

Letters

Continued From Page 4-A

Regatta could not have taken place without the cooperation of our local residents, motels, B&B owners, restaurants, retail merchants, businesses, host families as well as our many local organizations.

It was a week of great sailing with spectator boats leaving the waterfront so that non-participants could get a good view of the sailing action as well as taking advantage of great photo opportunities on the water. Seventy-seven boats entered representing 25 states with approximately 350 folks traveling from distances as far as California, Washington and Oregon.

Everyone in Chowan County played an important role in this week-long event and contributed greatly to the overall success. We want to thank each and every one for their invaluable assistance and warm hospitality throughout the week!

The Thistle Overview Planning Committee

The time is now

Dear Editor:

In Ecclesiastes 12:1 we read, "Remember now your creator in the days of your youth..." So many young people think they will live to an old age - that they will have plenty of time to turn to God.

Some young people think they can "sow their wild oats" and repent later - but we don't know "the day or the hour." We have no choice as to when we will die.

Remember, Princess Di and John F. Kennedy, Jr. were both under 40 years of age when they died. Don't wait; the time is now.

Ellie Vickas
Hertford, NC

Family saddened

(Editor's Note: Thomas Asbell was a Chowan County resident who lived in Center Hill.)

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you about the Don't Drink and Drive law. What is it to the people of Dare County? The Outer Banks is known for the happy go lucky drinking and having fun atmosphere, but where do they really draw the line? Is it just drink some, drive and hope you don't get caught? And if you are caught, then what? Are you accountable for the decision you make if you hurt someone else?

Is it better to DRINK and DRIVE than to Drink and Walk? It seems to me that if you make the decision to drive after drinking, you are the one who made the better decision than the person who decided to follow the rules by walking home after drinking.

I believe that if my brother-in-law, on September 20, 1998, had made the decision to drive home instead of walk, he would not have been run over by a drunk driver. He would be alive today, playing with his two wonderful children and enjoying life with his wife of 15 years!

Of course, that's not the way I should think, but after the decision the people of Dare County made as a jury of 12, I have no choice. How can you say that a person who drinks, drives and kills is not guilty? It's obvious to me, he is guilty! He was driving, he made the choice to drive, not walk. If he had made the right choice, and walked, he would not have killed my brother-in-law. Tho-

mas Asbell, better known as Rev, was a good man. He was not rowdy, he loved his family, he was a gentle giant with a heart of gold. He never went out except for special occasions. That night was a special occasion... he was in town for a wedding; it was also his wedding anniversary. He was off with old and dear friends just having a good time, only he was not going to break any laws and take the chance of hurting someone else. He, along with his wife and friends, decided to walk across the street to go home, just a few blocks back off the road, only Rev didn't quite make it.

The driver from Ohio was just coming down, and guess what? He was coming to the Outer Banks... party time... let's drink and drive! You know nothing happens to you in Dare County when you drink and drive... Lose your license? So what. Most DUIs don't live in NC. Why do they need a license to drive there? Big deal. I might kill someone, well, who cares anyway? After what happened this summer to the "GEMS", I would have thought that the people of Dare County would CARE and be tired of letting people get away with drinking, driving, and killing.

When will we stop letting this happen? When will we find people who are guilty, really guilty, and let THEM spend the money to appeal and have the charges reduced. Why should the victims be the ones to be made to feel guilty? Makes no sense to me.

I am very saddened by the outcome of the trial. It's like losing Rev all over again. I thought justice would be done, but I guess some of you think that a man from Ohio losing his license to drive in NC, and having to spend a few nights in jail for drinking and driving is ENOUGH punishment for killing a man? IS IT? Really? Then I hope you never have to lose your precious gem.

Our family and friends would like to add Thomas "Rev"

See LETTERS Page 11-A

O'Connor

Continued From Page 4-A

the House chose to avoid than in anything the Republicans actually passed.

When the GOP controlled the House, it pushed through changes in welfare laws that were anathema to liberal Democrats.

But the Assembly changed very few of those initiatives this year because they probably did not have the votes to do so. Conservative Democrats would have sided with the GOP.

The GOP also led the push for tax cuts that amounted to more than \$1 billion in lost revenue for this budget year. With the budget in a deep hole, Democrats might have liked to consider either the delay or repeal of some of those tax cuts. At the same time, the counties were begging for new taxing power.

Many face major school construction needs. With 54 solid Republican votes against, initiative to increase taxes or add taxing authority were dead. Democrats, regardless of how they felt about the merits of such tax increases - and some were just as opposed philosophically as the Republicans - knew they could not afford to give the GOP such a major campaign issue for the 2000 elections.

The GOP's muscle flexed most visibly at the end of session. Under the leadership of Rep. Richard Morgan, R-Moore, the GOP stepped in and killed the Senate's \$3 billion bond plan for the University of North Carolina. Again, the combination of a solid GOP and conservative Democrats added up to a majority of the 120-member body. That Black endorsed the bonds before he was sure his chamber would sign on was a major surprise.

Maybe he forgot about the 54 Republicans in his chamber. But how could that be? They were nipping at his ankles for most of the session.

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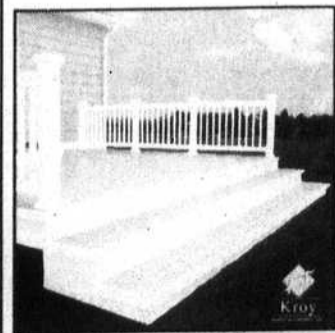
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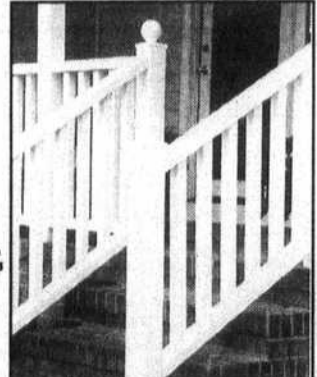
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Chowan CALENDAR

What's happening this week...

Wednesday - 8/11

HEARING LOSS PROGRAM

A free Today's Health Program on "Hearing Loss", will be presented at Chowan Hospital at 12 noon. Dr. Sue Karen Wink, board certified in Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) will present the program. Some topics include, ear blockage, tinnitus (ringing in ears), vertigo (balance), swimmers ear and hearing aids. A bag lunch, handouts, and question and answer period will be provided. To pre-register, call 482-6283.

Saturday - 8/14

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Join Pettigrew State Park in Creswell park staff to view the Perseid meteors. You can expect to see as many as sixty meteors per hour. Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy this annual event. Meet at park office at 9 p.m.

PADDLE THE MILLPOND

Join park staff at Merchants millpond at 9 a.m. for a canoe trip to enjoy the scenery, plants and animals found there. Approx 1 1/2 - 2 hour trip requires preregistration. Fee for use of park canoes. Call 252-357-1191 to register.

Sunday - 8/15

EXHIBIT RECEPTION

Perquimans Arts League is hosting a reception for artist, Jennifer Abbate, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Perquimans Arts Center and Hall of Fame Square, Church St Hertford. Come and meet the artist and enjoy her unique exhibit of photography work and paintings. Exhibit will be in place through Sept. 15.

Tuesday - 8/17

WALKER PTA & OPEN HOUSE

D.F. Walker Elementary School will hold a PTA meeting and Open House at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Students and parents will have an opportunity to visit classrooms, talk with teachers and tour the school. If you have any questions regarding the PTA meeting or open house, call 482-3213.

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

A North Carolina Wildlife Hunter Safety Course will be offered August 17, 18 & 19 from 6 - 9:30 p.m. at Center Hill - Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department. Contact Officer Mark Rich at 482-5855 for more information. You must attend all three nights to be certified.

NAACP MEETING

The Chowan County Branch of the NAACP will meet at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events

CHOIR TO PERFORM

The Lost Colony Choir will perform at the waterfront stage in Colonial Park, Edenton under the direction of Dr. Paul LaPrade on August 21 at 7 p.m. The choir includes students from Westminster Choir College and singers from other major musical institutions. The free performance, underwritten by the Colony's Professional Theater Workshop, will include Classical, Traditional Spiritual and Jazz. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair.

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

The Edenton-Chowan Civic League will meet at the Fannie A. Parker Woman's Club on Monday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m.

FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chowan County Fair Committee meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion on W. Queen in Edenton (back building).



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 83

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Investigation of Proposed
Net Metering Rule

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled public hearings in conjunction with the Commission's consideration of a proposed net metering rule. On October 19, 1998, the North Carolina Solar Energy Association (NCSEA) appeared before the Commission and made a presentation regarding renewable energy and electric utility industry restructuring. In its presentation, the NCSEA asked the Commission to institute a generic proceeding to consider adopting a net metering requirement in North Carolina.

The NCSEA explained that net metering would allow an electric utility customer who owns and operates a small-scale renewable energy electric generating facility, such as a photovoltaic system, to "spin the meter backwards" to net out the amount of energy consumed and the amount of excess energy generated by the customer. Thus, for example, net metering would allow residential customers, through the use of a single, standard residential meter, to use excess renewable generation to offset electricity supplied by the utility.

To be eligible for net metering under the rule proposed by the NCSEA, a customer's generating facility must utilize photovoltaics, wind, biomass, micro-hydro, or solar thermal electric power for electric generation and have a capacity of not more than 10 kilowatts for a generating facility supplying a single residence or 100 kilowatts for a generating facility supplying a commercial, institutional, or industrial facility. Net metering would be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the rated generating capacity of all participating facilities met or exceeded 0.2% of the State's adjusted peak-load forecast for 1998.

Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), Duke Power Company (Duke), and North Carolina Power (NC Power) were made parties to this proceeding. The following additional parties requested and were allowed to intervene in this proceeding: Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc. (CUCA), North Carolina Solar Energy Association (NCSEA), American Solar Energy Society (ASES), American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), Southern Environmental Law Center (SEL), North Carolina Consumers Council (NCCC), Enerdyne Power Systems (Enerdyne), North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), Town of Chapel Hill, City of Greensboro, City of Durham, and Rhonda Smith-Frazier.

On or about February 12, 1999, initial comments were filed by CP&L, Duke, NC Power, NCSEA, ASES, AWEA, SEIA, SEL, Enerdyne, NCACC, Chapel Hill, Durham, and the Public Staff. Reply comments were subsequently filed by CP&L, Duke, NC Power, NCSEA, ASES, AWEA, SEIA, Durham, the Attorney General, and the Public Staff.

During the public hearings to be held in this docket, the Commission will receive testimony from public witnesses concerning the proposed net metering rule and the comments previously filed by the parties. Anyone wishing to view the proposed rule or comments may do so at the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Commission, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Commission has scheduled public hearings for 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., on September 21, 1999, in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Persons desiring to present testimony for the record should appear at one of the public hearings. Persons desiring to send written statements to inform the Commission of their positions in the matter should address their statements to the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, Post Office Box 29510, Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0510 and reference Docket No. E-100, Sub 83. However, such written statements cannot be considered competent evidence unless those persons appear at one of the hearings and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

The Public Staff of the Utilities Commission, through its Executive Director, is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Executive Director should be addressed to: Robert P. Gruber, Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, Post Office Box 29520, Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0520.

The Attorney General is also authorized to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statement to the Attorney General should be addressed to: The Honorable Michael F. Easley, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Division, Post Office Box 629, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-0629.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 8th day of July, 1999.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Geneva S. Thigpen

Geneva S. Thigpen, Chief Clerk