



Food pantry to celebrate 'Day of Service' - 4B

Board to hear solar farm permit request

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Planning Board will hold a special use permit hearing later this month on a proposed wind energy facility on Yeopim Road. A renewable energy company known as 02emc LLC

received a special use permit for a solar energy facility at 740 Yeopim Road in August 2015, but is reapplying for a permit because the first one has expired. The permit hearing is scheduled for the planning board's Jan. 24 meeting. In the months since the original permit was ap-

proved the project has been redesigned as a smaller facility. Adam Foodman of 02emc told the county's Technical Review Committee last month that the facility originally was designed as a 20-megawatt project but now has been reconfigured as a 10-megawatt facility.

Foodman explained that during state and federal environmental permitting, questions were raised about wetlands that led the company to downsize the project and relocate it slightly within the existing tract. "That's the reason for the downsizing," Foodman said, referring to the wetlands is-

sue. Foodman also told the TRC that PJM, the regional manager of the electric power grid, has approved the inter-connection for the facility. The company currently is finalizing equipment contracts, Foodman said. But no money will be put down

on equipment until the company gets approval from the county, he said. During the TRC meeting, Scott Alons of the Chowan-Perquimans Soil and Water Conservation District asked whether the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had

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A Frosty Wonderland



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Edenton photographer Jeff Knox captured this view of a snow-covered waterfront complete with nearby homes and businesses with the use of drone following the weekend's dusting of snow and coating of ice in contradiction of weather forecasts that predicted that up to 8 inches of snow could fall here.

Ice coats trees, roads in weekend storm

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The snow event this past weekend wound up being a sleet event, at least in Edenton and Chowan County.

The area received 1-3 inches of snow mixed with sleet and rain.

Monday was very cold, with a low down to 20 degrees.

The high Tuesday was expected to be 42 and the high today was expected to reach 57.

The Edenton Police Department reported no accident related to the weather, and only a handful of weather-related calls for service.

In rural parts of the county there were some minor wrecks but no major accidents were reported.

Icy conditions on the roads caused a number of closings on Monday.

The Edenton-Chowan Schools, Chowan County government offices and the Shepard-Pruden Memorial



Pat Grother of Edenton captured this scene of trees coated in icy splendor once the weekend's winter story passed through our community. The National Weather Service estimates that our area received 1-3 inches of snow mixed with sleet and rain.

Library all were closed Monday because of weather-related road conditions.

All campuses of The Albemarle also were closed Monday.

The Edenton-Chowan Schools also were closed on Tuesday, with an optional teacher workday that operated on a two-hour delay.

Chowan County government offices opened at 10

a.m. Tuesday. The county reported no weather-related damage to county facilities.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. had about 700 customers without electricity from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, according to a spokesman.

Albemarle EMC reported about 2,500 customers without power Tuesday morning because of a problem

with the Dominion feed at the Edenton substation. The outage began around 5 a.m. and power had been restored for most customers by 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The Town of Edenton had power outages for some customers beginning at 5 a.m. Saturday. Additional outages occurred throughout the day, with power restored to all customers by 3 a.m. Sunday.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the electric crews worked very hard under difficult conditions to restore power as quickly as possible.

Some 750-800 Town of Edenton customers were without power for part of the storm period.

The town has about 4,200 electric customers.

A spokeswoman for Dominion North Carolina Power said more than 7,000 customers in the Albemarle area were without power for 10 hours or more beginning Saturday. The last of those outages was restored Monday morning, she said.

Smith-Ingram to speak at annual MLK Day event

From staff reports

The annual Chowan County Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held Monday, Jan. 16, at John A. Holmes High School Auditorium at noon.

Erica Smith-Ingram, a member of the N.C. State Senate representing District 3 — Bertie, Chowan, Edgecombe, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Tyrrell and Washington counties — is the guest speaker.

Prior to serving in the State Senate, Smith-Ingram was a member of the Northampton Board of Education.

Smith-Ingram earned her bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University in 1994 and her master of arts in religious studies from Howard University School of Divinity in 2000.

Smith-Ingram worked for Boeing as a senior specialist engineer from 1993 to 1997; for the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office



SMITH-INGRAM

as a patent examiner in the Chemical Engineering Technology Center from 1998 to

2003; and works as a high school math, physics and chemistry teacher.

Smith-Ingram is an ordained member of the clergy and serves as associate servant at Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church in Gaston.

Smith-Ingram is married and lives in Henrico. She and her husband share four sons.

Conering herself privileged to be chosen by God in this ministry of social justice and reconciliation, Smith-Ingram is committed to living out Erma Bombeck's quote: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, 'I used everything you gave

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Altman sentenced to more than seven years in fatal crash

■ Altman was convicted in the August 2014 drunk-driving crash that killed his son.

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A Chowan County man was sentenced to a minimum of seven and a half years in prison Thursday after a jury convicted him of involuntary manslaughter, felony death by vehicle and driving while impaired in the August 2014 drunk-driving crash that killed his son.

Superior Court Judge Cy Grant imposed the sentence on Richard Anthony Altman, which includes a maximum prison

term of nine and a half years.

William Crowe, Altman's defense attorney, gave notice of appeal. Grant ordered Altman held without bond during the appeal process.

Altman had faced a charge of second-degree murder in the case but was found guilty of the lesser included offense of voluntary manslaughter.

Altman's 9-year-old son, Briar James Altman, was killed when the truck his father was driving ran off the road and overturned in a field off River Road in the Rocky Hock community on Aug. 30, 2014.

After court adjourned, District Attorney Andrew

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Commissioners appoint new planning board members

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners



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last week appointed three new members to the county planning board.

Commissioner Patti Kersey nominated Jim Robison for reappointment to the board, but a majority of the commissioners opted for new member Nancy Morgan. Morgan was nominated by Commissioner Greg Bonner.

Voting for Morgan were, in addition to Bonner, Commissioners Don Faircloth, John Mitchener, Jeff Smith and Ellis Lawrence.

Joining Kersey in voting for Robison was Commissioner Ron Cummings. The vote fell along party lines, as Kersey and Cummings are the two Republicans on the board.

Kersey, Cummings and Faircloth were elected to the board for the first time in November and Bonner was reelected.

Robison is chairman of the Chowan County Republican Party. He has at times been a controversial figure on the planning board because of his consistently skeptical stance

toward wind and solar energy.

Kersey acknowledged Robison's controversial role on the board, saying she hoped his leadership on the planning board subcommittee that recommended major revisions to the county wind energy ordinance and his sometimes "rough" demeanor — which

she said might come from his Navy background — would not be held against him as the commissioners made their decision.

For the planning board seat representing area A in the northern part of the county, the commissioners appointed Kevin Cook.

See MEMBERS, 3A