

# Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

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ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA

\$1.75

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021



Firebirds find a way  
SPORTS, B1

## School board splits over pick for NCC board

BY AMELIA HARPER  
Staff Writer

After an intense discussion, the Nash County Board of Education voted earlier this month to appoint Natalie Brooks as its representative to replace Mary Wells on the Nash Community College Board of Trustees.

In an unusual situation, the school board had two candidates who were interested in filling the post

vacated by Wells upon her death in July. Jon Hardy, a former member of the school board, was also up for consideration for the post.

During the public comment portion of the September school board meeting, Brooks presented her qualifications for the position on the NCC Board of Trustees. Brooks said that she had served as an educator in the area for 33 years before retiring in 2013. In recent

years, she also has been teaching adult basic education classes at NCC.

Brooks said that she feels she has a lot to offer the board.

"The board of trustees is the guardian or steward of an educational institution. I am a lifelong educator. I will be an educator today, tomorrow and always," Brooks said. "My knowledge and experience should prove invaluable as a board member because a board

trustee should always strive to create a climate of success for students and educators."

Brooks also stressed that she would fill a role in representing an under-represented segment of the NCC community.

"Currently enrolled in Nash Community College are 1,664 females and 1,002 males. The ethnic makeup of the males is 239 black, 571 white and 192 others. For females, it is 832 white,

587 black and 245 others," Brooks said.

However, the makeup of the board does not reflect those numbers, she said.

"The board's make up prior to this vacancy was six white males, two white females, three black males and zero black females. Wouldn't it be outstanding for those 587 female students to see themselves reflected on the board?" she asked. "Shouldn't the Nash Community College Board

of Trustees reflect the students and the community it serves?"

Hardy also said he was very interested in the board position and had been recruited by a local resident to fill the role because of a lack of representation on the board of a resident of southern Nash County. Hardy said he and his family have had a long relationship with NCC that has spanned

See **BOARD**, A5



JOHN H. WALKER/ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM

Construction is advancing on new houses in the Hope Farms Place subdivision in Tarboro.

## Housing projects underway in Tarboro

BY JOHN H. WALKER  
Staff Writer

TARBORO — Data included in an early release of the 2020 U.S. Census confirmed what anyone looking for affordable, livable housing in Edgecombe County already knew.

There's a housing shortage.

Three projects already were underway to help address the problem and now a fourth is advancing.

Spencer's Woods, located off West Wilson Street between Edgecombe Community College and McNair Road, has been purchased by Edgecombe County businessman and developer C.B. Daughtridge.

"We're clearing the timber out there now and will begin a three-phase plan to build homes on those

89 lots," he said.

Daughtridge said work on the first 30 homes would get underway in October, meaning that he will have more than 200 homes under construction in three projects — Flagmarsh Hills off Cox Road north of U.S. 64 Alternate in eastern Rocky Mount, Hope Farms Place off Daniel Street in northeast Tarboro and Spencer's Woods.

As he has done at Flagmarsh and Hope Farms, Daughtridge is working with Colorado-based Century Communities to develop the project.

As in Flagmarsh, lots in Spencer's Woods already were platted, meaning construction could get going on a fast track.

"If there were more (subdivisions) already platted, I could build more houses," he said.

Daughtridge said the homes built in Spencer's Woods — where 18 houses and a clubhouse with a swimming pool already exist — would be upscale from both Flagmarsh and Hope Farms Place.

"They will be larger and have more features," he said.

Many of the 103 lots at Flagmarsh that were vacant when Daughtridge started the project now have houses on them.

At Hope Farms Place, three houses have been framed and await siding.

Several lots have slabs ready for construction and several of those lots already have sold signs on them. Daughtridge is developing a total of 36 lots in Hope Farms Place.

See **HOUSING**, A5

## Local man faces child sex charges

### Car chase leads to arrest

BY WILLIAM F. WEST  
Staff Writer

A Nash County man is behind bars after having tried to get away from a pursuing state trooper late last week and also for having allegedly taken indecent liberties with a child in 2019, authorities and judicial system records said.

Malachi Larivee, 21, is charged by the Nash County Sheriff's Office with indecent liberties and with committing statutory sex offenses with a child, as well as by the State Highway Patrol with felony fleeing/eluding arrest with a motor vehicle, Nash County District Court records said.

The records said Larivee on Thursday was on U.S. 301 and was fleeing from Trooper Jacob Leonard, who was attempting to halt him for improper passing.

Additionally, statewide

judicial system records online said Larivee is charged with speeding, specifically driving 101 mph in a 50-mph zone.

The records also said Larivee is charged with:

- Improper passing on the right.
- Reckless driving to endanger.
- Failure to heed a blue light or siren.
- Failure to stop or steady for a red light.
- Driving while his license was revoked.
- Violating restrictions for having tinted windows.
- Misdemeanor possession.

See **ARREST**, A5



LAVRIEE

## Motorist not charged in fatal vehicle crash

BY WILLIAM F. WEST  
Staff Writer

A man was not charged with any offense in connection with his vehicle having fatally struck a man in a wheelchair at night nearly a couple of weeks ago on the southwest side of the city, the police report of the wreck said.

Michael Hinton was driving a 2013 Hyundai southwest in the passing lane on West Raleigh Boulevard on Sept. 9 and Ennis Raynor had been crossing West Raleigh in the wheelchair, the report said.

Raynor for an unknown reason stopped in Hinton's

lane of travel and remained stationary, the report said.

Hinton was driving 33 mph in a 35-mph speed zone when his car struck Raynor on the part of West Raleigh approaching Williford Street, the report said.

Raynor died at the scene, the report said.

Hinton told officers he had stopped for a red light at the traffic control signals at the nearby intersection of West Raleigh and Nashville Road, the report said.

Hinton told officers that after he saw the red light deactivate and the green light activate, he drove ahead

See **CLEARED**, A5

## Greenville fire chief arrested in Nash County

From Staff Reports

Greenville Fire Chief Eric Griffin resigned on Sunday after his arrest for drunken driving in Nash County.

Nash County Chief Deputy Brandon Medina said Griffin was pulled over at 12:27 a.m. Sunday morning on U.S. 264 near mile-marker 28 for speeding. Medina said Griffin was clocked on radar driving 94 mph in a 70

mph zone.

Deputies performed a standard field sobriety test, which Medina said showed Griffin to be impaired. An intoximeter test showed his blood alcohol level to be .20 and he was charged



GRIFFIN

with impaired driving, Medina said.

Griffin surrendered his license and was released after signing a written promise to appear in court on two charges and was not taken to the Nash County Detention Center.

Deputy Greenville Fire Chief Brock Davenport was named acting chief.

Griffin, 50, had been a member of the department since 1993. He was

named chief in December 2014, following a stint as deputy chief beginning in 2011 and interim chief in 2013.

Griffin announced his retirement on Aug. 25, saying at that time his last day would be Dec. 1. His salary at the time of his resignation was \$156,248.20.

Griffin is scheduled to appear in Nash County District Court on Nov. 18.

