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Mrs. Betty Marsh Blount

Mrs. Betty Marsh Blount, 72, of Wadesboro, died Saturday, June 22, 2013, at Hospice of Union County. Memorial services were held Tuesday at First Baptist Church where Betty was an active member. Betty was born April 21, 1941, a daughter of the late Charles T. and Ruby Cornwell Marsh. She was a 1976 graduate of Anson Technical College's Nursing program and worked for 29 years at Anson Community

Obituaries

Hospital until her retirement in 2005.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Calvin Blount of the home; two daughters, Teresa Hopkins (Max) of Kernersville and their children Jacob and Allison and Michelle Pigg (Lee) of Monroe and their child, Brittany; and two brothers, Charles Marsh Jr. and Steve Marsh, both of Wadesboro.

Memorials may be made to the Hospitality House of Charlotte, 1400 Scott Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203. Leavitt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

Mrs. Nancy Jane Bell Carpenter

Mrs. Nancy Jane Bell Carpenter, 65, died Friday, June 21, 2013, at her home. Funeral services were held on Monday, June 24, 2013, at Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery. Nancy was born in Gaston

County, NC on April 21, 1948, a daughter of the late Marcus L. Bell and Henrett Cash Bell. She had worked a number of years with Charles Craft but will be remembered for her recent years with Wal-Mart.

Surviving are her husband, Dan Carpenter of the home; her son, Daniel Carpenter of Lilesville; her grandchildren, Nicholas Hancock, Amanda Ratliff, Jonathan Carpenter and Emily Carpenter; her brother and sister, Jim Bell of Belmont, NC and Betty McMahan of Lexington, NC.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Angela Carpenter Ratliff. The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

Mrs. Carolyn Davis Harrington

Mrs. Carolyn Davis Harrington, 71, died Tuesday, June 18, 2013, at her home. Services were held on Thursday, June 20, 2013, by the graveside in Red Hill Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Rodney Clements and Mr. Chris Harrington officiating. Carolyn was born March

26, 1942, in Anson County, a daughter of Hazellean Thomas Davis and the late Brack Lee Davis. She had worked with both Bell South and North Carolina Telephone Companies, having retired with 32 years of combined service and was a member of Red Hill Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband, Malvin "Bucky" Harrington, Jr. of the home; her daughters, Robin (Tim) Austin Lowder of Peachland and Kellie (Mike) Crump of Albemarle; her grandchildren, Jonathan Mark Ross, Meredith Grace Ross, Caitlin Elizabeth Mason, Cara Ashlyn Mason and Colton Pines Crump; her mother, Hazellean Davis of Peachland; her sisters, Janice Bailey and Sue Tice, both of Peachland; her step-children, David Michael Harrington of Ansonville, Sandy Harrington of Columbia, SC, Amy (John) Lamb of Greensboro; her step-grandchildren, Mackey Harrington, Jordan Harrington and Thomas Lamb, III; and her step-great-grandchildren, Jada and Susan Harrington.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her son Michael Shane Austin and by sister Barbara Little. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to

Red Hill Baptist Church Brotherhood, c/o Theresa Wilson, 1104 Mt. Vernon Rd., Wadesboro, NC 28170. The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

Mrs. Jewel Adams Pratt

Mrs. Jewel Adams Pratt, 83, died Saturday, June 22, 2013, at her home.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, in Faith Baptist Church with Rev. Doug Moore officiating. Interment followed in Morven Cemetery.

Jewel was born in Anson County on July 14, 1929, a daughter of the late Ed and Allie Lewis Adams. She was a graduate of Morven High School. She worked 35 years with J.T. McRae and McRae Construction in various sales and management roles.

Survivors include her children, Star Parker, Cindy Williams and Robin Pratt, all of Wadesboro, Ben "Chuck" Pratt of Morven and Charlotte Howard of Polkton; a brother, Johnny Adams of Naples, FL; seven grandchildren; five

great-grandchildren; a friend who has been more like a daughter to her, Lamy Parker of Wadesboro; and her beloved four-legged companion, Angel.

She was preceded in death by a son, George "Gip" Pratt.

Leavitt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

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Dr. Brian Dial

Report Estimates Benefits, Costs of NC Energy Exploration

Drilling for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast and for natural gas inland could generate millions of dollars in economic activity and create thousands of jobs. That same energy exploration and recovery could cause millions of dollars in damage to coastal communities and reduce property values inland. Those are the conclusions of a report by a North Carolina State University economist that attempts to look at both the benefits and costs of developing North Carolina's energy resources.

The report, titled "The Economic Potential from Developing North Carolina's On-shore and Off-Shore Energy Resources," was written by Dr. Mike Walden, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The full report is available online at www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/faculty/walden/publications/drillingnc.pdf.

Walden said he decided to write the report as a research project that would take an objective look at the benefits and costs of developing North Carolina's energy resources. He added that he did not receive funding from any outside sources to produce the report.

North Carolina is thought to have significant oil and gas reserves off the coast that could be tapped with offshore wells, while areas of the state are thought to contain natural gas reserves that could be recovered using a drilling technology called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Walden developed his costs and benefits estimates after examining federal government estimates of the amount of oil and gas off the state's coast and natural gas beneath North Carolina's soil along with reports on environmental damage from off-shore drilling and fracking. He also looked at oil and gas price forecasts from national and international sources.

Off-Shore Drilling Walden's conclusion is that over a seven-year build up period, off-shore drilling would generate \$181 million in income annually, of which \$11 million would be public revenues. In addition, 1,122 jobs would be created. After the seven-year build up period, off-shore drilling would generate \$1.9 billion in income annually, of which \$116 million would be public revenue. This income and revenue generation would occur over a 30-year-period, during which 16,910 jobs would be created. However, Walden shows, these estimates are highly sensitive to projections of the quantities of oil and gas off-shore as well as future prices of those resources. Changes in projected quantities and prices significantly change the economic impact to North Carolina. Also, the estimated economic impacts should be put in context to the \$440 billion of economic production generated annually in North Carolina.

The downside to off-shore drilling is potential environmental damage from oil spills. In estimating oil spill damage, Walden looked at "the spillage rate during the period 1964-2010 for U.S. outer continental shelf platform and pipeline operations." Using this information, he put the potential average annual cost of environmental damage at \$83 million, primarily to the fishing and tourism economy in coastal counties. Walden points out that the size of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 increased the historic average of oil spill damage.

On-Shore Exploration

Walden used average estimates for natural gas supply and prices to estimate that natural gas exploration and extraction inland would generate \$80 million annually in income, including \$4.9 million in public revenue, and create 496 jobs as infrastructure and facilities were developed. Once wells were drilled and gas was being produced, Walden estimates that natural gas production would generate \$158 million in annual revenue, including \$9.6 million in new annual public revenue, and create 1,406 jobs over a 20-year period. Again, Walden cautions that the economic impacts change as the assumed quantity and/or price of the energy resource changes.

The costs of natural gas exploration are more difficult to estimate because hydraulic fracturing, which involves injecting a solution of water and chemicals underground to fracture rock formations containing natural gas, is a relatively new technology and does not have the history of off-shore drilling. Nevertheless, Walden used reports on natural gas exploration in Pennsylvania, where hydraulic fracturing is widespread, to estimate possible environmental damage that "could reduce property values in the affected counties by between \$636 million and \$4.7 billion."

Walden focused on North Carolina's Deep River basin for natural gas exploration. This area, which includes parts of Anson, Chatham, Durham, Granville, Lee, Montgomery, Moore and Wake counties, is thought to have the greatest potential for natural gas exploration. Of these counties, Walden writes that Chatham, Lee and Moore have attracted most of the attention for drilling.

"There are both potential 'upsides' and potential 'downsides' to energy resource development in North Carolina, and neither the 'ups' nor the 'downs' should be ignored," Walden writes. "Benefit estimates should be continually refined as updated price and quantity information becomes available. Potential cost information should also be reviewed with the goal of narrowing the range of estimates. Plans, procedures and contingencies for both reducing potential costs as well as addressing costs when they occur should be developed and debated."

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