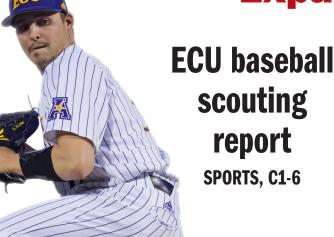
Expanded Edition





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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

When Hammond arrived in the fall of 1969, he planned to simply

get an education and move on. He to the Pitt County Historical Soci- on six continents. It has been a would not leave campus for 22 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.

ety this week during its virtual Afyears, becoming a student leader rican-American History program, Hammond credited Pitt County and ECU as giving him the springboard from which to launch his

"Since leaving Pitt County, I A Winterville native who spoke have had the privilege to minister

real joy to be involved — serving as pastor, mentor, working with individuals across the world in collaborative ministry. In all those places I've always lifted up Greenville, Pitt County, Winterville and

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

Inside MetroNet may come to Winterville as part of its fiber optic installation in Greenville. Page A6

Systems John Worrell briefed utilities' board of commissioners why the pole network rule is needed. The new rule will set standards for adding lines to GUC's util-

ity 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-eve 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 multimillion 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 Mon-

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 option, 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.

river will reach major flood stage, 19 feet, on Saturday then creep to nearly 20 feet 20 feet on Nov. 16. Despite by Monday afternoon.

Service is forecasting the tinue to rise through the weekend.

The river last crested at several early warnings, Creeks and streams that Greenville Fire-Rescue on feed the Tar River also are Nov. 15 had to help 21 peo-

The National Weather running high and will conple and their pets evacuate from elevated homes at Dockside Duplexes on Riv-

> Local and state authorities on Thursday urged

> > See TAR RIVER, A3

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.

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AARON HINES/CITY OF GREENVILLE

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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



Today: 37, Rain Tonight: 26, Clouds

Saturday: 38, Sunny Forecast on A2

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