

NEWS & RECORD

Working on the farm pays off for Cole Bowman.

SPORTS, B1



Lucian's Flame brings former chef back into the kitchen.

SAVOR, B5

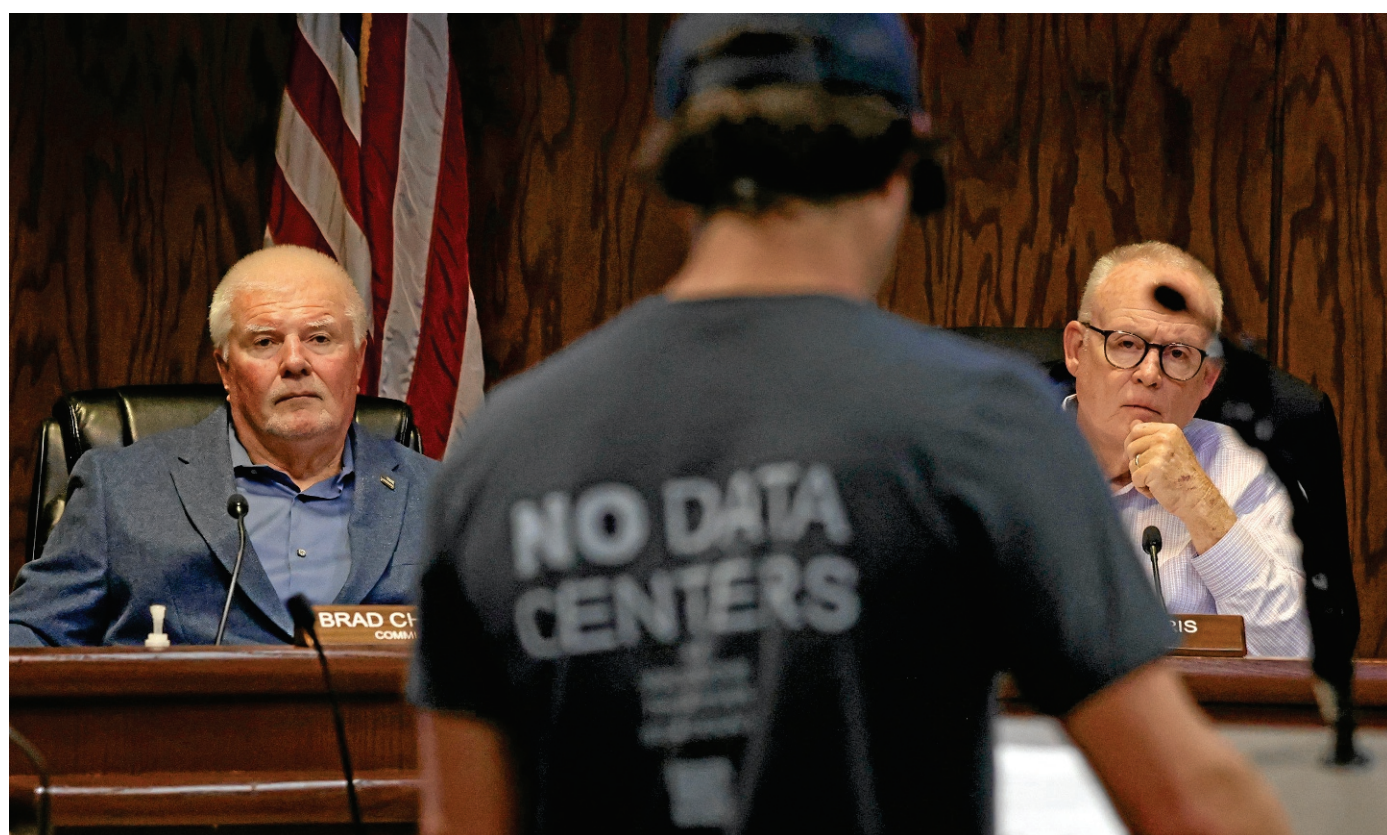


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LAWMAKERS MULL DATA CENTER REGULATIONS



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

Stokes County Commissioners Brad Chandler (left) and Rick Morris, listen as Dylan Greene speaks in opposition to a proposed data center in Walnut Cove during a Jan. 12 meeting at the Reagan Memorial Building in Danbury. Greene said his land borders the land where the data center would be built.

House proposal up for vote focuses on infrastructure, energy costs

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

Bipartisan legislation that would significantly tighten regulations on current and future data centers in North Carolina has advanced to the state House for a floor vote.

On Tuesday, the House Commerce and Economic Development and gatekeeper Rules and Operations committees recommended the House's revamping of Senate Bill 730, titled "Ratepayers Protection Act."

The restrictions would go into effect upon being signed into law.

Rep. Matthew Winslow, R-Franklin, said the revamped bill "puts our families and small businesses first by making data centers pay their fair share and strengthen grid reliability."

According to a legislative staff analysis of the bill, data centers must contractually cover all new infrastructure and energy costs "so they don't shift them to ratepayers."

The bill also blocks foreign adversary ownership, prohibits imminent domain and ends new local taxpayer incentives.

"We have really tried to make a balance approach because the data centers are on every part of our lives," Winslow said.

"Every time you pick up your phone, you take a picture, you send it to a friend, and that friend to another friend, another email. Every time you do that, it's just exponentially growing."

Please see DATA CENTERS, Page A4

Safety chief exits

Former head of Community Safety Department says city leaders tried to redirect resources to favored groups

KEVIN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

The head of Greensboro's Community Safety Department has resigned, saying that city leaders tried to undermine her department's work and to give preferential treatment to organizations receiving city funding.

In documents obtained by the News & Record, the former director, Latisha McNeil, said she was subject to political pressure from some council members who "sought to weaponize department funds, aiming to divert resources from our established strategic models toward individuals and organizations they personally favor."

The city confirmed that McNeil had resigned in a statement provided by Greensboro Strategic and Crisis Communications Manager Eric Chilton. However, the city said it could not comment on the resignation letter, which they called "a confidential personnel record that is not subject to public records requests."

McNeil did not respond to social media messages asking about her resignation and the letter as of mid-afternoon Tuesday.

McNeil began with the city in 2019, initially serving as a criminal justice administrator on the Criminal Justice Advisory Commission. She would then go on to lead the Office of Community Safety, which was created in 2022 and later renamed the Community Safety Department.

The department is tasked with overseeing alternative approaches to improving public safety. Initiatives under the department's purview include the Behavioral Health Response Team, a crisis intervention group that assists people experiencing mental illness.

Please see MCNEIL, Page A4

Investigators: Remains found in quarry likely from 1 person

SUSIE C. SPEAR
Staff Reporter

Investigators believe human remains recovered by FBI divers at a Rockingham County quarry on Monday and remains found there April 8 are from the same individual, according to a news release from the Reidsville Police Department.

FBI divers began searching early Monday in a body of water at the Ruffin Rock Quarry, which police had initially called the old Reidsville Rock Quarry, at 7730 U.S. 29.

Remains found Monday have been sent to the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Raleigh for examination and analysis and comparison to remains gathered by Rockingham County authorities at the quarry on April 8, according to the RPD.

The medical examiner has yet to determine the identity of the remains. And due to the complexity of the identification process, investigators say it may be six months to a year before forensics experts make a positive identification, police said in a Tuesday release.

Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page said Monday the remains appeared to have been in the water for an extended period of time.

Long-term exposure to water causes the body's soft tissue to deteriorate and destroys the outer layer of skin within days.

For example, the so-called "friction ridges" on the skin of the fingers sloughs off after a few days of submersion in water, destroying a vital method of identification.



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

Divers with the FBI are searching Ruffin Rock Quarry in Reidsville after human remains were found there.

Please see QUARRY, Page A4

Deep Roots Market to celebrate 50th anniversary this week.

NEWS, A2



Weather

Pleasant with sunshine
High: 81
Low: 57
Forecast: A12

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