

ETHICS

FROM PAGE A6

\$400. Obviously, that is more than his present total indicating he either successful appealed part of the fine, paid a portion of it or had some amount garnished from his wages.

King-Boyd is currently listed as owing \$100, but a spokesperson for the commission said the total is actually a bit higher. A letter dated June 2, 2021 doesn't specifically list an offense, but seems to explain the filing process.

"The Ethics Act requires that after filing an initial Campaign Disclosure, all candidates must file additional Campaign Disclosure within 10 days following the end of each calendar quarter until a Final Campaign Disclosure is filed showing a zero balance and no loan balance. Statements of Economic Interest are due prior to taking oath of office of entering your official responsibilities. Updated Statements of Economic Interest are due every year you are in office," said the letter.

The letter said King-Boyd had appealed her fine and that part of it (that associated with her campaign disclosures) had been waived

but that those associated with her economic interest statement would remain intact. She was informed that she needed to pay her \$100 fine in 30 days or she could be turned over to the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) for collection.

A second letter, from December of last year, indicated her economic interest statement for 2024 had been received late, resulting in a \$400 fine. The letter also stated King-Boyd had an address missing on her pre-election/quarter 1 campaign disclosure form and needed to amend it. As with the letter from years earlier, King-Boyd was told she had 30 days to pay the fine before the matter would be referred to the SCDOR.

"It looks like \$200.00 of (her) accumulated fine amount pre-dates our current filing system. Those records are not available," a spokesperson from the commission said.

Again, it was not clear whether the lower total reflected on the debtors list was because King-Boyd paid part of her fine or had part of the total garnished from her wages.

Other people on the list have either already left office, or ran unsuccessful campaigns. Jennifer Brecheisen ran for

the S.C. House of Representatives but was also a candidate for Chester City Council. She was three months late filing a pre-election campaign disclosure form during her Council race and presently has a listed fine of \$100.

Antrea Hughes served one term of Chester City Council and lost her seat last month in a very close race with Terry Foster. Hughes has a long list of violations, including eight quarterly statements and two statements of economic interest having been filed late, with an accumulated fine total of \$1,100. Former City of Chester Mayor Wanda Stringfellow has a \$100 fine for a pre-election campaign disclosure form that was unfilled and three months late as of the time a letter was informing her of her violation. She is listed as owing \$100.

Eugene Boyd (\$300), William T. Holmes (\$100), John Moore (\$100), Edward King Nelson (\$100), Robert Nelson (\$100), Ross Glenn (\$1,500) and Beth Stevenson (\$200) all have fines listed, but there is no documentation to support any of them, with those apparently having been lost with the Commission upgraded its system in recent years. Some of those fines date all the

way back to 2000. The Chester County Democratic Party is presently listed as owing \$1,000 in fines. That dates back 14 years when the party actually incurred fines of more than \$50,000. A Commission spokesman at the time told the newspaper that parties in smaller counties rarely have assets to seize to pay fines that large and that such total would rarely, if ever, be collected. On appeal, that fine was lowered to \$1,000 but has apparently never been paid.

As for why some fines seem to remain in place so long, a Commission spokesperson said, "we send the individuals to (The South Carolina Department of Revenue) after the deadline for payment has passed without being satisfied."

Rob Walden, public information officer for the Department said debtors are pursued when they reported.

"South Carolina law requires the SCDOR to help qualifying entities in collecting debts through the Setoff Debt and GEAR collection programs. However, the SCDOR does not control which debts a claimant agency sends us to pursue. Any questions about that process should be directed toward the claimant agency."

Beacon Foundation gives 3 scholarships to Chester students

The Beacon Foundation announces 2025 scholarship recipients for Chester County

BY FROM RELEASE

Chester County, SC — The Beacon Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of its 2025 scholarships, awarded to outstanding graduating seniors from each of Chester County's three high schools.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Anna Bramlett — Chester High School
- Jaylen Craig — Lewisville High School
- JiAnna Sanders — Great Falls High School

Each student has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to their community. The Beacon Foundation congratulates these exceptional young individuals and wishes them continued success as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their lives.

For more information about The Beacon Foundation and its community initiatives, please visit our website carolinabf.org.



Anna Bramlett



Jaylen Craig



JiAnna Sanders

POWER

FROM PAGE A2

On the back side of that was "the black eye the state got from what happened at V.C. Summer, and we didn't want another kind of catastrophe here in South Carolina," he said.

He also said the provision to allow Santee-Cooper and Dominion Energy to get the Canadys plant back up and going was also significant.

"Another aspect of the bill that I thought we had in the bill was exploration of other areas of energy production, whether that's wood chip burning, whether that solar, you know, it opened up the toolbox for South Carolina to become more energy independent," Sen. Stubbs said.

He pointed out that the state right now has a power shortage, and is buying power from outside of the state, and we want to be able to create more and have more reliability and sustainability here at home.

"This is an important act, and I'm sure there will be questions in the future, but right now, I do think our energy future is going to be more secure going forward."

Next, the "power brokers," Phil Stillman, Director of Load Forecasting & Regulated Strategy for Duke Energy and Dave Millar, Director of Resource Planning for Santee Cooper, had their comments about the legislation that was just passed.

Millar said, "we're very happy that the Act passed and we're able to go ahead and star with construction on the Canadys plant. It's going to be about 2,200 megawatts (of power generation)... We're going to go to the Public Service Commission in the fall for what's called a siting application and we're going to



BY BRIAN GARNER/bgarner@onlinechester.com

Chester County Economic Development Director Robert Long, at left, asks questions of panelists, from left, Phil Stillman, Director of Load Forecasting & Regulated Strategy for Duke Energy and Dave Millar, Director of Resource Planning for Santee Cooper and State Sen. Everett Stubbs (R.), District 17 — Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster & York Counties.

attempt to show that (constructing the natural gas power plant) is the right plan, the best of all the alternatives, and it's in the interest of South Carolina, and we expect that that will occur," he said.

Phil Stillman with Duke Energy added, "I think it's a fantastic piece of legislation, and there's safeguards in place, especially for companies that are 50 megawatts or more, and that's what you're going to hear a lot about. Our lot of the economic development that we're seeing is above 50 megawatts, up to a gigawatt (of demand,) so it's very sizable, and those safeguards are in place to make sure that the companies, as they sign up, they meet their operational characteristics, they meet their financial obligations."

The panelists took questions and comments from the floor.

Swain Whitfield, a former Chair and Commissioner of the Public Service Commission and now a utility consultant, commented on the Energy Security Act.

"This bill is the culmination of three years worth of work — don't let Senator Stubbs kid you, he jumped in there real quickly this first session, and 3309, may be the most substantial

piece of legislation in 21 years since the legislature passed South Carolina Act 175 creating the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS).

"(The Act) encouraged base load generation without hindering Act 62, the solar bill five years ago, and it allows to do just exactly what Senator Stubbs said: provide safe, affordable, reliable power to the "Fred and Ethels", the residential ratepayers, while also accommodating our massive economic development successes we've had here in South Carolina."

He added, "Now that this work is done, as Phil and Dave alluded to, the real execution of this begins. They've got order turbines that may be four years, five years in construction, and so now it's up to us. As Senator Stubbs said, people want things right now, but it's going to take time — The law is in place; hats off to the legislature for that, but there's a lot of work to be done, and the folks in this room will be doing that work."

Senator Stubbs had some final thoughts on this comment.

"When are mistakes made?" he asked the audience and they answered, "when you get in a hurry."

"There's a reason this

(Act) has taken as long as it has. A lot of folks in this room, the utilities, especially, we're seeing growth at an astronomical level in South Carolina. If we were going as fast as everybody in this state wanted us to, we'd be a disaster. Slow, gradual, sustainable growth is what we're going for in the state, and that's what we've got, and we're going to keep heading in that direction."

DIVAS

FROM PAGE A7

Place the fruit, spinach, and oats in your blender, add kefir and vanilla, then blend until smooth. Enjoy it immediately.

Want to give your smoothie a serious upgrade? Try Nutrition Bombs — my fun name for frozen cubes packed with good-for-you ingredients like protein powder, oats, chia, hemp hearts, flaxseed, spinach and coconut water. Just toss one into your blender for an easy boost of nutrition, no extra effort needed. Get all the details on how to make your own

at divasonadime.com/nutrition-bombs-for-smoothies.

Prep now and your blender (and your future self) will thank you. Start your day right with a homemade smoothie that's easy on time, budget-friendly, and packed with nutrition.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com.

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