

# Order: Stay home between 10 p.m., 5 a.m.

## FROM SUBMITTED REPORTS

RALEIGH — Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen announced Tuesday, Dec. 8, that North Carolina will begin a Modified Stay at Home Order after a rapid increase in North Carolina's key COVID-19 trends. The Order requires people to stay at home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and takes effect Friday, Dec. 11, and will be in place until at least Jan. 8, 2021.

"We already have strong safety protocols and capacity limitations in place — including a statewide mask requirement. With this additional action beginning

Friday, we hope to get these numbers down," Governor Cooper said. "Our new modified Stay At Home order aims to limit gatherings and get people home where they are safer, especially during the holidays. It's also a reminder that we must be vigilant the rest of the day — wearing a face mask when we are with people we don't live with, keeping a safe distance from others and washing our hands a lot."

The Order requires restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, personal care businesses and more to close at 10 p.m. Travel to and from work; to obtain food, medical care, fuel or social services; or to take care of a family member is exempted.

In the past week, North

Carolina's case count has broken single-day records on three separate days, including crossing more than 6,000 cases per day on two of those days. Just a month ago, cases were under 3,000 per day. In recent days, the percent of tests returning positive has increased to more than 10%.

Cooper said that it was clear that further action would be taken to slow the spread of the virus if trends do not improve. This could require further limiting of restaurant dining, indoor entertainment or shopping and retail capacity restrictions, among other safety protocols.

Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's COVID-19 County Alert System map. The number

of red counties (critical community spread) has more than doubled since November 23, up to 48 red counties from 20 red counties. There are now 34 orange counties (substantial community spread), as compared to 42 orange counties from the previous report. With today's report, more than 80% of the state's counties fall into the red or orange tier. Read the update to see where each county stands and how the system was designed.

"Your actions can keep people from getting sick, save lives, and make sure our hospitals can care for people whether it's for a heart attack or a car accident or COVID-19. Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community now," Cohen said.

# Commission Swears-in Familiar Faces

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Due to a gas line leak Tuesday, time grew short to crank out this story about Monday's Perquimans County Commission meeting before the press deadline, however, here are a few highlights.

Re-elected, Commissioners Joseph Hoffer, Kyle Jones and Charles Woodard were sworn-in.

On that note, commissioners unanimously chose to keep Wallace Nelson as chairman and Fondella Leigh as vice chairwoman of the commission.

Speaking of familiar faces, Connie Brothers was appointed to serve as an at-large representative to the Albemarle Commission's Board of Delegates.

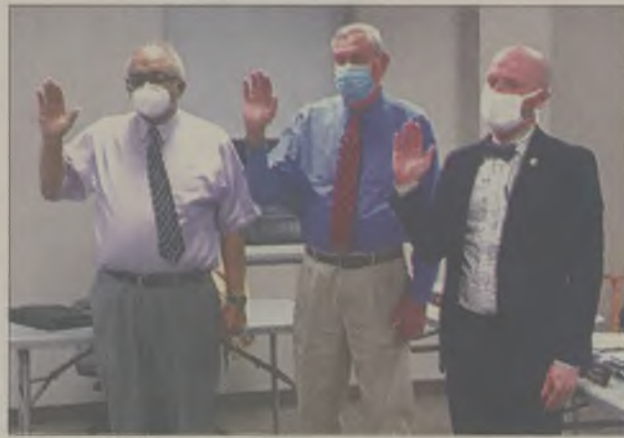


PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Recently re-elected, a trio of county commissioners were sworn-in at Monday's meeting. (Right to left) Kyle Jones, Charles Woodard and Joseph Hoffer.

Brothers is a civic activist who helped spearhead a recent get-out-the-vote drive among other important initiatives.

Commissioners presented a plaque to Brenda Las-

siter for her long service on the Planning Board. Her final term with the board ended in November.

Ashley Stoop of Albemarle Regional Health Services provided an update

about COVID-19. More on that next week.

County Planner Rhonda Money asked commission to approve hiring a subcontractor, Holland Consulting, to update the ordinance books, a job that most be done time to time so as the state, citizens and everyone else is on the same page. Job is to cost up to \$17,500.

Zachaeus Legal Services (ZLS) made a presentation about the work they by providing property tax foreclosure services for local government. Commissioners are considering hiring the company. Hertford has already signed ZLS for this kind of work.

More about Monday's commission meeting will appear in a future edition of the Perquimans Weekly.

## GAS

Continued from A1

transmission line, which provides natural gas service to Hertford, Elizabeth City and the surrounding area.

"This incident was the result of third-party damage to a pipeline that was operating safely and reliably — just as we installed it to perform," she said.

Newspaper was unable to reach NC DOT in time for this report.

There were no reported injuries.

According to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, portions of U.S. Highway 17 were closed, and several businesses near

the rupture were closed. Hertford police Chief Dennis Brown said affected businesses had reopened by noon. Closed sections of U.S. 17 also reopened to traffic by noon.

Residences who live in direct vicinity of the leak also were evacuated temporarily. A shelter was opened at the Perquimans County Recreation Department on Granby Street.

"Initially, everyone within a downwind half-mile radius was evacuated but once Piedmont Natural Gas arrived on scene, we were able to ease those restrictions," said Julie M. Solesbee, the public information officer for Perquimans Emergency Management

Services. Sharpe said the company has offered 20 families, who were affected by the evacuation, to pay for rooms Tuesday, maybe longer, at the Fairfield Inn in Elizabeth City.

According to Perquimans EMS, the county's 911 communications center was notified at around 8:55 a.m. Tuesday of the line break.

Emergency response personnel evacuated the area until Piedmont could determine the extent of the rupture.

"Currently, we have about 20 households that are still impacted and we will maintain a shelter for these residents," Solesbee said. "Tuesday, we had

about 4 people that evacuated to the shelter but left once they were able to return to work."

Piedmont personnel are assessing what repairs will be needed and customer line connections remain active.

Responding agencies included Hertford police and fire departments, Winfall Fire Department, Perquimans Fire Marshal, Perquimans Sheriff's Office, Perquimans Emergency Management, Perquimans EMS, Hertford Public Works, Perquimans Social Services, Dominion Power, PNG, NC State Highway Patrol, NC Department of Transportation, NC Emergency Management and the American Red Cross.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans Sheriff's Office arrests between Nov. 25 and Dec. 3:  
 ■ Phylicia Hunter of Wynne Fork Court, Hertford, was arrested Nov. 26 and charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Bond was set at \$2,000 secured.

■ Jill Jennings of Elizabeth City was arrested Nov. 29 and charged with resist/obstruct/delay. Bond was set at \$500 unsecured.  
 ■ Elizabeth Ausburger of River Shore Driver, Hertford, was arrested Nov. 29 and charged with

cyberstalking. Bond was set at \$200 unsecured.

■ Tina Castelow of Elizabeth City was arrested Dec. 2 and charged with a domestic violence protection order violation. Bond/other.  
 ■ Kimberly Scott of Harris Land-

ing, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 2 and charged with simple assault. Bond/other.

■ Ronald Morgan of Bethel Fishing Center, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 2 and charged with assault on a female. Bond/other.

## OBITUARIES

### Madge C. Bunch

EDENTON - Madge Elaine Copeland Bunch, 88, of 104 Morris Circle, died Monday, November 30, 2020, in Elizabeth City Health & Rehabilitation.

Mrs. Bunch was born in Chowan County on February 13, 1932, and was the daughter of the late Milton Cortez and Eva Jane Lane Copeland.

A homemaker, she had formerly been employed with the Edenton School System, working in the cafeteria at the Ernest A. Swain Elementary School, and later as a secretary with Carter's Ink. She was a member of Edenton Baptist Church, and for many years was involved in the Home Demonstration Club, organized through the Chowan County Extension Service.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Frederick Carlton Bunch; and by her daughter, Darlene Bunch Riddick.

Surviving are her sons, Charles Gary Bunch and wife, Vickie, of York, PA, and Milton Art Bunch and wife, Crystal, of Hertford; her sister, Evangeline Wheeler and husband, Harold, of Virginia Beach, VA; eight grandchildren, Tara, Joshua, Corby, Katherine, Jason, John, Wayne, and Jennifer; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, and were conducted by her pastor, The Rev. David Brooks. Burial followed in the Lane Family Cemetery in the Belvidere community. Friends joined the family in the funeral home the hour prior to services. Masks and social distancing measures were encouraged.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.millerfhc.com](http://www.millerfhc.com).

### Leslie L. Narron

HERTFORD - Leslie Lee Narron, 85, of River Front Drive, Hertford, NC, passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2020, in The Edenton House.

Mr. Narron was born in Wilson, North Carolina on November 10, 1935, and was the son of the late Leamon L. and Nola Deans Narron.

Retired after 30 years with the Norfolk Assembly Plant of Ford Motor Company, he was the former owner of Narron Mobile Home Park and Narron's Motor Sales, and was the developer of Shady Oaks Estates, a residential subdivision in Perquimans County. A member of Berea Church of Christ, he had served in the North Carolina Army National Guard. Other enjoyments included his love of NASCAR, where for many years he traveled annually to Daytona for the big race.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death on June 6th of this year by his wife of 62 years, Sarah Louvinia Caddy Narron; a sister, Beulah Mae Narron Mizelle; a brother, Cecil Narron; and by a grandson, John Copeland.

Surviving are his daughter, Sarah Narron Copeland (Arthur) of Hertford; two sons, Richard Lee Narron of Edenton, and Leslie Allen Narron of Grifton; a sister, Rachel N. Mizelle of Windsor; two grandsons, David Copeland (Allison) and Josh Copeland; two great-grandchildren, Casey and Jacob Copeland; and several nieces, nephews, friends, and church family.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in Berea Church of Christ and were conducted by Dr. Melvin Styons. Burial followed in the church cemetery and those rites were conducted by Pastor Lee Modlin. Friends visited with the family at the gravesite immediately following the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Berea Church of Christ, 1664 New Hope Road, Hertford, NC 27944.

Miller & Van Essendelft, Funeral and Cremation Providers, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, is assisting the family with arrangements.

## 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](mailto:obits@apgenc.com) and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email [obits@apgenc.com](mailto:obits@apgenc.com). We do not accept

notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition. Death notices are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

# Christmas

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