWAP was created in December 2021 after the State of North Carolina was awarded more than \$38 million in federal funds to establish a new water assistance program for households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, households with a current water/wastewater bill can begin applying for LHWAP assistance if they

meet the eligibility requirements, whether or not their water service has been disconnected. Households that have had their services disconnected or are in jeopardy of having their services disconnected can continue to apply.

"Due to the pandemic and its impact on our economy, many households are struggling to maintain their water service," said Tara Myers, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Employment, Inclusion and Economic Stability. "LHWAP will continue to help families in North Carolina keep their water running, a basic human need that's critical for good sanitation and better health."

LHWAP is a temporary emergency program that helps eligible households and families afford water and wastewater services. The program provides a one-time payment for eligible low-income households directly to the utility company. LHWAP runs through September 2023 or until the funds run out.

Individuals can apply online at epass.nc.gov. Individuals can also apply by printing a paper application from epass.nc.gov and dropping it off or faxing it to their local county Department of Social Services or by calling their local county Department of Social Services to apply by phone.

To be eligible for LHWAP, a household must have at least one U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and:

- Have income equal to or less than 150% of the federal poverty level.
- Have household services that are disconnected, in jeopardy of disconnection or have a current outstanding bill.
- Be responsible for the water bill.

Households can apply through Sept. 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

For more information on this program and eligibility, visit the LHWAP website at www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/energy-assistance/low-income-household-water-assistance-program-lhwap.

Households can apply through Sept. 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

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Brody School of Medicine, Vidant Health are now operating under a joint agreement

GREENVILLE — The joint operating agreement between East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health is now officially underway, enabling the organizations to create ECU Health and work together to improve health care delivery to the 1.4 million residents of eastern North Carolina.

Under the joint operating agreement, the Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health will remain separate legal entities, but will integrate under a new, shared brand known as ECU Health. The ECU Health logo will be revealed in the spring and the rebranding process for most Vidant entities and ECU Physicians

practices will begin shortly after. Rebranding is expected to take months to complete.

"The new year marks an important and exciting chapter for health care in eastern North Carolina," said Dr. Michael Waldrum, CEO of Vidant Health and dean of the Brody School of Medicine. "2022 will be a year of transformation for Vidant and Brody as we create ECU Health and position ourselves as the national academic model for providing rural health care. Together as one, ECU Health will have profoundly positive impacts on the health and well-being of those we serve."

The two organizations are working together to:

- Evaluate and modify existing practices to improve quality and coordination of care.
- Integrate certain management structures and strategic planning efforts.
- Develop a plan for shared services to support the integrated entity.
- Leverage the capabilities of each organization to advance the collective research and education infrastructure.
- Coordinate philanthropic initiatives.

The joint operating agreement received board approvals in November and became official on Jan. 1, 2022. The agreement provides a structure that allows the two organizations to more effectively and efficiently address current issues

facial the region — such as health disparities and care delivery obstacles — while also better anticipating future health care and educational needs.

"The close partnership between Brody and Vidant created a strong foundation upon which to build ECU Health," said Dr. Jason Higginson, executive dean of Brody. "The ability to combine academic excellence with high-quality, state-of-the-art health care delivery will elevate care, research and education opportunities available to the people of eastern North Carolina. We look forward to continuing to work together and introduce ECU Health to the community later this year."

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"The close partnership between Brody and Vidant created a strong foundation upon which to build ECU Health," said Dr. Jason Higginson, executive dean of Brody. "The ability to combine academic excellence with high-quality, state-of-the-art health care delivery will elevate care, research and education opportunities available to the people of eastern North Carolina. We look forward to continuing to work together and introduce ECU Health to the community later this year."

Officials encourage boosters as COVID-19 hospitalizations rise

RALEIGH — With hospitalizations due to COVID-19 rising, getting a booster of the COVID-19 vaccine remains the most important thing North Carolinians can do to keep themselves and their loved ones out of the hospital, officials with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced.

If you have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status — get tested and isolate from others while you wait for a result. If you are not able to be tested, follow the guidance below as if you are positive.

If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are not vaccinated — stay away from others for 5 days, get tested on day 5 after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for 5 additional days.

Vaccinated and eligible for a booster, but have not yet been boosted — stay away from others for 5 days, get tested on day 5 after exposure, and if you test negative, return to normal activities while wearing a mask for 5 additional days.

Vaccinated, and have either received your booster or are not yet eligible for a booster — you do not need to stay away from others, but you should wear a mask for 10 days.

If you test positive, regardless of vaccination status, and do not have symptoms — isolate yourself from others for 5 days, then wear a mask for 5 additional days

when you return to normal activities.

Have symptoms — isolate yourself from others until you are fever-free and your symptoms are improving. You should isolate for at least 5 days since your symptoms began. Once you stop isolating, you should wear a mask for 5 additional days.

People who have received two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines are eligible for a booster shot after six months. Those who got a Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine initially should receive a booster after two months. According to the CDC, those who are eligible for boosters and

have not received them should follow the stricter guidance for quarantine and masks.

In all cases, a well-fitting mask (CDC guidance) is recommended. If possible, wear a surgical or procedure mask, a KN95 or an N95 respirator. In general, the CDC recommends all unvaccinated people 2 years old or older wear a mask indoors. To find a no-cost community testing event or a testing site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/gettested. Please do not visit the emergency room to get tested.

Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years and older. To find a vaccine or booster vaccine near you visit MySpot.nc.gov.

when you return to normal activities.

Have symptoms — isolate yourself from others until you are fever-free and your symptoms are improving. You should isolate for at least 5 days since your symptoms began. Once you stop isolating, you should wear a mask for 5 additional days.

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Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years and older. To find a vaccine or booster vaccine near you visit MySpot.nc.gov.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobie Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from 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 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.

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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 Job 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 R1-1 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 12th day August, 2021

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Actors, comedians and president react to White's death

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Tributes from fellow actors and comedians poured in on social media Friday in reaction to the death of Betty White. "The Golden Girls" star was 99. Henry Winkler thanked White for her humor, warmth and activism. Seth Meyers says White was the only "Saturday Night Live" host he ever saw get a standing ovation at the after party. Kathy Griffin shared a few stories in a Twitter thread and wrote that White treated her like an equal in the comedy world. Dan Rather said our world would be better if more people followed White's example. White was a television mainstay for more than 60 years.

"It's a shame. She was a

lovely lady Ninety-nine years old. As my mother would say, God love her." — President Joe Biden, to reporters Friday.

"Sad news. No more Betty White. Too bad we couldn't get another ten years of her always warm, gracious, and witty personality. She was one of a kind!" — Mel Brooks, on Twitter.

"Betty White : I is very hard to absorb you are not here anymore. But the memories of your delIGHT are ..Thank you for yur humor, your warmth and your activism ... Rest now and say hi to Bill." — Henry Winkler, on Twitter

"The world looks different now. She was great at defying expectation. She managed to

grow very old and somehow, not old enough. We'll miss you, Betty. Now you know the secret." — Ryan Reynolds, on Twitter

"Rest in peace, sweet Betty. My God, how bright heaven must be right now." — Valerie Bertinelli, on Twitter.

"Too much sadness! I posted once how she changed my life. She was the first person who made me believe I could be a writer. What an enormous thing to do for another person. I bet there's hundreds of us who she helped over the years." — Nancy Meyers, on Instagram

"RIP Betty White, the only SNL host I ever saw get a standing ovation at the after party. A party at which she ordered a vodka and hotdog

and stayed til the bitter end." — Seth Meyers, on Twitter

"Betty, who was gracious enough to be a guest star on the episode of "Kathy Griffin My Life on the D List", where we get my mom Maggie a play date with Betty White, was a bucket list memory, touching and hilarious at the same time. We surprised Maggie, so when Betty shows up... at Sizzler Senior Early Bird Special, my Mom about fell OUT! And I got to spend the day on film and off camera, with my mom and Betty White. It was basically a dream girls day. Betty legit treated my mom like a friend. She answered every question, acted very shocked at...every word out of my mouth, which was

mandatory. She hung out with my mom, like a peer. She treated me like we were in the same club or something. She actually treated me like an equal in the comedy gurrrl world. She was as sharp and funny as she was soft and wise...and no matter how long this world continues to spin, there will be only one Betty White." — Kathy Griffin, on Twitter

"Today, we lost a beloved TV icon. Betty White was a pioneering actress, who blessed generations of Americans with her talent and humor for 8 decades. May it be a comfort to her loved ones and many admirers that so many mourn with them during this sad time." — Nancy Pelosi, on Twitter



A single-vehicle wreck happened in Pleasant Hill.

DWI

FROM PAGE A1

a seat belt. He said Northampton County Sheriff's Office was first on scene and then

Gaston Fire-Rescue-EMS. Blount said from his understanding of EMS personnel, Moseley was walking around and talking to a witness until he collapsed in the middle of the roadway.

Blount said Moseley was listed in serious



First responders on scene following the wreck on Sunday night.

condition at the time of the wreck. He also said Moseley was charged with DWI on impairment with alcohol Sunday night.

"Just don't drink and drive," Blount said.

"Be careful in extreme weather conditions such as rain or inclement weather." Moseley's condition was unknown as of press time.

BOOSTERS

FROM PAGE A1

the spread of omicron or any other coronavirus mutant.

"Hopefully this will be not just a call for people to go get their booster shot," but for the tens of millions of unvaccinated Americans to rethink that choice, Marks said. "It's not too late to start to get vaccinated."

The FDA based its latest booster decision largely on real-world data from Israel that found no new safety concerns when 6,300 12- to 15-year-olds got a Pfizer booster five months after their second dose.

Likewise, the FDA said even more data from Israel showed no problems with giving anyone eligible for a Pfizer booster that extra dose a month sooner than the six months that until now has been U.S. policy.

The chief safety question for younger teens is a rare side effect called myocarditis, a type of heart inflammation seen mostly in younger men and teen boys who get either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. The vast majority of cases are mild — far milder than the heart inflammation caused by COVID-19 — and they seem to peak in older teens, the 16- and 17-year-olds.

Marks said the side effect occurs in about 1 in 10,000 men and boys ages 16 to 30 after their second shot — but that a third dose appears less risky, by about a third. That's probably because more time has passed before the booster than between the first two shots, he said.

While the FDA didn't consult its independent scientific advisers before making that decision, the CDC's own advisory panel is sure to closely weigh how much benefit this age group is likely to get before backing the extra shot.

Vaccines still offer strong protection against serious illness from any type of COVID-19. But health authorities are urging everyone who's eligible to get a booster dose for their best chance at avoiding milder breakthrough infections from the highly contagious omicron mutant.

Children tend to suffer less serious illness from COVID-19 than adults. But child hospitalizations are rising

during the omicron wave — most of them unvaccinated.

Pediatrician and global health expert Dr. Philip Landrigan of Boston College welcomed the FDA's decisions, but stressed that the main need is to get the unvaccinated their first shots.

"It is among unvaccinated people that most of the severe illness and death from COVID will occur in coming weeks," he said in an email. "Many thousands of lives could be saved if people could persuade themselves to get vaccinated."

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech is the only U.S. option for children of any age. About 13.5 million 12- to 17-year-olds — just over half that age group — have received two Pfizer shots, according to the CDC.

For families hoping to keep their children as protected as possible, the booster age limit raised questions.

The older teens, 16- and 17-year-olds, became eligible for boosters in early December. But original vaccinations opened for the younger teens, those 12 to 15, back in May. That means those first in line in the spring, potentially millions, are about as many months past their last dose as the slightly older teens.

As for even younger children, kid-size doses for 5- to 11-year-olds rolled out more recently, in November — and experts say healthy youngsters should be protected after their second dose for a while. But the FDA also said Monday that if children that young have severely weakened immune systems, they will be allowed a third dose 28 days after their second. That's the same third-dose timing already recommended for immune-compromised teens and adults.

Pfizer is studying its vaccine, in even smaller doses, for children younger than 5.

What about timing of boosters for adults who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines?

The FDA said it didn't have any new data from Moderna to back a timing change and people who'd already had two Moderna shots should continue to wait six months for a booster. As for people who originally got the single-dose J&J shot, the U.S. already recommends another dose of any vaccine two months later.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities—2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Double Building, 450 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 (VA) Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, et/aa, 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. § 62-827(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 the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joan E. Snyder, Chief Clerk

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Feb 14 2022



WRC | Submitted

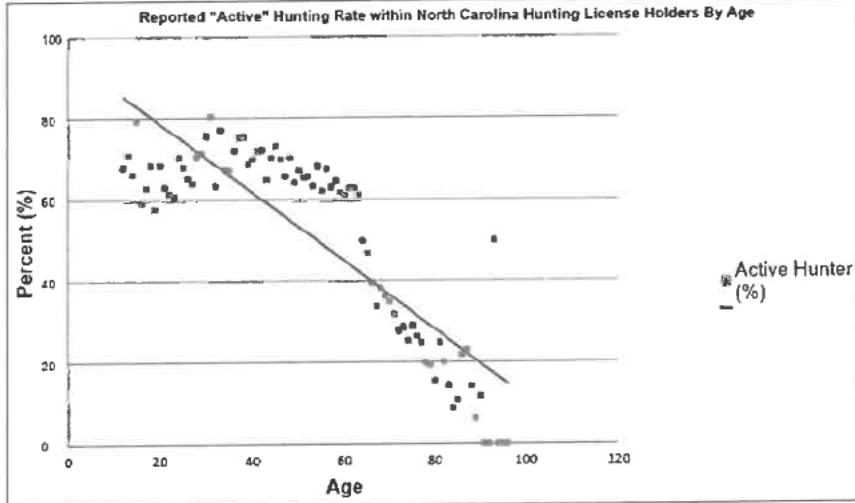
Pictured is a Gray Squirrel.



WRC | Submitted

Pictured is a Red Squirrel.

Pictured is a graph from the web seminar on a decline of active hunters in the state.



HUNTING

FROM PAGE A1

transferable to virtually every game you can chase in the woods of North America. So, this is something that is an incredibly valuable skill and/or set of skills that you can build. It's a very low impact way to get out in the woods."

One thing that was emphasized was required hunting licensing and the value of the Hunters Safety Course, which is good in all 50 states for life.

Weingarten said that he and other hunters have noticed that taking the course as an entry into hunting is beneficial and can even be done online. He also made clear that having 360-degree visibility of blaze orange is

required, which a hat does "great."

For hunting seasons, Widener explained when people could hunt a specific squirrel:

- Gray and Red squirrels (2021-2022), Oct. 16-Feb. 28 with a daily limit of eight with no possession or season limit.
- Fox Squirrel (2021-2022), Oct. 18-Jan. 31 with a daily limit of two and season limit of 10.

The group discussed all ranges of shotguns to be beneficial to hunting squirrels and a .22LR sufficing. Accord-

ing to the discussion, shot placement included the head aside from the general center mass area.

According to group discussion, the best places to hunt are usually game lands which have trees marked with double-horizontal lines in red or orange paint and NCWRC signs being public lands to hunt. Areas marked by purple paint are private lands.

For more information and to watch the webinar, contact James at walter.james@ncwildlife.org.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities - 2021) **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

WASHINGTON

Heavy snow blankets U.S. capital

A winter storm packing heavy snow blew into the nation's capital Monday, cloaking government offices and schools and grounding the president's helicopter as 6 to 11 inches of snow ringed the area around Washington.

Snow spotters for the National Weather Service reported accumulations of 11.6 inches in the D.C. suburb of Capitol Heights, Md., and 10 inches in Rose Hill, Va., by the time the storm wound down Monday afternoon. At Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, 6.7 inches of snow was reported. Farther south, in Clancelloville, Va., 12.1 inches was reported.

The heavy snowfall, coupled with closings caused by the surge in COVID-19 cases, forced much of Washington to shut down. Four of the Smithsonian museums had already closed in late December due to a COVID-19 outbreak, and the Nation-



People walk down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in the background as snow falls Monday in Washington.

al Zoo announced Monday that it would close for the day because of the snow. Strong wind gusts and snow falling at a rate of 1 to 2 inches per hour made travel treacherous. In Virginia, state police responded to more than 500 traffic accidents, including a crash involving six tractor-trailers. State police said no injuries were reported in the crash.

WASHINGTON

Schumer: Senate to vote on filibuster change on voting bill

Days before the anniversary of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the Senate will vote on filibuster rules changes to advance stalled voting legislation that Democrats say is needed to protect democracy.

In a letter Monday to colleagues, Schumer, D-N.Y., said the Senate "must evolve" and will "debate and consider" the rules changes by Jan. 17, on or before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as the Democrats seek to overcome Republican opposition to their elections law package.

"Let me be clear: January 6th was a symptom of a broader illness — an effort to delegitimize our election process," Schumer wrote. "And the Senate must advance systemic democracy reforms to repair our republic or else the events of that day will not be an aberration — they will be the new norm."

The election and voting rights package

has been stalled in the evenly-split 50-50 Senate, blocked by a Republican-led filibuster and leaving Democrats unable to mount the 60-vote threshold needed to advance it toward passage.

Democrats have been unable to agree among themselves over potential changes to the Senate rules to reduce the 60-vote hurdle, despite months of private negotiations.

Two holdout Democrats, Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Krysten Sinema of Arizona, have tried to warn their party off changes to the Senate rules, arguing that if and when Republicans take majority control of the chamber, they could use the lower voting threshold to advance bills Democrats oppose.

How the Senate rules would be changed remains under discussion.

From Associated Press reports

Biden pushed to speak out more as US democracy concerns grow

BY COLLEEN LONG AND ZEKI MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has gotten the same troubling questions from worried world leaders, ones that he never thought he would hear.

"Is America going to be all right?" they ask. "What about democracy in America?"

While Biden has tried to offer America's allies assurances, he has only occasionally emphasized the gravity of the threat to democracy from the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and the repeated lie from the man he defeated, Donald Trump, that the 2020 election was stolen. And he has not discussed the very real concerns about a growing collection of insurrection sympathizers installed in local election posts and changes by Republicans to election laws in several states.

Now, as the anniversary of that deadly day nears, the Democratic president is being urged to reorder priorities and use the powers of his office to push voting rights legislation that its adherents say could be the only effective way to counter the rapidly emerging threats to the democratic process.

The tension in Biden's approach reflects his balancing of the urgent needs of Americans to make progress on the highly visible issues of the coronavirus pandemic and the economy and the less visible, but equally vital, issue of preserving trust in elections and government.

The president plans to deliver a speech on Thursday focused on sustaining democracy — voting rights won't be part of the remarks but will be the topic of another speech soon, White House aides said.

In his recent commencement address at South Carolina State University, Biden's tone on the need for voting rights legislation took on added urgency.

"I've never seen anything like the unrelenting assault on the right to vote," Biden said, adding, "This new sinister combination of voter suppression and election subversion, it's un-American, it's undemocratic, and sadly, it is unprecedented since Reconstruction."

And the world is taking notice. Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, also has said that the riot at the Capitol has altered the view many countries have of the United States.

"Jan. 6 has had a material impact on the view of the United States from the rest of the world. I believe from allies and adversaries alike," Sullivan said recently at the Council on Foreign Relations. "Allies look at it with concern and worry about the future of American democracy. Adversaries look



President Joe Biden delivers a speech on voting rights at the National Constitution Center on July 13 in Philadelphia.

at it, you know, more sort of rubbing their hands together and thinking, 'How do we take advantage of this in one way or another?'"

In contrast, Republicans in numerous states are promoting efforts to influence future elections by installing sympathetic leaders in local election posts and backing for elective office some of those who participated in the insurrection.

White House officials insist Biden's relative reticence should not be interpreted as complacency with the growing movement to rewrite history surrounding the Jan. 6 riot. Rather, they say, the president believes the most effective way to combat Trump, election denialism and domestic extremism is to prove to the rest of the country — and to the world — that government can work.

"I know progress does not come fast enough. It never has," Biden said last fall. "The process of government is frustrating and sometimes debilitating. But I also know what's possible if we keep the pressure up, if we never give up, we keep the faith."

In Biden's view, many of Trump's voters didn't wholly embrace Trumpism. Instead, Trump exploited long-standing dissatisfaction with the nation's political, economic and social systems to build his coalition.

So Biden tallored his first-year domestic agenda to combating what he believed to be the root causes of the unease — the shaky economy and the pandemic's drag on it — essentially to prove

that government can work effectively.

He has directed federal law enforcement to shore up security at national institutions and improve communication systems and procedures that were in part to blame for U.S. Capitol Police being left overwhelmed for hours during the mob assault.

The Justice Department has undertaken the largest prosecution in its history, charging more than 700 defendants and still looking for more.

But it is voting rights that many Democrats and activists concerned about what may happen in 2022 and beyond are urging the president to make a key priority.

"The insurrection was part of a larger movement to suppress elections and overthrow our democracy," said Christina Baal-Owens, a longtime organizer and the executive director of Public Wise, a group that researches and publishes information on candidates running for office who support the election lies.

Baal-Owens said efforts to discredit election integrity not only galvanize Trump supporters, but they also make other voters less likely to vote. "We know — we've done some research on trust in the system — if voters don't trust elections, they may not vote. This is part of a larger movement of voter suppression and why it's so necessary for Biden to speak out."

The House has approved far-reaching voting rights legislation, but Democratic Sens. Krysten Sinema of Arizona and Joe Manchin

of West Virginia have been impediments, saying they oppose changing Senate rules to get around a GOP filibuster of the bill.

That legislation would restore the Justice Department's ability to review

changes to election laws in states with a history of discrimination, a provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013. According to the Brennan Center, 19 states have recently passed laws making it harder to vote.

Manchin and Sinema have helped draft separate voting rights legislation, but it lacks enough Republican support to overcome the filibuster.

"People are taking sides as opposed to looking at what the institutional threats are to maintaining our democracy," said Democratic Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont, a candidate to replace Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, who announced his retirement.

Welch was at the Capitol on Jan. 6, and the violence of that day is etched in his memory.

"The norms that have

been the bedrock of our democracy, the free and peaceful transition of power and the renunciation of violence, they've been shattered," he said.

After Biden's speech in South Carolina, Senate Democrats renewed their push to pass voting rights legislation early in 2022. And the president said in an interview with ABC that he supported creating an exception to the Senate filibuster if that's what it takes to pass voting rights legislation.

For Biden, who served four decades in the Senate, it was a remarkable concession and underscored the gravity of the threat.

And, he acknowledged, he knows the world is watching to see how the nation responds — and wondering if the country's democracy will survive.

"Did you ever think you'd be asked that question by another leader?" Biden said.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 173

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 410 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. For the purpose of making concept public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 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 (VA) 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 purpases 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. § 62-115 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(27). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-115 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, set 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, Commissioner, Department of Justice, 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 Rule R-14 and R-15 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Myanmar's Suu Kyi sentenced to 4 more years in prison

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — A court in Myanmar sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to four more years in prison on Monday after finding her guilty of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and violating coronavirus restrictions, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi was convicted last month on two other charges and given a four-year prison sentence, which was then halved by the head of the military-installed government.

The cases are among about a dozen brought against the 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate since the army seized power last February, ousting her elected government and arresting top members of her National League for Democracy party.

If found guilty of all the charges, she could be sentenced to more than 100 years in prison.

Suu Kyi's supporters and independent analysts say the charges against her are contrived to legitimize the military's seizure of power and prevent her from returning to politics.

Monday's verdict in the court in the capital, Naypyitaw, was conveyed by a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities, who have restricted the release of information about Suu Kyi's trials.

He said she was sentenced to two years in prison under the Export-Import Law for importing the walkie-talkies and one year under the Telecommunications Law for possessing them. The sentences are to be served concurrently. She also received a two-year sentence under the Natural Disaster Management Law for allegedly violating coronavirus rules while campaigning.

Suu Kyi was convicted last month on two

other charges — incitement and breaching COVID-19 restrictions — and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Hours after that sentence was issued, the head of the military-installed government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, reduced it by half.

Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in a 2020 general election, but the military claimed there was widespread electoral fraud, an assertion that independent poll watchers doubt.

Since her first guilty verdict, Suu Kyi has been attending court hearings in prison clothes — a white top and a brown long-sleeved skirt — and the authorities. She is being held by the military at an unknown location, where state television reported last month she would serve her sentence.

The hearings are closed to the media and spectators and the prosecutors do not comment. Her lawyers, who had been a source

of information on the proceedings, were served with gag orders in October.

The military-installed government has not allowed any outside party to meet with Suu Kyi since it seized power, despite international pressure for talks including her call for a crisis.

It would not allow a special envoy from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which Myanmar is a member, to meet her. The refusal received a rare rebuke from fellow members, who barred Min Aung Hlaing from attending its annual summit meeting.

Even Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who took over as the regional group's chair for this year and advocates engagement with the ruling generals, failed to meet her last week when he became the first head of government to visit Myanmar since the army's takeover.

Nearly 8,000 detained in Kazakhstan over violent protests

BY DASHA LITVINOVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Nearly 8,000 people in Kazakhstan were detained by police during protests that descended into violence last week and marked the worst unrest the former Soviet nation has faced since gaining independence 30 years ago, authorities said Monday.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Monday described the unrest that followed initially peaceful protests against rising energy prices as a "terrorist aggression" against the mineral-rich Central Asian nation of 19 million and dismissed reports that authorities targeted peaceful demonstrators as "disinformation."



NIK AEZ VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vendors clean up their store that was broken into and looted during clashes Monday in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's Interior Ministry reported that 7,538 people have been detained across the country. The National Security Committee, Kazakhstan's counterintelligence and anti-terrorism agency, said Monday the situation has "stabilized and is under control."

Monday was declared a day of mourning for the victims of the violent unrest, which the health ministry says killed 164 people, including three children.

The demonstrations began on Jan. 2 over a near-doubling of prices for vehicle fuel and quickly spread across the country,

with political slogans reflecting wider discontent with Kazakhstan's authoritarian government.

In a concession, the government announced a 180-day price cap on vehicle fuel and a moratorium on utility rate increases. As the unrest mounted, the ministerial cabinet resigned and the president replaced Nursultan Nazarbayev, former

longtime leader of Kazakhstan, as head of the National Security Council.

One of the main slogans of the past week's protests, "Old man out," was a reference to Nazarbayev, who served as president from Kazakhstan's independence until he resigned in 2019 and named Tokayev as his successor. Nazarbayev had retained substantial power at the helm of the National Security Council.

Despite the concessions, the protests turned extremely violent for several days in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, the protesters set the city hall on fire and stormed and briefly seized the airport. For several days, sporadic gunfire was reported in the city streets.

The authorities declared a state of emergency over the unrest, and Tokayev requested help from the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a Russia-led military alliance of six

former Soviet states. The group has authorized sending about 2,500 mostly Russian troops to Kazakhstan as peacekeepers.

Tokayev has said the demonstrations were instigated by "terrorists" with foreign backing, although the protests have shown no obvious leaders or organization. On Friday, he said he ordered police and the military to shoot to kill "terrorists" involved in the violence.

In a statement Monday, Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry said the peaceful protests "were hijacked by terrorist, extremist and criminal groups," including radical Islamist fighters with combat experience.

Speaking Monday at an extraordinary virtual summit of CSTO, Tokayev promised to reveal to the world "additional evidence" of a "terrorist aggression" against Kazakhstan. He stressed that the demands of peaceful protesters have

No progress seen after talks over Ukraine tensions

BY MATTHEW LEE AND KONSTANTIN MANENKOV
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The United States and Russia locked horns over Ukraine and other security issues Monday with no sign of progress from either side at highly anticipated strategic talks.

Low expectations from both Washington and Moscow about the high-stakes session in Geneva appeared to have been met as senior diplomats from the two countries emerged without offering any hint of success.

Neither characterized the meeting as a complete failure, but neither did they offer any casting of the increasingly worrisome standoff over Russia's military buildup on its border with Ukraine that the West sees as a fundamental threat to European security. Nor was there any indication of movement on either, perhaps less-explosive matters that have vexed the U.S.-Russia relationship.

Moscow insists on guarantees to halt NATO's eastward expansion and even roll back the military alliance's deployments in Eastern Europe, while Washington firmly rejects the demands as a nonstarter.

With both sides dug in on their positions and Ukraine's future hanging in the balance, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said "no progress" was made on the central demand on NATO expansion, although he insisted, "We have no intention to invade Ukraine."

Ryabkov spoke following talks with his U.S. counterpart, Wendy Sherman — part of a flurry of diplomatic activity in Europe this week aimed at defusing the tensions.

Sherman called the talks a "frank and forthright discussion."

"It was not what you

would call a negotiation," she told reporters. "We're not to a point where we're ready to set down terms and begin to go back and forth."

"We were firm, however, on pushing back on security proposals that are simply nonstarters for the United States," Sherman said, adding "we will not allow anyone" to shut NATO's "reputable policy" which extends to countries seeking to join the alliance.

She said Washington "will not forgo bilateral cooperation with sovereign states that wish to work with the United States. And we will not make decisions about Ukraine without Ukraine, about Europe without Europe or about NATO without NATO."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has described NATO expansion to Ukraine and other former Soviet states as a "red line" for Moscow, demanding binding guarantees from the West that they wouldn't become members of the alliance.

Moscow has sought to wrest a string of concessions from the U.S. and its Western allies, and has massed an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine in steps that have raised concerns about a possible military intervention there.

"The situation now is so dangerous, and so — I would say — precarious that we cannot afford any further delays in resolution of this very fundamental question," Ryabkov said at a separate news conference at the Russian mission.

"As President Putin said, on many occasions, 'We cannot go backwards. There is no further space for us to do so.'"

Ryabkov rattled off Russian concerns and demands issued last month on subjects like NATO expansion and wanting Western commitments not to deploy of-

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-106 SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobie Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of hearing interested parties' views on testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial determination of a 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 enterprise 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 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 most and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-1(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: **Ms. Christopher J. Avers, 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 Stern, Attorney General of North Carolina, 60 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 E1-5 and E1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 comment and exhibit 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joanna R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

The kid from Roxboro

Several years ago, I was sitting at my desk in the old C-T building on a random day and the phone rang. The person on the other end of the line had a question that I, as the sports editor at the time, had heard dozens of times — but this one had a bit of a twist.

"How is the athlete of the week picked?" I gave my standard answer that the recipient is based on the previous week's performance in games and that I make the selection, but certainly take into account any suggestions that are made. The next question was a new one for me.

"Do you give it to middle school kids?"

I explained that it was just for high school athletes, and then he proceeded to tell me all about this basketball player at Roxboro Community School who was lighting up all those little middle school kids he was playing against.

His name was Darius McGhee. This wasn't the first time I'd heard his name. There was a buzz around Darius when he was 7 or 8 years old and putting up huge numbers in the rec leagues, and carried that over to the middle school. I made a point to venture over to Olive Hill Gym to see the Bulldogs play, but especially Darius, one afternoon. He was small, skinny, and didn't really stand out until he put a ball in his hand.

As an eighth grader, he was handling the ball with ease, pulling up from deep — very deep, and draining jumpers with a comfort and confidence that comes from the combination of many hours or work in the gym partnering with natural talent.

His game and his vertical continued to elevate as he got to high school and emerged as one of the best small school players in the state in his freshman and sophomore seasons. Darius was already scoring in the 20s seemingly every game in his first two seasons and as I started planning coverage for his junior year, I made a point to look through the NCHSAA record book and jot down the numbers that I thought were attainable.

Sure enough, he reached them all and set other records, including surpassing the mark for most points in a season and he became the first boys player to reach 1,000 points in a single year. Darius did all of that with a flair in his game, but not in his demeanor. He was never wrapped up in his individual accomplishments. The night he broke the record for most points in a season, he was more upset that his

team couldn't get past eventual state champion Voyager Academy in the conference tournament final than excited that he put himself in the same sentence as James O'Curry and Donald Williams.

In the years since starting at RCS, he has helped lead Liberty University to its most successful run in the program's history, winning three consecutive ASUN championships and reaching two NCAA tournaments. It would have been three had COVID not wiped out the tournament before it began.

Last season, Darius was the ASUN Player of the Year and poured in surreal performances to seal the regular season title and again in the tournament final.

I really thought I'd seen it all from Darius, and then this past Saturday's game happened. Darius had a strong first half by pretty much anyone's standard. He scored 11 points, but Liberty was struggling mightily and trailed Florida Gulf Coast by nine at halftime.

I love that country life, but sometimes the WiFi can be a little hit or miss and I didn't catch the first couple of minutes of the second half, but when I was able to tune back in, the deficit was erased by the first TV timeout.

Darius went on a scoring spree to open the second half and he never stopped.

By the time the game was over, this 5-9 skinny kid from Roxboro had exploded for 48 points, 37 of which came in the second half alone, and carried the Flames to a 79-75 win. Darius drained eight threes in the game, including one after an offensive rebound, where he literally shot it outside of the frame of the camera — just a few dribbles in from halfcourt.

It was the highest scoring game in Division I basketball this season and set the school and ASUN record for most points per game.

His former high school coaches, Justin Befendorf and Kirk Redman, and I did what we usually do during Darius's games. We texted each other in amazement at what we're seeing.

You would think we'd be used to this by now.

I would encourage you all to check out the extended highlight package of Saturday's game — I posted it on the C-T's Facebook page.

Darius is currently in the top-five nationally in scoring at 28 points per game and 3-pointers made — and there's still a long way to go in the season.

Not bad at all for a kid from Roxboro.



BLIZZARD
Kelly Snow

Appeals Court won't force N.C. regulators to permit new solar plant

By DONNA KING
Carolina Journal

The N.C. Court of Appeals has affirmed state regulators' ruling against a proposed solar energy plant for North Carolina. Appellate judges accepted regulators' argument that the plant would have forced overly costly upgrades to the state's electric grid.

"North Carolina has made significant strides in generating and employing alternatives to carbon-emitting fuels," wrote Judge Lucy Inman for the three-judge panel's majority. Inman is a Democratic candidate for an open seat on the N.C. Supreme Court this year.

"We rank fourth in the nation in solar installations, with solar making up nearly eight percent of our state's electricity," Inman added. "Our legislature has enacted clean energy goals including a 70 percent reduction in carbon emissions by the year 2050 and carbon neutrality by 2060. The southeastern region of the state, in particular, has attracted several solar energy facilities. But growing production has strained the region's existing electric grid. A dispute over the cost and timing of upgrading the grid gives rise to this appeal."

New solar energy plants require government permission, Inman noted. "Energy plants cannot spring up like many restaurants, fitness centers, or dry cleaners, even if consumer demand would support the increased supply," she wrote. "In this way, government regulation influences the energy market."

An independent energy company called Friesian Holdings sought a permit from the N.C. Utilities Commission to build a solar plant and to use the existing electrical grid. "Citing the cost of upgrading the region's electric grid to accommodate additional transmission, the Commission denied Friesian's application," Inman wrote. "The Utilities Commission made that decision in June 2020."

Friesian's appeal argued that the decision "unfairly favors larger energy utilities and squeezes competition, to the detriment of consumers." The Appeals Court rejected all three of Friesian's arguments: that federal law preempted the Utilities Commission's action, that the commission used "arbitrary and capricious" cost analysis, and that the commission made a mistake in ruling there was no demonstrated need for the new solar plant.

The electrical grid upgrade associated with the project would have cost close to \$650 million, according to the court opinion. Federal policy would have prompted Duke Energy to pass along those costs through "higher rates charged to its wholesale and North Carolina retail customers."

"Witnesses for the Public Staff testified, and one of Friesian's witnesses conceded, that the facility would do little to supplement Duke's solar energy supply during the peak winter season, and that Duke had not previously identified the transmission lines in question as needing upgrades due to reliability issues," Inman's opinion continued.

The commission ended up determining that the costs were "unreasonably high." "The Commission compared the unprecipitated magnitude of upgrade costs to be borne by ratepayers to accommodate Friesian's proposed facility with the facility's expected output, and concluded they were too burdensome to be in the public convenience," Inman wrote.

Judge Toby Hampson concurred with Inman's opinion. Judge Hunter Murphy agreed with the result but wrote separately. "While I have surmised potential winning arguments for (Friesian) appellants, such arguments were not made by them and have not been made a part of this adversarial proceeding," Murphy wrote. "I would not consider our opinion today to foreclose future litigants from making additional or refined arguments on the issues presented by this case."

Without a dissent in the case, the N.C. Supreme Court would face no obligation to take an appeal.

[Utilities Commission] Public Staff testified, and one of Friesian's witnesses conceded, that the facility would do little to supplement Duke's solar energy supply during the peak winter season, and that Duke had not previously identified the transmission lines in question as needing upgrades due to reliability issues," Inman's opinion continued.

The commission ended up determining that the costs were "unreasonably high." "The Commission compared the unprecipitated magnitude of upgrade costs to be borne by ratepayers to accommodate Friesian's proposed facility with the facility's expected output, and concluded they were too burdensome to be in the public convenience," Inman wrote.

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James 4:10

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Averaged Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Duke Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking necessary public witness testimony as a part of its 2021 biennial determination of averaged 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 recipients of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogeneration or qualifying small power production, 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 averaged 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 production as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-152(a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-150 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, 4320 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 61-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4323 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4323. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 176th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joan R. Snyder, Chief Clerk



This week in history



Jan. 9, 2007

Steve Jobs debuts the iPhone

On Jan. 9, 2007, Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs unveils the iPhone—a touchscreen mobile phone with an iPod, camera and Web-browsing capabilities, among other features—at the Macworld convention in San Francisco. Jobs, dressed in his customary jeans and black mock turtleneck, called the iPhone a “revolutionary and magical product that is literally five years ahead of any other mobile phone.” When it went on sale in the United States six months later, on June 29, amidst huge hype, thousands of customers lined up at Apple stores across the country to be among the first to purchase an iPhone.

In November 2007—by which point more than 1.4 million iPhones had been sold—Time magazine named the sleek, 4.8-ounce device, originally available in a 4GB, \$499 model and an 8GB, \$599 model, its invention of the year. The iPhone went on sale in parts of Europe in late 2007, and in parts of Asia in 2008. In July 2008, Apple launched its online App Store, enabling people to download software applications that let them use their iPhones for games, social networking, travel planning and an every growing laundry list of other activities. Apple went on to over 10 updated models of the iPhone.

The iPhone helped turned Apple, which Jobs (1955-2011) co-founded with his friend Stephen Wozniak in California in 1976, into one of the planet’s most valuable corpo-

rations. In 2012, five years after the iPhone’s debut, more than 200 million had been sold. The iPhone joined a list of innovative Apple products, including the Macintosh (launched in 1976, it was one of the first personal computers to feature a graphical user interface, which allowed people to navigate by pointing and clicking a mouse rather than typing commands) and the iPod portable music player (launched in 2001), that became part of everyday modern life.

Jan. 11, 2012

Joran van der Sloot admits to Peru murder

On Jan. 11, 2012, Joran van der Sloot, a longtime suspect in the unsolved 2005 disappearance of American teen Natalee Holloway in Aruba, pleads guilty to the murder of 21-year-old Stephany Flores. In Lima, Peru, Flores was killed on May 30, 2010, exactly five years to the day after Holloway went missing while on a high school graduation trip to the Caribbean island.

In May 2010, Van der Sloot, who was born in the Netherlands in 1987 and raised in Dutch-speaking Aruba, was in the Peruvian capital for a poker tournament. He met Flores, a college student and daughter of a prominent Peruvian businessman, at a Lima casino. The two were seen entering Van der Sloot’s room at Hotel TAC around 5 a.m. on May 30. Approximately four hours later, surveillance video captured Van der Sloot leaving the room alone and carrying his bags. After Flores’ family reported her missing, she was found dead

in the hotel room on June 2, beaten and with a broken neck. Her money and credit cards were missing.

After Peruvian officials reviewed the hotel surveillance video, Van der Sloot emerged as the prime suspect in the murder investigation. Police believed he had fled in Flores’ car and later abandoned it in another part of Lima, before traveling south to Chile. On June 5, Van der Sloot was arrested in Chile, and deported to Peru soon afterward. On June 7, the Dutchman admitted to Peruvian authorities he had killed Flores during an argument after she used his computer without permission (authorities suggested she might have discovered he was linked to the Holloway case). Van der Sloot stated he beat and strangled Flores then suffocated her with his shirt. The Dutchman later retracted this confession, saying he was frightened and confused when he made it.

On the day Van der Sloot was arrested in South America, U.S. authorities issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with a plot to extort \$250,000 from Holloway’s family in exchange for revealing the location of her remains. Holloway, an 18-year-old from Mountain Brook, Ala., was last seen leaving an Aruban bar and restaurant with Van der Sloot and two of his friends in the early hours of May 30, 2005. Her disappearance generated widespread media coverage in the United States. Despite an extensive search, Holloway’s body was never found. Van der Sloot was arrested twice in Aruba in conjunction with her disappearance but never charged.

On Jan. 11, 2012, Van der Sloot, who has been behind bars in Peru since his June 2010 arrest, pleaded guilty in a Lima courtroom to Flores’ murder. He also confessed to the murder investigation. Police killed Flores due to “extreme psychological trauma” after being accused in Holloway’s disappearance. On Jan. 13, two days after his guilty plea, a three-judge panel sentenced Van der Sloot to 28 years in prison and ordered him to pay \$75,000 in reparation to Flores’ family.

One day before Van der Sloot was sentenced in Peru, a judge in Birmingham, Ala., signed an order declaring Natalee Holloway legally dead. The judge made the ruling at the request of Holloway’s father, so that he could settle his daughter’s estate.

Jan. 13, 1968

Johnny Cash performs at Folsom Prison

In the midst of depression and a steep decline in his musical career, legendary country singer Johnny Cash arrives to perform for inmates at California’s Folsom Prison on Jan. 13, 1968. The concert and the subsequent live album launched him back into the charts and re-defined his career.

Despite his outlaw image, Cash never went to prison, save for a few nights drying out in various jails. It was not his own experience but rather the crime film inside the Walls of Folsom Prison that inspired him to pen “Folsom Prison Blues,” which was a modest hit for Cash in 1956. The song, characteristically

mournful, is written from the point of view of an inmate “stuck in Folsom Prison” after shooting a man in Reno “just to watch him die.” Cash explained that he wanted to come up with the most senseless reason imaginable for the speaker to have committed murder. A decade later, Cash’s alcoholism and addiction to pills had taken a marked toll on his health.

Cash was popular in prisons across America and was known to correspond with imprisoned fans, and first played at Folsom in 1966 on the suggestion of a local preacher.

Two years later, needing something to jump-start his career, he convinced his record company to let him record a live album there. Cash felt a personal responsibility to put on a good show at Folsom. He rehearsed feverishly in the days leading up to the concert and taught himself “Greystone Chapel,” a song written by Folsom inmate Glen Sherley. Despite the presence of armed guards on the walkways above them, and the warden’s prohibition against standing during the show, Cash’s audience was raucous, invigorating the performers and lending a unique verve to the live recording. Cash tailored the setlist to prisoners, including the namesake song and ending with “Greystone Chapel.” The album went to No. 1, as did a subsequent album recorded at San Quentin, and suddenly Cash was a household name again.

The iconic performance linked Cash permanently with prisoners in the Amer-

See History, Page 9A

LOOKING BACK

What was in the news this week? Jan. 13-19

20 years ago - 2002

Wednesday, Jan 16 - Robert Bumpass and Dempsey Dunn announced their intentions to run for Person County Sheriff. Dunn was the race’s first Republican to announce intentions to run. Bumpass joined incumbent sheriff Dennis Oakley and Linwood Clayton on the Democratic ticket.

Friday, Jan. 18 -

Incumbent District Attorney Joel Brewer announced his intention to run for a fourth term at his post.

40 years ago - 1982

Wednesday, Jan. 13 - Person County saw 2.5 inches of snow, closing county schools for two days. A second storm the very next day brought another 4.5 inches to the county, leading school to be canceled another day.

Thursday, Jan. 14 - A rash of election news was announced: Veteran county ABC officer Tom Horton announced he would challenge sheriff Ernest Dixon for the Democratic Party nomination. Incumbent school board member Nancy Garrett announced she would not run for re-election and county farmer Pasco Grinstead said he would be running for one of three school board seats.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This is the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

Now Hiring:

Become part of a close knit work environment team!

We're looking for qualified Bus Help & Kitchen staff!

Job duties include: bussing and sanitizing tables, washing dishes, and various other prep tasks each day. Some light to medium lifting is required.

Opportunity for advancement is available for highly motivated individuals when the timing is right.

Must be available weekend evenings with some possible weekday scheduling. Flexible scheduling around other events as well.

If interested please apply in person by stopping by anytime after 3:00 PM, Tues-Sun to pick up a paper application or apply online at:

<http://www.oldcountryclubsteakhouse.com/join-our-team/>



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Building goes from sweepstakes center to auction house

By Lindell J. Kay
lkay@springhopeenterprise.com
| 252-265-8117

SPRING HOPE — A piece of property went from a sweepstakes gaming house to an auction house in a year.

The building at 803 E. Nash St. has history. The story begins in January 2015 when the apparently aptly named Hard Luck Saloon received heavy damage from a fire. Dozens of firefighters from departments in Spring Hope, Bailey, Momeyer and Stanhope responded, taking hours to put out the blaze.

The building sat empty for years until a sweepstakes gaming business opened in 2019 and was robbed later that year.

The business was robbed again in January 2021.



An armed robbery at a sweepstakes gaming business in 2021 led to police working there as security, the business' closure and a successful zoning request to turn the building into an auction house. Lindell J. Kay | Enterprise file photo

POLICE AS SECURITY

After that, Spring Hope Police Chief Nathan Gant allowed his officers to work as private security guards at the business. The off-duty officers were part of improvements Gant suggested

to the business owners, which also included more cameras in the parking lot and requiring all patrons to provide photo identification.

The use of uniformed police

officers as paid private security guards is a common practice around the country at casinos and late-night restaurants.

By March, things went south, and Gant pulled his officers

Nash County Sheriff Keith Stone fired a deputy who had been managing the sweepstakes business.

The next day, workers emptied the building, packed up machines in a van and a large-bed pickup hauling a trailer, and drove out of town.

Authorities believe the business was using some illegal gaming machines including fishing tables where players receive points for shooting fish. The points are redeemable for cash or more credits to keep playing the game.

COMPLAINT FILED

Prior to the closure, Spring Hope Commissioner Ricky Tucker — who previously voted to open and expand the sweepstakes center — told Gant the business should be shut down and filed a complaint with state authorities.

Tucker is a lifetime law enforcement officer, currently working as a sergeant for the State Capitol Police in Raleigh. He sought the police chief post

in Spring Hope twice over the years.

Since Gant took the reins as chief, Tucker has questioned his decisions in town meetings. Tucker and Gant worked together many years ago at the Middlesex Police Department, where Gant as interim chief dismissed all part-time officers, including Tucker.

Elected to the town board in 2017, Tucker wasn't reelected in November.

A NEW PURPOSE

Property owner Steve Bachelor switched gears and decided to open an auction house in the building. But first he needed the town board's approval.

Auction houses previously had no permitted use in the town's zoning ordinances.

The two auction houses in the central business districts have been grandfathered in.

After the planning board discussed the issue at length, the town board voted in December to add auction houses to Spring Hope's allowed property uses.

School board meetings set for this Thursday

From staff reports

NASVILLE — The Nash County Board of Education is set to hold several meetings Thursday.

Starting at 9 p.m., the board will hold meetings for its policy committee, administrative services and operations committee and accountability committee, along with a board work session. Following the committee meetings, the board will go into closed session and then to open session for its regular monthly business meeting.

Members of the public will have access to view all public portions of the committee meetings and regular meeting except the closed session.

All committee meetings will be held remotely and electronically to honor social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic, according to information provided by Christine Catalano, the school district's executive director of strategic planning and engagement.

The regular business

meeting will be held in a blended format, with members participating in-person and electronically.

"In response to COVID-19 guidance from state health officials, capacity limits have been increased at Board of Education meetings, and limited social distancing is in effect," Catalano said in a news release. "Face coverings are strongly encouraged for any member of the public who is not fully vaccinated, including children under the age of 12."

Members of the pub-

lic who want to attend a board meeting must sign up until capacity restrictions are removed. Individuals can contact Catalano at 252-867-3003 or chatcatalano@ncpschools.net to register to attend the meeting in person.

"Nash County Public Schools is committed to providing opportunities for members of the public to view/listen to the meeting and to submit public comments in ways that resemble as closely as possible the normal processes for in-person public meetings," Catalano said.

Live video streaming of the meetings will be available at www.youtube.com/c/PRDptment.

The public comment portion of the regular

business meeting will be held at the time shown on the agenda. Members of the public will have the opportunity to submit public comments in one of three ways, either by joining the meeting in-person and commenting publicly, signing up in advance to join electronically during the public comment portion of the meeting and have their comments broadcast live or on the video and audio feeds; or submitting a written comment by email during the designated time period to be read aloud by a staff member.

Each person is limited to one public comment, whether written or spoken, per meeting. Any individual or group can

contact Catalano in the communications office to indicate intent to address the board. The deadline is noon on the day of the meetings.

All of the board's normal rules of order and decorum for public address apply to comments submitted in-person, electronically or in writing. The chair may rule written comments out of order in the same manner as spoken comments, Catalano said.

Anyone who requires disability accommodations or may have trouble accessing the live video stream can contact Catalano prior to Thursday to explore whether alternative arrangements can be made.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 15th day August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Steyer, Chief Clerk

Rocky Mount man dies in Wilson County crash

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@winstonjones.com | 252-266-7018

WILSON — A Rocky Mount man died in a single-car crash last week after being ejected from an overturned sedan.

Clemente Rivera Hernandez, 22, died of his injuries in the 12:48 a.m. Dec. 26 wreck on N.C. 42 about a quarter mile from Tucker Court east of Wilson.

Sgt. J.S. Smith of the North Carolina Highway Patrol said the wreck happened when a 2008 Infiniti passenger car driven by 19-year-old Uriel Rodriguez Rodriguez of Wilson crashed and flipped.

"Alcohol, speed and no seat belts are all factors," Smith said.

Smith said Rodriguez was driving east on N.C. 42 when the car veered left of

center, ran off the road to the left, struck a ditch and overturned several times. The Infiniti's three occupants were all ejected. None of the men were wearing a seat belt.

Smith said the car was traveling about 80 mph when it careened off the two-lane road.

The Highway Patrol identified the second passenger as 22-year-old Jose Antonio Nino-Garcia of Stanionsburg.

Smith said a medical examiner pronounced Hernandez dead at the scene. Rodriguez and Nino-Garcia were both injured. Wilson County EMS medics took them to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville. Hernandez's body was taken to the same hospital.

Smith said last week that charges in the wreck were pending.

City police make arrest in video beating

By Lindell J. Kay
lkay@springhopeenterprise.com | 252-265-8117

ROCKY MOUNT — City police have made an arrest after a video of an alleged assault appeared on a local crime blog.

Sobhi Hassan, 68, faces a charge of simple assault. He's accused of beating 36-year-old Gregory Evans with a wooden stick-like object.

Hassan is an employee at The Princess Market, a 1154 W. Raleigh Blvd. convenience store in the Cedar Brook area. The video reportedly shows Hassan striking Evans at the store.

The day before Hassan's arrest on Dec. 28, a small group of protesters gathered outside the store.

ONLINE EXTRA

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or mobile device to watch the video posted with this story online.



Police received questions from WRAL-TV about the video, said Cpl. Ricky Jackson, public information officer for the Rocky Mount Police Department.

A press release from the police department doesn't mention Fighting Crime's contribution to the investigation.

Detectives with the department's Criminal Investigation Division documented statements from both men and obtained additional video footage of the assault from business surveillance cameras, Jackson said.

After consulting with the district attorney's office on the facts of the case, police charged Hassan.

"The RMPD is continuing to conduct follow-up investigations in reference to this incident," Jackson said.

OFFICIAL COPY
Feb 14 2022

Nash coronavirus cases spike

By Lindell J. Kay
lkay@springhopeenterprise.com
1-252-265-8117

NASHVILLE — The number of coronavirus cases in Nash County nearly quadrupled during the last week of 2021.

Nash County saw new cases jump from 373 from Dec. 21-27 to 1,425 between Dec. 28 and Jan. 2.

Health officials reported 1,425 new cases between Dec. 28 and Jan. 3 with the highest number of people — 274 — belonging to the 30-39 age range.

The county has experienced a total of 17,739 cases with 242 deaths, according to information provided by Jerone Garner, public health education specialist and public information officer for the Nash County Health Department.

The increase in cases comes at a time when the county is out of COVID-19 rapid test kits. Nash County public health officials ran out of test kits Dec. 30. State officials said the county should have more tests within a week.

The high number of people getting tested has placed a strain on state resources, said

Secretary Kody Kinsley of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

The state-issued test kits make up only 10% of available tests. The vast majority of test kits are provided by private-sector sources like pharmacies, Kinsley said.

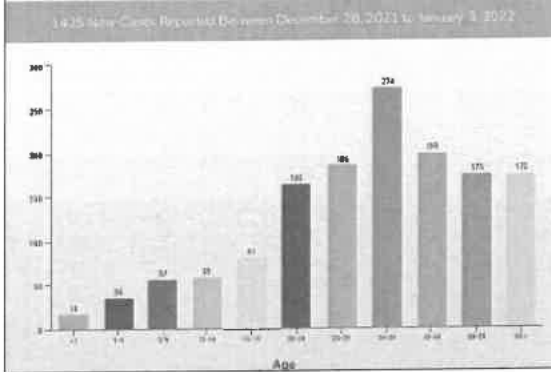
A Jan. 4 snapshot showed 34 patients were being treated for COVID-19 at Nash UNC Health Care.

Statewide, more than 83% of hospitalizations due to COVID are among unvaccinated patients, according to the latest data available. For patients requiring intensive care, the unvaccinated rate is even higher at more than 88%.

The state has seen the largest spike in new cases over the entire pandemic due to holiday gatherings and the highly transmissible omicron variant, according to information from the state DHHS, which reported a pandemic high of 19,620 new COVID-19 cases on New Year's Day.

Gov. Roy Cooper, a Nash County native, is calling for North Carolina residents to get vaccinated, including booster

NASH COUNTY COVID-19 DATA



This chart created by the Nash County Health Department shows the age demographic breakdown of new coronavirus cases last week. Contributed photo

shots. "As we close in on two years dealing with COVID-19, I know many of you are weary and frustrated," he said. "We will have to learn how to live with it, and continue to keep kids in schools and businesses open and government operations running effectively and efficiently."

Vaccination with a booster is

the best way to fight the virus, but it's still smart to wash your hands, wear a mask and practice social distancing, according to local public health officials.

The number of people in Nash County vaccinated with at least one dose is 55,505, which is 69% of the eligible population.

To find a vaccine location, ask questions and more, call the

Nash County COVID-19 Hotline at 252-462-2079.

For additional data, visit the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Dashboard at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>.

For COVID-19 vaccination information, visit <https://nash-countync.gov/731/COVID-19-Information>.

Driver, store clerk charged in fatal DWI crash

By Corey Friedman
cfriedman@wsoi.com | 252-265-7813

A Wilson teen faces a drunken driving charge, and a convenience store clerk is accused of selling him alcoholic beverages before he flipped his car in a Dec. 26 crash that claimed a Rocky Mount man's life.

N.C. Alcohol Law En-

forcement says 19-year-old Uriel Rodriguez Rodriguez bought malt beverages from Food Mart 1 at 6407 Ward Blvd. in Wilson before he lost control of a 2008 Infiniti sedan and wrecked the car on N.C. 42 near Tucker Court east of Wilson's city limits.

Rodriguez was driving east on N.C. 42 when the car veered left of center, ran off the road to the

left, struck a ditch and overturned several times around 12:48 a.m., N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper J.S. Smith previously told The Wilson Times.

Smith said the driver and two passengers — none of whom were wearing seat belts — were all ejected from the car.

Clemente Rivera Hernandez, 22, of Rocky Mount, died of his injuries

at the scene. Rodriguez and 22-year-old Jose Antonio Nino-Garcia of Stantonburg survived after receiving emergency care at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

Smith said Rodriguez was traveling about 80 mph and cited speed, alcohol and failure to wear seat belts as factors in the crash.

The Highway Patrol charged Rodriguez with provisional driving while impaired and other traffic offenses, state Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Erin Bean said in a Friday news release.

He also faces charges of reckless driving with wanton disregard, failure to maintain lane control,

speeding in excess of 65 mph, felony fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, misdemeanor simple possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana paraphernalia and driving with no operator's license, according to an online court calendar. It's unclear whether all charges are related to the Dec. 26 crash.

Troopers and ALE agents conducted a joint investigation to identify the store where Rodriguez bought the drinks he consumed before the fatal crash and charged 22-year-old Sharnakh Khaled Mohamed Muharram with selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21.

N.C. ALE is a statewide

agency that enforces regulations on the sale of alcohol, tobacco and lottery tickets and investigates gambling law violations. Bean said ALE will also report the underage sale at Food Mart 1 to the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, which could fine the store or suspend or revoke its ABC permits for beer and wine sales.

The crash remains under investigation and could result in more charges, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Rodriguez is set to appear in Wilson County District Court on Feb. 16, and Muharram has a scheduled court date for March 15.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Allowed Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2021

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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 (DEEC), 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 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. § 62-127(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 the setting 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. Avanz, Executive Director, Public Staff — North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1300.

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 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4323 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4323. This commission prohibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 11th day of August, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Seydler, Chief Clerk

Police make arrest in dangerous ATV ride

From staff reports

ROCKY MOUNT — Police have charged one man and are searching for others in a Christmas Eve all-terrain vehicle and dirt bike ride that authorities say endangered city residents.

Amouri Taylor, 24, faces charges of fleeing to elude arrest, careless and reckless driving, failure to register a motor vehicle and driving without a motorcycle endorsement on his license.

Officers responded to Dec. 24 complaints of ATVs and dirt bikes being operated illegally and recklessly on city streets, said Cpl. Ricky Jackson, public information officer for the Rocky Mount Police Department.

"The reckless operation of these vehicles caused an immediate danger to

motorists and the operators of the ATVs or dirt bikes," Jackson said in a news release.

Officers obtained photographs of the ATV and dirt bike operators. Investigators determined Taylor to be the Christmas Eve ride's organizer and facilitator.

"Over the past month, the Rocky Mount Police Department has investigated motor vehicle crashes involving ATVs," Jackson said. "Unfortunately, the crashes resulted in multiple operators and passengers of these vehicles being seriously injured."

Police encourage four-wheeler and dirt bike owners to operate the vehicles safely and legally in accordance with N.C. General Statute 20, which covers motorist safety.

Anyone who can identify other suspects in the case can call the Rocky Mount Police Department at 252-972-1411.

Sharpe to serve as school board chairman

From staff reports

NASHVILLE — Nash County Board of Education members have chosen Bill Sharpe to serve as chairman.

LaShawnda Washington will serve as the school board's vice chairman.

Sharpe represents District 5. His term as a board member expires in December 2024.

Sharpe serves on the board's Administrative Services & Operations Committee and its ad-hoc New Construction Committee.

The board voted for Sharpe and Washington during its Thursday meeting.

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Feb 14 2022

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 UTILITIES COMMISSION
 RALEIGH
 DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175
 BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
 Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
 Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Qualifying Facilities - 2021)

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 22, 2022, 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 2021 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. § 62-157(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. 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 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 R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
 Jane R. Snyder, Chief Clerk



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OFFICIAL COPY Feb 14 2022

Newport News mayor gears up for annual food drive

By Jessica Nolte
Staff Writer

Newport News Mayor McKinley Price is gearing up for his annual food drive to help restock the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

The food bank has experienced an 18% decrease in donations while serving a record number of people in need of food since the beginning of the pandemic. Price hosts the annual food drive in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's the second-largest annual food drive for the food bank.

"The COVID pandemic changed the face of hunger in our community, as many who had not needed support in the past found themselves struggling to feed their families," Price said in a news release. "Every donation, regardless of the size, makes a difference."

The Virginia Peninsula Foodbank distributed more than 17 million pounds of food — 14 million meals — from July to December. In that time, the food bank and its partner agencies served 3,671 households and reached 10,259 people, according to the release.

The food drive is in its sixth year. Last year's food drive received a record number of donations enough to provide about 61,000 meals for Peninsula residents.

The food drive will be hosted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 17 at 2401 Aluminum Ave. in Hampton.



Newport News Mayor McKinley Price unloads donations for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Food Drive on Jan. 18, 2021. COURTESY

Price will be joined by U.S. Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, state Del. Marcia Price, Newport News Sheriff Osh Morgan and Newport News Chief Steve Drew.

Leading up to the food drive, drop-off boxes will be available at the following locations:

- Newport News City Hall, 2400 Washington Ave.
- City Offices at Fountain Plaza Two in City Center at 700 Town Center Drive.
- Newport News Tourism Office at 702 Town Center Drive.
- Newport News Visitor Center at 13560 Jefferson Ave.
- Denbigh Community Center at 15108 Warwick Blvd.
- Brittingham-Midtown Community Center 570 McLawsboro Drive.
- Doris Miller Community Center at 2814 Wickham Ave.
- Courthouse Way Community Center at 14302 Old Courthouse Way.
- Riverview Gymnastics Center at 125 City Farm Road.

Businesses, groups or places of worship interested in collecting items to support the food drive should call 757-226-8403.

Jessica Nolte, 757-912-1675, pnolte@dailypress.com

Transplant

from Page 1

performed the operation. "It's working, and it looks normal. We are thrilled, but we don't know what tomorrow will bring us. This has never been done before."

Last year, some 41,454 Americans received a transplanted organ, more than half of them receiving kidneys, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, a nonprofit that coordinates the nation's organ procurement efforts. But there is an acute shortage of organs, and about a dozen people on the list die each day.

Some 3,817 Americans received human donor hearts last year as replacements, more than ever before, but the potential demand still lingers.

Scientists have worked feverishly to develop pigs whose organs would not be rejected by the human body, research accelerated in the past decade by new gene editing and cloning technologies. The heart transplant comes just months after surgeons in New York successfully attached the kidney of a genetically engineered pig to a brain-dead person.

Researchers hope procedures like this will usher in a new era in medicine when replacement organs are no longer in short supply for the more than a half-million Americans who are waiting for kidneys and other organs.

"This is a watershed event," said Dr. David Klassen, chief medical officer of the United Network for Organ Sharing, who was formerly a transplant surgeon at University of

Maryland. "Doors are starting to open that will lead, I believe, to major changes in how we treat organ failure."

But he added that there were many hurdles to overcome before such a procedure could be broadly applied, noting that rejection of organs occurs even when a well-matched human donor kidney is transplanted.

"Events like these can be dramatized in the press, and it's important to maintain perspective," Klassen said. "It takes a long time to mature a therapy like this."

Bennett decided to gamble on the experimental treatment because he would have died without a new heart, had exhausted other treatments and was too sick to qualify for a human donor heart, family members and doctors said.

His prognosis was uncertain. Bennett is still concerned about a heart-lung bypass machine, which was keeping him alive before the operation, but that is not unusual for a new heart transplant recipient, experts said.

The new heart is functioning and already doing most of the work, and his doctors said he could be taken off the machine Tuesday. Bennett is being monitored for signs that his body is rejecting the new organ, but the first 48 hours, which are critical, passed without incident.

He is also being monitored for infections, including porcine retrovirus, a pig virus that may be transmitted to humans, although the risk is considered low.

"It was either die or do this transplant," Bennett said before the surgery, according to officials at the University of Maryland Medical Center. "I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark,

but it's my last choice." Xenotransplantation, the process of grafting or transplanting organs or tissues from animals to humans, has a long history. Efforts to use the blood and skin of animals go back hundreds of years.

In the 1960s, chimpanzee kidneys were transplanted into some human patients, but the longest a recipient lived was nine months. In 1983, a baboon heart was transplanted into an infant known as Baby Fae, but she died 20 days later.

Pigs offer advantages over primates for organ procurements because they are easier to raise and achieve adult human size in six months. Pig heart valves are routinely transplanted into humans, and some patients with diabetes have received porcine pancreas cells.

Pig skin has also been used as a temporary graft for burn patients.

Two newer technologies — gene editing and cloning — have yielded genetically altered pig organs less likely to be rejected by humans.

Pig hearts have been transplanted successfully into baboons by Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin, a professor of surgery at University of Maryland School of Medicine who established the cardiac xenotransplantation program with Griffith and is its scientific director.

But safety concerns and fear of setting off a dangerous immune response that can be life-threatening precluded their use in humans until recently. The heart transplanted into Bennett came from a genetically altered pig provided by Revivicor, a regenerative medicine company based in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Metronet

from Page 1

whether construction will take place on public or private property. She said crews are still working now to install their network on city-owned easements, meaning crews will not need to work on private property. "Sometimes people have

a fence enclosing the public easement, they'll have asked on the public easement, so that's really why we contact people several times before we go into any neighborhood," Scheller said.

MetroNet's infrastructure costs for the project will come close to \$90 million in Norfolk, according to Scheller. The company also intends to make phil-

anthropic investments and bring jobs to the region for sales people and technicians.

The company offers service approximately 100 communities and aims to provide fast, commercially available internet speeds to residents and businesses in areas where competition is scarce, Scheller said. "When we initially

approached the city, we were adamant about bringing competition to the city," Scheller said. "What we found is when competition comes, everything kind of goes to the next level."

It should take two to three years to fully install the fiber optic network across the city, though residents in neighborhoods where construction is already

underway could begin to sign up for service as early as this summer, Scheller said.

As far as the cost, Scheller said rates will be similar to those posted on MetroNet's website.

Advertised rates include \$49.95/month for 20Mbps internet speed and \$69.95 a month for 1 gigabit per second speeds. Residents interested in

learning more about upcoming construction can visit <https://construction.metro.net>.

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Advertised rates include \$49.95/month for 20Mbps internet speed and \$69.95 a month for 1 gigabit per second speeds. Residents interested in

The Virginian-Pilot

Publication Date: 01/11/2022

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 175
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities — 2021

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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. § 62-102(b). 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 R1-9 no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4122 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4125. 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 9, 2022.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 13th day August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Chief Clerk

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