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HAMMOND COMES FULL CIRCLE

Pitt County native blazed trails at ECU before leading Durham church



KENNETH HAMMOND



HAMMOND IN 1973 AT ECU

BY DEBORAH GRIFFIN Staff Writer

Kenneth Hammond had no intention of blazing a trail 50 years ago as a student at East Carolina University.

get an education and move on. He would not leave campus for 22 years, becoming a student leader and administrator before finally moving on to help grow a large congregation in Durham as The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Hammond — blazing several trails along the way.

to the Pitt County Historical Society this week during its virtual African-American History program, Hammond credited Pitt County and ECU as giving him the springboard from which to launch his career.

on six continents. It has been a real joy to be involved — serving as pastor, mentor, working with individuals across the world in collaborative ministry.

See HAMMOND, A3

GUC working with MetroNet

Utility considers line-installation policy; gets update on water plant

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON Staff Writer

Greenville Utilities' governing board will weigh a new policy allowing outside companies and organizations to install communication lines on its network of poles when it meets in March.

The board also received an update on its water treatment plant project and reinstated pay raises for its employees during its meeting on Thursday.

GUC Director of Electric Systems John Worrell briefed the utilities' board of commissioners on why the pole network rule is needed. The new rule will set standards for adding lines to GUC's utility poles without significant disturbance to existing lines serving cable television and telephone providers.

The rule is needed to accommodate MetroNet, which announced in January its plans to install a fiber optics network to provide internet, video and telephone services in Greenville.

MetroNet executives said it's their goal to provide service to 90 percent of Greenville in two years.

Worrell said MetroNet wants to install 2 million feet of fiber optic cable throughout the city. One million will

See GUC, A3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/GUC

A bird's-eye view of a tank when it was under construction at GUC's water treatment plant shows an updated design with baffled walls. These walls act like a maze that the water runs through, giving it more "disinfection contact time."

Construction continues at the plant, at left. Once completed, treatment capacity will increase from 22.5 million gallons daily to 32 million gallons daily.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Following months of delay, a multi-million dollar plan for construction and renovation of A.G. Cox Middle School is poised to move forward.

Audit: County finances strong

Healthy fund balance, financial report will help Pitt County fund a school building and other work, auditor said.

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON Staff Writer

A clean audit opinion and a higher fund balance should help Pitt County government when it seeks bonds this spring to renovate a local middle school and refinance existing bonds.

Martin-Stearnes and Associates delivered its annual audit of the county finances to Pitt County commissioners on Monday.

The county, like all local governments, is required to submit to outside audits when the fiscal year ends on June 30. A comprehensive financial report is then prepared and submitted to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Local Government Commission of the State Treasurer's office for review.

Elsa Watts, project manager for Martin-Stearnes, said Pitt County's audit received an unmodified opinion, means it was a clean audit with accounting issues.

See AUDIT, A3

Tar River expected to reach major flood stage on Saturday

The Daily Reflector

The Tar River on Monday is expected to reach the 20-foot flood stage it hit in November when several people had to be evacuated from homes in Greenville.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the river will reach major flood stage, 19 feet, on Saturday then creep to nearly 20 feet by Monday afternoon.

Creeks and streams that feed the Tar River also are

running high and will continue to rise through the weekend.

The river last crested at 20 feet on Nov. 16. Despite several early warnings, Greenville Fire-Rescue on Nov. 15 had to help 21 people

and their pets evacuate from elevated homes at Dockside Duplexes on River Drive.

Local and state authorities on Thursday urged

See TAR RIVER, A3



AARON HINES/CITY OF GREENVILLE

A drone image shows Dockside Duplexes in November, when 21 people and several pets had to be evacuated. The Tar River is expected to reach the 20-foot level again on Monday.

140th year, No. 50 © 2020

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Lottery

Pick 3: 5-6-8; Pick 4: 6-8-3-1 (day) Wednesday night drawings: Pick 3: 7-9-4; Pick 4: 7-1-9-7 Cash 5: 5-11-12-24-35 Powerball: 1-15-21-32-46 1 Mega Millions: Drawing tonight

Weather

Today: 37, Rain Tonight: 26, Clouds Saturday: 38, Sunny

Forecast on A2



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