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YOU DON'T SAY...

"My HOA is run better than this House."

Rep. Ray Russell, D-Watauga, on the stops and starts in Wednesday's legislative session.

TWITTER, 10/30/19

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News Summary

Teacher Raises

Legislative Republicans put a new twist into the state's ongoing budget fight Wednesday, announcing a new plan for teacher raises that comes with a catch. The new bill would give teachers the same 3.9 percent raise, over the next two years, they were due under the Republican budget that passed earlier this year, and which Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed while calling for higher salaries. But GOP leaders also said that, if Democrats join them in overriding Cooper's veto, additional supplements in the bill kick in, taking teachers up to a 4.4 percent increase over those two years.

In a joint statement from Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger and Speaker of the House Tim Moore, Republicans cast the issue as an all-or-nothing choice months into this budgetary standoff. "There's still time for Senate Democrats to come back to us with what more they need to override the veto," Berger, R-Rockingham, said in the statement. "This bill can change in five minutes. Otherwise, this is it. If the Governor vetoes this bill, teachers and support staff are the only ones in the state who will get nothing."

The Cooper administration's response was swift. "Is this a joke?" spokesman Ford Porter said in an email. "Republican leaders want sweeping corporate tax cuts and their entire bad budget in exchange for paltry teacher raises that are less than those for other state employees."

The bill, which will come to the House and Senate floors Thursday as a conference report, will also include 2 percent raises over the two-year budget period for non-instructional support staff unless Democrats help override the budget veto. If that happens, the raise becomes 4 percent, plus a .5 percent bonus, leadership said. Also if the override goes through, the UNC system and community college employees would get an average of 4 percent, higher than the figures laid out in House Bill 231, which is the default raise bill that cleared the House Wednesday afternoon. Democrats voted against that bill.

House Democrats also voted Wednesday, for the most part, against House Bill 377, which would fund teacher step increases. These annual increases, which teachers get in addition to percentage raises as they move up the experience ladder, were broken out into their own bill, as a number of budget items have been as Republicans try to get around Cooper's budget veto. Moore and Berger said in their release that, if Cooper signs the new teacher raise bill and the step increase bill, every teacher gets a raise. "If Governor Cooper vetoes the bills, then teachers will receive no raise," they said in their release.

Cooper and his fellow Democrats have used the budget veto as leverage, not only for higher teacher raises, but to stop GOP plans for business tax cuts, and in an attempt to force the Republican leadership to expand Medicaid, which would extend taxpayer-funded health insurance to hundreds of thousands of North Carolina's working poor. (Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 10/30/19)

Voter Rolls

A controversial plan to use jury duty records to purge non-citizens from voting rolls is headed to Gov. Roy Cooper. Senate Bill 250 passed both the House and Senate on Wednesday -- largely along party lines -- would require courts to send names of people who are disqualified from jury duty due to their citizenship status to the elections board for review. It also has an appeal process for affected voters to challenge an elections board decision to remove them. Rep. Pricey Harrison, D-Guilford, said conference committee changes (which removed the publication of affected voters' names on a public website) were an "improvement," but "this is a solution in search of a problem. ... I think we're going to end up with a lot of voters who are going to be dropped from the files." But Sen. Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth, said it's "nothing different than what we do now with people who are removed from the voter rolls." (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/31/19)

Recovery Bill

A \$258 million disaster relief effort approved Wednesday by the House represents a shift in how the state approaches such legislation, according to one of its sponsors. "Resiliency and mitigation is a larger part of this bill than similar bills we've taken up," said Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson, who later characterized the effort as a "pivot."

The Storm Recovery Act of 2019, House Bill 1023, addresses recovery efforts for four different storms that have hit North Carolina since 2016 -- Hurricanes Matthew, Michael, Florence and Dorian. While the bill includes several proposals to fund resilience efforts throughout the state, the largest portion of the bill provides additional money for a dwindling fund used to provide matching dollars on Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance projects. McGrady said Gov. Roy Cooper's administration has recently told legislators the pots of money providing a

25% match for FEMA public assistance projects for Florence, Matthew and Michael run out by the end of November. The bill includes \$70.8 million for Florence matches, \$11.2 million for Matthew and \$4.2 million for Michael. "That really is what is pushing the bill," McGrady said.

N.C. Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry said the state has provided about \$73.7 million in matching funds for Florence so far, \$40 million for Matthew and \$1.3 million for Michael. The main reasons for the need for more Florence matching funds, Sprayberry said, are that North Carolina is spending existing funds faster than anticipated and that initial public damage estimates of \$600 million to \$700 million have almost doubled to about \$1.3 billion. While it's typical for damage estimates to rise, Sprayberry said, "We've never had a storm that was as costly as Florence."

The legislation also includes funds to help with the recovery from September's Hurricane Dorian, which had a particularly severe impact on Ocracoke. A \$17.8 million appropriation would help provide public matches for Dorian recovery while also funding the state individual assistance program state emergency management launched after FEMA denied North Carolina's request for individual assistance.

Rep. Bobby Hanig, R-Currituck, said the island is in "extreme need" and added it is important the state consider resilience as part of recovery. To that end, the bill includes \$40 million for the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), with \$20 million helping local governments in their recovery from 2016's Matthew and \$10 million providing grants to Dorian-impacted local governments. The final \$10 million would be used to hire as many as 24 resilience experts placed in councils of government and local governments throughout the state, with the goal of developing regional resilience plans. HB 1023 passed the House unanimously on Wednesday night and now goes to the Senate, which is expected to consider it after the legislature returns next month. (Adam Wagner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

Adjournment Resolution

The legislative break that will begin after today's sessions won't be long. Late Wednesday, Senate Rules Chairman Bill Rabon filed an adjournment resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 694, that calls for the legislature to return at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The November session's agenda will be limited to redistricting matters, including the likely redraw of congressional district maps. Once that work is done, the resolution calls for session to resume on Tuesday, Jan. 14. That session's agenda would be limited to a list of topics, including veto overrides, appointments and nominations, pending conference reports, Department of Transportation funding issues, healthcare issues, redistricting and budget matters. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/31/19)

IT Budget

A "mini-budget" for Department of Information Technology projects is headed to Gov. Roy Cooper after Senate Republicans shut down efforts to change a controversial cybersecurity grant for Montreat College. House Bill 398 passed the Senate Wednesday in a 29-21 vote along party lines, as Democrats objected to a \$20 million grant to Montreat for its Cybersecurity Regional Training Center. They questioned why the state would direct so much money to a small private religious college in Black Mountain, when public colleges and universities like UNC-Charlotte and N.C. A&T University also have cybersecurity initiatives. An amendment from Sen. Kirk deViere, D-Cumberland, sought to convert the allocation to a competitive grant program that private and public colleges and universities could apply for. And an amendment from Sen. Erica Smith, D-Northampton, would require Montreat to partner with UNC-Charlotte to qualify for funding. Both amendments were tabled in

party-line votes at the request of Sen. Ralph Hise, R-Mitchell.

Also Wednesday, the Senate unanimously passed a bill setting "base budget" amounts for various state agencies. House Bill 111 also orders the State Controller to move money into the state's "rainy day fund" in keeping with a law setting out a minimum annual allocation to the savings reserve. That bill now goes to the House. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/31/19)

POLICY COVERAGE IN NORTH CAROLINA SUPPORTED BY



Randolph Cloud and Associates salutes Meals on Wheels of Wake County and the 2,000 volunteers who deliver over 1,300 meals daily to adults who are elderly, homebound or disabled. On November 1st, Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America, will keynote the organization's first annual "Wake County, #LETSOOLUNCH" event, at the Woman's Club of Raleigh. Hollander will discuss combating hunger and social isolation in our most vulnerable senior communities. Learn more about the event at: www.wakemow.org

Hospital Loans

After repeatedly getting stuck in the House, a rural hospital loan program emerged in a conference report for Senate Bill 537 and passed 49-1. A key priority of Senate leader Phil Berger, the "rural healthcare stabilization" program previously passed the Senate in two separate bills. SB 537 now includes the framework for the program, which is likely to benefit the Randolph County hospital initially, but Sen. Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth, said the actual funding will come later in a separate bill.

The final version of SB 537 also includes an array of other healthcare provisions that span 55 pages, including new payment methodologies for adult care homes and licensing and regulatory changes for mental health professionals. It also includes delays to the NC FAST system for child welfare case management in response to concerns from counties. Krawiec said the rollout of that system has included numerous problems. "We're going to get it fixed," she said. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/31/19)

Technical Corrections

In a reassuring sign to skeptics that the long session might truly be ending, a technical corrections bill was unveiled Wednesday in the House Rules Committee and quickly headed to the floor. Senate Bill 419, which previously dealt with shoplifting investigations, spans 15 pages and ranges from a Map Act repeal tweak to rules for unattended waterfowl hunting equipment. And in keeping with legislative tradition, some of the provisions prompted concerns that the policy changes might be more substantive than technical.

Rep. Marcia Morey, D-Durham, questioned a provision that would change references in sex offender statutes from the Department of Public Safety to the State Bureau of Investigation, which administers the offender registry. "I think we're making some significant changes here with little time to actually discuss it," she said. And Rep. Graig Meyer, D-Orange, pointed to a section that would change a recent law on special ordering at ABC stores. The new law allows ABC store customers to make a special order for liquor that isn't in stock, even if they only want to purchase a single bottle. SB 419 calls for the creation of rules governing single bottle special orders "when it would not place an undue hardship on the local ABC board." Meyer called the change "substantive" and says it requires more debate and possibly a compromise between affected parties. Meyer's concerns and several others

prompted objections to third reading, setting the final House vote for today after Wednesday's 74-36 vote. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/31/19)

Vaping Tax

A pair of tax cut bills approved last week by the Senate underwent a big change and a failed vote in the House Finance committee Wednesday morning -- before getting resurrected in their original forms hours later in the House Rules Committee. Senate Bill 557 would increase the standard deduction for the state income tax from \$20,000 for married joint filers to \$21,500, effective in tax year 2020. It also tightens requirements on online marketplace "facilitators," like Amazon, to collect sales tax on transactions between North Carolina buyers and third-party sellers -- a much-exploited loophole for online sales.

However, in a surprise move, the Finance Committee voted to approve a Democrat's amendment increasing the state excise tax on e-cigarettes. The amendment was run by Rep. Gale Adcock, D-Wake, who said it "would even the playing field" between cigarettes, which carry a tobacco excise tax of 45 cents per pack, and vaping products, which are currently subject to a much lower excise tax set in 2015. Rep. John Szoka, R-Cumberland, said in committee that he supports taking action on vaping, but he said adding it to Senate Bill 557 on such short notice could kill the bill. But the amendment passed after Chairman Mitch Setzer, R-Catawba, who rarely speaks on legislation, endorsed it from the dais. The bill itself passed the committee, but it's unclear whether the full House or Senate would approve it with the new tax.

Rep. Cynthia Ball, D-Wake, told WRAL News she authored the amendment over the weekend in response to story after story about the fast-growing rates of serious illness caused by e-cigarettes and the even faster-growing rates of vaping among young people. She said youth vaping has increased by 900 percent since 2011. Increasing the price of tobacco products through taxes helped to reduce youth smoking in the past, and she's hoping for a similar reduction in vaping after the proposed tax increase takes effect next July. In 2015, when lawmakers last looked at taxing e-cigarettes, Ball said they viewed it as a less dangerous alternative to smoking that could help people quit using cigarettes.

Currently, vapor products' excise tax is at the rate of 5 cents per fluid milliliter of consumable product -- a much lower rate supported by tobacco manufacturers when the law was passed during the 2014 session and went into effect in February 2015. By comparison, a pack of traditional cigarettes has an excise tax of 45 cents a pack, one of the lowest in the country. Reynolds American Inc. said Wednesday it is evaluating the amendment, while ITG Brands LLC said: "we oppose tax increases on all tobacco and vaping products."

After the vape tax was removed from the bill, SB 557 passed the House in a 77-32 vote (including support from 17 Democrats) and is set for a final vote today. The bill that got voted down in the Finance Committee, Senate Bill 578, faced opposition from Democrats who oppose cutting the franchise tax and some Republicans who opposed its provision expanding eligibility for film grants. It passed in a 59-50 vote Wednesday night and is also up for a final vote today. (Laura Leslie, WRAL NEWS, Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, and Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 10/30/19)

Reading Scores

North Carolina's reading scores are now lower than before the state launched a major effort earlier this decade to boost literacy skills for young children, according to the latest round of national exams released Wednesday. In 2012, state lawmakers created the Read To Achieve program to try to get more students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. But results from the 2019 National

Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the nation's report card, show that both reading scores and the percentage of North Carolina students displaying at least basic reading skills is now lower than in 2011. North Carolina also has lower math scores on the national exams now than compared to 2011. The tests have been given since the early 1990s and are comparable to prior years.

North Carolina's drop in the past eight years mirrors a nationwide decline in scores in that period. Officials said they hope the results will spur people to delve into the data to learn how to improve outcomes for students. "We seem to have hit a plateau since 2009, and there does not appear to be a lot of progress in the National Assessment of Educational Progress," Lesley Muldoon, executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets the standards for the tests, said in a news conference Tuesday. "It's frustrating and difficult to understand given the work of dedicated teachers, education leaders and policymakers."

The state Department of Public Instruction framed North Carolina's results around the lack of progress nationally on the exams. DPI said that North Carolina's drop in NAEP reading scores since 2011 is not statistically significant. "Over the last 10 years, North Carolina, the nation as a whole and most states have shown little or no change in NAEP scores -- either in math or reading," DPI said in a press release Wednesday.

The new results could escalate the debate over how well the state is educating its 1.5 million public school students and what needs to change to improve results under Read To Achieve. "Taken in context and analyzed over time, what these scores do make clear is that the path set forth in 2012 of the 'Read to Achieve' program must be changed if we are serious about improving reading in North Carolina," Mark Jewell, president of the N.C. Association of Educators, said in a press release Wednesday.

Republicans took control of the General Assembly after the 2010 election with Read To Achieve being one of the signature programs for Senate leader Phil Berger. The state has spent at least \$150 million on Read To Achieve, much of it for digital devices for elementary schools and summer camps to help young readers who fall behind. But the percentage of third-grade students passing the state's reading test is lower than it was in the 2013-14 school year. The passing rate did go up this year after several years of decline.

Berger introduced legislation this year to make changes to the program. But he didn't include any new funding. "There have been, I might as well acknowledge it, some disappointments as far as what we've seen in terms of outcomes," Berger said at an April legislative committee meeting. "But the key thing is we recognize that and are trying to make corrections." Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, vetoed the bill in August as he called Read To Achieve ineffective, costly and a failure. Lawmakers have been unable to override the veto. (T. Keung Hui, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

Duke Rates

The legislature this week dropped a controversial proposal on Duke Energy rates, handing a victory to consumer and advocacy groups that fought for months to keep it from passing. What's left is a bill that will allow Duke Energy and other utilities to issue bonds to pay for storm recovery, The News & Observer has reported. This provision has bipartisan support and is supposed to save electricity customers money.

Initially, Senate Bill 559 included provisions that would allow the state Utilities Commission to set electricity rates for up to three years rather than have Duke

Energy justify increases every year. The power company said the change would allow for better planning. The bill also would have allowed for "return on equity banding" where the utility would be able to earn a certain percentage above or below a target amount set by the Utilities Commission without being penalized.

An array of consumer and environmental groups said the changes were a way for Duke Energy to soak its customers. The bill was one of the most lobbied about this session, producing newspaper and digital ads, petitions, and email campaigns.

Michael Regan, the Department of Environmental Quality secretary, told Ben Stockdale of the NC Sustainable Energy Association earlier this month that Gov. Roy Cooper was likely to veto the bill because of the rate proposals. In an interview on the association's podcast, Regan said such complex issues should not be negotiated behind closed doors or be focused on only one company.

The controversial elements on rate setting passed the Senate, but could not pass the House, where it had bipartisan opposition. This week, legislators stripped out the potential rate-setting changes and left the part everyone supported. The House passed the bill on Tuesday with a unanimous vote. The Senate passed the bill unanimously on Wednesday. It now goes to Cooper for his signature. (Lynn Bonner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

Coal Ash

An administrative judge has rejected another part of Duke Energy's appeal seeking to overturn an order by environmental regulators requiring the excavation of coal ash stored at six "low risk" sites, including the Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County. North Carolina Administrative Law Judge Selina Malherbe ruled Monday for a second time in the case that the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality did not abuse its authority in ordering the Charlotte-based utility to excavate coal ash basins at the coal-burning plant northwest of Greensboro and five, other North Carolina plants.

DEQ Secretary Michael Regan hailed the judge's decision for confirming that his agency "acted openly and transparently as we made an informed decision on closure of the coal ash impoundments," a term for basins that hold decades of submerged ash. "DEQ stands by its determination to excavate coal ash impoundments across the state," Regan said in a prepared statement. "We will continue to defend that decision as this case moves forward."

In her ruling this week, Malherbe threw out assertions by Duke that the state agency failed to provide adequate notice that its April 1 order was pending and that regulators improperly limited the utility to filing only one proposed closure plan for each disputed site. (Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 10/30/19)

Assault Reforms

A suite of measures that would close loopholes in North Carolina's sexual assault rules and raise the length of time for victims of child sexual abuse to sue assailants will go to the General Assembly this week for a yea or nay vote. Rep. Dennis Riddell, R-Alamance, a co-chairman of the SB 199 conference committee, confirmed late Tuesday to Carolina Public Press that the committee has reached an agreement for the measures in the bill. "Tomorrow the various members of the conference committee will give their signatures to that report, and likely it will be voted on Thursday in both the House and Senate," Riddell said.

The legislation includes a change to a legal precedent unique to North Carolina, which Carolina Public Press and its collaborative partners highlighted in the series Seeking Conviction in March. Everywhere in the United States, continuing sexual

activity once the other party withdraws consent is a crime, except in North Carolina, due to a 40-year-old Court of Appeals ruling. In the 40 years since that ruling, no other attempt to change that precedent has come so far along in the legislative process. Another Court of Appeals precedent from more than a decade ago means it's not illegal to have sexual relations with someone who is incapacitated, as long as the person incapacitated himself or herself through drinking or drug use.

The bill also increases the age by which victims of child abuse can sue their assailants beyond today's current maximum of 21 years old. Without a change in the law, Riddell said earlier this month, "it tilts justice in favor of the perpetrator. All they have to do is keep you quiet until you turn 21." (Kate Martin, CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS, 10/30/19)

Motor Pool

The agency tasked with handling the state's motor fleet continues to mismanage hundreds of state-owned vehicles, according to an audit released Wednesday. WRAL Investigates has been looking into the operations of the Division of Motor Fleet Management for a decade, and the audit shows that, despite much talk of reform, not much has changed over 10 years. A major problem pointed out by WRAL Investigates in 2009 was that many cars and trucks assigned to state agencies were underused -- they were collecting dust in some cases. The new audit confirms that's still a problem.

Thirty-six percent of the 793 vehicles permanently assigned to a state agency weren't driven the 12,600 miles per year to warrant an agency having sole use of the vehicle, according to the audit. Former Govs. Bev Perdue and Pat McCrory called for changes to Motor Fleet Management rules, and McCrory suggested privatizing rentals.

Sixty-one vehicles were found to be assigned to people who no longer work for state government, with some gone for as long as 10 years. Mark Edwards, deputy secretary of the state Department of Administration, which includes Motor Fleet Management, said state agencies using the vehicles should be more accountable, but he ultimately agreed with the audit's findings and said the agency would work to better document and manage use of state-owned vehicles to improve efficiency. (Cullen Browder, WRAL NEWS, 10/30/19)

Gerlach Investigation

An investigation involving ECU's former interim chancellor is closed, a UNC System official said following two lengthy closed session meetings of each entity's governing board on Tuesday. Officials with the UNC System said the investigation has concluded and a report on its findings is expected to be released. A UNC spokesman said investigators "uncovered additional facts and issues" requiring additional review and consideration by university leaders on Tuesday. ECU Board Chairman Vern Davenport said after the meetings that a new interim chancellor could be named by Roper in the coming days. Davenport said ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson will continue serving as acting chancellor.

Meanwhile, an organization representing law enforcement clarified its relationship with a Greenville attorney and his efforts to secure street surveillance video of former interim chancellor Dan Gerlach walking to his car after a night out at local bars. The video was taken from traffic and street surveillance cameras operated by the City of Greenville. They were provided to attorney Peter Romary after he obtained a court order on Friday. The order showed Romary, a former ECU employee, was representing the Police Benevolent Association of North Carolina and the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police. On Monday a spokesman for the Police Benevolent Association said the organization didn't know about the videos.

A representative of the fraternal order couldn't be reached. The association on Tuesday released a statement saying Romary was acting on behalf of local PBA members. The confusion occurred because no PBA member had filed a report with the state organization. Reached Tuesday, Romary said he had been talking to a "senior regional official with PBA" about another issue when the Gerlach situation came up. Romary said conspiracy theories about law enforcement being involved in a conspiracy against Gerlach spread across social media. The local PBA official told Romary some officers were concerned people celebrating downtown on Halloween might believe the police were involved in a setup, Romary said.

As of Monday, Romary was the only person to obtain copies of the city's video. Romary said he does not know who sent the videos to news outlets. He said he was told that once he received the videos he could share them with certain people. He declined to say who he shared the video with but said they were supporters of law enforcement. (Ginger Livingston, THE (Greenville) DAILY REFLECTOR, 10/30/19)

Pellet Plant

For the second time this month, the state has issued an air pollution permit that will reduce emissions at a wood pellet plant in Eastern North Carolina even as it allows the plant to expand production. The permit from the Division of Air Quality says Enviva can make up to 781,255 tons of oven-dried wood pellets a year at its Northampton County plant near Roanoke Rapids. That's 45% more than under the current permit for the plant, which opened in 2013. The pellets, made from waste wood and trees harvested in North Carolina and nearby parts of Virginia, are shipped to Europe, where they're burned in power plants in place of coal.

The state issued a similar permit for an Enviva plant in Sampson County earlier this month, which allowed that plant to expand 22%. The company also received an air emissions permit to open a new plant in Hamlet in Richmond County in June, and it operates a plant near Ahoskie in Hertford County.

Critics contend that the commission doesn't factor in the decades it can take for trees to grow back after being harvested or the energy required to produce dried wood pellets and ship them across the Atlantic Ocean. They argue that the best way to reduce carbon emissions is to leave the trees in North Carolina and elsewhere standing. (Richard Stradling, THE NEWS& OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

History Park

A park meant to honor the history, contributions and struggles of black North Carolinians is set to finally break ground in December. One of the last hurdles was cleared Wednesday when the NC Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve the design and concept of the park. Called North Carolina Freedom Park, it's set to be located between the state legislature and the governor's mansion at the intersection of Wilmington and Lane streets. It will be the first park dedicated to black North Carolinians at the state government complex. "North Carolina Freedom Park is a unique, arresting and original project," said Reginald Hildebrand, a board member of the North Carolina Freedom Project. "At its center, a striking and inspiring structure called the beacon of freedom. Our public art and our public spaces define who we are as a society. As a community. They proclaim what we believe, what we value and what we aspire to achieve. This will be especially true for Freedom Park." The nonprofit, North Carolina Freedom Project, has raised about \$4 million, which includes \$1.5 million in the state's yet-to-be-approved budget. The park was designed by the late architect Phil Freelon, who led the design team of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. (Anna Johnson, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

GOP Campaign

Two months before the 2016 presidential election, GOP strategist Doug Heye dropped by the Forsyth County party headquarters expecting to find campaign literature and signs promoting Donald Trump. Heye, a North Carolina native who once ran the national party's communications apparatus, was shocked to find that the office had no material for workers to use when they make phone calls to voters, and no visible signs bearing the name of the Republican presidential nominee. "We don't hear from the campaign. There's no organization. We can't get what we need," he recalled an organizer saying.

That's not the case this time, Heye said of the state Trump ultimately carried by 173,315 votes or 3.67 points in his surprise 2016 win -- the greatest margin since George W. Bush's victory in 2004. Trump's campaign is more organized now, he said, and campaign officials say they are modeling their 2020 strategy off their success in two special elections this year that Trump can't stop talking about. That means building upon the limited infrastructure that existed in 2016. The Trump campaign says it hasn't left North Carolina since then, and are building up a fortress in the swing state where Republicans will hold their nominating convention next year.

Republican National Committee Communications Director Rick Gorka told McClatchy that the national party, working hand in hand with the president's campaign, has held 130 Trump Victory Leadership Initiative trainings that have produced more than 1,400 Fellows in North Carolina this election cycle.

However, Democrats, who broke Republican state legislative supermajorities in 2018 with urban and suburban victories, have reason for optimism in a state they've carried just once in a presidential election since 1976. Trump's approval in the state has fallen by 21 points since January 2017, according to Morning Consult, which tracks the president's approval by state each month. Recent polling from East Carolina University and Raleigh-based Public Policy Polling shows Trump in a tight race with as many as five of the Democratic presidential contenders -- former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Kamala Harris of California. (Francesca Chambers and Brian Murphy, McClatchy, 10/30/19)

Inmate Release

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office released a man from jail despite a request from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that he be held for additional time. Marvin Torres was arrested on May 4, 2017, and charged with multiple counts of statutory sex offense with a child. Warrants at the time said he engaged in sex acts with an 11-year-old when he was 23. He was convicted of indecent liberties with a minor Oct. 28, sentenced to time served by Judge Alan Thornburg and released from the Buncombe County jail on Oct. 29.

Aaron Sarver, a spokesman for the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, said in an Oct. 30 news release that Torres had been in custody for more than two years with the full knowledge of ICE. "During that time ICE sent a detainer request, but failed to secure an arrest warrant and therefore Mr. Torres met the conditions of his release set forth by the judicial system," the release stated. Sheriff Quentin Miller announced in February that his office, which operates the county's jail, no longer would honor ICE detainers. He was one of several North Carolina sheriffs to make that call.

Andrew Murray, U.S. attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, held a press conference Oct. 30 at Asheville's federal courthouse, hours after Miller's office announced the release of Torres. "As U.S. attorney and previously as district

attorney for Charlotte, I've witnessed firsthand the devastating impact that sanctuary policies can have on a community," Murray said. "I've seen how these policies destroy the lives of innocent victims and their families." Torres now is in custody, U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman Lia Bantavani said. (Mackenzie Wicker, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 10/30/19)

District Judge

A 2017 law that raised the age at which youth can be tried criminally as adults has created a new judgeship in Pitt County -- a seat former District Court judge Mario Perez is planning to run for in 2020. Perez announced his intention Oct. 18 to seek the position created by "Raise The Age" legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed by Gov. Roy Cooper. The law, which allows most 16 and 17-year-olds to be prosecuted in juvenile court, goes into effect Dec. 1.

The legislation also called for the creation of several assistant district attorney and District Court judge positions to help handle an expected increase in the juvenile caseload, Perez said. The positions were funded by House Bill 1001, a budget measure approved this month to fund the positions. "They're trying to have the funding to make sure the court system can handle the influx of juveniles who are going to be in the court system now," Perez said. Perez in 2018 was appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper to fill the unexpired term for retiring District Court Judge Gwyn Hilburn. He was defeated later in the year by Daniel Hines Entzminger in a close, three-way, nonpartisan race that also included Jared Pittman. Perez and Pittman, both Democrats, split Democratic-leaning voters in 2018, helping Entzminger to win the seat. Perez said the 2020 race be carried out on a partisan basis, and primaries held in March will eliminate the possibility of vote-splitting in November. (Tyler Stocks, THE (Greenville) DAILY REFLECTOR, 10/30/19)

Wake Math Program

Wake County parents are being asked to take part in an online survey about their children's experiences with the school district's controversial high school math curriculum. The Wake County school system hired MGT Consulting Group to do an independent, third-party evaluation of the MVP Math Curriculum that has sparked complaints from some parents. As part of the review, MGT is asking parents of students enrolled in Math 1, 2 and 3 to fill out an online survey about the curriculum. Since the 2017-18 school year, Wake has used materials from the Utah-based Mathematics Vision Project to teach high school-level math based on Common Core standards. Instead of hearing a lecture and memorizing formulas, the focus has shifted to students working in groups to solve problems while teachers act as facilitators. (T. Keung Hui, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

Cigna Network

Mission Health and health insurer Cigna agreed Oct. 30 to a multiyear contract for Mission Hospital to remain in Cigna's network of coverage. At a standstill over patient care rates in early October, both sides were able to reach a deal before the previous agreement expired on Nov. 1. Had no deal been reached, Mission Hospital would be out-of-network for Cigna customers. With this agreement, all Mission Health facilities and providers contracted with Cigna will remain in-network. "Both Mission Health and Cigna are pleased to reach agreement on the mutual goal of ensuring that the people of Western North Carolina have access to the affordable, quality healthcare they need," the two companies stated in an Oct. 30 press release. (Brian Gordon, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 10/30/19)

Raleigh Buses

The city's sewage treatment plant takes what people send down their drains and toilets and turns it into water clean enough to put in the Neuse River and something euphemistically called biosolids, which is used as fertilizer. In a few years, the

treatment process will also create a third product: compressed natural gas, enough to run up to 50 GoRaleigh buses a day. Raleigh City and state officials held a ceremony Wednesday to begin a \$148 million upgrade to the Neuse River Resource Recovery Facility, which treats sewage from Raleigh and several other Wake towns served by the city's utilities department. (Richard Stradling, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

CMS Performance

Student performance in reading and math in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has largely stayed the same, with scores on a national test showing no significant changes since it was last administered, according to a report released Wednesday. Similar to 2017, CMS's average scores outperformed most large school districts in both subjects and at both grade levels. The district also outperformed the national average in all tests except for eighth-grade reading, where it fell one point short.

The report from the National Assessment of Education Progress, frequently referred to as the nation's report card, compares fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math scores between 27 large school districts, as well as at the state and national level. CMS earned the highest average scores of any of those districts in eighth-grade math and tied for first in fourth- and eighth-grade reading. (Annie Ma, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

Labor Dispute

A Nash County farmer is distancing himself from a labor contractor accused of human rights abuses by a small group of Mexican migrant workers. Joel Boseman grows sweet potatoes, watermelons and other produce in Rocky Mount's Battleboro community. He employs around 90 migrant workers. "I have nothing to hide," Boseman said. "I pay my people good." The Farm Labor Organizing Committee is petitioning farm owners in eastern North Carolina including Boseman to recognize a workers' union and negotiate to end alleged wage theft and intimidation some workers claim to have suffered.

Farm labor contractor Salvador Barajas is accused of stealing workers' wages and putting their health at risk through dilapidated housing and by forcing them to purchase unsanitary and inhumane meals at illegal prices, according to information provided by Marlina Proper Deida Ramos Graves, the union's director of communications. Growers have declined to engage the union, saying they're not responsible for Barajas' alleged actions. Labor contractors like Barajas enlist, transport and oversee migrant workers for farmworkers. "He was my crew chief years ago, but I let him go," Boseman said of Barajas. "He's helped out on occasion since then."

Pittsboro attorney Robert J. Willis represents the workers through the union. He sent settlement letters to Barajas and the farmers asking for portable toilets and hand-washing facilities in the fields. Willis said FLOC considers Barajas and the farm owners to be co-employers. He said a lawsuit will be filed if workers' terms aren't met.

Billionaire Steve Wordsworth and Boseman are linked through a limited liability corporation operating as Battleboro East Properties, land lease agreements with the Rocky Mount City Council and the purchase of businesses including a farming equipment company. In 2012, Wordsworth and members of his Rocky Mount family sold their food distribution business, which Forbes magazine valued at \$6 billion. Wordsworth is also a former part-owner of the Carolina Panthers. (Lindell J. Kay, THE WILSON TIMES, 10/30/19)

Mecklenburg Sales Tax

The group campaigning for a quarter-cent sales tax for the arts, education and parks and greenways in Mecklenburg County has raised nearly \$830,000, according to a campaign finance report released Tuesday. Partnership for a Better Mecklenburg has spent \$592,000 ahead of the Nov. 5 election. The biggest contribution is \$500,000 from the Thrive Fund, which is administered by the Foundation for the Carolinas. Duke Energy, Wells Fargo, the Carolina Panthers, and the Spangler companies have each given \$50,000.

Former Mecklenburg Commissioner Matthew Ridenhour is running a campaign opposing the tax. The Mecklenburg Tax Alliance has raised \$1,450, much of it from Ridenhour himself. But Ridenhour told WFAE that other people not associated with his organization are spending money to defeat the tax. He said Republican Charlotte City Council member Tariq Bokhari has bought several billboards in Charlotte that urge people to vote for him but against the tax. (Steve Harrison, WFAE RADIO, 10/30/19)

PFAS Cuts

Home improvement retailer Lowe's is phasing out carpets and rugs that contain a group of potentially harmful industrial chemicals that have been turning up in drinking water and some foods. Lowe's spokeswoman Sarah Lively said Wednesday that the Mooresville, North Carolina-based chain started the transition a year ago. Lowe's competitor Home Depot announced last month that it would phase out carpets and rugs containing PFAS chemicals by the end of this year. PFAS chemicals are used in firefighting foam, nonstick pots and pans, water-repellent clothing and many other household and personal items. They are nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they persist in the environment. Studies have associated certain PFAS chemicals with increased risk of cancer and damage to organs such as the liver and thyroid. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 10/30/19)

Halloween Rain

A strong storm could soak trick-or-treaters and bring an isolated tornado to central North Carolina on Halloween, forecasters say. Wednesday's rain chances are expected to linger overnight, and thunderstorms are possible after 3 p.m. Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. Severe storms could come 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Raleigh, Durham and nearby areas, forecasters say. "If you're out and about tomorrow night, take caution since there is a risk for severe weather," the National Weather Service warned Wednesday on Twitter. The biggest risk is strong winds, which could reach 60 mph, according to forecasters. "However, an isolated tornado or two will be possible," the National Weather Service says. (Simone Jasper, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/30/19)

NAACP Rally

A nationally prominent activist minister and the region's congressman are set to speak at a get-out-the-vote event at a church southwest of downtown Rocky Mount. The Rev. William Barber II and U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield are on the program for the gathering, which is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The Rocky Mount National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is sponsoring the gathering. (William F. West, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 10/30/19)

Salad Jobs

BrightFarms, a packaged salads company, will create 54 jobs in Henderson County, officials announced Wednesday. The company will invest \$21 million to operate a hydroponic greenhouse in Etowah. Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach up to \$41,693. The current average annual wage in the county is \$38,297.

BrightFarms grows leafy salad greens and herbs including spring mix, spinach, baby

kale, romaine and arugula. The company describes its local greens, which are grown in a safe, secure and clean indoor environment without the use of pesticides, as "beyond organic," Gov. Roy Cooper said in a news release. By growing produce close to its consumers, BrightFarms' produce is delivered to supermarkets in as little as 24 hours of harvest, about a week faster than leafy greens grown on the West Coast. (THE (Hendersonville) TIMES-NEWS, 10/30/19)

Residency Challenged

A Nash County woman has filed two protests with the Edgecombe County Board of Elections challenging Bronson Williams' right to run in the Rocky Mount mayoral election. Joyce Arnette Jones, who lives in Ward 5 of Rocky Mount in Nash County, filed the two protests on Friday with the Edgecombe County Board of Elections. Jones said she felt she needed to file the protests in the interest of fairness. Both protests are related to Williams' residency issues. Though Williams filed to run for mayor in Edgecombe County and listed an Edgecombe County address -- 1611 Hargrove St. -- as his residence, there seems to be mounting evidence that no one has lived at that address for some time. In a recent video, Williams said he is currently living with his parents at another location while the house at 1611 Hargrove St. is undergoing renovations. (Amelia Harper, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 10/29/19)

House Bills Filed

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Senate Bills Filed

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

- SB 693 (Nickel) CONGRATULATE THE CAROLINA COURAGE
- SB 694 (Rabon) ADJOURN 2019 REGULAR SESSION TO NOVEMBER

What Happened in the House

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

- Added to Calendar
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
 - SB 419 (Britt) TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
- Amendment Adopted A7
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Adopted A5
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Adopted A4
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Adopted A3
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Adopted A2
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Adopted A1
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Amendment Withdrawn A6
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Cal Pursuant 36(b)
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- Cal Pursuant Rule 44(d)

- SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
- SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
- SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- Calendared pursuant to House Rule 36(b)
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
 - SB 419 (Britt) TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS
- Concurred In S Com Sub
 - HB 231 (Setzer) UNC & COMM. COLL. PAY/RETIREE BONUS
 - HB 377 (Elmore) TEACHER STEP ACT
- Conference committee appointed
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 432 (Ballard) BIRTH CENTER & PHARM BENEFITS MGR. LICENSURE
- Conference committee report adopted
 - SB 250 (Krawiec) REMOVE FOREIGN CITIZENS FROM VOTING ROLLS
- Conference committee report adopted 2nd
 - HB 181 (Conrad) REPEAL YANCEYVILLE ANNEXATION
- Conference committee reported
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- Ordered Engrossed
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Ordered Enrolled
 - HB 231 (Setzer) UNC & COMM. COLL. PAY/RETIREE BONUS
 - HB 377 (Elmore) TEACHER STEP ACT
- Passed 2nd Reading
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
 - SB 419 (Britt) TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS
- Passed 3rd Reading
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
- Placed On Calendar For 10/31/2019
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- Re-referred To House Committee On Appropriations , Education
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
- Re-referred To House Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS
- Ruled Material
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
- Special Message Received For Concurrence in S Com Sub
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- Special Message Sent To Senate
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
- Withdrawn From Com
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS

What Happened in the Senate

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

- Amendment Tabled A1
 - HB 398 (Arp) INFO. TECH. BUDGET/2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM
- Amendment Tabled A2
 - HB 398 (Arp) INFO. TECH. BUDGET/2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM
- Committee substitute adopted
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- Conf Report Passed 2nd
 - HB 181 (Conrad) REPEAL YANCEYVILLE ANNEXATION
- Conference committee appointed
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
- Conference committee report adopted
 - SB 250 (Krawiec) REMOVE FOREIGN CITIZENS FROM VOTING ROLLS
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
 - SB 559 (Rabon) STORM SECURITIZATION/ALT. RATES
- Conference committee reported
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- Ordered Enrolled
 - HB 398 (Arp) INFO. TECH. BUDGET/2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM
 - SB 250 (Krawiec) REMOVE FOREIGN CITIZENS FROM VOTING ROLLS
 - SB 559 (Rabon) STORM SECURITIZATION/ALT. RATES
- Passed 1st Reading
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
- Passed 2nd Reading
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
 - HB 398 (Arp) INFO. TECH. BUDGET/2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM
- Passed 3rd Reading
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
 - HB 398 (Arp) INFO. TECH. BUDGET/2019-2021 FISCAL BIENNIUM
- Placed On Calendar For 10/31/2019
 - HB 555 (Dobson) MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION IMPLEMENTATION
 - HB 966 (Johnson, L.) 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ACT
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 553 (Sanderson) REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2019
- Placed on Today's Calendar
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- Ratified
 - SB 522 (Tillman) LOW-PERF. SCHOOLS/ADV. TEACHING ROLES
 - SB 683 (Daniel) COMBAT ABSENTEE BALLOT FRAUD
- Re-referred To Senate Committee On Appropriations/Base Budget
 - HB 200 (Hurley) VARIOUS EDUCATION CHANGES
- Referred To Senate Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
- Sequential Referral To Rules and Operations of the Senate Stricken
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- Special Message Received From House
 - HB 852 (Adams) HISTORIC SCHOOL PRESERVATION ACT
- Special Message Sent To House
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- Withdrawn From Com
 - HB 200 (Hurley) VARIOUS EDUCATION CHANGES
- Withdrawn from the Calendar

- HB 555 (Dobson) MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION IMPLEMENTATION
- HB 966 (Johnson, L.) 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ACT
- SB 553 (Sanderson) REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2019

What Happened in House Committees

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

- All House Committees
 - Reported favorably by committee For Adoption
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - Reported favorably by committee Com Sub 2
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
 - Reported favorably by committee substitute
 - HB 1023 (None) STORM RECOVERY ACT OF 2019
 - SB 419 (Britt) TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS

What Happened in Senate Committees

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

- All Senate Committees
 - Reported favorably by committee substitute
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES

House Calendar

Thursday, October 31, 2019

House Convenes at 10:00 a.m.

- PUBLIC FOR CONCURRENCE
 - HB 111 (Lambeth) 2019-2021 BASE BUDGETS/CERTAIN AGENCIES
- ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE REPORTS -- THIRD READING -- ROLL CALL
 - HB 181 (Conrad) REPEAL YANCEYVILLE ANNEXATION
- ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE REPORTS
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS
 - SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
 - SB 537 (Hise) ACH PMT/COUNSELOR-SA-SW ACT AMEND/ DHHS REV
- PUBLIC BILLS -- THIRD READING -- ROLL CALL
 - SB 557 (Krawiec) VARIOUS FINANCE LAW CHANGES
- PUBLIC BILLS -- THIRD READING -- NON -- ROLL CALL
 - SB 419 (Britt) TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES
 - SB 578 (Sawyer) REDUCE FRANCHISE TAX/EXPAND FILM GRANTS

Senate Calendar

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Senate Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

- LOCAL BILL -- CONFERENCE REPORT FOR ADOPTION -- THIRD READING -- ROLL CALL
 - HB 181 (Conrad) REPEAL YANCEYVILLE ANNEXATION
- PUBLIC BILLS -- CONFERENCE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION
 - SB 199 (Britt) CHILD SEX ABUSE/STRENGTHEN LAWS

- SB 354 (Ballard) SAM'S LAW
- PUBLIC BILLS -- RECONSIDERATION OF VETOED BILLS
 - SB 553 (Sanderson) REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2019
 - HB 555 (Dobson) MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION IMPLEMENTATION
 - HB 966 (Johnson, L.) 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ACT

House Committee Meetings

- **No House Committee meetings scheduled.**

Senate Committee Meetings

- **Thursday, October 31**
 - 8:30 a.m.
 - Senate Committee On Appropriations/Base Budget, 643 LOB
 - HB 200 (Hurley) VARIOUS EDUCATION CHANGES

Other Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Friday, Nov. 1

- 10 a.m. | General Statutes Commission, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Nov. 4

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force, 1027/1128 LB.

Friday, Nov. 8

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, Subcommittee on Atlantic Coast Pipeline, 643 LOB.

Monday, Nov. 18

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Intentional Death Prevention Committee, 1027/1128 LB.
- **1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, , 643 LOB.**

Monday, Dec. 9

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Perinatal Health Committee, 1027/1128 LB.
- 1 p.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Unintentional Death Prevention Committee, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Jan. 13

- 1 p.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Intentional Death Prevention Committee, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Jan. 27

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Unintentional Death Prevention Committee, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Feb. 10

- 1 p.m. | Child Fatality Task Force - Perinatal Health Committee, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Feb. 17

- Noon | NC Child Fatality Task Force, 1027/1128 LB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Thursday, Oct. 31

- 9:30 a.m. | The N.C. Teachers and State Employees Retirement System (TSERS) and Local Governmental Employee Retirement System (LGERS) board meets, Department of State Treasurer (Longleaf Building), 3200 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

- **9 a.m. | The N.C. Council of State meets, Commission Room, Room number 2009, Second floor of the Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.**

Wednesday, Nov. 6

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Commission for Public Health meets, The Cardinal Room, 5605 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 7

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold a public hearing on proposed shellfish leases in Carteret County, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office, 5285 U.S. 70 West, Morehead City.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

- 9:30 a.m. | Quarterly Board meeting for NC ABLE Program via webinar. Dial: 872-240-3212, Access code: 923-274-397. Meeting held at the Department of State Treasurer- Longleaf Building, Dogwood Conference Room, 3200 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold a public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in Hyde County, Hyde County Government Center, 30 Oyster Creek Rd., Swan Quarter.

Thursday, Nov. 21

- 9 a.m. | Quarterly Board meeting for the Supplemental Investment Subcommittee, Department of State Treasurer - Longleaf Building, Dogwood Conference Room, 3200 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh.

Monday, Dec. 2

- 2 p.m. | The Economic Development Accountability and Standards Committee (EDASC), N.C. Commerce Executive Board Room - fourth floor, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in Pamlico County, Pamlico County Courthouse, Commissioners' Room, 202 Main St., Bayboro.

Thursday, Dec. 12

- 9 a.m. | Quarterly Board meeting for the Supplemental Retirement Plans, Department of State Treasurer - Longleaf Building, Dogwood Conference Room, 3200 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, Nov. 4

- Staff Conference

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Thursday, Nov. 21

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) host a public hearing to accept comments on two draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, Brunswick Community College - Building A, 50 College Rd., Bolivia.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Thursday, Oct. 31

- **6 p.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper and First Lady Kristin Cooper to welcome trick-or-treaters at the Executive Mansion. Executive Mansion, 200 N. Blount St., Raleigh.**

Saturday, Dec. 7

- No time given | North Carolina Republican Party holds Hall of Fame Banquet, Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh. Contact: NC.gop.

Feb. 29

- 6 p.m. | North Carolina Democratic Party holds Blue NC Gala in Charlotte.
Contact: NCDP.org.

Saturday, June 6

- 6 p.m. | North Carolina Democratic Party holds 2020 Unity Dinner, 2411 Dunn Ave., Raleigh. Contact: NCDP.org.

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