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## Grants awarded for solar resources

From Staff Reports

The N.C. Weatherization Assistance Program (NCWAP) awarded grant funds of \$128,000 today to three organizations that will provide community solar resources for qualified low-income residents.

NCWAP is providing \$3,200 per home to Roanoke Electric Cooperative, Blue Ridge Energy and Fayetteville Public Works Commission for a pilot program

covering a total of 40 homes. The funding allows NCWAP clients to participate in the community solar programs of these electric utilities.

"This is an innovative approach that allows low-income households to support and participate in a clean energy resource that would otherwise be inaccessible," said Secretary Michael S. Regan of the Department of Environmental Quality. "Programs like this are key to creating a just and equita-

ble transition to a clean energy economy."

NCWAP will also be providing weatherization services to these single-family households. Services can include energy related health and safety, duct sealing, insulation, air sealing, lighting upgrades (LEDs), refrigerator/heating/cooling system evaluation and replacement if needed.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative will serve 20 homes participating

in the Upgrade to Save Community Solar Program. The community solar participation will allow the households to share in the community solar garden and receive future billing credits.

Fayetteville Public Works Commission will use the funding to support the participation of 10 eligible households in their PWC Community Solar Weatherization Pilot project. Fayetteville's model operates as a prepaid subscription with accrued interest over the

project life to further support the project.

Blue Ridge Energy's Community Solar Savings Pilot will serve 10 households, with each receiving a bill credit for the energy generated by solar panels plus a rate reduction from the standard residential energy charge.

Target benefits of the community solar pilot program will be approximately \$365 per year per eligible household for a period of no less than 15 years.

### BRADY

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Monday he will take the witness stand to testify during the penalty phase. Brady did not take the stand in his own defense during his trial.

In prosecutors' closing statement on Monday, District Attorney Andrew Womble told jurors that the acts committed by Brady and three other inmates during the escape attempt showed that they were acting in concert, which meant that the acts of one became the acts of all if they assisted or encouraged the crimes.

"Brady is entitled to his day in court; Brady is entitled to a fair trial; and the victims are entitled to justice," Womble said.

Defense attorney Andy Warmack told the jury in his closing statement that they needed to remember that Brady wasn't solely involved — that three other

people participated in the escape attempt that led to the prison workers' deaths.

"I'm not pointing that out to legitimize my client's action," he said.

Warmack was referring to Wisezah Buckman, Seth Frazier and Jonathan Monk, all of whom are also charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Correction Enterprises Manager Veronica "Ronnie" Darden, Correctional Officers Justin Smith and Wendy Shannon and maintenance mechanic Geoffrey Howe. Buckman is scheduled for trial in March. Trial dates for Frazier and Monk have not been set.

Womble, who is seeking the death penalty against all four inmates accused in the murders, had former N.C. Highway Patrolman Michael Botts testify during the penalty phase of Brady's trial on Monday. Brady was serving a 40-year prison term for shooting Botts in 2013 at the time of the attempted prison

escape in 2017.

Under questioning by Assistant District Attorney Pellini, Botts told the jury that he was patrolling during rush hour when he saw that Brady wasn't wearing a seat belt. He said after he activated his lights, the black Nissan Brady was driving pulled off on the shoulder of the four-lane highway.

Botts said he walked up to the car and began asking for registration and driver's license when another car went over a rumble strip. The trooper turned around to see where it was and when he turned back to Brady, he was looking at a gun pointed toward his face.

He said Brady immediately began firing, shooting him five times. Bott testified that he is now medically retired from the patrol, suffering from hearing loss and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Family members of the slain correctional staff were

the next to testify during the penalty phase of Brady's trial on Monday.

Jasmine Herring, Veronica "Ronnie" Darden's daughter, was the first to take the stand.

"She was the greatest person ever — always smiling and wanting to help others. We talked several times a day," Herring said of her mother.

The 23-year-old student at East Carolina University testified that the loss of her mother has left her with no one to talk to.

"It's the hardest thing ever to be without her," she testified.

Deborah Howe, Geoffrey Howe's mother, said she had taken care of Howe's son the day of the attempted prison escape. She testified that he had planned to take off work early to pick up his stepdaughter at school. She said her son loved his job. He also loved art, she said.

As Howe walked back to

her seat in the courtroom, Melanie Matheson reached out and tenderly patted her on the back before taking her turn in the witness box.

The mother of murdered Corrections Officer Justin Smith, Matheson described him as really kind and that he had a special heart.

"He was a good, good son," Matheson said. "Part of my heart is gone and I think of him each day."

Tammy Shannon Williams testified that her sister, Corrections Officer Wendy Shannon, was "always laughing and we loved cooking and traveling together." Shannon Williams had spent 21 years in the Army and was deployed four times, including to combat zones, she testified.

Prior to coming to North Carolina, Brady had a lengthy arrest record in his native Vermont.

According to Seven Days, a media source in Vermont, Brady took part in a drug

and burglary ring as a teenager that was responsible for 100 break-ins.

In 2008, he was arrested on federal charges for stealing 209 sticks of dynamite and in 2009, he took part in a home invasion in which the victim suffered a severe brain injury. He fled to Mexico before being captured, extradited and sent to prison in 2009.

He was released on good behavior in 2012 but was then caught poaching deer. He fled and ended up in North Carolina where he shot Botts in 2013.

Besides the four counts of first-degree murder, jurors also found Brady guilty of five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury; one count of attempted first-degree murder; two counts of assault with a deadly weapon; one count of wanton burning of property; and one count of attempted felonious escape.

### ELECTION

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Tahoe was part of why Jackson filed a restraining order against a resident to provided pictures of Jackson doing it to Mayor Horace Reid. The complaint was thrown out in court.

Brinn said he might file charges against Jackson.

On Friday, Hunter said Jackson came to her office and was upset, saying she was making up the rules to hurt him.

"Quentin came into my office saying I was trying to make up the rules to satisfy only one side and we got into a heated argument," Hunter said. "It was a pretty ugly argument."

When Jackson left, she said she locked the door because it was after regular business hours, but she said Jackson starting pounding on the door.

Jackson said he never raised his voice and he simply was knocking on the door.

"I'm not scared or anything, but it was just uncalled for," Hunter

said. She called the sheriff's office and two deputies arrived.

Jackson said he is going to file a written complaint to the local and state elections board, the state NAACP and Democracy NC.

"You just don't get to make up the rules as you go. This election is getting pretty nasty. Let the Democratic process work."

Monday's incident involved a campaign worker who crossed over the 50-foot line, Hunter said.

"A lady took a picture one of campaign worker going across

the line and he (Tony Riddick) got up in her face," Hunter said. "He (Riddick) did go over the line. She felt threatened so she called the police."

Hunter said there is some confusion about who can vote. You have to be a physical resident of the towns of Hertford or Winfall in order to cast a ballot.

"I've gotten two mail-in ballots from Bethel, but we can't count them because they don't live there."

She's had some people come in to vote who weren't registered.

While an ID is not required for registered voters, if a newcomer shows an ID or something like a utility bill with their name on it, they will be allowed to vote.

Hunter said at least 25 new voters have been added to the rolls since early voting started.

Sheriff Shelby White confirmed he knew of an incident Friday at the elections office, but he didn't know all the details.

Early voting continues all this week and next week from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the elections office at 601 S. Edenton Road St.

### FESTIVAL

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"Most of the bands are booked somewhere else for the next week and the vendors are going somewhere else. Also when you get too close to Thanksgiving and Christmas, that's not going to work."

The event is scheduled to run from 8 a.m. until

4 p.m. Admission is free and the event centers around Layden's store at 1478 Belvidere Road. There is a \$1 charge for kids to spend 10 minutes at the bounce house or \$3 to go all day. Hay rides cost \$1.

On a good year, Layden estimates about 2,000 people attend the event. All of the funds raised go to the Belvidere Ruritan Club. They use the money to

help with community projects.

If the skies clear there will be an air show at 2 p.m. courtesy of Craft Air Services, a crop dusting company. Another new event will be a turkey shoot with BB guns. A typical turkey shoot involves using a shotgun and the winner is the one with the most pellets in the paper target.

"With a BB gun, there will just be one hole," Layden said.

There will also be archery with soft tipped arrows.

There is supposed to be a tractor race at 10 a.m. and the winner is the one with the slowest time.

Veterans are to be honored at two times during the day. They will be given rides during the tractor parade at 11 a.m. and be on the stage

at 12:30 p.m.

There will be a cake bake off at noon and the winner will be announced at 12:30 p.m.

Adam Nixon is scheduled to perform at 9 a.m., the Michael Jordan Band at 1 p.m. and the Lighthouse Gospel group at 3 p.m.

Among those volunteering for the dunking booth with be Sheriff Shelby White, "Big Eye" from

Woodard's Pharmacy and Robert Banks from Hertford Grammar School. The dunking booth runs from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Seven golf carts will be available to drive people around from the parking areas to the events for free.

For more information, call Layden at 297-2875 or Libby Wilburn at 757-274-7485.

### SENIORS

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commission has the "Adopt" a home bound senior program. It will be collecting personalized gifts. The presents will be delivered by Santa himself.

Last year in Chowan County, a church adopted a mother and son who lived together and through their efforts, Santa was able to deliver seven bags of gifts for them.

"There was food, clothing,

blanks, adult diapers, a lot of things. They had some extreme needs and the people didn't know it was coming. Our staff already knew what those individuals needed so it was a complete surprise. They were in tears."

There was a bitter-sweet ending to the story however.

"The mother passed away this year, so that was her very last Christmas, but we could make it nicer," Lamb said.

Lamb said the commission is currently compiling an intake

form for those in the Santa program with information like their clothing size, favorite color and what kind of candy they like. She said she should have that information by the end of the month.

People who want to adopt a senior, can call Lamb at 404-7088 or e-mail alamb@accog.org.

The commission has more than 350 people in the 10-county area that get a home delivered meal, but the majority have family or friends that will be with them during the holidays. Still, the agen-

cy will be collecting small items like lotion, lap blankets, tissues, hand soap that can go in gift bags for the seniors.

"This way everybody will get something," Lamb said.

Those items can be dropped off at the commission's office at 512 S. Church St. in Hertford or at any of the 10 senior centers in the region.

Beverly Gregory, the director of the Perquimans County Senior Center, said they have a box near the front entrance where people

can leave items that can be used for gift bags for each of the home delivered meal clients. The center is at 1072 Harvey Point Road.

Individuals take part in the Santa program, as well as groups, like churches.

"This is the fourth year of the program and there is room to grow. We could open it up to people outside the food program, but there is no way for us to track and confirm that situation and that need. Our caregiver clients know what where the needs are."

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### OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgenc.com. We do not accept notices by fax.

Obituaries must be received, processed, approved and paid if required by 2:30 p.m. to appear in print in the next edition.

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### STORE

Continued from A1

old RA zoning there are a number of things that could operate on the property without county approval,

including hog and chicken houses. The planning board recommended approval of the rezoning based on a few conditions including the developer meeting with area residents, and the installation of outside cameras.

Recycle this newspaper.

**Minzies Creek Sanitary District**

Monthly meeting will be held on

**OCTOBER 26, 2019  
AT 10:00am**

**The Meeting Will Be Held at  
139 Treasure Lane, Hertford**