

Dominion Energy Services, Inc.
Law Department
120 Tredegar Street, Richmond, VA 23219
DominionEnergy.com



Lauren W. Biskie
Senior Counsel
(804) 205-7844 cell phone
(804) 819-2183 fax
Lauren.w.biskie@dominionenergy.com

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

January 28, 2021

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 167
Dominion Energy North Carolina
2020 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 3 of the Commission's November 24, 2020 *Order Confirming Public Hearing to be Held Remotely and Requiring Public Notice* ("Order") in the above-referenced docket.

Pursuant to the instructions in ordering paragraph 3 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 6, 2021. Copies of tear sheets from each of the newspapers in which the public notice ran are also enclosed.

Due to a scheduling errors at the newspapers, the ad placement in the Coastland Times, originally planned to run January 6, 2021 and January 13, 2021, ran on January 13, 2021 and January 20, 2021, seven days past the January 6, 2021 deadline and the ad placement in the Martin Co. Enterprise, originally planned to run January 7, 2021 and January 14, 2021, ran on January 14, 2021 and January 21, 2021, seven days past the January 6, 2021 deadline. 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.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Martin County Enterprise & Coastland Times accidentally ran the wrong legal notice on the 1/7/2021 run. They had a production communication issue and the wrong (legal notice) was pulled. The ad was then rescheduled to run the correct notice on 1/21/2021. The paper apologizes for this mistake and the correct notice, Docket No. E-100, SUB 167 ran on 1/14 and 1/21 2021.

Candace Riley

Strategic Marketing Director

5171 Glenwood Ave. Suite 486

Raleigh, NC 27612

Phone: O:919-516-8018 C:937-657-4692



Virginia Press
Services

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

(Order #~~2013DD1~~)

210130P1

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 167 was published in the following North Carolina and Virginia newspapers on the dates listed in the year 2021.

Bertie Ledger Advance 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Butner Creedmoor News 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Coastland Times - Manteo 1/13/21, 1/20/21

Edenton, The Chowan Herald 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Elizabeth City Daily Advance 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Gates County Index 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Hertford Perquimans Weekly 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Martin Co Enterprise (changed name from Williamston Enterprise) 1/14/21, 1/21/21

Pamlico News 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Plymouth Roanoke Beacon 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Roanoke Chowan News Herald 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Rocky Mt Telegram 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Roxboro, The Courier Times 1/7/21, 1/14/21

Tarboro Weekly 1/6/21, 1/13/21

The Daily Reflector 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Virginian Pilot 1/6/21, 1/13/21

Julia Wigginton
Signature

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 21st day of January 2021.

My commission expires: 08/30/2024



[Signature]
[Notary Public]

Believe in his plan and promises...

I have read many people’s feelings about the past year and I must admit there were times I felt depressed. I held on to God and watched as the world we knew fell apart.

But I have a new mind-set – not because I think things will improve in this new year – they probably will still be hard. It is because a sermon I heard reminded me that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord, for those who are called according to His purpose.

After the sermon I remembered the disciples, who after Jesus was crucified, huddled in a locked room terrified of the Jewish leaders. I remembered the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. They had lost all hope. They had believed Jesus was the Messiah and now He was dead.

Jesus’ disciples had left everything to follow Him. All the things they saw and heard during those three and a half years made them certain He was the Messiah. They believed He had come to deliver them from Rome and take the throne of David. His words about dying

“I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways.”

-PSALM 119:15



SYLVIA HUGHES
Meditating on his Word

and rising again were lost on them. They just didn’t register. So when He died, their world fell apart.

They thought the worst thing that could ever happen had happened. Little did they know, it was the best thing that ever happened, for them and for the whole world. Sorrow and fear lasted a short time and then came joy. Such joy that it never left them again.

God had a plan and He carried it out. It was a wonderful, unbelievable, miraculous plan The disciples were devastated because they got lost in what they saw with their human eyes.

Let’s not do the same thing. God still has a plan and He is

carrying it out. It may look bad to us right now but for those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose, He has a wonderful, unbelievable, miraculous plan.

Don’t let what you see take away your joy. Believe that whatever is happening now has a greater purpose and God knows exactly what He is doing.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Whatever God’s plan, it will come to pass. Nothing in this world or the unseen world can keep it from happening. Oh such joy to know that God has us in the palm of His hand and nothing can keep Him from working things for our good!

Take your eyes off what is happening in this world and believe in His plan and His promises!

Sylvia Hughes is a longtime Sunday School and women’s Bible study teacher, and a retired newspaper editor. She can be reached via email at blameditations@gmail.com.

Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 5 p.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Jan. 16

Giveaway

WINDSOR – There will be a clothing and shoes giveaway Saturday, Jan. 16 at The Potter’s House Baptist Church.

The giveaway will be from 8 a.m. until noon and will include items such as clothing, shoes and dishes. Free Cokes and water are also available. The church is also currently accepting some clothes, shoes and dishes. The church is located at the end of White Oak Road on U.S. 13 North.

On-Going

Worship Services Canceled

WINDSOR – Siloam Baptist Church has canceled all services until futher notice due to the upswing in COVID-19 cases throughout Bertie County.

Two Inside Services

ASKEWVILLE – Askewville Assembly of God is having two services each Sunday morning.

Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 10 a.m. between them. The church provides a speaker for the parking lot, and is also utilizing Facebook Live. Sunday and Wednesday night services are online. The church is also having devotions daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. each Monday through Saturday. For more information, call the church at 252-794-4034.

Inside & Outside Service

ROXOBEL – Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church is holding a Drive Thru Service in the church sanctuary and parking lot at 10 a.m. Sunday Morning. The church is also doing Facebook Live for its services. When in the parking lot turn the radio to 98.1 or roll down the car windows.

Evening Prayer Online

ROXOBEL – St. Mark Episcopal Church is holding Evening Prayer services at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday. Services are on the church’s Facebook page.

Outside Services

WINDSOR – St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church will hold services at the outdoor altar at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Online services are also available on the church’s Facebook page.

Park and Praise

AHOSKIE - Park and Praise will be held at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

Those wishing to participate in services can do so by going to the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Ahoskie Facebook page. Listeners may also call 1-701-802-5324 and enter access code 298177 to listen.

Bible Trivia

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Ruth in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? Paul, Job, Eli-sha, David

3. How many books of the Bible (KJV) are three letters long when spelled? 0, 1, 2, 3

4. What prophet saw “the tents of Cushan in affliction”? Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk

5. Who said unto the Lord, “Increase our faith”?

Jonah, Apostles, Moses, Thieves

6. From Joel 2:6, what shall all faces gather? Sunlight, Blackness, Fear, Warmth

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Elisha; 3) 1 (Job); 4) Habakkuk 3:7; 5) Apostles

(Luke 17:5); 6) Blackness

“Test Your Bible Knowledge,” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Email church news to Thadd White at twhite@ncweeklies.com

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

)
) 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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at Avoided-CostPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E-100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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Business

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Starting a different year for Chamber

The year 2020 is now in our rearview mirror. Usually in this column in January, we reflect what the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce has done over the last 12 months and forecast what we will do in the next 12 months. Almost every major event that the Chamber sponsors or hosts was cancelled after March 1 last year because of COVID-19. For the near future, the Chamber has cancelled our Black History program and Farmers Appreciation dinner. We hope we will be able to offer some events before our



Lewis Hoggard

Freedom Fireworks in July, but we are doubtful of any large events happening before then. The weather and the success of vaccine distribution program are two key

components to getting this epidemic under control which will allow us to host events. Ease of distribution and cost will be two factors that will impact the widespread use of the vaccine. In Bertie County, the vaccine has been provided for free and, besides waiting in line, it has gone smoothly. Acceptance by most of the general public to get vaccinated is evidenced by the long lines. On Saturday, Jan. 30, we will have a ribbon-cutting for the Glam Boutique at 115 East Granville Street. We had tried to schedule this ribbon cutting in

November, but thought we might need to wait a little while. The Glam Boutique carries diverse fashion items and accessories at a fair price. Come check Nicole Outlaw Staton's shop and stay for the ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. The Cashie Christmas Music Festival was held on Saturday Dec. 19. This event was hosted by Powell & Stokes, Bertie County Peanuts, Mosquito Authority and the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce. While the performers sang from the loading dock at the warehouse, the attendees watched from their motor vehicles.

We would like to thank the Cashie Quartet, Royce Williams, RT Johnson, Mr. Tunes & Carolers of Christmas Past for providing wonderful entertainment. For 2021, we want our businesses to remain open. We want our hospitals and staff not to be overwhelmed. We want our kid's education to return to some form of normalcy so they do not fall behind. We already struggle in our community with education for a number of reasons and cannot afford to let COVID-19 add to those struggles. Hard work, positivity and honesty by all

of us will help in this pandemic and in these trying political times. Just try to do those things every day and we will be better. These characteristics reflect the Ox, according to the Chinese Zodiac, which is the animal of 2021. So maybe we can get something good from China this year as opposed to what we got last year! Lewis Hoggard is Executive Director of the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via email at windsorbortie@gmail.com.

Time for New Year's financial resolutions

Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life – physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some financial resolutions? Here are a few such resolutions to consider:



Daryle Coppedge

coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced

that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a "time out" and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news – because

tomorrow may look quite different. Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living

expenses. Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows – and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you can't control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-

sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution. These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond. Daryle Coppedge is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, and has an office in Windsor. He can be reached at 252-794-2194.

Commissioner Replacement Process Circumvented: Democratic Party Recommendation Ignored

It appears that both Commissioner John Trent and Commissioner Tammy Lee feel that they know what is best for democrats in Bertie County. It appears they circumvented the replacement process called for in GS 153A-27- part C. That process requires consulting with the executive committee of the party prior to filling the position. John Trent and Tammy Lee made their decision and solicited another commissioner to decide without waiting to see who the Democratic Party would recommend filling the vacated Democratic Commissioner seat. The democratic seat opened when Commissioner Bazemore was elected to the NC Senate.

Commissioner Trent did not even pretend to wait and see who the Democratic Party recommended to fill Ms. Bazemore's seat. Commissioner Trent began canvassing some commissioners to vote for Ron Roberson, Trent's choice to fill the open seat on the board. Trent wanted to ensure he filled the spot with someone he knew, and he first solicited and got Tammy Lee's support for his choice. Then both John Trent and Tammy Lee separately called Greg Atkins prior to the democratic party recommendation being known, told him they would support Ron Roberson, and requested that he join their replacement choice. He declined. Greg Atkins confirmed these facts to me and to Tim Phelps directly. The fact that Mr. Trent and Ms. Lee I feel unethically decided on who they wanted to fill the seat, before knowing the recommendation of the Democratic Party is very disturbing. What does this say about future decisions made by this board? What other reasons were behind their actions?

At the 1/4/2021 commissioners meeting, Commissioners John Trent, Tammy Lee, and Greg Atkins ignored the Democratic Party recommendation and voted for Ron Roberson. Were they ensuring they added a board member who likely would support their decisions? Why did Mr. Trent, Ms. Lee and Mr. Atkins ignore James Lee, who was overwhelmingly voted for by 76% of Democratic Party leadership? The only rational reason they have offered is they knew Mr. Roberson the best. That reason ignores that 76% of the democratic party leadership also know people well. It is an excuse and not a reason.

Mr. James Lee (no relation to Commissioner Tammy Lee) was the Democratic Party recommended person after a transparent & consistent process for each applicant for the position. He is a retired Air Force officer who was vetted by the party, canvased against the other candidates in each of 12 precincts, and found to be eminently qualified. Mr. James Lee's application was fully transparent and without any commissioners building support behind the scenes and before the party recommendation was known. He owes no allegiance to any current commissioner.

Does this pass your smell test? Two commissioners I believe unethically circumvented the process and three voted to ignore the will of the democrat majority. Every Bertie Democrat should take notice and remember at the next election.

Paid For By John H. Davis

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

GRANVILLE BRIEFS

Academic subcommittee

The Granville County Board of Education Academic Subcommittee will meet virtually on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss information related to academic performance. For more information or a link to the virtual meeting, contact Michael A. Myrick, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, at myrickm@gcs.k12.nc.us, or Alston Shave at shavea@gcs.k12.nc.us.

Brides on Wheels

Granville County vendors are invited to participate in the 2021 Brides on Wheels bridal tour, scheduled for March 28. Vendors, including florists, photographers, caterers, event planners, disc jockeys, and rental companies, are requested to register by Jan. 8. Space is limited, with first priority being given to Granville-based vendors. After Jan. 8, vendors outside of Granville County will be able to sign up. All vendors need to register by Feb. 5. For more information, contact Granville County Tourism Director Angela Allen at 919-693-6125 or angela.allen@granvillecounty.org. Brides who would like to save a seat on the “Brides on Wheels” caravan tour can register at https://granvillebows2021.eventbrite.com.

Board, committee applicants

The city of Creedmoor Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and the Creedmoor Parks and Recreation Committee are seeking volunteers interested in serving as members. The Planning Board is seeking two city residents and two

individuals to represent the Creedmoor extra-territorial jurisdiction for terms expiring March 2024. The Board of Adjustment is seeking three city residents and one individual to represent the Creedmoor ETJ. The CPRC is seeking one volunteer to serve until September 2021 and one volunteer to serve until September 2022. For more information, including the application for appointment, visit http://www.cityof-creedmoor.org. Completed applications may be returned in person at City Hall (111 Masonic Street); mailed to P.O. Box 765 Creedmoor, NC 27522 (Attn: Terry Hobgood, City Clerk); or emailed to thobgood@cityof-creedmoor.org.

Chamber annual banquet

The Granville County Chamber of Commerce’s annual membership banquet, usually held in January, will be postponed in 2021 to late March or early April date. Nominations are being accepted for the 2021 John Penn Citizen of the Year award. Nomination forms are available at https://bit.ly/3oeQnNj.

Blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive Jan. 22 from 1-5:30 p.m. at Creedmoor United Methodist Church, 214 Park Ave.

Tree planting

Tar River Land Conservancy is seeking volunteers to plant hardwood tree seedlings on conservation land located at 831 Roberts Chapel Road near

Stem. Seedlings will be planted near streams to protect drinking water supplied by Lake Holt and Falls Lake. Tree planting events will take place from 8:45 a.m. to noon on Friday, Jan. 22; Saturday, Jan. 23; Friday, Jan. 29; and Saturday, Jan. 30. No previous tree planting experience is necessary to volunteer. TRLC will provide tools and instruction on proper tree planting techniques. Participants should wear weather-appropriate work clothing, work gloves and a hat. TRLC welcomes any business team, church group, school club, or Scout troop interested in participating as a group. Participants will be asked to follow safety protocols to limit exposure to COVID-19. For more information or to register, contact Alex Hall at 919-496-5902 or volunteer@tar-river.org.

Blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Franklinton Baptist Church, 102 W. Mason St.

Teen Cuisine 101

Teens can learn to cook with Teen Cuisine 101, provided through the Granville County Library System. Learn how to make healthy meals that taste good and are good for you. Available monthly on Thursdays through the library’s website, Facebook page and YouTube. Visit https://granville.lib.nc.us/ for more details.

Code Ninjas

Code Ninjas is available

Submit your event

The Butner-Creedmoor News publishes community briefs each week as a free public service. Send calendar items, event listings and other news items to editor@butnercreedmoornews.com.

monthly online through the Granville County Library System. Learn the Scratch programming language that can teach kids how to code their own animations, games and online simulations while learning how to think creatively and reason systematically.

Contact Amy Carlson at 919-693-1121 or at amy.carlson@granvillecounty.org to learn more.

Community Treasure Chest

Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church in Creedmoor welcomes all to its Community Treasure Chest facility filled with new to used clothes and shoes of all sizes and household goods. Coats, dresses, pants, suits, tops, blankets and other items are available in mens and womens sizes. All items are free.

Due to the pandemic, call the church at 919-528-2715 for an appointment.

Domestic violence order help

Families Living Violence Free can help Granville County residents with help filing a domestic violence protective order. Call 919-693-3579 to speak with an advocate who can help with planning and completing the order. Callers can also apply for free legal representation.

Local woman wins \$250K jackpot on New Year’s Eve

From staff reports

RALEIGH — A Creedmoor woman is celebrating the new year with a \$250,000 jackpot win off a \$5 scratch off. Rhonda Cockrell, a retired detention officer, said she bought the 20X The Cash scratch-off ticket on New Year’s Eve at the Speedway on N.C. Highway 56 in Creedmoor, the N.C. Education Lottery said in a press release. “My daughter was sitting in the living room with me when I scratched it and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh,’” Cockrell recalled. “And she was like, ‘Mama, I know you hit it big’ because of the expression on my face. I just got up and started screaming!” Cockrell claimed her prize Monday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh and took home \$176,876 after required federal and state tax withholdings. She says her daughters were thrilled about her big win. “They were like, ‘Mama, you deserve it,’” she said. “Because they know I’ve been working hard all my life.” As for her prize money, Cockrell said, “I just want to get a bigger house and help my children out with some of their bills.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications for appointments are accepted throughout the year for many community service opportunities. During 2021, the Granville County Board of Commissioners may be making appointments to the following boards and committees:

- Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Board
- Animal Control Advisory Committee
- Butner Planning Board (extraterritorial member)
- Butner Zoning Board of Adjustment (extraterritorial member)
- Creedmoor Zoning Board of Adjustment (extraterritorial member)
- Creedmoor Planning Board (extraterritorial member)
- Environmental Affairs Board
- Four Rivers Resource, Conservation & Development (RC & D) Council
- Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc.
- Funding Plan Advisory Committee for Aging Services
- Granville County ABC Board
- Granville County Board of Adjustment
- Granville County Digital Infrastructure Planning Committee
- Granville County Economic Development Advisory Board
- Granville County Human Relations Commission
- Granville County Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Granville County Planning Board
- Granville County Jury Commission
- Granville Health System Board of Trustees
- Granville County Library Board of Trustees
- Granville County Tourism Development Authority
- Granville-Vance District Health Board
- Granville County Veterans’ Affairs Committee
- HOVG Airport Authority
- Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Kerr Area Transportation Authority - K.A.R.T.S.
- Kerr-Tar Private Industry Council/Workforce Development Board (PIC/WDB)
- Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments’ Advisory Council on Aging
- Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Opioid Advisory Committee
- Orange Street Community Center Board of Trustees
- Oxford Planning Board (extraterritorial member)
- Oxford Zoning Board of Adjustment (extraterritorial member)
- Research Triangle Regional Partnership
- Senior Services Advisory Committee
- South Granville Memorial Gardens Board of Trustees
- Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees

Citizens interested in serving on one of these boards or committees can get an application from the Granville County website www.granvillecounty.org, email grancomrs@granvillecounty.org to request an application, or by contacting the County Commissioners’ Office, 141 Williamsboro Street, Oxford at (919) 693-4761.

Debra A. Weary, Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities -2020)
) 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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at Avoided-CostPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E-100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties’ filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Butner-Creedmoor News

Vol. 58, No. 1

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Lady Panthers fall 50-15 to Rolesville

By Amanda Dixon
amanda@butnercreedmoornews.com

STEM — If you could score points for heart and hustle, then the Granville Central Lady Panthers would have won their basketball game against Rolesville on Wednesday night.

Unfortunately, they only get points if the ball goes through the hoop — and that did not happen often enough for Granville Central in the 50-15 loss to Rolesville.

The Lady Panthers had the ball bounce off the rim, roll around the rim and bounce off the backboard, but it would not go in the basket.

On the other end of the court, Kashara Simpson, Destiny Carless and company gave Rolesville a 12-0 lead at the by the end of the first quarter.

Granville Central finally scored 30 seconds into the second quarter with Trinity Williams draining a 3-pointer.

Rolesville received a

technical foul for not having a player listed on the score book and Granville Central had two free throw attempts.

Williams went one for two at the line to give the Lady Panthers another point.

Rolesville continued to score with Carless and Lane Lewis tacking on points.

Williams made her way back to the free-throw line and converted a pair for Granville Central.

Granville Central continued to battle against the taller Lady Rams, but trailed 25-6 at the half.

Kendall Burney, Simpson and Carless pushed the Rolesville lead to 34-6 before Granville Central could respond.

Arriana White scored on a short jumper from the right side. White's next basket put Granville Central into double digits as it inched closer to Rolesville.

Carless and Simpson boosted the Rolesville lead to 42-10 at the end of

the third quarter.

Joslyn Hamilton, a freshman for Rolesville, picked up the first points of the fourth quarter on a putback. Lewis followed with her second basket of the night to give the Lady Rams a 46-10 lead.

Granville Central could have folded at any point, but it kept hustling and scrapping for points. White scored with on a jumper just inside the arc and Ayani Bagley broke into the scoring column with a twisting drive to the basket. Bagley drew contact on the play and converted the and-one for the Lady Panthers.

Deaysha Hartsfield closed the scoring for the Lady Rams in the 50-15 win over Granville Central.

Granville Central moved to 0-2 on the season, while Rolesville sports a 1-1 record after the win.

Granville Central has a home contest with Warren County at 5:30

p.m. on Jan. 15 and host Louisburg at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19.

Rolesville is scheduled to play Sanderson at 6 p.m. on Jan. 15.

STATISTICS: Rolesville — Destiny Carless (16 points, five rebounds, one assist and five steals), Justice Everette (two rebounds, three assists and one steal), Deaysha Hartsfield (2 points, four rebounds and one steal), Kendall Burney (9 points, eight rebounds, one assist and five steals), Lane Lewis (4 points, 10 rebounds and two steals), Joslyn Hamilton (2 points, eight rebounds, one assist, one steal and one block), Kashara Simpson (15 points, four rebounds, two assists and three steals) and Ariana Bhatti (2 points and one rebound).

Granville Central (unofficial) — Trinity Williams (6 points), Ayani Bagley (2 points) and Arriana White (6 points).



Sydney Morgan battles in the paint for Granville Central, but can't get a ball to go in the basket Wednesday night against Rolesville. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News



Deaysha Hartsfield, left, and Cassie Wilkins battle for the ball in the fourth quarter of the Wednesday night game between Rolesville and Granville Central. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

AREA NOTEBOOK

South Granville misses revenge against Farmville Central

From staff reports

FARMVILLE — The Vikings traveled to Farmville Central on Saturday with hopes of knocking off the defending 2A co-champions, but the Jaguars held off the hard-charging Vikings and captured the win.

The Vikings fell to Farmville Central in the regional round of the NCHSAA 2A playoffs last season.

South Granville moved to 0-1 on the season with the loss. The Vikings have a contest with Warren County at 6 p.m. on Jan. 13 and will travel to Louisburg for a 6 p.m. game on Jan. 15.

SOUTH GRANVILLE (83)
Bobby Pettiford 28, eight rebounds, four assists, two steals, one block; Daniel Morton 3, two rebounds, one

steal; Lureon Walker 3, one rebound; Collin Tanner 26, nine rebounds and seven assists; Khawan Bobbitt, three rebounds, two assists, one steal, one block; Adrian Cearnel 2, three rebounds; Javier Ortiz 9, three rebounds, two assists; Kaleb Hedgepeth 12, nine rebounds, five assists, one steal, two blocks.

FARMVILLE CENTRAL (95)
Terquavion Smith 33, Dontavious Short 3, Rashae Owens 10, Jayden Pitt 15, Jah Short 6, Derrick Cox Jr. 7, Alex Moye 2, Leontae Moye 17, Damon Turnage 2.

Score by quarters
South Granville 19 15 20 29 -83
Farmville Central 25 24 17 29 -95

Panthers game against Webb delayed

STEM — Tuesday night's game between Granville Central and J.F. Webb was postponed to Jan. 28. No reason for the delay was given.

The Panthers are scheduled to play

Warren County on Jan. 20.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Vikings lose season opener

FARMVILLE — South Granville's girls basketball team opened the season Saturday on the road with a 80-19 loss to Farmville Central.

The Lady Jaguars were co-champions of the 2A division in 2020.

South Granville moved to 0-1 on the season and has a home contest scheduled with Bunn at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19.

SOUTH GRANVILLE (19)
Sydney Williamson 3, Grace Hunt 8, Aubri Bryan 1, Jasmyne Pulliam 1, Destini Bland 2.
FARMVILLE CENTRAL (80)
Not available.

Score by quarters
South Granville 8 3 6 2 -19
Farmville Central 24 28 22 6 -80

Virus cases delay Warren County match

CREEDMOOR — South Granville Girls basketball game against Warren County scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 13 was postponed.

Warren County's varsity girls are in COVID-19 quarantine, according to South Granville officials.

No makeup date has been scheduled.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH		
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.		
This the 24th day of November, 2020.		
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION		
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk		

Champs: Squaring off at the net

continued from page 1B

after every ball. On the other side of the court, coach Abby Hooker kept her team focused on the task at hand.

Thompson returned to the court with her sights set on scoring for the Lady Vikings. Thompson's taps gave South Granville a 19-15 lead.

The Lady Vikings continued to score until Kamille Klubert's kill stopped the Lady Vikings in their tracks.

Harder's second ace gave Granville Central renewed life. But Emily Laws would take away any momentum on the next play. South Granville claimed the first set 25-20.

The second set saw Baker and Sydney Wrenn squaring off at the net.

Granville Central took an early lead only to have Megan Ellis tie the second set at 6 apiece with a block.

Granville Central slowly pulled away with the back row making diving saves to keep the ball in play. Yakiyah White's kill gave Granville Central a 13-8 lead.

Granville Central continued to work and held a 16-12 lead forcing South Granville to take a timeout.

The Lady Vikings snapped to attention and scored the next 4 points to tie the match at 16-all.

The teams traded points; it was unclear who would get to 25 first.

South Granville took a 23-21 lead on a Thompson kill and Baker answered with a tip to bring the score to 23-22.

South Granville would score the next two points as Wrenn served an ace to win the set by 25-22.

There was no let down by either team in the third set. Samantha Piotrowski scored for the Lady Vikings with a



Granville Central seniors, from left, Lauren Baker, Kamille Klubert, Jessica Harder, Erin Frazier, Alexis Whitfield, Kaelin Thomas and Yakiyah White, stand together one last time in a Granville Central volleyball uniform on Thursday as they were honored for Senior Night. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News



Kamille Klubert works at the net for Granville Central in the second set against South Granville. Amanda Dixon | Butner-Creedmoor News

kill and Kaelin Thomas served an ace for Granville Central. Alexis Whitfield served an ace to go along with a kill by Baker.

Thompson answered for South Granville and tied the set at 4-all.

Granville Central used unforced errors to extend the lead to 12-9, but it did not take long before the Lady Vikings took a 17-16 lead with Wrenn killing the ball.

Baker scored the next 2 points for Granville Central to tie the set at 18 apiece.

The Lady Panthers scored with a back row attack by White, but then the scoring stopped and South Granville marched

to a 25-21 third set win.

Granville Central moved to 1-8 on the season and South Granville stands at 10-3 overall, as the Lady Vikings prepared for the state playoffs.

STATISTICS: Granville Central — Yakiyah White (three kills and one dig), Kaelin Thomas (one ace and one dig), Alexis Whitfield (one ace and nine digs), Jessica Harder (seven digs), Kamille Klubert (one kill and two digs) and Lauren Baker (22 kills, 11 blocks and 13 digs).

South Granville had not posted statistics as of press time.

Colington man faces assault with a deadly weapon charge for Friday incident

The Dare County Sheriff's Office has reported the arrest of a Colington man who faces an assault with a deadly weapon charge.

According to DCSO, on January 8, 2021 at around 9:04 p.m., sheriff's deputies in the B-District responded to an assault in progress in the 200 Block of Sunset Drive in Colington. The Kill Devils Police Department was asked to assist and arrived on scene first to find the victim in the assault had suffered a stab wound to the neck, stated DCSO.

The suspect was still on scene and was placed into custody by DCSO. The Nags Head Police Department also assisted with its K-9 to make sure the scene was secure.

The victim was transported to The Outer Banks Hospital.

Jorge Armando Munoz, 41, of Colington, was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. As of early Monday afternoon, he is still in custody under a \$20,000 secured bond, according to DCSO.



Jorge Armando Munoz

COURTESY DCSO

Elizabeth City woman wins first \$200,000 top prize in new Mega Bucks scratch-off game

Jennifer Jackson of Elizabeth City scored the first \$200,000 top prize in the new Mega Bucks scratch-off game, according to a press release from the North Carolina Education

Lottery.

Jackson purchased her winning \$5 ticket from the Speedway on U.S. 17 South in Elizabeth City.

She claimed her prize Wednesday at lottery

headquarters in Raleigh. After required federal and state tax withholdings, she took home \$141,501.

Mega Bucks launched this month with 10 top prizes of \$200,000. Nine top

prizes remain to be won.

For details on where lottery funds have gone in each North Carolina's 100 counties, click on the "Impact" section of the lottery's website.

Trash schedule for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday set

The Dare County C&D Landfill, Buxton Transfer Station and Manteo Recycle Yard will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

The trash collection for the week of Jan. 18 through Jan. 22 will be:

- Monday, Jan. 18, closed, no trash collection
- Tuesday, Jan. 19, Kitty Hawk, Colington, Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras
- Wednesday, Jan. 20, Manteo, Wanchese, East Lake, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon

- Thursday, Jan. 21, Kitty Hawk, Colington, Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras
- Friday, Jan. 22, Manteo, Wanchese, East Lake, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon

Commercial dumpsters will be picked up on

Tuesday, Jan. 19 and Friday, Jan. 22.

Currituck County helps health department identify those eligible for vaccine

The Currituck County government is working with Albemarle Regional Health Services to identify county residents who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination in Phase 1 of North Carolina's vaccine plan.

ARHS oversees the local distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and Currituck County has established a call center

for residents age 75 and older to register if they would like to receive a vaccination.

Any Currituck County resident age 75 and older who has not already registered with the health department may call 252-232-2115 to provide their name and contact information. The call center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through

Friday.

Currituck County will provide ARHS with a daily updated list of registrations and ARHS staff will subsequently contact each person to schedule a vaccination or inform them of an upcoming vaccination clinic.

For information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine from ARHS, visit <http://www.arhs-nc.org>.

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ARMOR

From 1A

enforcement or related agencies as well as K9s with expired vests. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States, according to the information from TCSO.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount. A single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest and each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb. and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org. Contributions may also be mailed to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

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MILEPOST 7 ON THE 158 BYPASS IN KILL DEVIL HILLS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

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This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

New exhibit opening at MOA



The new Wheelwrights, Wagon Wranglers, & Welders exhibit at Museum of the Albemarle looks at the enduring yet versatile trade of blacksmithing in the Albemarle region of North Carolina. The exhibit opens January 22 at the Museum of the Albemarle, located at 501 S. Water Street in Elizabeth City.

Free clothes available for all Dare County elementary-age youth

A community resource is available for Dare County elementary student in need of winter clothes. Community for Kids OBX, a local non-profit organization, is providing new and gently used winter clothing for any Dare County elementary student this year.

Clothes size 4T through 18 are available, as are limited quantities of smaller and larger sizes, to anyone in need. Due to COVID-19 precautions, an

appointment is required to select and pick-up clothes. Appointments can be made online at c4kobb.org or by calling 252-473-5590. Appointment slots are for 45 minutes.

During that time, the participant and a Community for Kids volunteer will be the only ones onsite. Participants will be able to select six to eight articles of clothing for each child. Appointments are available on a first-come,

first-serve basis Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional appointments outside of those hours are available upon request.

Community for Kids was founded in 2018 by a group of moms from Manteo Elementary School in an effort to provide winter coats to kids in need. Since that initial effort, the program has grown to include offering winter and

summer clothes. This year, the group is offering these clothes for pick-up from their facility in Manteo.

In a space donated by Dare County, Community for Kids OBX is located at 715 Highway 64 in Manteo. They are co-located in the building with the Monarch Beach Club, in the half closest to Manteo Elementary School. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact admin@c4kobb.org or visit www.c4kobb.org.

North Carolina weekly gas price update

Gasoline prices in North Carolina have risen 2.3 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.21 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina. This compares with the national average that has increased 4.2 cents per gallon versus last week to \$2.38 per gallon, according to GasBuddy.

Average gasoline prices on January 18 in North Carolina have ranged widely over the last five years:

\$2.38 per gallon in 2020, \$2.11 per gallon in 2019, \$2.43 per gallon in 2018, \$2.24 per gallon in 2017 and \$1.85 per gallon in 2016.

Including the change locally during the past week, prices Sunday were 16.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 17.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 15.6 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 17.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Selected areas around the state and their current gas price climate:

Fayetteville — \$2.23 per gallon, up 3.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.20 per gallon.
Charlotte — \$2.25 per gallon, up 7.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.17 per gallon.
Greensboro — \$2.20 per

gallon, up 1.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.19 per gallon.

"Gas prices have jumped to yet another multi-month high as crude oil price rise amidst perceived improvement in the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to pump prices up as demand shows renewed signs of recovery," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "In addition, with rumors swirling that President-elect Biden plans to cancel approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would cut off reliable Canadian oil to the U.S., oil prices may see additional pressure in the coming days."

For now, the upward trend in gas prices may slow from the sharp rise in the last week, but motorists shouldn't expect much of a break from rising gas prices, which now stand less than twenty cents from their year-ago levels."

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities - 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from 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 facilities, 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 facilities in North Carolina.

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk



NCDOT PROJECT UPDATE REGARDING
PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON MOUTH OF
CREEK ROAD OVER BLOUNTS CREEK
IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

STIP Project No. B-5614



CHOCOWINITY - The public is invited to view public meeting map from the N.C. Department of Transportation this month regarding the proposal to replace the bridge on Mouth of Creek Road over Blounts Creek in Beaufort County. This project proposes to improve safety and mobility.

Due to COVID-19, NCDOT will not host an in-person public meeting for the bridge replacement on Mouth of Creek Road. The department has developed a public input website to provide you with the following:

- An overview of the project
- How to read public meeting map video
- Project map: <https://publicinput.com/BlountsCreekBridge>

The public can view the project materials and leave comments by accessing the public input webpage shown above. There will not be a formal presentation.

People may also submit comments by phone (855-925-2801 enter project code 9155), email (BlountsCreekBridge@PublicInput.com), or mail to the project manager by Jan., 26.

NCDOT Structures Management Unit Project Engineer

David Stutts
1581 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1581
919-707-6442

Contact NCDOT as soon as possible if you require any accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or mgallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

Five new questions for 2021's political landscape in NC

After getting many political predictions wrong in 2016, including but not limited to the results of the presidential election, I threw my long-cherished crystal ball out and started building a new one.

Figuratively speaking, of course. I stopped relying on the polling aggregator I built earlier in the decade. I took fewer glances at the aggregators built by other pundits and political websites. Instead, I looked at a broader set of metrics — survey data about public attitudes instead of partisan preferences, for example, and trends in voter registration and behavior.

I also started talking to a more varied collection of sources, via phone calls and email. I cast a wider net. I took more seriously John Stuart Mill's warning that while "everyone well knows himself to be



JOHN HOOD

fallible, few think it necessary to take any precautions against their own fallibility." During the just-completed 2020 political season, then, I was less confident in my predictions — and far more accurate. Surely the two things are related. I figured Republicans would do well in North Carolina's legislative and judicial races. I figured Thom Tillis would be reelected. I figured Donald Trump would not be. Turns out I figured correctly.

Still, past performance is no guarantee of future results. Over the past few weeks, I've gone fishing among my contacts again — casting my net widely

for informed guesses about the coming year in North Carolina politics. There was reasonable consensus around five big questions, although not about the likely answers. Here are the questions:

Will Roy Cooper sign a new state budget for North Carolina?

Government has been operating under a budget originally enacted in 2018, then modified somewhat by "mini-budget" bills passed when the Democratic governor and Republican-led General Assembly found agreement. Cooper refused to sign full budget bills the legislature enacted because they didn't expand Medicaid and raise teacher pay as much as he wanted.

By vetoing them, he sacrificed short-term gains (e.g. teachers got stiffed) in hopes of longer-term gains from a Democratic takeover of one or both

legislative chambers. It was a bad bet.

Will the General Assembly's new legislative and congressional maps withstand legal challenge?

While past litigation resulted in some constructive changes in North Carolina's redistricting process — changes that legislative leaders vow to preserve when they redraw maps in 2021 — Democrats will certainly file suit no matter what the new districts look like.

I think legislative leaders would make a successful challenge less likely by adopting a neutral set of redistricting criteria as a separate bill early in the 2021 session, then applying them when the census data become available. But lawmakers may have other ideas.

Will widespread immunization lead to rapid recovery in employment?

Despite some reasonably

good recent months of job gains, North Carolina's economy is still down some 242,000 jobs from the start of the COVID pandemic. That comes to a painful 5.2% drop in overall employment. But the pain is far more acute for workers in accommodations and food service (down 21%) and arts, entertainment, and recreation (down 24%). If either government regulation or consumer reticence continues to keep those workers and businesses sidelined, expect strong lobbying for more state assistance.

Will a new generation of higher-education leaders, including Peter Hans at the state's public-university system and Thomas Stith at the community-college system, help their institutions effectively navigate the final stage of the COVID pandemic?

For university students

and their families, 2020 was a strange and frustrating year. They are probably thinking more about value for the dollar than ever before. As for community colleges, many face both new opportunities and challenging enrollment declines.

Will the first few months of the new year feature multiple candidates running aggressively for the Democratic and Republican nominations to fill the Senate seat Richard Burr will vacate in 2022?

Oh, wait, never mind. Even my hard-won humility about political predictions won't keep me from offering a solid "yes" to that question. Make that four unanswered questions in North Carolina politics for 2021.

John Hood is chairman of the John Locke Foundation in Raleigh.

INSIDER

Continued from A4

parole in the future.

We then adjourned to the location of the program. The room was located in the basement, a dimly lit area of the prison near the execution chamber. There were black tapestries on all walls. There were two straight backbenches in the center of the room.

There was one long bench, where our offenders would sit across from a shorter bench, which would be the seating for the "presenters." These would be the inmates that we had pre-

viously met. The only lighting in the room was spotlights focused on the presenters. (We sat in the back of the room in regular straight back chairs.) Our offenders would not know that we were present.

They were then marched in, past the execution chamber, and seated on the long bench. The presenters then entered and sat immediately across from them. The inmates just coldly stared at them, only making eye contact with all of the offenders. Nothing was said for several moments, just their terrifying, heartless glares.

Our offenders then became aware of what to ex-

pect if they came to the big house. It wasn't pretty, but it was to get their attention, and that it did. The inmates seemed to have the ability to stare at every offender and know where the juveniles mind was. They readily sensed if the offender was on drugs. At this time, the "meet and greet" began.

The inmates initiated a real meltdown in conversing with our youthful offenders. They would recognize someone on drugs, then get into their body space, tearing them down for coming to this program on drugs.

Every time an inmate would address an offender, the inmate would be scream-

ing in the offender's face. The offender had to stand straight during a verbal and violent tongue thrashing from the inmate. The inmates made a joke of the offender's criminal wanna-bees.

The inmates violently lectured the juveniles on their lives in the big house with the big boys, along with other prison jargon. All of the offenders were males, as were the inmates. The inmates debated on which offenders would be their "wives" if they were sentenced there.

At the end of this "meet and greet," the juveniles were like whipped dogs. Toward the end, the inmates became gentler. They

provided the offenders with their telephone numbers and offered counsel if they felt that they would continue with their criminal ways. They demonstrated a real sincerity in helping the offenders abandon their illegal practices and made themselves available.

During the trip back to Fairfax, there was dead silence on the bus. I could hear a couple of offenders crying. I heard one say, "how can anyone could talk to us" as they had been talked to.

The Insiders Program was indeed canceled as suspicion by the supervisor. Pressures by the state psychologist had succeeded

in the termination of the program. I believed in the program, but only as a last resort to save youth from a life of crime and end up being in prison for life, as these inmates. I was never made aware of the impact that the Insider Program had on our offenders that day.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

■ Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7Zu_00MC0Y for the original documentary of Scared Straight.

Keith Throckmorton, Fairfax County Police (Ret)

KIDRON

Continued from A4

and programmes for special occasions.

On summer days in the 1960s, I used to print out those napkins on a tiny Albion letterpress.

You may have guessed by now that the old printer and his proofreading wife (the actual editor) were my Merionite grandparents. They printed "The Kidron News" for almost 20 years.

My grandfather labored long hours every week at his linotype machine. I can still hear the brass type of every letter keyed cascading down the steel chutes of the machine. When a single line was finished, he pushed down on an iron level at his right wrist. Molten lead was pressed into the line of type. Then more steel chutes and long-armed levers were involved.

Finally, on a tray suspended at my grandfather's left side, down slid a new line, still hot to the touch. As the lines of type kept coming, a real, tangible column formed. I thought it was a miracle.

He then took the finished column, inked it with a roller, and pressed down a long thin strand of 5-inch wide newsprint to make a galley proof.

At the counter, my grandmother took her red pencil and combed over the proof with her expert grammatical eye. She pursed her lips and clucked over every dubious phrase. We all dreaded the inevitable "Carl, you've forgotten your English again," and she promptly marked every misspell that required the forging of a new replacement line.

Once the column was approved by Lena, my perfectionist grandmother, he took the column block over to the frame, where a news page was being formed in a reverse image. He blocked out the text and the photo

images (that were transfixed on wooden blocks). Then he placed spacers in the margins and in the gutters (the space between columns). Using something like a hex wrench, he twisted the spacers to tighten the whole affair.

Then, the frame was taken to the Mergenthaler press. It was a behemoth, with a monstrous roll of newsprint on one end, and — surely a delight to the eyes of a pre-adolescent boy — a drying platform where sheets of newly-printed inkwet paper were shot through a short curtain of real gas flame.

I was mesmerized for hours watching the machinery hum and clack, feeling the mechanical rhythm, hearing metal on metal, and staring into the perilous fire.

All this my grandfather did with a profound limp. He had contracted polio during one of the earlier outbreaks in the 1910's. Still, he lugged the leaden, trapezoidal type cases, each one carrying a separate font (Times Roman, Baskerville, Helvetica), 26 upper case (literally "upper") and small case letters, along with all the ligatures (i.e., fi's and fl's). He hefted them up into the linotype without complaint.

My grandparents never complained. They made little money. They did it, I think, mostly for love of their community and the commitment that they could make and keep. They worked until they couldn't do it by themselves anymore. My uncle, who runs the print shop now, advised them to sell the paper to the Dalton Gazette: The publisher promised to keep up with Kidron events.

The whole family agreed with the move. My grandparents had become frail and tired. The linotype and the news press were sold. I don't know if Dalton has done well by Kidron or not. I'll have to ask my second-cousins some-

how (I could hardly call them, much less use email).

That Thanksgiving, a little bit of American history had come to a close. The same thing has been going on for smalltown (and not so small) papers nationwide.

I'm writing this when the year is at its youngest, when it's good to think about the traditions that undergird the quality of our pretty little town and county.

You are holding in your hands one of those essential traditions — especially if you are holding, as I prefer, real cellulose tattooed with real ink.

Local newspapers have become an endangered species in this time of consolidated media empires. Without a local newspaper that "speaks truth to power," things start to be taken for granted and begin to fall apart. Bedford Falls becomes Potterville.

The bottom line suffers too. Two years ago, a study by the University of Illinois at Chicago found that three years after a newspaper closes that city or county's municipal bond offering yields increased on average by 5.5 basis points, while bond yields in the secondary market increased by 6.4 basis points — statistically significant effects. In other words, a community's financial standing suffers without a decent paper.

The American Free Press is necessary for a free America. The Press (or "Media") is often irritating, even angering. Because of its ongoing critique of power and influence, it will often be perceived as left of center, even denounced as fake news.

But all the while, America would never be America without it. Ask Peter Zenger of New York in 1733. Read the First Amendment: The "fourth estate" is necessary for democracy.

In the same way, this publication that you hold in your

hands, the Chowan Herald, is necessary for our community. My grandfather's face soured whenever politics came on TV: He would turn off the news as fast as he turned off commercials for Budweiser and Tijuana Smalls.

That may have been okay

for a community bulletin like the one he printed. It would never be acceptable here. The Chowan Herald has a much more important mission.

It would be a bittersweet day indeed if this weekly ever went the way of "The Kidron News."

More bitter, less sweet.

Jonathan Tobias (janotec77@gmail.com) is the Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Seminary near Pittsburgh, PA, and resides here in Edenton.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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LOCAL & STATE

WINSTON-SALEM

Police: Juveniles ram police car

A group of juveniles in an allegedly stolen vehicle rammed a North Carolina police car Monday morning before leading authorities on a chase that ended when the suspect vehicle's tires blew out, according to police.

Winston-Salem police officers were in a Walmart parking lot at around 10:30 a.m. trying to block in a vehicle that was reported stolen when the occupants of the car accelerated and rammed the front of a squad car, The Winston-Salem Journal reported, citing the agency.

The vehicle drove off and officers chased the car across the city, police said. The pursuit ended when the stolen vehicle hit a curb at a high rate of speed and blew out its tires, according to investigators.

Four juvenile suspects jumped out and were captured after a short foot chase, the agency said.

RAMSEUR

Shooting of dozen goats probed

Police in North Carolina say they're investigating after nearly a dozen goats were shot and killed.

The Raleigh News & Observer reported Tuesday that the incident occurred in the Ramseur area in Randolph County.

The sheriff's office said it had been called after a livestock owner reported finding several dead animals over the weekend. The department said that eleven goats were likely killed on Saturday afternoon. That number includes five baby goats that died.

The area where the goats were killed is roughly 60 miles (97 kilometers) west of Raleigh. Authorities are still seeking information about the deaths.

Deputies have asked anyone with information to call 911, Crime Stoppers at 336-672-7463 or the sheriff's office at 336-318-6699.

ROCKY MOUNT



WILLIAM F. WEST/ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

A motorist drives past a new speed cushion installed in the opposite lane on River Drive in the Mill Village area of Rocky Mount.

WASHINGTON

County workers can carry guns

A North Carolina county manager has received the go-ahead to develop a plan which would allow workers to carry guns inside county buildings.

The Beaufort County Commissioners voted 4-2 on Monday to approve a motion directing county manager Brian Alligood to come up with the plan, WITN reported. Alligood is to look at surrounding counties with similar policies and return with a plan and rules for the commissioners to vote on.

Commissioner Stan Deatherage said the move is for the protection and safety of county employees. Deatherage said many county buildings have signs that say "gun-free zone," which he says could entice someone to enter the building and take advantage of the situation.

From Associated Press reports

Cohen: Nursing home workers refusing vaccine

NC becoming one of slowest to get doses in peoples' arms

BY BRYAN ANDERSON
Associated Press

RALEIGH — North Carolina's top public health official said Tuesday that most nursing home workers are refusing to take coronavirus vaccines being offered in a state that has now become one of the slowest in the nation to get doses into peoples' arms.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mandy Cohen, secretary of the state Department of Health and Human Services, attributed some of the sluggishness behind the rollout to staffing shortages, lack of familiarity with the state's technological systems and logistical hurdles of working with dozens of hospitals and 100 different counties throughout the state.

"We have a decentralized system in North Carolina," Cohen said. "We have 83 local public health departments, we have 100 counties. We have great pride in that, but when you decentralize things, it does create slowness. We're trying to find that right balance of recognizing the strengths in our local areas but also recognizing where are the challenges."

Roy Cooper, North Carolina's newly reelected Democratic governor, wrote on Twitter that ensuring vaccines are given to individuals "is our top priority right now."

Nearly 110,000 people in North Carolina had received their first dose as of Tuesday morning, according to data from the state health department. Nearly 500 people had received a second dose.

The administration of initial doses thus far account for less than 1% of the state's population of 10.5 million people. Data gathered and shared by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday placed



THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, discusses vaccine distribution during a press briefing about the coronavirus Dec. 30 at the Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh.

North Carolina as the sixth worst state in the country in per capita first-dose vaccinations. Kansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Arizona ranked worse.

Cohen noted that vaccine hesitancy among long-term care staff is "concerning," given the anecdotal reports the state has gathered thus far. North Carolina is working with Walgreens and CVS, which are responsible for vaccinating residents and workers in long-term care settings, to access and report concrete data. She believes North Carolina is experiencing something similar to an estimate Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine made last week noting that about 60% of staff in long-term care settings have refused vaccination.

"I caution it's anecdotal, but we are definitely hearing that more than half (are) declining (the vaccine), and that is concerning," Cohen said.

According to the state's COVID dashboard, nearly 166,000 vaccine doses were allocated to long-term care facilities in the state, as of Monday. Of those, 13,338 doses had been administered.

Still, demand across the state greatly outpaces the available weekly supply of 120,000 doses North Carolina expects to get this month

from President Donald Trump's administration.

Hospital workers were the first in line to receive doses and some remain unvaccinated due to limited supply. Starting Wednesday, a small number of counties will begin administering doses to elderly people 75 years or older.

"If you are over 75, it's your turn for a vaccine," Cohen said. "Providers are already starting to vaccinate those over 75 this week, more of them will move into that next week. You want to call your local health department or your local hospital. Those are your first calls right now, but things are changing rapidly. We're trying to bring in more providers."

The high level of demand has posed concerns about equity and fairness, especially as some local health departments ask residents to make an appointment online. Appointments can fill up very quickly and those with fewer digital skills or living in rural communities without broadband access, could be left behind.

"We continue to have structural inequalities in our system that are just built into how we operate as a government (and) how we operate as a medical system," Cohen said.

CRIMEWATCH

Camden Sheriff

Jordan Randolph Cannon, 25, of the 1300 block of W. Church St., Elizabeth City, was arrested Nov. 25 and charged with felony speeding to elude arrest, and one misdemeanor count each of speeding 111 mph in the a 60 mph zone and fictitious tags. He appeared before a magistrate, was assigned a court date and was released on a \$2,500 unsecured bond.

Branson Gray Everette, 24, of the 700 block of Canal Drive, Kill Devil Hills, was arrested Dec. 12 and charged with felony possession of heroin and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. He was assigned a court date and released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

Andrew Brown Jr., 41, of the 2580 block of Peartree Road, Elizabeth City, was arrested Dec. 13 and charged with one misdemeanor count each of speeding, driving while license revoked, fictitious vehicle registration and no liability insurance. He was confined at Albemarle

District Jail in lieu of a \$5,000 secured bond. Mariah Lazalde, 18, of the 170 block of McPherson Road, South Mills, was arrested Dec. 15 and charged with failure to appear in court. She was assigned a date to appear in court and was released after posting a \$250 secured bond.

Samantha D. Balcom, 37, of the 800 block of Stephanie Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia, was arrested Dec. 18 and charged with misdemeanor littering not greater than 15 pounds. She was assigned a date to appear in court and was released after posting a \$200 secured bond.

Dylan Andrew Stough, 18, of the 100 block of Pamlico Drive, Shawboro, was arrested Dec. 19 and charged with failure to appear in Pasquotank County. He was assigned a date to appear in court and released after posting a \$500 secured bond.

Currituck Sheriff

Melissa Dawn Molina, 50, of the 100 block of

Waterside Drive, Harbinger, was arrested Dec. 12 and charged with simple assault. A \$750 secured bond was set.

Amelia Nicole Moore, 28, of the 100 block of Acorn Lane, Point Harbor, was arrested Dec. 12 and charged with simple assault. A \$750 secured bond was set.

Jamie Lee Edwards, 51, of the 1100 block of N.C. Highway 343 North, South Mills, was arrested Dec. 12 and charged with driving while impaired. She was released on a \$1,500 unsecured bond.

Sylina Jeto, 25, of the 1100 block of Mill Pond Road, Elizabeth City, was arrested Dec. 13 and charged with simple assault. She was confined at Currituck Detention Center in lieu of a \$500 secured bond.

Isaiah Gene Mroz, 20, of the 100 block of North River Beach Lane, Jarvisburg, was arrested Dec. 14 and charged with driving while impaired. He was confined at Currituck Detention Center in lieu of a \$1,000 secured bond.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at Avoided-CostPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E-100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

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

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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FROM PAGE ONE

FREEMAN

Continued from A1

1990s," said Freeman, who played football and ran track for the Vikings. "I've showed them some of the new things, so it's been a really good family experience and that has been our focus at this point."

Freeman, who left En-

field on Dec. 31, took part in the recent hiring of new Public Utilities Director Dwan Bell in November.

Bell, who is also an ECSU graduate, brings 19 years of experience, including 17 in Elizabeth City's Public Utilities Department and recent stints as public works director in the eastern North Carolina towns of Selma and Hertford, to

the city.

"I really enjoyed the process that took place and it was very professional and very detailed," Freeman said. "(Bell) is extremely knowledgeable and his knowledge was superior in those interviews."

Freeman said he plans to meet with all city directors, city councilors and the mayor after he officially

starts work on Tuesday.

"I am looking forward to meeting the entire organization," Freeman said. "I will spend a great deal of my time, initially, just observing the organization and getting to know people."

Freeman described his management style as "managing from the ground up."

"I want them to know

that I am here to serve them," Freeman said. "Because I am the highest-ranking official, I have the abilities to remove stumbling blocks or challenges for people so they can go and do their best work for the city."

To get to know councilors and the mayor better, Freeman said he is going to schedule socially-distanced

"tea time with the manager" to discuss issues facing the city.

"I set a time with each council member and they can bring their tea or coffee," Freeman said. "It will just be the two of us in the room and I will record what their initiatives are and what they want to see happen in the city."

APOLOGY

Continued from A1

nonetheless were picked up by microphones at the meeting.

Addressing commissioners during the Jan. 4 meeting, Taylor Inge said he wanted an apology from them for the way he, his mother and other citizens from the South Mills area

were treated at the November board meeting.

He stood and waited for the apology.

When board Chairman Tom White reminded him of the board's policy not to respond to members of the public who speak during the public comment period, Inge said he understood that but repeated he had come to hear an apology.

White repeated that

commissioners would not respond and then told Inge that if he had nothing else to say he should sit down.

Inge again said he had come to hear an apology from commissioners.

White then instructed Sheriff Kevin Jones, who was attending the meeting, to remove Inge if he refused to sit down.

Inge stood at the podium for a few more seconds be-

fore sitting down. As he did so, he objected that he had not received the apology he had come to hear.

Mary Cherry Tirak also spoke during the Jan. 4 meeting's public comment period. Tirak said she, too, was concerned about the way commissioners had spoken about Inge and others at the November meeting.

"That was very rude — very rude," she said.

Tirak said she has addressed her concerns with Meiggs, the former commissioner. However, she said the other commissioners should not have allowed Meiggs to speak so rudely to citizens of the community.

Responding to questions from The Daily Advance about Inge's concerns, Commissioner Randy Krainiak said he never heard any of the remarks in question

during the November meeting.

"I did not hear what was said at that time and I had nothing to do with what was said," Krainiak said. "People say things and other people retaliate. I would hope that all parties have given it thought and now wish things were different."

The Daily Advance was unable to reach Meiggs for comment on this story.

VACCINE

Continued from A1

group. According to NPR, who reported on the study, of the 12,648 adults surveyed, only 42% of Black Americans said they would consider taking the vaccine. That's compared to 63% of Hispanics, 61% of white adults, and 83% of English-speaking Asian Americans who said they would take the vaccine.

The need for Blacks to get vaccinated is critical, health officials say. As of last month, data showed 48,000 Black Americans had

died from the virus since the pandemic began. That same data also showed Black Americans are three times more likely to die from the virus than white Americans.

Keith Rivers, president of the Pasquotank County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he has noticed "mixed emotions" among Black people about getting the COVID vaccine.

He said some of the skepticism toward the vaccine is rooted in African Americans' particular history when it comes to treatment by the U.S. health system.

Black men were once infected with syphilis without their consent or knowledge, and black women were, for decades, subjected to forced sterilization.

Both things happened not that long ago, Rivers noted.

Another challenge to getting people vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine is the difficulty of disseminating accurate health information in rural areas, he said.

"So a lot of it gets left to word of mouth," Rivers said.

Rivers said he will be on a call this week with other NAACP leaders from eastern North Carolina about how to effectively put to-

gether a series of "safety nets" for residents. Those "safety nets" include not just the COVID vaccine but also support for Medicaid expansion, safe housing and mental health services.

"One of the hard things to do in northeastern North Carolina is going to be, how do we get that message out to a large audience?" Rivers asked.

Churches have tradi-

tionally been a good meeting place but with many churches now having to meet online because of COVID that's not a possibility, he said.

Rivers said Elizabeth City State University is helping to disseminate accurate health information in the region and will be an important partner in the effort to help people get vaccinated.

Rivers said he and his

wife plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and hopes others will follow suit.

"I would tell people that there are more reasons to get the vaccine than there are reasons why you should not get a vaccine," he said.

He said he hopes the vaccine will reduce the severity of COVID-19 and prevent deaths from the respiratory disease.

THOMPSON

Continued from A1

Community Development director. Malenfant started Dec. 14 and will hold both positions until a permanent community development director is named.

Buffaloe said that he tabbed Malenfant for the interim position because ECDI and Community Development work closely together.

Community Development consists of three main departments: planning, code enforcement and building inspection.

"(Malenfant) is a good fit for the department and she can keep the continuity," Buffaloe said.

Malenfant said she expressed a "little hesitation at first" on taking the interim director's job at Community Development. However, her familiarity with the department led her to accept the

role, she said.

"My normal full-time job is a full-time job," Malenfant said. "But I will say there is a significant amount of overlap between what I do as executive director with Elizabeth City Downtown and what this department does. After looking at it, it made sense to do it on a temporary basis."

Buffaloe said new City Manager Montré Freeman will lead the search for a new community development director, whose hiring City Council must approve. Freeman's first day as city manager is Jan. 19.

"Mr. Freeman, once he takes over, will fill the position," Buffaloe said.

FIRE CALLS

EC Fire Department

A report of motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 100 block of Forest Skipper Drive, Elizabeth City, was turned in Dec. 28.

A report of false alarm or false call in the 610 block of Hull Drive, Elizabeth City, was turned in Dec. 28.



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

OBITUARIES

MARSHALL W. ASKEW

WINTON, NC – Marshall Wayne Askew, 80, of 334 Tuscarora Beach Road, Winton, died Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in Vidant Beaufort Hospital, Washington, NC.

Mr. Askew was born in Bertie County on May 11, 1940, and was the last surviving of 11 children born to the late William Edward and Mary Elizabeth Hughes Askew. A retired maintenance supervisor with the Hertford County Manager's Office, prior to that he served with the Hertford County Sheriff's Department for 21 years where he was the Chief Jailer. Community service included his serving on the Winton Town Council, as Mayor of Winton, on the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, and with the Winton Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed membership in Holly

Springs Baptist Church and the Winton Masonic Lodge #723.

Surviving are wife of 28 years, Kitty Jones Askew; and two sons, Douglas Askew (wife, Janice) of Ahoskie, and Gregory Askew (wife, Candice) of Huron, SD. Also surviving are Kitty's sons, Ronald Taylor of Harrellsville, Danny Taylor (wife, Cindy) of Tunis, David Taylor (wife, Wanda) of Harrellsville, and Michael Taylor (wife, Jamie) of Conway. Marshall and Kitty shared 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Saturday, January 9, 2021 in Highland Memorial Gardens, conducted by the Rev. Joe Futrell.

With the conditions and restrictions associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic, no formal visitation will be held.

Miller Funeral Home, 304 Main Street, Gatesville, as-

sisted the family with arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

THERESA L. BRINKLEY

MENOLA – Theresa Lassiter Brinkley, age 78, of Menola-St. John Road, passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2021 at the Vidant Greenville of Greenville, NC.

Mrs. Brinkley was born on April 27, 1942 to Clingy Lewis Lassiter and Mary Elizabeth Congleton Lassiter in Bertie County, NC. Theresa was a dedicated member of Menola Baptist Church for many years. She was a hard worker and kept books for many local businesses in the area. She was devoted to helping others and a vital member of the Menola community. She was always working in the church and the community.

Theresa loved her family and always treated her nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great-nephews as her own children. She enjoyed sewing and cooking. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, David Brinkley; her sister, Emma Lassiter Dickerson; and her brother, Frankie Stephen Lassiter.

Theresa is survived by her brother, Clingy Louis Lassiter and wife Mandy of Aulander; niece, Renee Hoggard of Greenville; two nephews, Marty Stephenson of Aulander, and Michael Lassiter of Raleigh; three great-nieces, Melanie White, Lindsey Brown, and Chelsea Hoggard; three great-nephews, Tyler Lassiter, Braxton Lassiter, and Cole Hoggard, and special friend, Horace Outland.

A celebration of life funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at the Garrett-Sykes Funeral Service, Ahoskie, NC, with Rev. Willie McLawhorn and Rev. Dr. Jesse Croom officiating. Burial followed at Aulander Cemetery, Aulander, NC.

Garrett-Sykes Funeral Service - Ahoskie Chapel handled the arrangements for the Brinkley family and online condolences can be directed to the family by visiting www.garrettsykesfs.com.

ANGELA HARVEY

SUNBURY - Angela Harvey, 54, of Sunbury died January 5, 2021. A graveside funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday January 16, 2021 at the New Middle Swamp Baptist Church Cemetery. Community of Hope Funeral Service, Hobbsville, is handling the arrangements.

CHURCH NEWS



NOTE: Due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), it is possible that some of events listed below may cancel. Some of the listings below contain info regarding canceled/postponed events. For all others, it is advised that you check with the church or group conducting the event to gain information on whether or not it remains scheduled.

NOON PRAYER

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

PRAYER/BIBLE CLASS

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

For more information, call 252-357-4616.

NOON PRAYER

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

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

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

CORPORATE PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

GATES — True Vine Church of Deliverance, located at 307 Smith

Road, Gates, will hold Corporate Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study at 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

For more information, call 252-287-3520.

BIBLE STUDY

SUNBURY — The Way Church, located at 007 RT 32, Sunbury, will hold Bible Study at 7 p.m. every Tuesday.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

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

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

PRAISING GOD MINISTRY

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

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

Send Church News by fax to 252-332-3940 or email to cal.bryant@r-cnews.com Items can also be dropped off at the main office located at the intersection of Main St. and Catherine Creek Rd., Ahoskie. Church News is printed free of charge.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE
GATES COUNTY
LIST YOUR REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY
LISTING PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 – JANUARY 31, 2021

All persons owning Personal Property on the first day of January 2021 shall be required to give in same for taxes. All persons who own personal property and fail to list it will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction be subject to the penalties prescribed by law.

Abstracts will be mailed to all persons who listed personal property for 2020. Please complete your abstract and return to the Gates County Tax Department by January 31, 2021. All Real estate will be prelisted. If there have been any changes in your real estate during 2020, the changes must be reported to the Tax Department by January 31, 2021.

All licensed vehicles are not to be listed on the abstract, only unlicensed (untagged) motor vehicles and vehicles with permanent plates must be listed annually and will be billed with other personal property, such as boats, motors, jet skis, ATVs, campers, mobile homes, airplanes, and farm equipment.

All personal property listed after the listing period ending January 31th will be subject to a penalty of 10% of total tax on personal property.

EXEMPTION OR DEFERMENT FOR THE ELDERLY: If you are over 65 and/or totally and permanently disabled and Gates County is your permanent residence, depending upon income you may be eligible for the homestead exemption or circuit breaker deferment. Contact the Gates County Tax Department for more information or access the application on the County website (www.gatescounty.govoffice2) by accessing Departments > Tax Administration > Forms.

DISABLED VETERAN OR SPOUSE OF DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION: Please contact the Gates County Tax Department or access the application on the County website (www.gatescounty.govoffice2) by accessing Departments > Tax Administration > Forms.

USE VALUE TAXATION: If you are not receiving use value, please check with the tax department if you own a parcel of agricultural land with 10 acres or greater or a parcel of woodland with 20 acres or greater. If property with USE VALUE has changed ownership or type use, you have until the listing period ends January 31, 2020 to notify the Tax Department to avoid penalty. USE VALUE TAXATION creates DEFERRED TAXES.

If you do not receive a 2021 listing abstract by mail and need to list personal property with the Tax Department, the listing abstract can be found on the County website (www.gatescounty.govoffice2) by accessing Departments > Tax Administration > Forms.

If you need assistance with any of the above please contact the Tax Department at (252) 357-1360 or visit our office in the Gates County Office Building, 200 Court Street, Gatesville, NC Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

CHALLENGES

Continued from A1

Jackson, no public hearing was scheduled to address the matter. He said the right thing to do is for Jackson to respond to the mayor's assertions as to his character. Mimplitsch said the mayor should also have an opportunity to respond to Jackson's assertions.

After a back and forth exchange with Jackson about whether to hold a public hearing, Mimplitsch said, "All a censure really does is put a black eye on the town. Honestly, that's not what I'm here for. I want the Town of Hertford to be built up. I want people to come to Hertford and I want our citizens to be proud of our town."

Norman said "a black eye has already been done" so Jackson has the right to ask for a public hearing. He noted that councilmen took a different tone during the meeting where the mayor listed the Jackson's transgressions.

During Monday's multi-hour meeting, Jackson talked about Mimplitsch's previous comments about leadership and how actions outside council chambers reflect on people's perception of Town Council, how council members should contact department heads and using elected officeholder's position to assert influence.

Mimplitsch said by virtue of being in a leadership role as councilor, they serve as

role models. For example if a councilor is pulled over by police, he said, that person should never say that they should not be arrested because they serve on council. Mimplitsch said he wants people to see him not as a councilman, but as an average citizen.

Jackson noted the double standard that when councilors are critical of other councilors, Mimplitsch is silent.

"I just want to say that I feel like that is unfair," Jackson said. "People shouldn't be like that."

Jackson then asked Hertford Police Chief Dennis Brown about an incident that took place May 17 – the day Jackson said he called police so as to send officers out.

Chief Brown answered that he'd have to review his notes about the matter before answering Jackson's questions. Jackson claimed Brown took a woman to the magistrate's office to file charges against Jackson.

Brown responded that he did take a woman to the magistrate's office to initiate criminal charges but beyond that, he couldn't talk more about those events without his notes.

Jackson disputed accounts about what happened.

"The reason I'm doing all this, I don't like to be lied on," he said.

Jackson defended himself from allegations Mayor Brown made about an incident that happened Saturday, Dec. 6 outside Edenton.

MORE ONLINE

For more on this story visit PerquimansWeekly.com.

According to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, a deputy discovered an unoccupied vehicle in the Cape Colony neighborhood by the Northeastern Regional Airport around 11:30 p.m.

During her remarks Dec. 15 meeting, Brown said that while the deputy was checking the car's vehicle identification number, Jackson appeared "nervously" from a wooded area. Jackson approached the deputy and said it was his car. The vehicle had revoked plates which were subsequently seized and turned over the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

Brown said the deputy patted down Jackson and discovered he was in possession of an 800 megahertz radio and there was a green ballistic vest in the car's back seat.

Jackson said the vehicle wasn't his and that he didn't get a ticket.

Jackson said the mayor was lying – everything she said about the incident is false; all hearsay and that she broke the law.

Jackson then turned back to an incident where the mayor made claims that he assaulted a man. Jackson said that was another lie.

When addressing actions

that Jackson said may be cause for censure, he talked a tablet that had been reported missing from Town Clerk Shoniqua Powell. Mayor Brown noted that the tablet was removed without authorization from her office and how several days later, Powell confided that Jackson had called and asked her for the password.

Jackson asserted he provides technical assistance to Town Hall and council, so he said the mayor is lying.

Jackson then talked about how after the mayor was elected, she asked an employee to provide 6 months of meeting minutes in short order. Because the employee was unable to provide the minutes, the mayor expressed her displeasure.

"How is that fair?" Jackson asked.

Then when the same employee left the job, Jackson said, the mayor said that she was glad so that the town could hire someone more qualified.

Jackson then called out the mayor's actions involving her talking to police before going out to learn more about a fight that had been reported on King Street.

He then spoke about how the mayor "hijacked the budget and led the charge" before moving onto actions he perceives as a conflict of interest, but no one on council called her out.

"It was brought to your attention, but nobody said

nothing," he said.

Jackson moved onto a proposed town employee drug testing policy – a proposal that had been endorsed unanimously by council during a work session but was not adopted because the item was taken off the agenda at the mayor's request.

"So you keep talking about integrity – we hold our employees to a standard that we don't follow ourselves," he said.

Jackson made a motion that council be held accountable to the same drug policy as Town's employees. Motion failed 3-2 with Brown, Hodges and Mimplitsch voting against it with Jackson and Norman voting in favor.

Then Jackson said the mayor kept an employee in her office for over an hour when that person was sup-

posed to be working for the town. Jackson said council policy asserts that no one should talk to employees outside council meetings.

Jackson then noted that the mayor has had talks with the Perquimans Sheriff's Office about "the company she is keeping. She won't tell you about all that will she. How many times has the sheriff had to call the mayor in his office because of the company she is keeping; won't tell you about that."

Jackson then addressed the mayor's alleged marijuana usage.

"Our employees were getting sick because of the marijuana and the people that the mayor was having in her office," he said. "Not one of you guys said nothing."

Brown has firmly denied claims that she smokes marijuana. She has not been charged with anything.

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Hertford, NC 27944
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Cell: 252-301-8272
broadstreet.counseling@gmail.com



Town of Winfall Offices WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, January 18, 2021

For
observation
of
Martin
Luther
King, Jr.
Day



In case of an emergency,
please call 426-5751

VACCINE

Continued from A1

At ARHS' website, residents should find the link for their county, click on it and sign up.

ARHS emphasized that only those 75 and older can register for an appointment and the survey links will be

disabled once the allotment for that county is reached.

"ARHS hopes that the online registration form will help meet the demand for the COVID-19 vaccines across the region," agency Director R. Battle Betts Jr. said. "We encourage Phase 1b group 1 individuals 75 and older to register so

we can ensure you have access to the vaccine."

Betts said ARHS knows not everyone 75 and older has access to the internet or to email. He asked them to call the agency for help signing up. The agency can be reached at 252-338-4448.

"We also ask that neighbors help neighbors," he said. "Please reach out to

your family and friends who are in this age group and help them with the registration process."

ARHS said clinics administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine will be scheduled the last week of January and the first week of February. Specific dates and times will be announced soon.

HEROES

Continued from A1

the firemen was struck and sent to the hospital. Jimmy later went home and brought back dry, warm clothes for the firemen.

In the spirit of a dedicated fireman, Ed Leicester was home in bed recovering from the flu. This did not stop him from getting up and answering the call. Lloyd Lane was the owner of Farmer's Feed and Seed. He was also a fireman and was operating a pumper to contain the spread while helplessly watching his own business burn to the ground.

The Salvation Army came and provided much needed, and appreciated, hot coffee to the men. Ladies of the

town also gathered at the Methodist Church kitchen to prepare and serve soup and sandwiches to the crews. The ladies went to the Colonial Store that was then in the strip mall on Grubbs Street. The store had run out of ground beef; but, the manager donated sirloin steaks to the cause.

The men took turns going to the church for rest and food. There was a hammer hanging outside the kitchen and some wondered why. It didn't take them long to find out. When they tried to remove their coats they discovered that the clasps were frozen shut and they had to beat the ice off their coats with the hammer to take them off.

There had to be many individual tales over those several

days. These are just a few that I have been told.

The craziest I heard was of a tenant that lived in a house nearby. A piece of one of the tanks went air borne and landed in his back yard. His only damage was it destroyed his dog's food bowl. He later asked for reimbursement. His landlord said if it meant that much to him, with all the other destruction around, he didn't have the heart to turn him down.

In closing, let me say we were fortunate then, and still are, to have the dedication of first responders we have in this town and county.

They give their time and risk life and limb to be there for us when needed. Let's us never neglect to show our support and appreciation.

God bless and have a great

day.

William Rowell is a resident of Perquimans County who can be reached at blrowell@embarqmail.com

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk



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 4 through January 29, 2021. 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, 2021.

If you are a business and you need an extension, our office needs a letter requesting an extension by January 31, 2021.

If you are 65 years old or older, or totally and permanently disabled, and your income is less than \$31,500, 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.

Bill Jennings
Perquimans County
Tax Administrator

County

From A1
plied for the grant in September 2020 and received notice on Oct. 16, 2020 the county was awarded the \$900,000 grant.

The primary objective of the county proposal is to provide up to six months of emergency utility payments to prevent service disconnection of electricity, water, sewer, gas, Internet and telephone services.

A second objective is to provide up to six months of emergency rent/mortgage payments to prevent eviction and homelessness.

Interim County Manager Cindy Ange reminds the public there is still work to be done before residents will be able to apply for assistance from this grant.

“We will keep them informed and let them know

when they can apply,” she explained.

When that time comes, assistance payments and the number of households that will be assisted will be contingent upon eligibility determination from North Carolina Commerce and income verification for each household as well as verification there are no duplication of benefits.

A cap will be established for each household in order to provide assistance to as many households as possible, with more assistance intended for low and low-income households than moderate-income households.

RFP’s for program management services for the grant are due no later than Jan. 20.

Project Shoelace

The second item on the agenda was a Building Reuse Grant Application and Reso-

lution of Support for Project Shoelace.

Project Shoelace is a confidential company that is seeking a new location to expand its wholesale and distribution operations and has identified a confidential building in Martin County as a potential site for expansion.

Project Shoelace is eligible to apply for a grant up to \$219,750.

According to information provided at the meeting, competitors for this project include communities in Nevada and Kentucky.

The company plans to create at least 22 permanent, full-time jobs “above the average county wage” and invest more than \$2.8 million in the next two years.

Commissioners approved a resolution of support, which is required as a part of the

county’s application for the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Development Division’s Building Reuse Program.

According to the meeting materials, the application is a part of “Martin County’s efforts to recruit Project Shoelace.”

Grant applications were due Jan. 7. A grant award announcement is expected on Feb. 18.

The Mid East Commission was selected to write and administer the grant on behalf of the county.

Administration fees are only applicable if Project Shoelace chooses Martin County and moves forward with the grant, if it is awarded.

The fee schedule provided by the Mid East Commission for option one – the Rural

Economic Development Division (REDD) – State Funds, would cost \$3,000 to complete the grant application and \$12,000 to administer the grant.

Option two – the Community Development Block Grant – Federal funds cost \$5,000 to file the grant application and \$25,000 to administer the grant.

Ange explained the building owner would choose which option is taken.

Commissioners approved a resolution of supporting an application for Project Shoelace to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Development Division’s Building Reuse Program, “to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Martin County by promoting private sector job creation and investment.”

Shuffle

From A1
Schools and Martin County make our young people successful. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.”

Guard worked with Martin County Schools in 1994 and 1995, 2006 through 2008 and continuously since 2010.

He served in assistant principal and principal positions at South Creek High School and Riverside High School before moving to Jamesville Elementary School.

Guard taught agriculture for 17 years before beginning a career in school administration.

Chris Matthews, who

served as assistant principal at Riverside High School the past five and a half years, has moved to MCS Central Office and will provide instructional support for the Career Technical Education program.

Leigh Ann Hudson takes her school-level experience to MCS Central Office where she will oversee MTTS, Testing and Career Technical Education Testing. Hudson served as assistant principal at Rodgers Elementary School for two and a half years.

Angela Cross leaves Central Office to take the principal position at Rodgers Elementary School.

mentary School. For the past two and a half years, Cross served as the MTTS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Instructional Facilitator for the district.

Shannon Cecil takes over as principal at Riverside High School after four and a half years leading Rodgers Elementary School.

Michelle Mobley served two and a half years as principal at South Creek Middle/High School. She began the new year as principal at Jamesville Elementary School.

Kelvin Chadwick moves from his post as assistant

principal at South Creek Elementary School, where he served two and a half years, to the assistant principal role at Riverside High School.

Donnie Wallace, who has served as assistant principal for South Creek Middle High School for nine years, has taken the same role for South Creek Elementary School.

Bambi Grady, Jamesville Elementary’s assistant principal for the past six and a half years, has taken the same role at E.J. Hayes Elementary School.

Donesia Teel is now the assistant principal at South Creek High School after serv-

ing in that role at Riverside High School last year.

Melissa Morlock, assistant principal at E.J. Hayes Elementary School for more than five years, has assumed the role of principal at South Creek High School.

Donna Manning, South Creek Middle High School’s assistant principal for the past year and a half, was named acting principal.

Lisa Bowen, MCS Director of Personnel and Exceptional Children, explained the mid-year changes in administration resulted from two resignations and one request for transfer.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk


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Trail

From A1

Trail information can be found on Martin County's Travel and Tourism website, www.visitmartincounty.com, and historic churches can be located under the historic sites listing. A printable map is available with images of each church.

Arrangements can be made to explore the interior of some buildings on the list. Contact Conway at 792-6605 or email the office at tourism@visitmartincounty.com for details.

The Enterprise begins a multi-part look at the churches that make up the trail.

Everetts Christian Church
109 South Broad St.,
Everetts

Everetts Christian Church is located on the east side of Broad Street near its junction with Ayers Street in the small town of Everetts. The church occupies a 70-by-150-foot lot surrounded by modest, early-20th century residences.

Everetts Christian Church was chartered with 78 members on Sunday, July 3, 1921.

Revivals in the area were being held on the second floor of the Champion Auto Building, later to become the Zimba Cola Bottling Company.

Rev. James M. Perry of Robersonville preached the first services after the charter for the new congregation.

Then in 1922, Charles B. Roebuck and other men in the community went into the woods and cut the timbers for the new church building. When the church was built, there was no electricity, so the church used a Delco generator. On the third Sunday in September 1922, the first recorded church conference was held and the roll was called with 88 members attending and 30 absent. A vote was taken for a pastor for the year and Brother L.A. Mayo was unanimously elected.

Dedication of the building was on the third Sunday in November 1923, with preaching by J.A. Taylor and L.A. Mayo. The service was followed by dinner on the grounds. By 1945, the Everetts Christian Church congregation consisted of 82 members, a sizable number for a town with a population of 244 in 1950.

The congregation diminished to 30 members by 2000, with worship services scheduled for two Sundays a month.

The church is a product of the movement to incorporate popular national architectural styles into North Carolina churches during the first decades of the twentieth century. The 1922 building is one of three of the eight extant Disciples of Christ churches constructed in Martin County during this period that retain sufficient integrity for National Register listing.

Everetts Christian Church is still function-

ing as an active church with regular services.

First Christian Church of Robersonville
126 South Main St.,
Robersonville

First Christian Church is located on the east side of Main Street at its junction with Second Street.

The First Christian Church of Robersonville was born out of a July 1876 revival meeting conducted by Josephus Latham and Stanley Ayers for the Disciples of Christ in Robersonville.

At the end of the revival, the new church was organized with 28 newly baptized persons and 15 transfers, making the original congregation 43 members. The church was chartered on Oct. 13, 1877, by the North Carolina Christian Missionary Society.

The church was organized in the Masonic Hall and was the first church organized in Robersonville.

After revivals in 1912 and 1913, new members marked the beginning of a new era for the church and as a result the present structure was erected in 1913.

The first communion set and an old Bible from the old church are still present in the newer structure. The church basement was enlarged in the late 1920s to create an assembly hall and kitchen. A Moller pipe organ was installed in the sanctuary in 1948, and new oak pews and other decorative items were added to the sanctuary in 1950. Church membership in 1961 was at an all-time high of 395.

The design of the First Christian Church of Robersonville reflects the influence of popular national architectural styles in North Carolina churches during the first decades of the 20th century.

The 1913 building is one of three of the eight extant Disciples of Christ churches constructed in Martin County during this period that retain sufficient integrity for National Register listing.

Oak City Christian Church
310 West Commerce St., Oak City

Oak City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was organized in 1919 by the guidance of Rev. James M. Perry. Perry preached every second Sunday afternoon. The church with its 25 members was enrolled into the North Carolina Missionary Society on Nov. 6, 1919.

The membership

grew by an additional 28 members in 1921. Then in July of 1922, an additional thirty-four members were added to the roll.

The Enterprise will look at the history of other churches on the Historic Church Trail in upcoming editions.

Barney Conway, Director of Martin County Travel and Tourism, is contributing to this series.

Do you recognize...



Mystery Photo Winner is ...

Congratulations to our December Winner

Sandra Benthall of Williamston

CORRECT ANSWER:
SANTA MAILBOX LOCATED AT BARNES PLAZA ON SMITHWICK STREET IN WILLIAMSTON

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January 1 - February 3, 2021

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- 6th grade (60)
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- 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
Must be postmarked by February 3

TO: The Citizens of Robersonville
FROM: Allison Stalls

After much praying, agonizing, and crying, I have submitted my resignation as Town Clerk of Robersonville. Please know that the decision was not made lightly or quickly. My husband and I feel that in the best interest of our family and the Town of Robersonville, it is a necessary decision.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of Town Hall. They have become like family to me and Libby Jenkins has been a good boss and an even better friend.

To the Robersonville Town Board, thank you for all the support you have given me from the beginning and especially in the last six months.

I have tried to do my job with honesty and integrity and to the best of my ability. Leaving is one of the hardest things I've ever had to do.

In closing I would like to say that I would never knowingly put anyone's health in danger and I would ask you to remember that there are always two sides to every story.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for these past ten years.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities 2020)
) 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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at AvoidedCostPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866 380 9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E 100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@mcdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Annual project cleans up waterways and employs watermen and women during a slower time of the year



WANCHESE - The North Carolina Coastal Federation is set to begin its seventh year of the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project this week. Thirty-one commercial watermen along the northern and central coast will set out into the sounds to collect lost crab pots.

Every year, crab pots and other fishing gear are lost in our sounds in a variety of ways. Lost gear can get hung up or drift into channels, creating hazards to boaters and wildlife. Since 2014, the federation has led the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project in an effort to remove lost crab pots from North Carolina sounds.

With the help of various partners, commercial fishermen and women are hired to collect the pots during the no-potting period. The no-potting period is the annual closure of internal coastal waters to all crab, eel, fish and shrimp pots.

In January 2019, 3,112 pots were removed from select areas within all three Marine Patrol Districts. The 2021 project will take place in select areas within Marine Patrol District 1, which covers the northeast region of the coast, and District 2, which covers the central region of the coast.

Once the pots are collected, they are recycled to the best extent possible. Crab pots that are recovered from the Albemarle and Pamlico Sound region during the project will be available for the rightful property owners to reclaim after the cleanup is complete.

This project is funded by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Resource Fund under the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Grant Program. It is intended to improve habitat, water quality and support coastal economies.

"We've all been hit pretty hard this year. After a tough year of crabbing I am looking forward to this opportunity. With this project not getting funded in 2020, I have a feeling there's going to be a lot of cleaning up to do," JT Outland, project participant from Manns Harbor shared. "Being on the water nearly every day as a full time commercial fisherman, it's important to remove the lost pots and keep our waters clean and safe."

Sara Hallas, coastal education coordinator for the federation and project leader, said she's excited to clean up the waterways and create opportunities for work during this time of the year.

"This project wouldn't be possible without the support of community organizations and our commercial watermen and women, who have consistently expressed that helping with this project and protecting waterways is important to them."

The boat crews will conduct crab pot removal from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. each day starting around Jan. 8. Removal will take approximately one week.

Members of the media interested in meeting with crab pot removal crews can contact Sara Hallas at 252-473-1607 or sarajh@nccoast.org as soon as possible in order to coordinate meeting logistics. Visits will be weather-dependent.

This project is part of the federation's overall effort to ensure an N.C. coast that is free of marine debris. Establishing an annual paid program for marine debris removal—including crab pots—is a key objective of the N.C. Marine Debris Strategic Plan. For more information on the progress of the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project over past years, visit nccoast.org/crabpotproject.

About the North Carolina Coastal Federation

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is a nonprofit membership organization that works to keep the coast of North Carolina a great place to live, work and play. Through a variety of programs and partnerships, the federation provides for clean coastal waters and habitats, advocates to protect the coast and teaches and informs people about the coast and what they can do to protect it.

The federation has offices in Ocean, Wanchese and Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

To learn more, please visit nccoast.org or call 252-393-8185.

Soup Swap Day



Spend quality time with family and friends, socially distancing of course, on the third Saturday of January (16th) to celebrate Soup Swap Day. Everyone makes their favorite homemade soup and stores them in containers to swap. This tradition was started in 2006 by Knox Gardner and his friend in Seattle, Washington, which began an unofficial fun holiday celebrated all over the US and in many other parts of the world. Interesting to note that the earliest known record of humans eating soup dates back 20,000 years ago. There has never been a better time in history for the soothing, calming effects of a hot homemade soup.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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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. § 62-3(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 Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Miss Nancy’s Hot Minestrone Soup

We all know of Minestrone soup. It is a delicious thick and colorful soup. A lot can be left to the imagination and vegetables can be used that are in season. You do have to have several things, however, that are quite traditional for making this soup – herbs, small pasta or rice, and grated Parmesan cheese. You will want to choose a day when you are not too rushed to put this together. Make enough to freeze. You'll love it.

- ½ pound navy beans
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, or other
- 2 onions, peeled and sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed or grated
- 3 slices bacon
- 4 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 glass red wine, about ½ cup
- 1 teaspoon marjoram
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- 2 carrots, cut into cubes
- 2 potatoes, cut into cubes
- 1 turnip, cubed
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- ½ head cabbage, shredded
- ½ cup macaroni, or other small pasta
- 1 ½ teaspoon parsley
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- Parmesan cheese, grated

Soak the navy beans overnight. Heat the oil in large pan and add the onions, garlic and bacon. Saute several minutes. Then add the tomatoes, wine and navy beans. Add about 3 pints of water (7 cups), marjoram and thyme – simmer for about 2 hours – covered. Then add the carrots. Cook about 10 minutes before adding the potatoes and turnips. Cook for about 15 more minutes and then add the celery, cabbage and pasta. Cook until pasta and all vegetables are tender and then add other ingredients. Stir in about 4 tablespoons Parmesan cheese just before serving. Serve with extra Parmesan cheese and hot Italian bread.

A black and white photograph of a large bowl filled with minestrone soup. The soup contains various vegetables like carrots, celery, and potatoes, along with small pasta pieces. A hand is visible at the top of the frame, holding a spoon or similar utensil over the bowl.

Recipe taken from Kitchen Chatter Recipe Book, by Nancy Winfrey. The Pamlico News Publishing, P.O. Box 510, Oriental, NC 28571. Page 13.

A black and white photograph of a person's face, partially obscured by shadows, looking down. Overlaid on the image is the text: "Only the pure in heart can make a good soup." and "Ludwig van Beethoven".

She told the board that despite her retirement she would still be available to them in any capacity that they wanted and be glad to help in any way that she could, should the need arise.

As it stands, the town has yet to hold a formal public meeting to decide the fate of the farm and one would be needed to approve NERSBA's efforts.

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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Boy Scouts gear up for annual weekend food drive

Members of the Boy Scouts of America from the East Carolina Council's 20-county area will spread through hundreds of neighborhoods across Eastern North Carolina to collect non-perishable food items for local food banks throughout the month of February.

This activity has been a part of the Boy Scouts of America's "National Good Turn" campaign

for more than 30 years and Scouts from the East Carolina Council typically collect more than 70,000 pounds of food annually and distribute to nearly 30 food pantries across eastern North Carolina.

On Saturday, February 6, Scouts will be going through neighborhoods and residential areas, distributing door hangers to promote the drive.

Any home that receives a door hanger is encouraged to place a bag filled with non-perishable food items on their front porch.

On Saturday, February 13, by 9 a.m., Scouts will return to the neighborhoods to collect the items and transport them to local food banks.

The COVID-19 crisis has made this project even more relevant, as unemployment

has drastically increased and food pantries began running out of food collected during the holidays.

International Paper, WITN-TV-7, WTIB 103.7, and Aldi's sponsor this effort.

East Carolina Council serves 5,000 youth through Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Exploring, Venturing and Sea Scouts, teaching leadership, STEM

skills, participating citizenship and parent modeling.

Scouts lead and join in countless community improving projects throughout the year as they serve their churches, civic organizations, public parks and schools.

For more information on Scouting, go to www.eccbsa.org or Call (252) 522-1521 for more information.

Attempted arson, theft hit neighborhood in eight hours

By DALE HEBERLIG
Staff Writer

An attempted arson and a breaking and entering and larceny incident were reported in the space of eight hours at neighboring locations in Plymouth, Tuesday, January 5.

Plymouth police officers responded to an attempted arson call at 303 East Fourth Street at 8:50 a.m. At 2:45 p.m., different officers were dispatched to the Jireh Empowerment Outreach Center, around the corner at 402 Madison Street, for a report of breaking and entering and larceny.

Occupants at the Fourth Street residence reportedly summoned firefighters to the dwelling after a persistent smell of gas that began the previous night. Firefighters spotted an apparent arson attempt at the southwest corner

of the dwelling and notified police, who discovered a gasoline-doused garment and some melted siding. Rainy weather apparently prevented the fire from spreading.

In the burglary around the corner at the Jireh Center, 40 boxes of prepared meals and an unspecified quantity of frozen meats were stolen from a freezer on the premises after the thief entered through a front window at an undetermined time.

Revenue down

By DALE HEBERLIG
Staff Writer

County Manager Curtis Potter says that sales tax revenue increased markedly across North Carolina in the most recent reporting period, but that revenue

GOVERNMENT BRIEFS

shrunk sharply in Washington County.

Potter informed Washington County Commissioners of the development in the board's January 3 meeting, adding that there is no definitive explanation for the reduction at this time.

According to Potter sales tax revenue was up about 5.5 statewide.

However, revenue dropped by about \$15,000 (or 7.5 percent) in Washington County as compared to the same period from last year.

"Bear in mind that there is a lag of a couple months before we get sales tax revenue reports," Potter told commissioners. Finance Officer Missy Dixon says the reduced revenue cited is for November 2020

"We're unsure why," Potter told commissioners.

"It could be because of reduced seasonal traffic or the COVID pandemic."

Budget workshop

By DALE HEBERLIG
Staff Writer

Next year's Washington County budget gets a preliminary examination Tuesday, January 19, when commissioners convene a budget workshop at 3 p.m.

County Manager Curtis Potter says the workshop is a public meeting that can be viewed on the county's Facebook page. There is no public comment opportunity on the agenda for the preliminary review of the 2021-2022 (FY22) spending plan. Commissioners have until June

30 to adopt a new budget.

During discussion of a workshop date during the board's January 3 meeting, Commissioner Chairman William Sexton suggested the workshop could potentially continue on Wednesday, January 20.

Potter says it's possible there could also be a closed session attached to the workshop.

GOP to meet

Washington County's GOP will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 21, at the Richard West Co., 1072 US Hwy. 64 West. The meeting is open to the public.

The local GOP has new leadership with John Spruill becoming president after former president Carol Phelps' election as county commissioner. Jonathan Sawyer is the group's new secretary.

Dominion Energy encourages diverse students to apply for scholarship

Dominion Energy is awarding \$500,000 in scholarships in 2021 to assist African American and other underrepresented minority students who reside in the company's service area.

The scholarships will be the first made under the Dominion Energy Educational Equity Scholarship Program, a six-year, \$10 million initiative to provide assistance with higher education expenses.

"As we witness our country's evolving conversation on racial

equity and social justice, we want to do our part to help historically underserved students," said Robert M. Blue, Dominion Energy's president and chief executive officer. "We know that education can serve as a springboard for social and economic mobility."

"We have partnered with historically black colleges and universities for nearly 40 years, offering volunteer and financial support," said Thomas F. Farrell, II, Dominion Energy's executive chairman. "This scholarship

program is another way for us to support the students who will one day lead our nation."

The scholarship application period is open until Jan. 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

To be eligible, students must:

- self-identify as Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander with higher education expenses; and
- be high school seniors or

graduates, or current college undergraduates residing in Connecticut, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Idaho, Wyoming or Utah, with plans to enroll full time at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year.

In all, 60 scholarships totaling \$500,000 will be awarded in 2021. Of those, 20 scholarships of \$5,000 each will be made

available for students enrolled in two-year schools, while 40 scholarships of \$10,000 each will be awarded to students enrolled in four-year schools.

Scholarship recipients will be able to renew scholarships as they progress in school, provided they meet certain criteria, such as GPA requirements and residence in an eligible state.

For further information: Audrey Cannon, Audrey.L.Cannon@dominionenergy.com, 804-771-6115

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
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Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Gov. Cooper calls in National Guard to pick up vaccine rollout

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper announced Tuesday that he's calling in the North Carolina National Guard to help accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations in a state that's been near the bottom of states in doses administered so far.

Cooper said ensuring vaccines are given to individuals "is our top priority right now."

"We will use all resources and personnel needed. I've mobilized the NC National Guard to provide sup-

port to local health providers as we continue to increase the pace of vaccinations," Cooper said in a tweet. Dozens of states also are getting vaccine assistance from their guard units.

Nearly 108,000 people in North Carolina had received their first dose as of Tuesday morning, according to data from the state Department of Health and Human Services, while almost 500 people had received a second dose.

The first-doses total

is less than 1% of the state's population. And data as of Monday accumulated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked North Carolina as sixth worse among the states in per capita first-dose vaccinations.

Hospital workers were the first in line to receive doses and some remain unvaccinated due to limited supply. Several counties will soon begin administering doses to elderly people 75 years or older.

Although North Carolina health officials have been slow to get doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines into residents' arms, there are similar problems in other states.

Federal health officials had hoped that 20 million doses would be shipped and distributed by the end of December, but they fell short of that. The CDC said Tuesday that more than 17 million doses had been distributed, and 4.8 million people had received a first dose.

HEALTH

FROM PAGE A1

"However, by mid-next week, Northampton County Health Department is scheduled to complete almost 400 COVID-19 vaccinations consisting of health care providers, first responders and individuals who are 75 and older."

For those in group 1, phase 1b — individuals 75 years and older — call 252-534-5841 to schedule an appointment.

Tyner thanked Smith and his staff.

"I can't say enough for all you are doing," he said. "You and your staff have been excellent. Without you in this county — I'm glad I'm not in the job you have. I want to thank you for your courage. I speak for the citizens of the county. You are making sure we can be as safe as we can possibly be. We love you man."

In other news, the board received a non-profit organization funding request of \$127,453, from Woodland Volunteer Fire Department to build a new fire station. It was presented by Economic Development Commission Director Franklin Williams, with a goal of obtaining a new fire department building and an upgrade to one of its existing buildings by the end of the year.

According to the fire department's application, the fire station was built back in 1951 and is in a state of disrepair with a "paramount" fear of it collapsing. The cost to send the 539 tons of building blocks, concrete and

asphalt is \$9,341; for Rev-elle Builders to pour concrete, put up a new 60' x 60' metal building; and the piping is \$116,112; and permits are estimated up to \$2,000.

Williams recommended trying to help the WVFD in other ways, since the amount exceeds what the county had budgeted for non-profits. The WVFD's funding comes from a fire tax, fundraisers and donations, according to the application.

Chairman Charles Tyner asked how much money the department collects from the fire district.

"We did not budget this amount for our budget this year," he said. "I would like to have the manager [Charles Jackson] and Mr. Williams talk to the Woodland Fire Department Chief [Chris Collier] about what they have done to raise this amount of money."

Vice Chairwoman Geneva Riddick-Faulkner said this is the second grant application the county has received for a very large dollar amount.

"I think we should put in a disclaimer, if your grant request is over a certain amount, we need to have a letter of interest and a brief description of your project. When you write the grants, it takes a lot and your hopes are so high and when you turn them in to find out the amount is off it is deflating."

In addition, two board appointments were approved: William Dickerson to the Halifax-Northampton Airport Authority and Joseph Flythe to the Veterans Advocacy Commission.

RAPIDS

FROM PAGE A1

In many ways, what No. 12 does with so much great ease is finding the haystack's needle — only with it moving, sometimes curving, then running in, while pacing somewhere between 65 and 90 miles per hour.

Easy, right? Not really. Although it certainly appears so for Strickland, who has been fanned just 13 times in 69 varsity at-bats — not bad for a power hitter, or any player, for that matter, whose calling card is walk-off potential.

WHAT WAS, AND COULD BE

Strickland's sophomore campaign was solid, complete with 20 hits, as many RBIs and 18 runs scored in 57 at-bats.



Roanoke Rapids slugger AJ Strickland, shown here in a file photo from March 4, is back for a final season at Doyle Field — where his start last spring was, by any estimation, out of this world.

Justin Hayes | The Daily Herald

But it was last spring when he truly began torch-lighting the Valley, as evidenced by his axe-work in the Jackets' opening four games — a span of 11 days in which which he batted .364 with seven RBIs and two home runs.

A hot streak, perhaps? Yes.

A one-hit wonder?

No — and for reasons extending well beyond his on-field production.

"It's more of, just

preparing himself mentally to be that leader, to step up into that senior role," Snead said of their talked-about approach to managing the upcoming season. "And put the team on your shoulders, no matter what the aspect may be. And even if you go 0 for 4 that day, it's how you handle that 0 for 4, how you play in the field, how you're pitching on that mound ... down the road, the (batting) stats are gonna be there."

One can only hope, however, given the current state of affairs, to see said leadership on display in a few months, as that would mean one thing — that Roanoke Rapids is indeed back on the diamond at Doyle Field, kicking up dust and providing Strickland the chance to finish what he began last season.

A fully-formed sample-size, if you will, for those who might worry about such things.



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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 Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
 Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
 Qualifying Facilities 2020)
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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Man wanted for assault following shooting

BY STAFF REPORTS

At around 2 p.m. Friday, deputies with the Halifax County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on N.C. Highway 48 just outside of Roanoke Rapids in reference to a subject who had been shot.

Once on scene, investigators learned that Katoe Harris Jr., 22, of Roanoke Rapids, had been shot and sustained nonlife-threatening injuries, according to a press release from Chief Deputy Scott Hall. Detective Matt Brown

learned the incident was the result of a domestic assault when the female was believed to be defending herself.

Harris was treated and released from Vidant North Hospital after the incident.

Brown secured warrants for arrest on Harris for assault on a female. During the investigation, a search warrant was served on the residence by Agent B.J. Murphy, where he

along with detectives seized 15.6 grams of fentanyl, 3 grams of meth, 4.9 grams of cocaine and 3.5 grams of marijuana. Additional charges may follow as the result of the search warrant.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Harris is encouraged to contact the Halifax County Sheriff's Office at 252-578-0801 or Halifax County Crime Stoppers at 252-583-4444.



Katoe Harris Jr.

North Carolina towns advance LGBT protections

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — The first North Carolina municipalities are acting to expand LGBT rights again a month since the expiration of a moratorium on non-discrimination ordinances agreed to years ago as a compromise to do away with the state's "bathroom bill."

The governing board of Hillsborough, a town of 7,000 about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Raleigh, voted unanimously this week to approve new protections for people on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and other differences.

Those rules make it unlawful — punishable by a misdemeanor and \$500 fines — for businesses of other entities within the town limits to discriminate on these and other characteristics in employment and in offering goods and services to the public, including lodging and dining. Hillsborough's ordinance marks the first by a North Carolina town or city since the 3

1/2-year ban expired Dec. 1.

"This is a step in the right direction," Hillsborough board member Matt Hughes, who is openly gay, said during Monday's board meeting. In "so many places across the country, just not in the Southeast but really everywhere, people can marry the love of their life on a Saturday and get fired Monday when they show up at work."

Two other towns in Orange County planned discussions on largely similar ordinances starting Tuesday in Carrboro and Wednesday in Chapel Hill, which is home of the University of North Carolina's flagship campus. The city of Durham, with 275,000 people, will consider such protections next week, according to gay-rights groups.

"It's a new day for LGBTQ North Carolinians, who for too long have lived under the legacy of discrimination in this state," Equality North Carolina executive director Kendra Johnson said in a news release.

State capitols step up security amid new safety concerns

BY DAVID A. LIEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

State capitols across the nation stepped up security Monday, deploying National Guard units, SWAT teams and extra police officers while several legislatures convened amid heightened safety concerns following last week's violence at the U.S. Capitol.

The protections came as the FBI issued a bulletin warning of plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitols and in Washington ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's Jan. 20 inauguration.

Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee activated hundreds of National Guard troops to help state police keep order at the state Capitol. At least two people were arrested, including a man who tried to walk past authorities as lawmakers were to begin their session and shouted: "I have every right to witness this."

At the Georgia Capitol, a state patrol SWAT team walked the perimeter wearing fatigues and carrying rifles while lawmakers gathered inside for the start of a two-year term.

State troopers were stationed throughout the Iowa Capitol for opening day as more than 200 people opposing coronavirus mask mandates chanted "freedom" during a peaceful rally.

Legislatures convened in more than a half dozen states. By week's end, three-fourths of all state legislatures will have opened their sessions.

Because of concerns about the coronavirus, many state capitols had already adopted procedures to curb the potential for large crowds, including arranging for lawmakers to meet remotely.

Those steps greatly reduced the number of people who are actually

working in capitol buildings.

After insurrectionists backing President Donald Trump overran the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday, some governors and lawmakers began ramping up security because of online threats suggesting that more mobs could target state capitols.

In Michigan, a state commission voted Monday to ban the open carrying of weapons in the Capitol building.

In Idaho, doors to the House and Senate chambers were locked Monday morning, and two state troopers were stationed at each entrance. In past years, the doors were propped open while an unarmed statehouse staff member controlled access.

During a special session last August, a group that included anti-government activist Ammon Bundy forced its way past overwhelmed troopers and filled the Idaho House gallery despite COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of people allowed in. The group

called People's Rights was founded by Bundy and opposes the restrictions. Its leaders were urging members to show up Monday at the Capitol.

Glen Thorne wore a handgun in a holster on his right hip Monday at the Capitol. Openly carrying weapons in the building is legal. Thorne said he wanted to make sure Republican Gov. Brad Little "knows that we're here."

"We want to end the state of emergency for Idaho. It's ridiculous. We all want to go back to a normal state of living," Thorne said. He did not think the group would cause trouble.

"This is Idaho. We're all gun-carrying, respectful Republicans," said Thorne, who lives in Buhl, Idaho, about a two-hour drive to the south-east of Boise.

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RALEIGH

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In the Matter of
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Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Accusations leveled as new Bertie Commissioner is chosen

Ron Roberson is favored over Democratic Party's recommendation

By CAL BRYANT
Editor

WINDSOR – The appointment of Ron Roberson as Bertie County's newest Commissioner here Monday evening prompted one veteran board member to accuse their colleagues of collusion.

That accusation, made by Ronald "Ron" Wesson, came after the remaining commissioners – John Trent, Tammy Lee and Greg Atkins – voted for Roberson to replace Ernestine Byrd Bazemore on the board. Bazemore vacated the final two years on her current term after she

won a seat on the North Carolina Senate during November's General Election.

Wesson said the Bertie County Democratic Party, who was responsible under state law for recommending an individual to fill Bazemore's unexpired term, chose performed their due diligence and selected James Lee as their nominee.

Wesley Dudley, chairman of the Bertie County Democratic Party, presented James Lee as their nominee at the Dec. 7 meeting of the commissioners. It was duly noted then that the four seated commis-

sioners had the right to accept or reject the party's nominee.

However, Wesson, at this week's regularly scheduled meeting, said his three colleagues had their minds made up that Roberson was favored even before the Democratic Party made their recommendation last month.

At Monday's meeting, Trent nominated Roberson while Wesson put forth the name of James Lee. But before the vote was taken, Wesson called for discus-

sion.

Reading from a prepared statement, Wesson said, "The citizens of this county have a right to know that this vote that we're about to take has been rigged from the very start. These three commissioners, Mr. Trent, Mrs. Lee and Mr. Atkins communicated together and decided to elect Mr. Roberson prior to the [Bertie] Democratic Party having a chance to interview, and recommend a candidate from their party as required

by our [state] General Statutes."

In his remarks, Wesson alleged that Trent approached [Tammy] Lee and she agreed to support Roberson. Wesson further alleged that Trent and Mrs. Lee then met with Atkins and sought his support for Roberson.

"Mr. Roberson called me directly and asked

if I would support him," Wesson said. "I told him clearly that I would support the nominee of the Democratic Party and if that turned out to be him, I would support that decision. He thanked me and told me he already had the support of the other commissioners."

See **LEVELED**, Page 2B

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
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RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

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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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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HEALTH NEWS



Goody bags delivered to V-RCH Environmental and Food Services team

Caroline Stephenson, owner of The Cultivator, Inc. Bookstore in Murfreesboro, partnered with the local Easter Seals SensABLE Snacks program to donate goody bags to the Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital Environmental and Food Services team members. Stephenson wanted to recognize those departments for their supportive roles in the hospital during COVID-19. The bags contained a bottle of water, a cookie, candy, a pencil and a book written by Murfreesboro native, Jeffrey Parker. The items were donated by various vendors, including The Cultivator. SensABLE Snacks representatives assisted with delivering the bags to the hospital. The Cultivator's ongoing mission is to promote rural literacy, food access and creativity. Pictured from left are De'Vonne Perry – Easter Seals SensABLE Snacks; Brian White – Director of Strategic Operations with Vidant Bertie, Vidant Chowan and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospitals; Caroline Stephenson - owner, The Cultivator, Inc.; Sonya Williams - Director of Compliance at Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital; and Earl Phillips - Administrator of Operations at Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Phillip Goldstein



Lindsay Roebuck-Gibson FNP



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities -2020

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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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.
This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center – Alterations
120 Health Center Dr.
Ahoskie, NC 27910

SEALED, SINGLE PRIME BIDS (Lump Sum) from qualified bidders for the construction of the **Roanoke Chowan Community Center Alterations** will be received by **Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center Attn: Phillip Bowen, 120 Health Center Dr. Ahoskie, NC 27910 until 2 pm, (Eastern Standard Time) on Thursday, January 28th, 2021.** Bids shall be submitted electronically. They shall be sent to Attn: Phillip Bowen at PBowen@rcchc.org

Pre-Bid Conference:
An open **pre-bid conference** will be held for all interested parties on site at **120 Health Center Dr. Ahoskie, NC 27910 Thursday, January 21st, 2021 at 2 pm.** All interested parties including but not limited to general Contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and vendors are welcome to attend.

General Description of the work:
Renovations to the current Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center facility in Ahoskie include new doors, partial walls and storefront glass on the ground level to create an isolation suite along with a separate entrance. Second floor renovations also include new doors and partial walls for improved circulation and function. All work has minor ceiling, lighting and electrical components. Lastly as an alternate bid there is a new pre-engineered canopy and sidewalk project.

Funds for this project are being provided in part by a Federal Grant and all bidders shall comply with the Davis Bacon Wage Acts.

Electronic Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained via Duncan Parnell at www.dpbidroom.com

Bidders shall include with their proposal the form Identification of *Minority Business Participation* identifying the minority business participation it will use on the project and shall include either *Affidavit A* or *Affidavit B* as applicable. Forms and instructions are included within the Bid Form in the bid documents. Failure to complete these forms is ground for rejection of the bid (G.S. 143-128.2c Effective 1/1/2002).

All contractors are hereby notified that they must have proper license as required under the state laws governing their respective trades.

A performance bond and a payment bond will be required for one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price. Contractor must also carry Builder's Risk Insurance for the full value of the work in place and materials stored.

Payment will be made based on ninety-five percent (90%) of monthly estimates and final payment made upon completion and acceptance of the work.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a cash deposit or a certified check drawn on same bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, of an amount equal to no less than 5% of the bid OR a bid bond of 5% executed by a surety company licensed under North Carolina laws to execute said bond. Said deposit will be retained by the Owner as liquidated damages in the event the successful bidder fails to execute a contract for work within 15 days after the award.

No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of 45 days.

The owner reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities.

WORLD

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Ruling party takes control of congress

Parading giant portraits of Hugo Chavez and independence hero Simon Bolivar, allies of President Nicolas Maduro retook control of Venezuela's congress Tuesday, the last institution in the country it did not already control.

The symbolic restoring of the images to Venezuela's parliament capped a celebratory day for the ruling socialist party in which they claimed to have avenged their humiliating defeat five years ago when government opponents won control of the legislature and proceeded to remove portraits of the two national icons in a fierce — if futile — challenge to Maduro's lock on power.

Jorge Rodriguez, the incoming assembly president, vowed to "exorcise" from the legislative palace all vestiges of its previous occupants, who he accused of plotting from its neo-classical chamber Maduro's violent overthrow with the help of foreign mercenaries and the Trump administration.

"Just so there are no doubts, pretty soon we'll spray every corner of the par-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jorge Rodriguez, right, lifts his fist after being sworn in as president of the National Assembly in front of a photo of the late President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday at Congress in Caracas, Venezuela.

liamentary chambers with holy water," joked Rodriguez, who previously led internationally sponsored talks with the opposition as well as met with envoys from the Trump administration.

Maduro's allies swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the United States, the European Union and several other foreign governments.

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Rescuers in Norway lose hope of finding landslide survivors

Norwegian authorities said Tuesday they have given up hope of finding survivors of a landslide that swept away homes in a residential area almost a week ago, killing seven people.

Three people still are missing from the Dec. 30 disaster that destroyed at least nine buildings with more than 30 apartments in the village of Ask, located 16 miles northeast of Oslo. The landslide was among the worst in modern Norwegian history.

"It is with great sadness that I must say that we no longer have any hope of finding people alive after the landslide," local police chief Ida Melbo Oeystese said.

"We have done everything in our power. But this natural disaster had significant forces. Those who died have died relatively quickly," she added, visibly moved.

Search crews will continue "working to find everyone who is missing," Oeystese said.

The police chief spoke hours after a

small dog was found alive in the rubble, raising hopes for rescuers. The dog was found late Monday "in good condition" in an area where rescuers had been working, police spokesman Ivar Myrboe said.

Another, smaller landslide just before midday Tuesday forced the search teams to evacuate the site and no one was injured, police said. One rescuer, Kenneth Wangen, said the landslide was "not dramatic" and that search teams received advance warning by drones and from other emergency personnel.

Geologists will assess the site before the search continues, authorities said.

Since the original landslide, search teams with dogs have been looking through the rubble in below-freezing temperatures while helicopters and drones with heat-detecting cameras flew over the ravaged hillside in the village of 5,000 residents.

From Associated Press reports

Gulf Arab leaders sign declaration to ease rift with Qatar

BY AYA BATRAWY
AND AMR NABIL

The Associated Press

AL-ULA, Saudi Arabia — Gulf Arab leaders signed a declaration Tuesday to ease a rift with Qatar, following Saudi Arabia's decision to end a 3 1/2-year embargo of the tiny energy-rich country that deeply divided regional U.S. security allies and frayed social ties across the Arabian Peninsula.

Saudi Arabia also said it was restoring full diplomatic relations with Qatar, although it was not clear how soon the step would be followed by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, which had joined the kingdom in isolating the country over its regional policies.

On Monday night, the eve of the Gulf Arab leaders' summit in the ancient desert city of Al-Ula, the Saudis announced they would open

the kingdom's airspace and borders to Qatar, the first major step toward ending the diplomatic crisis that began in 2017, when the Trump administration was starting to raise pressure on Iran.

It was unclear what, if any, significant concessions Qatar had made before the summit. Still, an immediate shift in tone was palpable as one of Qatar's Al Jazeera Arabic news Twitter accounts shared photos of the Riyadh and Abu Dhabi skylines on Tuesday following years of critical coverage.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told reporters after the summit that diplomatic relations would be restored in full with Qatar, although no time frame was given.

"We are extremely pleased with having been able to achieve this very important breakthrough that we believe will contribute

very much to the stability and security of all our nations in the region," Prince Faisal said. "We are at a place where everybody is satisfied and happy ... the returning of diplomatic relations, flights, etc., all of that will now go back to normal."

The diplomatic breakthrough followed a final push by the outgoing Trump administration and Kuwait to mediate the dispute. It also came as Saudi Arabia seeks to unify Arab ranks ahead of the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden, which is expected to take a firmer stand toward the kingdom and re-engage with Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif congratulated Qatar "for the success of its brave resistance to pressure & extortion." He also said in a message to other Arab leaders that "Iran is neither an enemy nor threat

— especially with your reckless patron on his way out," referring to Trump.

Dania Thafer, executive director of Gulf International Forum, said Saudi Arabia is concerned about whether Biden will draw down the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf that had

expanded under President Donald Trump and enter back into nuclear negotiations with Iran.

"If that is the case, then the (Arab) states need to respond with a regional solution to security. And I think resolving the Gulf crisis is one step forward towards

that direction," she said.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who embraced Qatar's emir upon his arrival at the summit, said the region needed to unite and face challenges posed by Iran's proxies and its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
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Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities 2020)
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This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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CODE: TM108869

PIECE OF HISTORY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CLARK OAKLEY

This picture of Captain Kerr and J.A. Long's 26-passenger paddle-wheel steamboat was taken around 1895 at Chub Lake — North Carolina's oldest natural lake.

CRIME

Continued from Page 2A

Wednesday, Dec. 23

8:30 a.m. – Deputies responded to a report of property damage on Daisy Lane in Hurdle Mills. Deputies found five mailboxes that appeared to have been hit by a car that ran off the road for about 50 yards.

Friday, Dec. 25

7:39 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of trespassing on Bradsher Road.

Saturday, Dec. 26

7:14 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon on Thaxton Road. The victim reported being hit in the head with a hammer.

Sunday, Dec. 27

12:58 a.m. – Deputies filed a report of resisting, delaying or obstructing an officer after responding to a suspicious vehicle on Hurdle Mills Road. According to the report, the suspect gave the deputy a fake name.

4:52 a.m. – Deputies filed a report of a DWI on Durham Road at Weeks Drive.

10:30 a.m. – Deputies responded to a report of a cardiac arrest on Range Road.

Monday, Dec. 28

4:10 a.m. – Deputies responded to a report of a cardiac arrest on Stoney Mountain Road.

12:01 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of injury to personal property on Critcher Wilkerson Road.

Tuesday, Dec. 29

2:06 p.m. – Deputies took a report of injury to personal property on Dorothy Brooks Lane.

3:01 p.m. – Brandon Kenneth Cary, 18, of Halifax Road, Roxboro, was charged with felony possession of a firearm by a felon.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

10 p.m. – Brandon Howell, 30, of Epperson Drive, Durham, was charged with two counts of felony possession of methamphetamine. Howell was placed under a \$7,000 secured bond.

Thursday, Dec. 31

12:40 p.m. – Larry Gene Graham, 31, of Oxford Road, Roxboro, was

charged with felony kidnapping, felony possession of a firearm by a felon, felony larceny of a firearm, felony larceny of a motor vehicle, felony first degree burglary, misdemeanor simple assault, misdemeanor injury to personal property, misdemeanor injury to real property and misdemeanor interfering with emergency communication. Graham was placed under a \$100,000 secured bond.

7:30 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of assault on a female on Todd Road.

11:59 p.m. – Adam Lamont Woods, 26, of Leasburg Road, Roxboro, was charged with felony possession of a firearm by a felon and misdemeanor carrying a concealed gun. Woods was placed under a \$30,000 secured bond.

Friday, Jan. 1

7:23 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of an overdose on Pulliam-Tingen Mine Road.

Saturday, Jan. 2

5:37 a.m. – Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Dirgie Mine Road.

9:40 a.m. – Deputies took a report for larceny.

Sunday, Jan. 3

1:10 a.m. – Deputies responded to a report of an assault on a female on Denny's Store Road.

9:30 a.m. – Brian Christopher Casey, 39, of Hurdle Mills Road, Roxboro, was taken into custody for three felony warrants from Wake County. Casey was placed under a \$10,000 secured bond.

4 p.m. – Nicholas Andrew Summers, 27, of Burlington Road, Hurdle Mills, was charged with felony aggravated assault, felony larceny and misdemeanor simple assault.

9:36 p.m. – Deputies responded to a report of an assault on a female on Virgilina Road.

The crime reports section will only regularly feature the names and information of those charged with felony crimes. If a situation warrants, those charged with misdemeanors may also appear.

As much as possible, staff will do its best to include as much about the incidents that law enforcement respond to in the timely manner that is reported to us. Some incidents will not be available in the issue immediately following the date of the incident.

This Week In History

Jan. 1, 1959

Batista forced out by Castro-led revolution

On Jan. 1, 1959, facing a popular revolution spearheaded by Fidel Castro's 26th of July Movement, Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista flees the island nation. Amid celebration and chaos in the Cuban capitol of Havana, the U.S. debated how best to deal with the radical Castro and the ominous rumblings of anti-Americanism in Cuba.

The U.S. government had supported Batista, a former soldier and Cuban dictator from 1933 to 1944, who seized power for a second time in a 1952 coup. After Castro and a group of followers, including the South American revolutionary Che Guevara (1928-1967), landed in Cuba to unseat the dictator in December 1956, the U.S. continued to back Batista. Suspicious of what they believed to be Castro's leftist ideology and worried that his ultimate goals might include attacks on the U.S.'s significant investments and property in Cuba, American officials were nearly unanimous in opposing his revolutionary movement.

Cuban support for Castro's revolution, however, grew in the late 1950s, partially due to his charisma and nationalistic rhetoric, but also because of increasingly rampant corruption, greed, brutality and inefficiency within the Batista government. This reality forced the

U.S. to slowly withdraw its support from Batista and begin a search in Cuba for an alternative to both the dictator and Castro; these efforts failed.

On Jan. 1, 1959, Batista and a number of his supporters fled Cuba for the Dominican Republic. Tens of thousands of Cubans (and thousands of Cuban Americans in the U.S.) celebrated the end of the dictator's regime. Castro's supporters moved quickly to establish their power. Judge Manuel Urrutia was named as provisional president. Castro and his band of guerrilla fighters triumphantly entered Havana on January 7.

The U.S. attitude toward the new revolutionary government soon changed from cautiously suspicious to downright hostile. After Castro nationalized American-owned property, allied himself with the Communist Party and grew friendlier with the Soviet Union, America's Cold War enemy, the U.S. severed diplomatic and economic ties with Cuba and enacted a trade and travel embargo that remains in effect, although some restriction were loosened under the Obama administration. In April 1961, the U.S. launched the Bay of Pigs invasion, an unsuccessful attempt to remove Castro from power. Subsequent covert operations to overthrow Castro, born Aug. 13, 1926, failed and he went on to become one of the world's longest-ruling heads of state. Fulgencio

Batista died in Spain at age 72 on Aug. 6, 1973. In late July 2006, an unwell Fidel Castro temporarily ceded power to his younger brother Raul. Fidel Castro officially stepped down in February 2008; he died on Nov. 25, 2016.

Jan. 2, 1980

U.S.-Russia detente ends

On January 2, 1980, in a strong reaction to the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asks the Senate to postpone action on the SALT II nuclear weapons treaty and recalls the U.S. ambassador to Moscow. These actions sent a message that the age of detente and the friendlier diplomatic and economic relations that were established between the United States and Soviet Union during President Richard Nixon's administration (1969-74) had ended.

Carter feared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in which an estimated 30,000 combat troops entered that nation and established a puppet government, would threaten the stability of strategic neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan and could lead to the USSR gaining control over much of the world's oil supplies. The Soviet actions were labeled "a serious threat to peace" by the White House. Carter asked the

See History, Page 9A

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities -2020
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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Don't forget your other vaccinations

Each year thousands of adults in the United States suffer illness, are hospitalized, and even die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.

Adults with COPD and asthma are at increased risk of complications from influenza, including pneumonia and needing to be hospitalized. Make sure you get the influenza vaccine every year to protect them from this common illness. Individuals with COPD and asthma are also



FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Jennifer Brown

at higher risk for invasive pneumococcal disease and more likely to develop infections including bacteremia and meningitis. Pneumococcal vaccines can help prevent these serious infections in your patients. These chronic conditions, even if well managed, can make it harder for patients to fight infections. That is why it is critical that you get these and other routinely recommended vaccines, like zoster (shingles) vaccines if they are 60 years or older, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) if they have not had a

dose before, and TD booster vaccine every 10 years. Other vaccines may also be needed based on vaccination history and other risk factors. For the latest recommended adult immunization schedule, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules.

To help you reduce your risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, the local Cooperative Extension Office is joining forces with 10 other county Extension Offices to host a Med Instead of Meds virtual class. The 6-weekly sessions will be held on Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8 at 12:00p.m. each

day. There is no cost for this program and participants will receive weekly emails including handouts, lesson materials, and videos of demonstrations of Mediterranean recipes. You can attend the Live Zoom sessions or watch the recorded sessions afterwards but you must register for this workshop.

Check us out on Facebook @persongranvillefcfs to find information or register for upcoming programs, recipes or information on food and nutrition.

Try the following recipe from the American Heart Association at <https://recipes.heart.org>.

Sirloin Steak with Portobello Mushrooms

serves 4

1 lb. boneless sirloin steak, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 tsp dried thyme, crumbled
1/2 tsp pepper, coarsely ground
8oz portobello mushrooms, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 large red onion, sliced

1/2 cup fat-free, no-salt added beef broth
1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce, low sodium
2 Tbsp brandy, optional
Discard all visible fat from the steak. Cut into 4 pieces. Sprinkle both sides with

the thyme and pepper. Heat a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the steak for 4-6 minutes. Transfer to a platter and cover with aluminum foil to keep warm. In the same skillet, cook the mushrooms and onion over medium-high heat for 1-2 minutes, or until the onion is

tender-crisp, stirring occasionally. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Cook for 5-6 minutes, or until the mushrooms are tender and the liquid is reduced by half, stirring occasionally. Spoon over the steak.
Nutrition Information: 184 calories, 5g fat, 27g protein, 8g carbs

Extension Notes

Free radon kits

As the turning of the seasons brings colder weather to North Carolina, and families close windows to keep warm, it is an excellent time to make plans for radon testing in your home. Radon is the odorless, colorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

The effects upon the families it touches can be just as devastating as lung cancer caused by smoking tobacco. January is National Radon Action Month. Each year upwards to 22,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer.

Roughly 54 percent of those diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer are expected to live no more than five years after diagnosis. We recommend that you test your home for radon and lower your family's risk of lung

cancer. Unfortunately, radon kits are not being sent out to the county Extension offices, as they have in the past. You can purchase kits that are fairly inexpensive at local home improvement stores. Or there is a limited supply of FREE kits from the NC Radon office that you can order online at <http://nc.radon.com>

Make every bite count

Today, 60% of adults have one or more diet-related chronic disease. About 74% of adults are overweight or obese. Yet, we are not following a healthy dietary pattern. Healthy eating is important at every life stage. For the first time, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 provides recommendations for each life stage, from birth through older adulthood. Nutrient needs vary over the

lifespan and each life stage has unique implications for food and beverage choices and disease risk. So, how can you make every bite count.

Try to find food and beverages that align with the dietary guidelines. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 provides advice on what to eat and drink to meet nutrient needs, promote health, and help prevent chronic disease. Focus on nutrient-dense foods and beverages, limit those higher in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, and stay within calorie limits.

Meeting food group recommendations—with nutrient-dense foods and beverages—takes up most of a person's daily calorie limit. More resources and helpful information can be found online myplate.gov

Durham County COVID nurse 'in shock' after \$1 million second-chance win

RALEIGH – When Terri Watkins of Durham won a call letting her know she had won \$1 million, she couldn't believe her ears.

"I thought that it was a scam. I was a little upset actually!" she recalled laughing. "I thought that it was not real, couldn't be real. It's still something that I really don't believe, I'm still in some shock here."

Her entry was chosen from over 513,000 entries in the final \$300,000,000 Supreme Riches second-chance drawing on Wednesday. Winners of second-chance drawings receive a phone call or email notifying them that they won.

"I'm a nurse and I work in the COVID unit at a long-term care facility," said Watkins. "Just seeing some of the things that I've had to see, I am very thankful. I had been praying for something to help me with this situation. It really is a great thing.

I'm very blessed."

Watkins claimed her prize Thursday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh.

She had the option to take the \$1 million prize as an annuity of 20 payments of \$50,000 a year or a lump sum of \$600,000. She chose the lump sum and took home \$424,500 after required state and federal tax withholdings.

"I'm just gonna take it slow and easy and figure out what I'm gonna do," said Watkins. "I would love a new home, but I've just got to take time and put it in the right place."

Ticket sales from scratch-offs like \$300,000,000 Supreme Riches make it possible for the lottery to raise more than \$725 million a year for education. For details on how lottery funds have helped all of North Carolina's 100 counties, click on the "Impact" section of the lottery's website.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

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NATION & WORLD

An 'orchard of bad apples' weighs on new Afghan peace talks

BY KATHY GANNON
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Afghan negotiators were set to resume talks with the Taliban on Tuesday aimed at finding an end to decades of relentless conflict even as hopes wane and frustration and fear grow over a spike in violence across Afghanistan that has combatants on both sides blaming the other.

Torek Farhadi, a former Afghan government advisor, said the government and the Taliban are "two warring minorities," with the Afghan people caught in between — "one says they represent the republic, the other says we want to end foreign occupation and corruption. But the war is (only) about power."

The stop-and-go talks come amid growing doubt over a U.S.-Taliban peace deal brokered by outgoing President Donald Trump. An accelerated withdrawal of U.S. troops ordered by Trump means just 2,500 American soldiers still will be in Afghanistan when President-elect Joe Biden takes office this month.

Biden has advocated keeping a small intelligence-based presence in Afghanistan, but Taliban leaders have flatly rejected any foreign troops. Officials familiar with the U.S.-Taliban peace deal say there is no wiggle room that would allow even a small number of foreign troops to remain.

The Taliban have grown in strength since their ouster in 2001 and today control or hold sway over half the country. But a consensus has emerged that a military victory is impossible for either side.

When the first round of talks began on Sept. 12 — the first time ever the two warring sides met around a negotiating table — they were warned against squandering the opportunity. Failure means a continuation of more than four decades of war, and yet more death and destruction.

What can be expected from the next round of talks?

Expectations are low. The change in the U.S. administration is likely to drag out the opening days of the talks as both sides wait to see whether Biden will stick to the deal brokered by Trump.

Both the Afghan government and Taliban have proposed agenda items. In this round, the two sides will decide which items can be combined as well as how to discuss separate items.

"The initial opportunity is that several items of the agenda are similar and would be easy to make progress on," says Nader Naderi, a member of the government's negotiation team, without giving specifics. Naderi, however, warned that spiraling violence will increase public pressure on government negotiators that could derail talks.

What are some of the contentious issues?

Perhaps one of the trickiest items is a power-sharing agreement. There is little evidence that the Kabul government will be willing to share power or that the Taliban will be flexible on who would be acceptable in a transitional administration.

The government wants a cease-fire to be on the top of the agenda, while the Taliban want to discuss power-sharing with some commitment to how a post-war Afghanistan might look. Then there is the issue of how to eventually disarm the Taliban and militias loyal to warlords, some aligned with the government, some in opposition.

Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naem told The Associated Press that the



FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, center left, and his aides meet with Afghanistan's State Minister for Peace Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi, center right, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's peace negotiation team amid talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban on Nov. 21 in Doha, Qatar.

Taliban were ready for a resumption of the negotiations, adding that a cease-fire is one of the agenda items, without elaborating.

The sides must also work out how to preserve the rights of minorities and women and make constitutional amendments. The Taliban demand that any rights be "in keeping with Islamic teachings" — a vague formula that activists fear will be used to restrict freedoms.

Anas Haqqani, a member of the Taliban negotiating team, seemed to indicate in a tweet last month that he had problems with some of the so-called progressive changes in Afghanistan, calling them foreign, Western ideas. He said anything that is against Islamic and Afghan culture should "go away."

What are Afghans saying?

For many, peace seems like a distant dream. A number of people interviewed in Kabul saw their country in a downward spiral, shattered by near-daily explosions and marauding criminal gangs that have made the streets

dangerous after dark.

Shahzia Ahmadi, a 32-year old teacher and mother of four, said she won't let her 13-year-old son go shopping for fear of kidnappers who demand ransoms between \$50 and \$50,000.

Ahmad Zia, a 38-year old shopkeeper, used to stay open till midnight. Not anymore. He said he doesn't stay out after 8 p.m. As for peace, Zia was not optimistic.

"I haven't seen peace or a peaceful day in my life. I don't know really about the future of this country, but I am so disappointed," he said.

A soaring crime rate and relentless attacks have everyone frightened, said Mohammed Sharif, a 38-year-old employee at the Higher Education Ministry. He said he hopes the two sides can reach some result "because Afghans can no longer deal with all these many problems."

Who are the spoilers?

Escalating violence has all sides pointing the finger at each other. The govern-

ment blames the Taliban for a series of targeted killings against activists, journalists, judges and lawyers. The Taliban have denied some of the attacks. On Monday, Zabihullah Mujahed, the Taliban spokesman, accused the U.S. of striking Taliban strongholds that had no military significance.

A debunked video that some analysts accused the government of making to damn the Taliban showed three bearded men, carrying a Taliban flag and saying the Taliban, not the Islamic State group, carried out an attack on Kabul University in December that killed 25 students and teachers. The Taliban denied the attack. IS claimed responsibility and also has in recent months stepped up its assaults in Kabul, often targeting the educated and minority Shiites.

Farhadi, the former government adviser, said any number of players could wreck the peace process — Taliban hard-liners who want the talks to fail; warlords who want to keep their weapons; corrupt officials who want to protect their

wealth and government officials loath to share power.

Distrust runs deep. One Taliban official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the Taliban leadership was skeptical the Afghan government wanted peace, preferring the status quo and staying in power. A cease-fire, he said, could be easily

worked out once "our leaders are convinced that the other side is sincere."

Afghanistan's neighbors also wield influence. Washington's envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, was in Pakistan on Monday and while no details were released, it seems likely he was there to seek Pakistan's help to get the Taliban into an agreement to reduce violence.



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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

WORLD

China: WHO experts to visit Wuhan in virus origins probe

The Associated Press

BELJING — World Health Organization experts will visit the city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus was first detected in late 2019, at the start of their investigation into the origins of the pandemic, China said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the experts will arrive in Wuhan on Thursday. Other details of their schedule have not been announced and the central government's National Health Commission offered no further information.

The visit has been expected for months. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed frustration last week that arrangements were taking so long to finalize. After China announced the visit Monday, Tedros said the scientists, who come from several nations, will focus on how the coronavirus first jumped to people.

"Studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the potential

source of infection of the early cases," Tedros said.

China has rejected calls for an independent investigation while strictly controlling all research into the origins of the coronavirus and promoting fringe theories that the virus may actually have been brought to China from outside.

The culture of secrecy is believed to have delayed warnings about the pandemic, blocked the sharing of information with WHO and hampered early testing. There was considerable frustration among WHO officials over not getting the information they needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, the Associated Press has found.

The virus' origins have been the source of intense speculation, much of it centered around the likelihood that it was carried by bats and passed to humans through an intermediary species sold as food or medicine in traditional Chinese markets.

China largely brought the virus' local spread under



FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Workers in protective suits walk past the Hankou railway station on the eve of its resuming outbound traffic April 7 in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province.

control last spring, but currently is dealing with a new outbreak in the province of Hebei adjacent to Beijing. Travel to and from three cities, including the provincial

capital Shijiazhuang, Xingtai and Langfang, south of Beijing, has been suspended and residents of some communities have been told to stay home for the next week.

Similar measures have been ordered around the country, particularly in Wuhan where 11 million people were placed under lockdown for 76 days last winter during the early days of the pandemic.

Hebei also has delayed meetings of the provincial People's Congress and its advisory body that usually are held in February. It was not clear when the meetings will be held.

Local authorities say several dozen of the more than 300 confirmed cases reported this year in Shijiazhuang appear to be linked to wedding gatherings.

One new case also was reported Tuesday in Beijing, where more than a dozen communities and villages have been put under lockdown, and one in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, bringing China's reported total to 87,591, including 4,634 deaths.

That outbreak comes amid measures to curb the further spread of the virus during next month's Lunar New Year holiday. Authorities have called on citizens not to travel, ordered schools to close a week early and conducted testing on a massive scale.

EU regulator is considering Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

The Associated Press

LONDON — The European Medicines Agency said Tuesday that AstraZeneca and Oxford University have submitted an application for their COVID-19 vaccine to be licensed across the European Union.

The EU regulator said it received a request for the vaccine to be greenlighted under an expedited process and that it could be approved by Jan. 29 "provided that the data submitted on the quality, safety and efficacy of the vaccine are sufficiently robust and complete."

The EMA, the drugs agency for the 27-nation EU, already has approved two other coronavirus vaccines: one made by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech and another made by U.S. biotechnology company Moderna. Switzerland approved the Moderna vaccine on Tuesday and plans to immunize about 4% of its population using that and the Pfizer-BioNTech shot.

Britain gave its approval to the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine last month and has been using it. India approved it this month.

As part of its strategy to obtain as many different

COVID-19 vaccines as possible for Europeans, the EU said it had concluded early talks with French biotech company Valneva to secure up to 60 million doses of vaccine.

Valneva previously signed a deal with Britain to provide tens of millions of doses of its shot, which is developed using similar technology to that used to make flu vaccines. The EU has sealed six vaccine contracts for up to 2 billion doses, many more than are necessary to cover its population of roughly 450 million.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be a key vaccine for many countries because of its low cost, availability and ease of use. It can be kept in refrigerators rather than the ultra-cold storage that the Pfizer vaccine requires. The company has said it will sell it for \$2.50 a dose and plans to make up to 3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

Researchers claim the

Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine protected against disease in 62% of those given two full doses and in 90% of those initially given a half dose because of a manufacturing error. However, the second group included only 2,741 people — too few to be conclusive.

Questions also remain about how well the vaccine protects older people. Only 12% of study participants were over 55 and they were enrolled later, so there has not been enough time to see whether they develop infections at a lower rate than those not given the vaccine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says it will not consider approving the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine until data are available from late state research testing the shot in about 30,000 people.

The World Health Organization also is examining a request from AstraZeneca and Oxford for an emergency use listing for its vaccine.

The U.N. health agency does not license or regulate vaccines itself, but typically evaluates vaccines once they have been approved by an agency such as the U.K. regulator or the European Medicines Agency. WHO experts conduct their own evaluation of whether or not the risks of a vaccine outweigh its benefits and then make a recommendation for the shots to be "pre-qualified" so they can be bought by donors for developing countries.



PA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A health care worker fills a syringe with the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine Monday at a vaccine center in central Newcastle, Scotland.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities -2020

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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at Avoided-CostPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E-100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

SCOREBOARD

TV Listings

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

(MEN'S)

4:30 p.m.
ACCN — Pittsburgh at Syracuse

6 p.m.
CBSSN — Rhode Island at Richmond

6:30 p.m.
ACCN — Virginia Tech at Louisville
BTN — Penn State at Ohio State

7 p.m.
ESPN2 — Arkansas at Tennessee
FS1 — Georgetown at Butler
SECN — Georgia at LSU

8 p.m.
CBSSN — St. John's at Xavier

8:30 p.m.
ACCN — Boston College at Duke
BTN — Minnesota at Michigan

9 p.m.
ESPN2 — Oklahoma at Baylor
ESPNW — Texas A&M at South Carolina
FS1 — Seton Hall at Creighton
SECN — Auburn at Mississippi

10 p.m.
CBSSN — Utah State at New Mexico

11 p.m.
ESPNW — Oregon State at Utah
FS1 — Air Force at Boise State

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

(WOMEN'S)

4 p.m.
BTN — Northwestern at Wisconsin

NBA BASKETBALL

7:45 p.m.
ESPN — Boston at Miami

10:05 p.m.
ESPN — LA Clippers at Golden State

SOCCER (MEN'S)

2:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Serie A: Juventus at AC Milan

Basketball

NBA Glance

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phila.	6	1	.857	—
Boston	5	3	.625	1½
New York	4	3	.571	2
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	3
Toronto	1	5	.167	4½

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	5	2	.714	—
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1
Miami	3	3	.500	1½
Charlotte	2	5	.286	3
Washington	2	5	.286	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	5	2	.714	—
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	1
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1
Chicago	3	4	.429	2
Detroit	1	6	.143	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	4	3	.571	—
Dallas	3	4	.429	1
Houston	2	3	.400	1
San Antonio	2	4	.333	1½
Memphis	2	4	.333	1½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	4	2	.667	—
Portland	3	3	.500	1

Denver	2	4	.333	2
Minnesota	2	4	.333	2
Oklahoma City	2	4	.333	2
Pacific Division				
LA Clippers	5	2	.714	—
Phoenix	5	2	.714	—
LA Lakers	5	2	.714	—
Golden State	4	3	.571	1
Sacramento	3	4	.429	2

Monday's Games				
Orlando 103, Cleveland 83				
Phila. 118, Charlotte 101				
Miami 118, Oklahoma City 90				
New York 113, Atlanta 108				
Boston 126, Toronto 114				
Milwaukee 125, Detroit 115				
Dallas 113, Houston 106				
Indiana 118, New Orleans 116, OT				
Golden State 137, Sacramento 106				

Tuesday's Games				
Utah at Brooklyn, (n)				
LA Lakers at Memphis, (n)				
Minnesota at Denver, (n)				
San Antonio at LA Clippers, (n)				
Chicago at Portland, (n)				

Wednesday's Games				
Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m.				
Houston at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
Washington at Phila., 7 p.m.				
Boston at Miami, 7:30 p.m.				
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.				
Utah at New York, 7:30 p.m.				
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.				
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				
Chicago at Sacramento, 10 p.m.				
LA Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.				

Thursday's Games				
Phila. at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Dallas at Denver, 10 p.m.				
Minnesota at Portland, 10 p.m.				
San Antonio at LA Lakers, 10 p.m.				

Friday's Games				
Toronto at Detroit, 7 p.m.				
Charlotte at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at New York, 7:30 p.m.				
Washington at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Orlando at Houston, 8 p.m.				
Utah at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.				

Chicago at LA Lakers, 10 p.m.
LA Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Toronto at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Top 25 Fared

Monday

No. 1 Gonzaga (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Santa Clara, Thursday.

No. 2 Baylor (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Wednesday.

No. 3 Villanova (8-1) did not play. Next: at UConn, Friday, Jan. 15.

No. 4 Texas (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa St., Tuesday.

No. 5 Iowa (9-2) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Thursday.

No. 6 Kansas (8-2) did not play. Next: at TCU, Tuesday.

No. 7 Creighton (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Wednesday.

No. 8 Wisconsin (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Thursday.

No. 9 Tennessee (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Wednesday.

No. 10 Michigan (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Minnesota, Wednesday.

No. 11 Houston (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita St., Wednesday.

No. 12 Illinois (8-3) did not play. Next: at Northwest, Thursday.

No. 13 Missouri (7-1) did not play. Next: at Mississippi St., Tuesday.

No. 14 West Va. (9-3) beat Okla. St. 87-84. Next: vs. No. 4 Texas, Saturday.

No. 15 Rutgers (7-2) did not play. Next: No. 23 Michigan St., Tuesday.

No. 16 Minnesota (10-2) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Michigan, Wednesday.

No. 17 Oregon (8-1) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Thursday.

No. 18 Texas Tech (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas St., Tuesday.

No. 19 Clemson (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. N.C. State, Tuesday.

No. 20 Virginia Tech (8-1) did not play. Next: at Northwest, Wednesday.

No. 21 Duke (3-2) did not play. Next: vs. Boston Coll., Wednesday.

No. 22 Virginia (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Wednesday.

No. 23 Saint Louis (7-1) did not play. Next: at La Salle, Wednesday.

No. 23 Michigan St. (7-3) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Rutgers, Tuesday.

No. 25 Florida St. (5-2) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Saturday.

Women's

Top 25 Fared

Tuesday

No. 1 Stanford (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Oregon, Friday.

No. 2 Louisville (8-0) beat UT Martin 96-61. Next: vs. Clemson, Sunday.

No. 3 NC State (10-0) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.

No. 3 UConn (6-0) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Baylor, Thursday.

No. 5 S. Carolina (7-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia, Thursday.

No. 6 Baylor (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 UConn, Thursday.

No. 7 Arizona (8-1) did not play. Next: at Washington, Friday.

No. 8 Texas A&M (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Kentucky, Thursday.

No. 9 UCLA (6-2) did not play. Next: Colorado, Friday.

No. 10 Kentucky (9-1) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Texas A&M, Thursday.

No. 11 Oregon (8-1) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Stanford, Friday.

No. 12 Maryland (7-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Michigan St., Thursday.

No. 13 Arkansas (10-2) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Thursday.

No. 14 Mississippi St. (6-2) did not play. Next: at Florida, Thursday.

No. 15 Michigan (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Thursday.

No. 16 Ohio St. (5-0) beat Penn St. 82-69. Next: vs. Illinois, Thursday.

No. 17 Texas (8-1) did not play. Next: at West Va., Saturday.

No. 18 South Fla. (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Wichita St., Wednesday.

No. 19 Indiana (5-3) lost to No. 12 Maryland 84-80. Next: at Penn St., Thursday.

No. 20 DePaul (6-3) beat Villanova 94-82. Next: at Butler, Thursday.

No. 21 Gonzaga (9-2) beat Pacific 79-59. Next: vs. Portland, Saturday.

No. 22 Northwest (4-2) did not play.

Next: at Wisconsin, Wednesday.

No. 23 Michigan St. (8-0) did not play. Next: No. 14 Maryland, Thursday.

No. 24 Syracuse (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia, Thursday.

No. 25 Missouri St. (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola, Friday.

Football

NFL Playoffs

Wild Card Rounds

Saturday, Jan. 9

Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1:05 p.m.
Los Angeles Rams at Seattle, 4:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 10

Baltimore at Tennessee, 1:05 p.m.
Chicago at New Orleans, 4:40 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan. 17

lowest seed remaining at Green Bay
lowest seed remaining at Kansas City

Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Named Tony Mansolino third base coach, Darren Holmes assistant pitching coach and Chris Holt pitching coach/director of pitching.

TEXAS RANGERS — Named chief operating officer Neil Leblman to also assume the role of president of business operations. Acquired OF Carl Chester from Tampa Bay to complete a Dec. 8 trade.

National League

NEW YORK METS — Named Luis Rojas manager, Dave Jauss bench coach, Tony Tarasco first base/outfield and baserunning coach and Brian Schneider moves from quality control to major league field coordinating/catching coach.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS — Named vice president of public relations Amy Phuong chief operating officer for Saving Our Atlanta

Region's Residents.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed TE Ian Bunting, DL Michael Dogbe, WRs Krishawn Hogan, A.J. Richardson, Jolo Ward and Isaac Whitney, K Brett Maher, OL Koda Martin, S Chris Miller, RB Khalil Muhammad, LBs Terrance Smith, Reggie Walker and Evan Weaver and CBS Jace Whittaker and Picasso Nelson to future contracts for the 2021 season.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Activated TE Sean Culkin from the practice squad injured reserve. Released LB James Crawford.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed K Joey Slye to a one-year extension.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed G Joel Bitonio and WR Khadareel Hodge on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed C Nick Harris and DE Oliver Vernon on injured reserve.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed WRs Tom Kennedy, Victor Bolden, G Evan Brown, S Jalen Elliott and LB Anthony Pittman to future contracts for the 2021 season.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Waived P Dustin Colquitt. Activated OL Ben Barchit from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed TE Brandon Dillon on reserve/future free agent signing list from the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated OT Brandon Shell from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released G Wyatt Miller from the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Signed RB C.J. Prosise to the practice squad. Released CB Mazi Wilkins from practice squad.

Canadian Football League

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Agreed to terms with LT Stanley Bryant on a one-year extension. Agreed to terms with WR Nic Demski on two-year extension.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Waived C Zack Smith.

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Announced LW Colin Wilson retired.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Waived RW Denis Malgin.

HURRICANES

Continued from B1

Svechnikov (24 goals) as young stars, defenseman Dougie Hamilton (named to last year's NHL All-Star Game before being sidelined by injury) and two goaltenders who each helped the Hurricanes to postseason wins.

"Everyone knows the systems already," defenseman Jacobob Slavin said as the team began a shortened training camp. "Guys are ready to go."

The Hurricanes are trying to make three straight play-off trips for the first time

since relocating to North Carolina in 1997 from Hartford, Connecticut.

Some things to know about the Hurricanes this season:

Svech's growth

The Hurricanes are eager to see Svechnikov's third-year growth.

The 6-foot-2 winger and No. 2 overall draft pick provided a physical presence on Carolina's top line alongside Aho last season. The 20-year-old also had the first postseason hat trick in franchise history in a Stanley Cup qualifier series win against the New York Rangers.

"During my first year, I came here, I didn't know anyone, I didn't know the system ... and how to play hockey in the NHL," Svechnikov said. "Obviously I got more confident. I got to know how to play every situation, every system, so it's going to be way easier than my first two years."

Net duo

The Hurricanes return goaltenders Petr Mrazek and James Reimer, who both worked the three-game sweep of the Rangers and the five-game loss to the Boston Bruins.

Brind'Amour said the rotation sets up well in a re-

vamped schedule that will typically feature consecutive games against the same opponent.

"It would be tough to ride one goalie in this schedule, I don't see how you could do it," Brind'Amour said. "It's good to know we've already done this kind of rotation with these two guys and feel real confident in it."

Center strength

The Hurricanes look solid up the middle with Aho, midseason acquisition Vincent Trocheck and captain Jordan Staal at center.

Trocheck, acquired from Florida at the February trade deadline, played just

seven games with Carolina before the stoppage and had two assists in eight postseason games.

"I'm looking forward to having ... a year of him under our belt to see kind of what he can bring," Brind'Amour said. "Because I think we have a really good player there."

New look

The Hurricanes must replace the veteran presence of Justin Williams, who retired in October after a 19-year NHL career. Carolina also lost defensemen Trevor van Riemsdyk (signed with Washington) and Joel Edmundson (traded to Mon-

treal).

The Hurricanes signed winger Jesper Fast to a three-year deal. The 28-year-old Fast played seven seasons with the Rangers, finishing with 12 goals and 17 assists last year.

Schedule watch

The Hurricanes open Jan. 14 at Detroit in the first of a two-game set, followed by two games at Nashville. Carolina's home opener is Jan. 21 against Florida.

The Hurricanes also have an eight-game home stand in April before closing the 56-game schedule at Nashville on May 7-8.

ECU

Continued from B1

attempts. That can't happen, especially on the road." Brandon Suggs had five turnovers, followed by four each from Jayden Gardner and J.J. Miles. Point guard Tremont Robinson-White was a bright spot with four assists and two turnovers.

ECU committed 10 giveaways in its season-opening win at Charlotte, then nine against N.C. Wesleyan and 10 versus Radford for the first three wins of the Pirates' 5-0 start.

Gardner matched his career low of five points and was 1-for-5 from the field in the loss to Tulane (6-2, 1-2). His lone field goal was a 3-pointer with 2 seconds remaining, which made it 58-56 and was followed by two free throws by the Wave's Jordan Walker to create the final score.

Keeping the Pirates within striking distance was a 10-for-26 effort from 3-point range, led by Suggs going

4-of-5 and Bitumba Baruti finishing 3-for-6. Suggs scored a team-high 14 points.

"There was nothing different (on Gardner) they didn't do last time, but we didn't move the ball like we needed to and our activity level, from A to Z, wasn't what it needed to be," Doolley said. "It seemed like we were a little lethargic. Also, when you turn it over 21 times, that's 21 less times you get to shoot the ball. That was a big problem."

Baruti and Miles each are 13-for-31 on 3-pointers for the season.

ECU's game on Dec. 30 at Wichita State was postponed because of COVID-19 protocols within the Pirate program. Tristen Newton, who was scoreless in 24 minutes in the first Tulane matchup and a starter for seven of the first eight contests, was not available to play last weekend.

The Pirates were No. 107 in updated NET rankings Tuesday by the NCAA. USF was No. 118, and Tulane No.

158. Duke (117) and Kentucky (143) were both outside the top 100.

WOMEN'S STANDINGS

East Carolina's 71-58 loss at South Florida on Saturday dropped ECU from a tie for first place to alone in fourth in the AAC women's standings heading into a full four-game slate of Wednesday league games.

The three teams without an American loss are USF (4-0), UCF (3-0) and Temple (2-0). ECU (5-4, 3-1) hosts Temple today at 6 p.m.

FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

Continued from A1

bronchitis and other lung infections, he said.

"That's good considering there were great concerns about COVID and influenza circulating at the same time," he said.

Monday's meeting was the first completely virtual meeting, Elliott said. When restrictions on gatherings were first imposed last year, most commissioners participated via Zoom but Elliott, Clerk to the Board Kimberly Hines, County Attorney Janis Gallagher, other top administrators

and the occasional commissioner would gather in the commissioners' auditorium.

But with coronavirus cases increasing, Elliott recommended everyone participate remotely.

Other action taken during Monday's meeting included:

■ Commissioner Lauren White lost her connection to the meeting and was unable to participate in several votes.

She sent a message to staff asking the commissioners to consider sending the Attorney General a letter requesting his office investigate Suddenlink's

business practices because of continued problems people in Greenville and its Pitt County service area have with service.

The mayors of New Bern, Tarboro and Washington, N.C., sent a similar letter last week.

The commissioners agreed to place the item on its February agenda.

■ The commissioners voted 8-1 to establish a Human Relations Council.

A second vote was needed because state law requires local government ordinance to be approved either by a unanimous vote or taking two separate votes.

White and Commissioner

Tom Coulson voted against the council in December, which is why the second vote was required.

However, because the board didn't excuse White from participating in the meeting when she lost connection, she was counted as voting yes, leaving Coulson as the only no vote on Monday.

■ White participated in an earlier vote unanimously approving a conditional district rezoning request involving nearly two acres of property western side of N.C. 43 South, north of B Stokes Road.

O'neil J. Otero and Saskia Marcano requested

the property be rezoned from rural residential to general commercial so they can operate an office and repair garage/shop for a refuse materials hauling business and tax preparation services office.

Planning Director James Rhodes said staff recommended a conditional rezoning because they believe not every use allowed under general commercial zoning is suitable for the area. The conditional rezoning allows only the businesses Otero and Marcano want to pursue on the property.

■ The board unanimously approved transfer-

ring to the Town of Grifton eight parcels of property acquired after Hurricanes Irene and Matthew with hazard mitigation grant funding.

■ Unanimously approved releasing \$1.6 million so it can lock in costs prior to the start of construction on the A.G. Cox Middle School renovation project.

■ Unanimously approved a proclamation recognizing January as human trafficking awareness and prevention month.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.

SCHOOLS

Continued from A1

stream views and by Tuesday had been viewed more than 8,000 times. Johnson read dozens of comments that were submitted in writing because members of the public were not allowed to attend due to COVID-19.

Many comments were critical of the board's Jan. 5 vote against an all-virtual start, despite concerns that the school district would see an after-Christmas spike similar to the one it experienced following the Thanksgiving break.

"We must look at the statistics and the reality of the situation in front of us," E.B. Aycock Middle School teacher Jonathan Redman wrote. "Pitt County's positivity rate is 13.6 The previous threshold of 10 percent was passed a long time ago."

Creekside Elementary School teacher Paula Mitra agreed that the board's decisions should be driven by data.

"Decide what the maximum number of positive COVID-19 cases or the highest rate of infection in the community that there can be and still have students in school safely," she wrote. "If these guidelines are in place, then the school board won't have to hold contentious debates during the school board meetings."

Several comments challenged the district's COVID-19 dashboard, which provides updates on new school-affected cases but does not specify whether new cases involve students or staff members. The district's weekly report also does not include information about quarantines or a listing of schools where cases have been reported.

"The type of information that is currently being reported is sorely lacking and compounding the frustration, anger and confusion of all stakeholders," parent Tom Morse wrote. "While the 'School-Affected Cases' is interesting, it's not a clear indicator of the impact of COVID on student learning, teacher availability, number of teachers and students quarantining, impact on substitutes, strain on bus drivers, etc. The term SAC is misleading because it implies that the system as a whole is only impacted by that statistic. Those who understand the definition of SAC (including yourselves) know that's not the case."

Morse, whose wife is a Pitt County Schools teacher, was among several writers who asked the district to adopt a more comprehensive reporting system similar to one used in Johnston County.

Parent Amber Reel made a more emotional appeal.

"I do agree that face-to-face is the best way to utilize instructional time. I also agree that the health of staff and students is important," she wrote. "I've said this hundreds of times, I'd rather have dumb kids that are alive than smart ones who have died."

Reel, who said she has suffered a loss due to COVID-19, criticized the board for failing at its last meeting to mention by name Richard Montoya, a band and orchestra teacher at

Wellcome Middle and North Pitt High School, who died in June from COVID-19.

Since the Jan. 5 meeting, board members have been criticized on social media for being uncaring because none could immediately recall the name of a school staff member who succumbed to the virus. Following a moment of silence at the beginning of Monday's meeting, Forrest led a prayer that mentioned Montoya as well as Thelma Perkins, a bus monitor, who died from COVID-19 in October.

Montoya's former co-worker, Jennifer Krajna, expressed a similar sentiment to Reel's.

"Let's hope the next time one of our teachers dies, their name will be remembered," she wrote.

Krajna's letter said teachers are being undermined and left out of decision-making.

"Does the board not realize we are scared? We are mentally tired and have had to deal with so much change lately that it is becoming harder and harder to do our job when we are trying to get our own basic needs met," she wrote. "When is enough enough?"

Some writers thanked the board for its previous efforts to preserve face-to-face instruction and asked them to continue to allow students to attend classes on campus.

Nancy Keith said her daughter was scheduled this week to have her first face-to-face day since March.

"She is on pins and needles that she will not get to go," she wrote. "As a working parent and essential

worker who has remained working through the entire pandemic, I feel that face-to-face instruction is best suited for our children."

Parent Megan Weaver told the board that her middle school child has to be left home to supervise her younger siblings because her parents work.

"It's not working," she wrote. "My children are failing."

District 5 representative Anna Barrett Smith, who had proposed Jan. 5 that schools move to temporary all-virtual instruction, made a similar motion Monday. District 7 representative Caroline Doherty offered a second to Smith's motion.

Forrest asked if the school district's hourly employees would be affected by the decision. Lenker said the district has money in its budget to continue to pay those workers during two weeks of virtual instruction.

Doherty said she had received hundreds of emails, calls and text messages from parents offering suggestions for how school should proceed during a pandemic and that she understands their concerns and appreciates their input.

"Like most stakeholder opinions, they are widely varied both in their perspectives and recommendations," she said. "(They) sometimes express polar opposite views using the exact same reasoning. This is pretty typical for our society."

About 70 percent of the school district's 23,000 students enrolled in November to attend class in person during the second semes-

ter. While school officials said earlier that virtual enrollment would be a semester-long commitment, Lenker said last week that the district will give virtual students another chance to return to classes during the semester if COVID-19 cases decline.

On Jan. 5, the district indicated that families of in-person students could temporarily opt for virtual learning until Jan. 15, but that deadline has been extended through the end of the month.

Johnson said Tuesday that the district also expects to give families of full-time virtual students a mid-semester option for returning to face-to-face instruction.

In other business, the board voted unanimously:

To suspend for one year Pitt County Schools' requirement that students have 28 credits for graduation. For the 2021 graduation class, the district will use the state standard of 22 credits. The superintendent said the decision should favorably affect about 215 seniors.

To divide an \$11 million contract for construction and renovation of A.G. Cox Middle School into two sep-

arate parts due to a delay in available funding. The change will enable work on the two-year project to begin this month, with a second part of the project to begin after April 15. Group 3

Management of Kinston will serve as general contractor for the project.

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or call 329-9578.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities -2020)
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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at Avoided-CostPublicHearing@pscnc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E-100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be e-mailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Beach officer cleared in mall incident

Innocent Black man was handcuffed

By Jane Harper
Staff Writer

A Virginia Beach police sergeant who wrongly handcuffed and detained an innocent Black man at Lynn-haven Mall last month has been cleared of wrongdoing, but will be disciplined for not wearing a face mask during the incident, the city's police chief told City Council members Tuesday.

Chief Paul Neudigate announced the findings during a briefing to the council. He said the determination was the result of a two-week investigation into whether the officer violated

any laws or department policies on Dec. 19, when he handcuffed and detained Virginia Beach resident Jamar Mackey.

The incident was captured on a cellphone video recorded by Mackey's fiancée that quickly went viral.

While the sergeant's actions may not have violated any laws or policies, Neudigate said the department will be taking several steps, including updating its training, to make sure an incident like it doesn't happen again.

"No one wants this to happen," the chief said. "An apology is certainly warranted, but it was all reasonable and in accor-

dance with the law."

Among the things the investigation considered was whether the sergeant's actions were acceptable based on what he knew when he approached Mackey, Neudigate said.

The sergeant, identified by Neudigate as Sgt. Coffrin, was given a description of a suspect wanted for stealing a car and purse, and then using credit cards from the purse in the mall, the chief said. He was described as a Black man, wearing all black clothes, with a dreads hair-style, and accompanied by a child wearing a red top.

A friend of the woman whose purse was stolen also identified Mackey as the suspect just moments before

Mackey was detained, Neudigate said.

The chief showed council members side-by-side photos showing Mackey, 32, and the man who eventually was arrested and charged with the thefts: 29-year-old Markee Smith. Both men were in the mall's food court when they were stopped by police.

The photos show the men standing outside the mall. Both are Black, with long dreads, dressed in all-black clothing, and standing next to a boy with a red top on.

While Mackey was immediately handcuffed and escorted out of the mall, Smith was not handcuffed until he made incriminating statements to the offi-

cers who approached him, Neudigate said.

Coffrin told investigators he decided to handcuff Mackey because he was concerned he would flee and he didn't want to risk a pursuit in the mall, which was crowded with Christmas shoppers, the chief said.

"When we evaluate the stop and evaluate the circumstances based on the factors that were just presented, all the information the sergeant knew at the time, we concluded that the sergeant had reasonable suspicion to detain Mr. Mackey," Neudigate said.

The sergeant and another officer with him, however, were wrong to not be wearing face masks and will be

disciplined for it, the chief said. He didn't specify what that punishment would be.

Mackey tested positive for COVID-19 just three days after the incident. He was eating lunch when the officer approached him and had his mask pulled down to his chin.

Coffrin was tested for the virus afterwards and the results were negative, Neudigate told the council.

As a result of the incident, a review will be conducted by the department's Investigation Review Panel, and all policies, procedures and training will be reviewed for possible improvements.

Jane Harper, jane.harper@pilotonline.com

Voters head to polls to pick a new state delegate

Pair vying to win 90th House District seat

By Ana Ley
Staff Writer

Voters on Norfolk's east side went to the polls Tuesday to decide who will fill a vacant state delegate seat.

Residents of the 90th House District, which also includes a tiny sliver of Virginia Beach, decided between Republican Sylvia Bryant and Democrat Angela Williams Graves.

Results came too late to be included in print, but you can see them at PilotOnline.com or elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports/election-night-reporting.

The seat came open when Joe Lindsey, a Democrat who had held it since 2014, was recently appointed to a judgeship in Norfolk's General District Court. Lindsey had to step down as



Bryant



Graves

a delegate in order to serve as a judge.

The winner of Tuesday's election will serve the remaining year of Lindsey's original term. The seat, like the 99 others in the House, will also be up for election this fall.

Graves has spent the past decade serving on Norfolk's City Council and was unchallenged for reelection to the Superward 7 seat earlier this year. If elected to the statehouse, she'd vacate her council seat with three years remaining in the term. She defeated retired Norfolk detective Richard

"Rick" James for the Democratic nomination in a fire-house primary.

Republicans picked Bryant, a political newcomer and office administrator, to represent their party over military veteran Mario Portillo.

Both parties decided to hold private events, rather than official primary elections, to choose their candidates.

The district usually votes Democratic, though newly drawn district lines that went into effect in 2019 made that partisan advantage slightly less lopsided, according to an analysis by the Virginia Public Access Project. The district also includes a microscopic slice of Virginia Beach — that city has 79 voters in the 90th District, its registrar said, compared with more than 43,000 in Norfolk.

Ana Ley, 757-446-2478, ana.ley@pilotonline.com

Va. creates Office of Civil Rights with expanded scope

By Ana Ley
Staff Writer

As social unrest over systemic racism continues to grip the nation, Virginia has created an Office of Civil Rights with the intent of promoting a more equitable government.

The move will "expand and reorganize" the state's previous Division of Human Rights, according to a statement released Tuesday by the office of Attorney General Mark Herring, whose office oversees it.

As part of the shift, the Office of Civil Rights will grow to a staff of 13, including seven attorneys. When Herring took office, the Division of Human Rights had four employees.

Staff duties will include carrying out investigations into cases of police misconduct, workplace and housing discrimination and failure to accommodate expectant and new mothers.

Herring's announcement

comes after protesters gathered by the thousands last year in Virginia and across the country through the most significant protest movement of a generation. It was spurred, in part, by the May police killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man who pleaded for his life as a white police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down in the street.

Since Floyd's death, demonstrators have demanded that the officer and his peers be held accountable while calling out racial inequity in America.

In Richmond, Democratic lawmakers who took control of the General Assembly for the first time in decades called for a special session with the goal of delivering police reform.

Shortly after Tuesday's announcement, Norfolk Del. Jerrauld "Jay" Jones, a Democrat who is chal-

lenging Herring for his seat this year, launched his own public statement to accuse the attorney general of launching the initiative for political reasons.

Jones had called for an office of civil rights in an opinion piece that was published on the web edition of the Roanoke Times on Nov. 11.

"I think it's interesting from a timing perspective," Jones said. "We don't want to play politics with people's civil rights but that's certainly what it looks like he is doing with this proposal."

In response to Jones, Herring's press secretary said the change is simply a continuation of his expansion of the previous division.

"Attorney General Herring has made protecting Virginians' civil rights a top priority since his very first days in office," Charlotte P.L. Gomer wrote in an email, adding that his "record on civil rights is clear."

Navy

from Page 1

DeDolph was assigned to Naval Special Warfare Development Group, more commonly known as SEAL Team 6.

Melgar died after special warfare operators broke into his room while he was sleeping, binding him with duct tape and placing him in a chokehold, according to testimony in earlier court proceedings.

The idea was to embarrass the Green Beret, getting back for leaving other Marines behind when he went to an embassy party.

Former Navy Chief Special Operator Adam Matthews, and former Marine Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. have pleaded guilty in the case.

Matthews was sentenced to a year in confinement, a reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge. Maxwell was sentenced in June to four years confinement, a bad conduct discharge and a reduction in rank to private.

Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez has also been charged with murder, with a trial set for later this year.

In their trials, Matthews and Maxwell testified that they and several others came up with the plan, which they described as a joke that got out of hand, when they gathered at a club that evening.

They testified that DeDolph was the driving force behind the plan.

In addition to the charge of murder, DeDolph is charged with involuntary manslaughter, hazing, burglary and obstruction of justice.

The obstruction charge includes an allegation that DeDolph, a medic, performed a medical procedure on Melgar's neck to open an airway to hide evidence of his injuries.

Dave Ress, 757-247-4535, dress@dailypress.com

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Determination of Avoided Cost
for Electric Utility Purchases from
Qualifying Facilities 2020

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 3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62 156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

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Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties' filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

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First federal execution of woman in 67 years on hold

By Michael Tarm and Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — The U.S. government’s plans to carry out its first execution of a female inmate in nearly seven decades were on hold Tuesday amid a flurry of legal rulings, and two other executions set for later this week were halted because the inmates tested positive for COVID-19.

The three executions were to be the last before President-elect Joe Biden, an opponent of the federal death penalty, is sworn-in next week. Now it’s unclear how many additional executions there will be under President Donald Trump, who resumed federal executions in July after 17-year pause. Ten federal inmates have since been put to death.

Lisa Montgomery faced execution Tuesday for killing Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in 2004. She used a rope to strangle Stinnett, who was eight months pregnant, and then cut the baby girl from the womb with a kitchen knife. Montgomery took the child with her and attempted to pass the girl off as her own.

But an appeals court granted a stay of execution Tuesday, shortly after another appeals court lifted an Indiana judge’s ruling that found she was likely mentally ill and couldn’t comprehend she would be put to death. If a higher court puts the execution back on, Montgomery, the only female on federal death row, would receive a lethal injection at a federal prison complex in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The last woman executed by the federal government was Bonnie Brown Heady on Dec. 18, 1953, for the kidnapping and murder of a 6-year-old boy in Missouri.

The last woman executed by a state was Kelly Gissendanner, 47, on Sept. 30,



Lisa Montgomery killed a pregnant woman in 2004. SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

2015, in Georgia. She was convicted of murder in the 1997 slaying of her husband after she conspired with her lover, who stabbed Douglas Gissendanner to death.

Separately, a federal judge for the U.S. District of Columbia halted the scheduled executions later this week of Corey Johnson and Dustin Higgs in a ruling Tuesday. Johnson, convicted of killing seven people related to his drug trafficking in Virginia, and Higgs, convicted of ordering the murders of three women in Maryland, both tested positive for COVID-19 last month.

Delays of any of this week’s scheduled executions beyond Biden’s inauguration next Tuesday would likely mean they will not happen any time soon, or ever, since a Biden administration is expected to oppose carrying out of federal death sentences.

One of Montgomery’s lawyers, Kelley Henry, said Tuesday that her client arrived at the Terre Haute facility late Monday night from a Texas prison and that, because there are no facilities for female inmates, she was being kept in a cell in the execution-chamber building itself.

“I don’t believe she has any rational comprehension of what’s going on at

all,” Henry said.

Montgomery’s legal team says she suffered “sexual torture,” including gang rapes, as a child, permanently scarring her emotionally and exacerbating mental health issues that ran in her family.

At trial, prosecutors accused Montgomery of faking mental illness, noting that her killing of Stinnett was premeditated and included meticulous planning, including online research on how to perform a C-section.

Henry balked at that idea, citing extensive testing and brain scans that supported the diagnosis of mental illness.

“You can’t fake brain scans that show the brain damage,” she said.

Henry said the issue at the core of the legal arguments are not whether she knew the killing was wrong in 2004 but whether she fully grasps why she is slated to be executed now.

In his ruling on a stay, U.S. District Judge James Patrick Hanlon in Terre Haute cited defense experts who alleged Montgomery suffered from depression, borderline personality disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Montgomery, the judge wrote, also suffered around the time of the killing from an extremely rare condition called pseudocyesis in which a woman’s false belief she is pregnant triggers hormonal and physical changes as if she was actually pregnant.

Montgomery also experiences delusions and hallucinations, believing God spoke with her through connect-the-dot puzzles, the judge said, citing defense experts.

The government has acknowledged Montgomery’s mental issues but disputes that she can’t comprehend that she is scheduled for execution for killing another person because of them.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E 100, SUB 167

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities 2020)
) 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 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to be held remotely via Webex for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2020 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket from qualifying 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 (DENC), 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 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 facilities, 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 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 facilities in North Carolina.

Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at AvoidedCostPublicHearing@pscncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866 380 9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (E 100, Sub 167), telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing.

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 may also be emailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

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 Monday, January 11, 2021. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 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, DENC, WCU, and New River related solely to proposed changes in the methodologies used to calculate or determine the avoided cost rates, as well as the data inputs and assumptions used in applying those methodologies must be filed with the Commission no later than Monday, January 11, 2021. Deadlines for parties’ filing of comments and exhibits related to additional issues in this proceeding will be established by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of November, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF
A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, DESIGNATED RIDER RPS,
BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2020-00170

•Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia (“Dominion”) has applied for approval of a rate adjustment clause, designated Rider RPS, to recover costs related to compliance with the mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard program established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

•Dominion requests approval of a revenue requirement of \$13,230,000 for Rider RPS for the rate year beginning August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022. According to Dominion, this amount would increase a typical residential customer’s bill using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$0.18.

•Due to the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the State Corporation Commission will hold a telephone hearing in this case on May 3, 2021, for the receipt of public witness testimony.

•A Hearing Examiner appointed by the State Corporation Commission will hold an evidentiary hearing in this case on May 4, 2021.

•Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On November 9, 2020, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion” or “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) a petition (“Petition”) for approval of a rate adjustment clause, designated Rider RPS, pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 5 d of the Code of Virginia (“Code”). Through its Petition, Dominion seeks to recover costs related to compliance with the mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard program (“RPS Program”) established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act (“VCEA”).

Pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 C, Dominion is required to participate in an RPS Program that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy to all retail customers in the Company’s service territory, with certain limited exceptions. To comply with the RPS Program, Dominion must procure and retire renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) originating from qualifying sources. The RPS Program requirements “shall be a percentage of the total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year” and must be implemented in accordance with the schedule set forth in Code § 56-585.5 C. Code § 56-585.5 C further provides that, to the extent Dominion procures RECs for RPS Program compliance from resources it does not own, the Company shall be entitled to recover the costs of such RECs pursuant to Code §§ 56-249.6 or 56-585.1 A 5 d.

Code § 56-585.1 A 5 d provides that a utility may petition the Commission for approval of one or more rate adjustment clauses for the timely and current recovery from customers of: “[p] rejected and actual costs of compliance with renewable energy portfolio standard requirements pursuant to § 56-585.5 that are not recoverable under subdivision 6. The Commission shall approve such a petition allowing the recovery of such costs incurred as required by § 56-585.5, provided that the Commission does not otherwise find such costs were unreasonably or imprudently incurred....”

In its Petition, Dominion states that it will meet the annual requirements of the RPS Program through the retirement of RECs sourced from a combination of RECs generated from Company owned renewable energy facilities, RECs generated from renewable energy facilities owned by an entity other than the utility with which the Company has entered into a power purchase agreement (“PPA”), long-term REC only contracts, and market purchases.

The Company’s Petition details the process used to determine the total cost of RECs to be recovered through Rider RPS during the rate year of August 1, 2021, to July 31, 2022 (“Rate Year”). According to the Company, once it determined the total costs of RECs to be recovered in this proceeding, it applied a Virginia jurisdictional allocation factor of 84.5973%. Finally, the Company states it applied a credit remaining from the Company’s participation in Virginia’s voluntary renewable energy portfolio standard program that was in place under former Code § 56-585.2.

In this proceeding, the Company seeks approval of a total revenue requirement of \$13,230,000 for the Rate Year.

The Company asserts it proposes to use an energy allocation factor to allocate costs to the Virginia jurisdiction and the development of a uniform charge per kilowatt hour (“kWh”) applicable to all bundled service and retail choice customers, calculated to take into account the relevant provisions of the VCEA.

If the proposed Rider RPS for the Rate Year is approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on the customer’s rate schedule and usage. According to Dominion, implementation of its proposed Rider RPS on August 1, 2021, would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month by approximately \$0.18.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on Dominion’s Petition. On May 3, 2021, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission’s courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before April 29, 2021, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On May 4, 2021, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner’s Ruling.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk’s Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission’s Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Company’s Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Sarah R. Bennett, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or SBennett@mcguirewoods.com.

On or before April 29, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/cascomments/Submit-Public-Comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00170.

On or before February 9, 2021, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, or by filing electronically at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00170.

On or before March 9, 2021, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at the address above or electronically at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, and serve on the Commission’s Staff, the Company, and all other respondents, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case, and each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission’s Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*; and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00170.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

The Company’s Petition, the Commission’s Rules of Practice and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
d/b/a DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA

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