

CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

THE CHATHAM COUNTY EDITION OF THE NORTH STATE JOURNAL



MATT RAMEY | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Rodeo in Chatham

The Silk Hope Pro Rodeo took place this past weekend on June 23 and 24. You can see more photos from the event on page B10.

Kyle Shipp launches campaign for Mayor of Pittsboro

Kyle for Mayor

PITTSBORO — Kyle Shipp is thrilled to announce his candidacy for Mayor of Pittsboro and share a bold vision for the future of Pittsboro. As a town commissioner, Shipp gained valuable experience and an in-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Pittsboro.

Outgoing Mayor Cindy Perry said, “Having served as Mayor for three terms, I wholeheartedly endorse Kyle as the ideal candidate to lead our Town to a prosperous and inclusive future.” Shipp said he “feels ready to take the lead as Mayor, build on past achievements, and shape a future that reflects the aspirations of every resident.”

Shipp said he considers his campaign slogan more of a mantra for what lies ahead: “Plan for Pittsboro. Plan for our future. Plan together.” He said he will work with the community and lead Pittsboro towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

Plan for Pittsboro

Strategic planning is of critical importance in shaping the destiny of Pittsboro. This town is unlike any other, and the plans made today must ensure it remains both economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable. Shipp said he will work hand-in-hand with local experts, businesses and community members to develop a blueprint addressing key areas such as infrastructure modernization, downtown vitality and the preservation of Pittsboro’s unique cultural heritage.

“I believe that growth is possible while staying true to the past,” Shipp said.

Plan for our future

Pittsboro has a rich history and is well-known for its unique character. As the population continues to increase, long-term plans must be made now to ensure that character is preserved, thoughtfully scaled and inclusive of all.

Shipp said his plan focuses on fostering entrepreneurship and creating a business-friendly environment for both new and existing businesses; generating quality employment opportunities for residents. Shipp said he will also hold business-accountable to Pittsboro’s most urgent priorities: protecting natural resources and delivering affordable housing.

Plan together

Shipp said he seeks to empower and uplift every resident of Pittsboro. His plan is merely a first draft: the true plan is one made together as a community.

“Civic engagement is essential to enhancing the quality of life for all,” Shipp said.

Through initiatives that support local arts, culture, and recreation, Shipp envisions vibrant public spaces where residents can gather, connect, and thrive. He said he will continue to cultivate partnerships with community organizations, listen to the voices of residents and champion inclusion, all with the goal of keeping Pittsboro a place where everyone feels valued and welcomed.

Shipp said believes that action is inherent in the planning process: make a plan, try the plan, and revise the plan while moving forward. With a proven commitment to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility and community engagement, he said he feels poised to build upon these accomplishments and tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

In the coming months, Shipp said he will engage with residents through a series of town hall meetings, neighborhood gatherings, and digital platforms, promoting an inclusive dialogue where all ideas and aspirations for Pittsboro are valued.

“With a shared vision and collective action, there is a sustainable future ahead for the town,” Shipp said. He invites residents to get engaged and help plan for the challenges ahead, ensuring that today’s actions benefit generations to come.

LET FREEDOM RING!

How Chatham County is celebrating Independence Day

By Taylor Heeden
Chatham News & Record

THE FOURTH OF JULY — also known as Independence Day in the U.S. — is widely celebrated across Chatham County with various festivals, church celebrations and firework displays.

The News & Record has compiled a list of activities in the county leading up to and on Independence Day residents can participate in. Here’s how Chatham communities are commemorating the founding of the United States.

Summer Fest 2023

The Pittsboro Business Association will host its annual Summer Fest starting at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, at the town parking lot across from Postal Fish Company in downtown Pittsboro.

Summer Fest will have a dedicated space for children, the Kids Zone, complete with a water slide, a dunk tank, a bounce house, an inflatable axe-throwing lane, an obstacle course and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Summer Fest is one of the events taking place the weekend of July 4.

For adult festivalgoers, there are several contests to participate in, from the highly anticipated beard and mustache competition to the newly added amateur BBQ cook-off. There will also be various entertainers at the event, from live musicians to jugglers and balloon animal artists.

Food trucks and vendors will be available throughout Summer Fest.

The July 4 Dueling Dogs Seminar

Canines can put on their flippers and swim caps in this patriotic aquatic competition in Goldston at the Dueling Dogs Seminar, an all-day affair on Tuesday, July 4, at the Indian Creek K9 Aquatics Center in Goldston.

See **JULY 4**, page A9

AG Josh Stein meets with Chatham leaders to talk law enforcement

By Taylor Heeden
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — Many of Chatham County’s elected officials and various municipal administrations came together on Monday afternoon for a round-table discussion with N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein.

Stein has served as N.C.’s Attorney General since 2017 and recently announced his 2024 run to take the governor’s seat for the next election.

The group came together to discuss various issues facing the criminal justice system — from lulls in the hiring of law enforcement officers to new funds com-

ing from the opioid lawsuit settlements Stein and his office have spearheaded.

“We’ve worked with the sheriff... the Chiefs of Police and others in law enforcement to come up with a package to try to help address recruitment and retention challenges,” Stein told the group.

Sheriff Mike Roberson was present at Monday’s conversation, and he provided some insight on some of the challenges the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office has experienced, specifically in regard to filling vacant positions.

“We have 14 certified law enforcement position vacancies,

with no applications, and then we have 13 detention positions open, and we have a couple of applications on that,” Roberson said. “But we’re not getting enough people to apply to even sift through... To be honest with you, we’re behind on the number of deputies that we have. We

See **STEIN**, page A12



\$1.00

THURSDAY
6.29.23

#5



“Join the conversation”

Chatham News & Record
www.chathamnewsrecord.com

North State Media LLC
303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, North Carolina 27344
Copyright 2023 North State Media LLC

Neal Robbins, Publisher
publisher@northstatejournal.com
336-552-6800

NEWSROOM

Matt Mercer, Editor in Chief
matt@northstatejournal.com

Griffin Daughtry, Local News Editor
griffin@northstatejournal.com

Lauren Rose, Design Editor
lauren@northstatejournal.com

Taylor Heeden, Web Editor
theeden@chathamnr.com

Cory Lavalette, Statewide Sports Editor
cory@northstatejournal.com

Jeremy Vernon, Chatham Sports Editor
jeremy@chathamnr.com

Valeria Cloës, Copy Editor
valeriacleos@chathamnr.com

ADVERTISING

Jason Justice
jjustice@chathamnr.com

Advertising Inquiries
advertising@chathamnr.com

OFFICE

Karen Pyrtle
karen@chathamnr.com

Doris Beck
doris@chathamnr.com

Florence Turner
billing@chathamnr.com

The Chatham News & Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by North State Media LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

N.C. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Chatham News & Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

CONTACT US

For a vacation hold or to report a delivery problem: 919-663-3232

To place a classified or display ad: 919-663-3232; Fax: 919-663-4042

To submit a news tip or correction: 919-663-3232; email: news@chathamnr.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscription rates begin at \$6.58/month (1 year print & digital, paid annually) or \$4.92/month (digital only, paid annually). Pick your plan at www.chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe.

Auto-renew; cancel anytime

WEEKLY FORECAST

THURSDAY JUNE 29	FRIDAY JUNE 30	SATURDAY JULY 1	SUNDAY JULY 2	MONDAY JULY 3	TUESDAY JULY 4	WEDNESDAY JULY 5
HI 79° LO 61° PRECIP 12%	HI 82° LO 62° PRECIP 15%	HI 82° LO 62° PRECIP 16%	HI 77° LO 58° PRECIP 13%	HI 81° LO 60° PRECIP 23%	HI 83° LO 52° PRECIP 24%	HI 83° LO 52° PRECIP 24%

Chatham Community Library to host food seminar “Raising Good Eaters”

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library will host “Raising Good Eaters,” which is part of the “Learn About Food at Your Library” series from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, at Chatham Community Library. This program is free and open to the public in the Holmes Family Meeting Room.

The N.C. Cooperative Extension-Chatham County Center will give a presentation and food demonstration on healthy foods and proper nutrition for young children. Children have different nutritional needs from adults and healthy skepticism to new things, including food.

These two factors can make meals challenging for caregivers

in addition to limited budgets, limited time, and sometimes limited patience.

“Raising Good Eaters” is aimed at taking the pressure off mealtimes, giving caregivers a better understanding of the nutritional and behavioral needs for this age group, and discussing feeding strategies for young children.

The Food Literacy Center grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-252476-OLS-22).

Residents may visit the libraries’ website www.cha-

WHAT: “Learn About Food at Your Library: Raising Good Eaters”

WHEN: Thursday, June 29, 2023, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Chatham Community Library, Holmes Family Meeting Room, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro, NC 27312

WHO: Tara Gregory, registered dietitian, with the N.C. Cooperative Extension

thamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 for more information on this and other events and programs.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

You are invited to our Fourth of July celebration on Saturday, July 1. We will serve hot dogs with all the trimmings beginning at 5 p.m. There will be plenty of desserts, as well as a homemade ice cream competition. Following the meal there will be Bingo and a cornhole tournament.

Join us at 715 Sandy Branch Church Road, Bear Creek.

CAMERON GROVE AME ZION CHURCH

Cameron Grove AME Zion Church will hold its Mortgage Burning Celebration on Sunday, July 2, at 3 p.m. The speaker will be Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Presiding Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District, the AME Zion Church.

Dinner will be served. The church is located at 309 Vernon St., Broadway.

CALENDAR

The Town of Siler City is developing a downtown streetscape master plan to serve as a guiding document for future public improvements that will provide for safer pedestrian experiences, convenient parking, and will stimulate positive growth. The focus of the streetscape improvements includes improved pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks and cross walks, traffic calming measures, public parking options, landscape and lighting improvements, and various other public amenities. The community engagement event on June 28 is an opportunity for the design team to present preliminary improvements in the form of graphics and images for public comment and feedback. A presentation will be made to explain the proposed improvements at 4:15 p.m. followed by an open house community design workshop and public forum. Event Date and Time: Wednesday, June 28, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Courtroom, 311 N. Second Avenue.

Start your Summerfest '23 fun Sunday, July 2, at the Chatham County Historical Courthouse in Pittsboro, where volunteers from the Deep River Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will hand out flags and candy free of charge. The Historical Museum will also be open at this time. The museum’s regular hours are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays. Admission is free. We follow state and local directives regarding masks and distancing. 919-542-6222.

Chatham Community Library will host “Raising Good Eaters,” which is part of the “Learn About Food at Your Library” series. This program is free and open to the public, Thursday, beginning June 29, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Chatham Community Library, Holmes Family Meeting Room, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro.

The Siler City Lion’s Club meeting for July at Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, will be July 11 and 25 at 6 p.m. Join the Club, and see that you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Together we serve!

Start your Summerfest '23 fun Sunday, July 2, at the Chatham County Historical Association Museum in Pittsboro, where volunteers will give out flags beginning at 4 p.m. The museum’s regular hours are from 11 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays. It is located in the Historical Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro. Admission is free. We follow state and local directives regarding masks and distancing. 919-542-6222.

The Goldston Public Library announces the Goldston Book Club, every 2nd Monday of each month, from 2 to 3 p.m. Individuals who are interested in joining a book club can stop by the Goldston Public Library.

Navigate your NC Land Brokerage with us!



- **OVER 1,000 CAREER TRANSACTIONS**
- **TCAR TRIANGLE ELITE BROKER**
- **4.9 STAR REVIEW (GOOGLE & ZILLOW)**
- **APEX AWARD WINNER**
- **TRIANGLE TOP PRODUCER**

CURRENTLY FOR SALE

Residential

- 448 River Point Rd (Moncure) 3 Bdrm, 1 Bath \$325,000
- 4377 N Old US 421 (Siler City) 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$450,000
- 1722 Wilkins Dr (Sanford) 6 Bdrm, 5 Baths, 2 Half Baths \$775,000
- 2035 Long Point Trail (Sanford) 5 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath \$785,000
- 94 Sunny Ridge Ln (Pittsboro) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$975,000

Land

- 170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000
- 188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000
- 1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000
- 108 Spring St (Apex) 3.670 acres \$150,000
- 454 Maple Springs Rd (Bear Creek) 13.592 acres \$165,000
- 1049 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.548 acres \$200,000

- 1223 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.701 acres \$225,000
- 1544 Roberts Chapel Rd (Chapel Hill) 17.632 acres \$225,000
- 1710 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.643 acres \$225,000
- 37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$300,000
- 5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000
- 893 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 24.938 acres \$325,000
- 0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000
- Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000
- 5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000
- 0 JB Morgan Rd (Apex) 21.500 acres \$825,000
- 499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 12.619 acres \$1,500,000
- 00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200
- 0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 75.430 acres \$9,051,600

CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

Residential

- 5741 Old Stony Wat (Durham) 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$675,000

Land

- 955 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.566 acres \$185,000
- 267 Marshall Rd (Pittsboro) 10.049 acres \$250,000

- 00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000
- 13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500,000

Commercial Unimproved

- 5741 Old Stony Wat (Durham) 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$675,000

Visit & Subscribe to Eric’s YouTube channel for a variety of fun & informational videos



Are Real Estate Agents Using AI or ChatGPT in 2023?



<https://www.youtube.com/c/ericandrewsrealtor>



Email your questions to **eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com**
For RWCP Property Management Call **Jennifer 919-545-9405**
RWCP is hiring Sales Agents. Call **919-545-9911**

Get in touch!



chathamnewsrecord.com



@ChathamNR



@ChathamNR

COMMISSIONERS

Siler City Board of Commissioners approve 2023-24 budget, scrap stormwater utility fee

By Valeria Cloës
Chatham News & Record

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of Commissioners met at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, in the Courtroom at City Hall to approve the town's 2023-2024 budget. The town's new budget for the fiscal year increases water, sewer and solid waste and recycling rates. These rates have not been increased since 2016.

The Commissioners' first order of business was to approve the budget itself: As reported by Taylor Heeden, the commissioners previously debated adding a stormwater utility fee. However, it was scrapped from the final budget.

In a follow-up interview

with Town Manager Hank Raper, he said the tax rate is being kept at 54 cents.

"But there are increases to water and sewer rates, as well as increases in solid waste collection services," he said.

For residents inside city limits, the base water rate will be \$27 and the sewer rate will be \$19.25. For residents outside city limits, the base water rate will be \$54 and the base sewer rate will be \$38.50.

For commercial buildings inside city limits, the base water rate will be \$33 and the base sewer rate will be \$27. For commercial buildings outside city limits, the base water rate will be \$66 and the base sewer rate will be \$54.

In addition, for solid waste

These rates will be effective July 1, 2023.

and recycling in residential areas, the monthly rate per household will now be \$19.36, and for commercial areas the monthly rate per business will be \$25.88.

These rates will be effective July 1, 2023. A full breakdown of increased rates will be available online at www.chathamnewsandrecord.com.

This is the first time since 2016 that the water and sewer rates have increased, Raper said.

The budget, with notes to fix typos, was approved unan-

imously.

In addition, in the 20-minute long open session, Planning Director Jennifer Baptiste gave a presentation to the board about the rezoning request by Mid-State Development Center. This presentation showed the affected parcels of land along U.S. 64, Stockyard Road and Ellington Road.

With no public comments, Raper updated the commissioners on renovations done to the roof of City Hall which have left it looking red again after power washing.

Finally, Raper informed the commissioners about the Siler City Alcoholic Beverage Control Board 2023-2024 budget for them to review. No action was required.

ARREST BLOTTER

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On June 13, Phillip Charles Laney Jr., 44, of 400 Pritchard Ave., D2, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for assault on a female and misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 12. On June 13, he was also arrested by Deputy Gross for sell/deliver cocaine, possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine, and maintain vehicle/dwelling/ place for controlled substance. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on June 26.

On June 13, Edgar Emanuel Rodriguez, 27, of 126 Santa Fe Circle, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Wes Chafa for breaking/entering with the intent to terrorize/injure. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 17.

On June 14, Lela Faye Partin, 54, of 3647 Alston Chapel Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Chris Scales for domestic violence protective order violation. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 19.

On June 14, James Michael Stanley, 31, of 3645 Alston Chapel Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Scales for domestic violence protective order violation. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 19.

On June 16, Alisa Elaine Garcia, 37, of 855 Cypress Church Road, Cameron, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for two counts of failure to appear per a release order. She was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 16, Dana Renee Brady, 47, of 606 W. Fifth St. Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Dalton Oldham for failure to appear-child support. She was issued a \$15,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 30.

On June 16, Kendall Moore Jones, 25, of 233 Highgate Circle, Wake Forest, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for two counts of domestic violence protective order violation. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

Board holds public hearing on Sanford merger

By Taylor Heeden
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — While the weather roared outside of the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center on Monday evening, Pittsboro commissioners held their last meeting of the month, which included conducting a public hearing on the Sanford water and wastewater merger.

Assistant Town Manager Kent Jackson gave a presentation on the merger during the hearing, where he gave a brief overview of how the town got to where it is today. The summary was documented in a memorandum, which was given to the board prior to the meeting.

"On August 12, 2022, the Town engaged with Freese and Nichols to perform a study and analysis of the opportunities and challenges of a merged system with the City of Sanford," the memorandum read. "Phase 1 of this comprehensive study focused primarily on financial options and impacts, including system development fees and rates. The findings and conclusions of Phase 1 indicated significant opportunities and advantages for the potential merger and therefore Phase 2 was au-

thorized. Phase 2 has focused on governance, assets, system operation, and capital funding."

Jackson said the merger would help mitigate several issues with Pittsboro's current infrastructure, such as limited sewer capacity, unsteady utility rates and more.

"Even smaller projects ... cannot be supported because of the very limited wastewater capacity," he said. "The benefit of this arrangement with Sanford is to enable us to achieve that sewer capacity, mainly through the force main project, but also through other upgrades."

Jackson also ran through some questions regarding the merger various residents and board members have expressed throughout the planning process. Jackson said current customers would still receive the same level of service under the merger, as both Sanford and Pittsboro utilize the same software and systems for billing and collection.

Customers can also report issues through the same mediums they currently use, such as going to town hall in-person, calling the department or submitting a request online. Utility bills are expected to remain steady, but the re-

Customers can also report issues through the same mediums they currently use, such as going to town hall in-person, calling the department or submitting a request online.

port stated the system development fees (SDFs) in Pittsboro could increase under the merger.

A concern water quality activists in Pittsboro have revolves around Sanford's water contamination. Sanford has PFAS and PFOA — potential human carcinogens — in its water supply, which the city said it plans on addressing by installing a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system in its water treatment facility. Pittsboro already has a GAC system installed in its water treatment plant, which was put online last July.

Commissioner John Bonitz said residents have approached him with concerns regarding the water quality of Sanford's water, and if it

would have a negative impact on Pittsboro's supply.

"I am hearing constituents ask specifically for the pollutant goals or limits or Sanford's GAC plan," he said. "I'm pleased they're going to install that level of advanced filtration and have plans for even more, but we do need to know at what level that GAC will be operated and managed."

Bonitz said he appreciates all of the work staff and contracted agencies have done to create the drafted interlocal agreement, but he said most of the public seems to be "hungry for more information."

"They've not been able to find it, or they've not been able to find it easily," he said. "We've been kind of sprinting to catch up with this ambitious set of timelines, which is no fault to any of us."

Bonitz suggested creating a webpage on the town website where residents could go to find more information on the merger and interlocal agreement, which he said would help fill the void of questions from residents.

Jackson said creating a page for the merger would be possible, if that was something the board wanted to move forward with.

Residential, Land & Farms, Commercial, and Investment properties since 1989.



Scott Harris
919-498-4077



Renee Kennedy
919-548-1329



Chris Walker
919-768-2811



Billy Williams
919-548-1404



Your "LOCAL" team of Real Estate Experts!
Selling or Buying? Contact a member of our team today!



Serving Pittsboro, Siler City, and surrounding areas

1325 N. Second Ave. Siler City, NC | JerryHarrisRealty.com



OPINION



Neal Robbins, publisher | Frank Hill, senior opinion editor

VISUAL VOICES



COLUMN | JAN HUTTON

Wait, wait, we're still growing, right?

Growing my inner life has always been a priority for me. I'm an introvert, for heaven's sake!

THAT TIME, all those many eons ago, I burned ALL my journals? OK, yes, that was a come-on to capture your interest. (Did it work?)

Back to said burning of all the many journals I'd kept over twenty years. Not wishing to bore you, I'll simply say that personal victimization ran rampant in those journals, a good excuse for a return to their original form of dust to dust. (And they were also stellar fuel for a New Year's Day start-anew bonfire!)

Next move. I mean it's difficult to go from recording one's inner state to the state of recording zip about that same inner terrain. There was a quasi-empty bookcase shelf that had previously housed the incinerated journals. And yes, my eye always seemed to catch the now-open space whenever I passed that bookcase. A furtive look, yes, but still an awareness rather like a phantom limb.

And what can I say, unconsciously motivated by that-now empty and journal-less shelf, I started a new form of recording, but online. I began to hoard wisdom sayings and quotes. As it turns out, my hoarding (stockpiling?) evolved into years (and years) of wise quotes and wisdom nuggets

Why hoard (er, stockpile) all these wisdom nuggets? Growing my inner life has always been a priority for me. I'm an introvert, for heaven's sake! And remember ALL those incinerated journals? I now created a new online garden, planting seeds, lots and lots of seeds, hoping some would take root in my being. Goodies such as compassion, tolerance and love of my fellow humans. Yeah, right, just the easy stuff ...

How often, through the years, did I find myself returning to this wisdom cache for support? (Jan grimaces.) After the first five years or so of weekly copy and pasting (and copy and pasting), did I frequently return to my wisdom cache for those reputed growth nutrients? Rarely.

I mean, forty-five plus pages of collected wisdom sayings, over

the course of 15-plus years, and the apparent impact on my life, for the most part, seemed to be, "OMG, I forgot I created that file!" Filled to the gills with sage words for growing myself into a deep-hearted human being and I periodically forgot the file even existed. Pretty dispiriting.

Sigh. As a quick retrospective of the hours spent copying and pasting, I decided to dive into those 15+ years of hoped-for exponential growth. OMG, I just jumped right into the deep end (without the benefit of water wings.). In a few words, the reading was heavy-going, seriously heavy-going. I found it difficult to stay in the deep end for very long with the sheer density of all the collected wisdom. What had I been thinking?

And then, as per usual, the light of understanding appeared, just when needed, from all places, Facebook. (How does that light show up? Too deep a dive for me. I'm just glad it does.) And there, lighting my way forward, vis-à-vis, author Kate Bowler:

"Bless that old self,
They did such a good job with what they knew.
They made you who you were ..."

Yep, my burned journals, my periodically forgotten wisdom file, both "grew" me in all the moments I was truly present to them in the past. However, one never knows, or controls, the metamorphosis of growth.

I released old journals of behaviors that no longer served me. I constructed a wisdom file that, very likely, seeped into me as I copied and pasted. And now, I'm here. With both you and me. Writing and sharing the challenges and gifts of our human journey. I'm betting you're already on this growth bandwagon, right? Or you wouldn't be reading this?

Jan Hutton is a retired hospice/hospital social worker who believes in living life with heart and humor. She has happily lived in Chatham for 20 years.

EDITORIAL | STACEY MATTHEWS

Fly that flag high on Independence Day



It's always amazed me that there are people out there who make decisions about flying the American flag based on who happens to be president at the time.

IT'S ALWAYS AMAZED ME that there are people out there who make decisions about flying the American flag based on who happens to be president at the time.

I remember not long after 9/11, we were treated to one story after another about how some who didn't support then-President George W. Bush said they didn't want to fly the flag because they felt like people would "mistake" them for Bush supporters who were feeling especially patriotic about America in the aftermath of the horrific terrorist attacks.

So instead of showing love for their country despite their political disagreements with President Bush, these same critics of the president opted to stuff it in a drawer, away from the eyes of those on the left who we were previously told were tolerant and nonjudgmental of differing views.

Several years later when Barack Obama was elected president, a fresh wave of articles hit, letting us know that those who had felt uncomfortable flying the flag under Bush were now flying it again under Obama.

"After a divisive presidency and strident campaign in which patriotism was used as a wedge issue, supporters of President-elect Obama are hanging flags, donning Old Glory lapel pins and humming the national anthem," the Raleigh News and Observer reported in a conveniently timed November 2008 piece which carried the headline "Winds of Patriotism Renewed."

The paper also quoted one Obama supporter as saying she "got in bed and started reading the Declaration of Independence for the first time in a long time" the day after the election, while another declared, "The first thing I did the morning after the election was take [the American flag] from my den and fly it proudly in front of my house."

The reasons people do and do not fly the American flag are their own, but I can't imagine not flying mine simply because Joe Biden is president.

In my opinion, it doesn't matter who the president is nor what the pressing issue happens to be in this country at any given time; there is no reason why any person in this country who loves it should ever be ashamed to fly their flags in their yards, hang small ones in their homes, wear a flag pin or what have you regardless of whoever our president is.

The mistake fair-weather citizens make on the hanging of the flag and other traditional displays of patriotism is that they believe the flag merely represents the president of this country.

It does not. It represents the ideals upon which this nation was founded.



It represents a love of country that goes way beyond whoever currently occupies the Oval Office. I proudly displayed this country's flag during the Clinton administration years, did so under Obama and continue to do so under Biden regardless of my opposition to what he stands for.

No president will ever make me ashamed to display my country's flag. As a commenter at my old blog once wrote, "America is an idea that is bigger and better than one individual, even if it's the president."

Wherever I go, whenever I see the American flag flown it gives me such a sense of pride and comfort to see the stars and stripes because I know what it means and I know how so many have fought and died to keep America safe and free.

On Independence Day and all days before and after, don't be ashamed to fly your American flag high, no matter on which side of the political aisle you hang your hat. I can think of no better way to celebrate the First Amendment and robust disagreements on the issues than doing that, in the greatest country on earth.

North Carolina native Stacey Matthews has also written under the pseudonym Sister Toldjah and is a media analyst and regular contributor to RedState and Legal Insurrection.

COLUMN | BOB WACHS

Really can't judge book by its cover

LIFE, IT'S BEEN SAID, is a funny teacher.

Not funny as in funny “ha-ha” but funny as in how things come around, sometimes in sort of an ironic way. Life, unlike my high school algebra teacher, for instance, gives the test first and then the lesson. Mrs. Johnston, on the other hand, gave us the lessons first and then we had the test but that didn't help much — at least for me.

I say all that to point out I've had a few mental light bulbs to come on lately in that regard. One of them has been that what we see on the outside of folks may not be what's happening on the inside where they're really living.

Every day, I believe, we come in contact with folks who may be smiling like a clown outside but inwardly they're dying. And every day, we may be, to others, one of those folks who are smiling on the outside but dying inside.

Some of that, I'm convinced, has to do with the drastic change in life we've experienced since an illness most of us previously had never heard of drove many of us to “shelter in place.” With that for many people came the loss of jobs, income, independence, self-worth and a reason to get up in the morning. We will be a long time in learning the long-lasting effects of this as those effects show up in such places as child abuse, depression and suicides.

You see, laughing on the outside but crying on the inside can be caused by any number of issues, including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Some such as the corona virus can cause distress in all of those areas. If, for instance, someone is physically ill from the virus, hospitalized, out of work and financially distressed, he or she may find his or her mind struggling just to stay afloat while wondering where is God in all this.

For me, the outside-inside realities were more physical, although nothing exists in a vacuum. Years ago, when my dad was on this side of the Great Divide and I was a mere child, I would sometimes plead with him to play catch or throw the ol' pigskin around. And sometimes he would oblige, even though he'd put in a hard day putting food on the table. But other times he'd say something to the effect of, “I'd like to but I don't feel like it.”

More than one time when he would say that, I would say to him something like “You don't look sick.” And to that he would reply, “I'm not sick; I just hurt.” And then he would throw out the warning: “One day you'll probably know what I mean.”

He was right.

That day is here.

I do.

Both he and my mother decided they wanted me and my two older brothers to remember them daily so they gave us genes laced with a dose of arthritis.

And we do ... Remember them, that is.

Daily.

Now I'm not saying this in this space to ask you to send me a “Get Well” card. I'm not sick. If you want to send a box of chocolate chip cookies, well ... that might be a different story.

Rather, I say this to point out what I used to know as the obvious intellectually I now know as the obvious by experience. And while I might look okay (I hope) on the outside sometimes on the inside I'm not a happy camper. The obvious good news is that for me and others with this same issue there are options for getting better. And I've had several of them involving a surgeon and a knife over the past several years and I'm tickled pink things worked out as well as they did. They have brought me some relief that is not spelled “R-O-L-A-I-D-S” as the old television commercial said and that eventually hopefully I can go out with somewhat of a bang rather than a whimper.

However, I know the jury is still out on the virus and the final answer won't be written for some time, maybe years even. To me, that's where I need something that's bigger than me, even something I don't completely understand. That's where faith in God comes in.

I'm a big believer in what The Book says that good can out of bad if we will let it. Actually, what the Book says is that God will help us discover the good when there's bad if we want to discover it and we'll let it happen. The obvious good for me physically here is that there are some things I did that helped. But the bigger good news may be that I can become a bit more sensitive and a bit less judgmental about other folks.

I haven't walked, as our Native American ancestors said, “a mile in their moccasins.” I'm going to try to do more of that and less jumping to conclusions, try to find out how things really are, if I can and they will let me.

So, excuse me for a moment while I grab a BC powder for my joints which still ache but let me not forget that for some folks, the healing is going to take more than a tablet or two and a few minutes.

Let me be found guilty trying to be helpful to my fellow traveler long the way. May it be so for you, as well. I believe in the end one of the good things to come out of the bad is that we'll find the “Golden Rule” — treat other folks like you want to be treated — will bring us peace in the midst of the storm.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

GUEST OPINION

ERIKA HOFFMAN

My Titanic 'aha' moment, and I'm not talking about the wreck

TRUTH'S STRANGER THAN FICTION.

Nobody can deny that maxim. No one's imagination is expansive enough to fathom the myriad of possibilities, coincidences and weird outcomes life tosses at us. Sometimes, a person can't know how bizarre things will turn out until years later.

This experience happened to me when I visited the Titanic Artifact Exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. I've been a Titanic buff since I was fourteen and devoured Walter Lord's book, “A Night to Remember.” Of course, decades later, I saw the blockbuster hit, with Leo DiCaprio as soon as it came out!

When in Orlando years ago, I declined a trip to Epcot because I opted to spend my time there at “The Titanic Experience” where a thespian playing the part of a doomed passenger took us on a tour of replicated rooms of the ship, and she acted out the moments of the disaster.

Therefore, when I visited the Titanic Artifact Exhibition in Raleigh, I was a bit jaded, a tad nonchalant and a smidgen blasé about seeing the artifacts. After all, I knew the story. I'd seen the rescued treasures from it before in Orlando. Nevertheless, I dutifully scanned the display cases in Raleigh.

I noted a black bag with a huge lock, which was larger than a doctor's black bag and not used for medicines; folks back then used it to stow their valuable jewelry, like a lock box. I gazed at the case with the restored wooden clothespins gathered at the wreck site and fathomed how they rejuvenated the soggy wood. I studied the pince-nez eyeglasses with a “C” curve to fit the nose and marveled at their pristine condition.

Next, I donned the 3D specs to peer at the video of the wreckage. I read the placards discussing the passengers like the ill-fated Strauss couple, the survivor Molly Brown and the young girl, Ruth Becker.

As an aside, half-talking to myself, I said in a rather ho-hum voice to a docent leaning by the door, “Is there anything here that has a North Carolina connection?”

She led me over to a case in the next room. Within it was a faded yet legible document. It was simply named Form# 30240-Tel. Titanic C.Q.D.

My mouth dropped open. I realized the significance of what I was seeing. Furthermore, I understood that if folks had known what they had in their possession all along down there in Hatteras, since the tragic night of April 14, 1912, it would not have taken until 1987 to locate the colossal wreck!

A C.Q.D. was received at Hatteras Station at 11:25 p.m. Titanic called giving its position as 41.49N? 0.24W, about 380 miles SSE of Cape Race.

Ten minutes later Titanic gave a current position as 41.46N 50.14W (a matter of five-to-six-miles' difference).

The CQD acronym for “Come Quickly Distressed” read “have struck iceberg.” This entry from the Hatteras Weather Station Diary and Log is one of the earliest distress signals received from R.M.S. Titanic. On April 14 at 11:25 p.m., it was recorded by the signalman at the station.

Next, Supervisor Richard Daily transcribed the signal and relayed it to N.Y. David Sarnoff, the future founder of RCA, was then on duty, and he didn't believe the message, thinking it “junk.”

The message was never seen again until 2005. You see, during the subsequent renovation to Hatteras Station the log papers had been rolled up and stuffed into the plaster walls to provide insulation.

About eight years ago the National Park Service restored the facility to its original circa 1900 look. The log papers were discovered. The entry is preserved and on exhibit for the public to see in Raleigh.

So really, all along there was a record of the coordinates of where this ship sank when it hit the 'berg in 1912.

In 1987, it was a bit of a treasure hunt to uncover the mysteries of the Titanic, but here in NC, we had a historical Titanic treasure too, not in the water, but instead wadded up in a wall, not unlike a wren's nest.

COLUMN | BEN SHAPIRO

There is no short path back to institutional credibility

INSTITUTIONAL TRUST is built over the course of years. Decades. Centuries.

Dishonesty takes just a moment to destroy institutional trust.

Last week, Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of molecular virology at Baylor College of Medicine, got into a spat with podcaster Joe Rogan and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Hotez has a long-standing feud over vaccine efficacy and safety with RFK Jr., who has long been a proponent of the scientifically unverified theory that childhood vaccines cause autism; RFK Jr., appearing on Rogan's podcast, tore into Hotez. Hotez responded by accusing Rogan of spreading “misinformation” — to which Rogan quite properly responded that if Hotez wished to rebut that “misinformation” in debate with RFK Jr. on his show, he'd be happy not only to host but to contribute \$100,000 to a charity of Hotez's choice. Hotez refused the invite. He then appeared on MSNBC, where he explained, “Anti-vaccine disinformation... is now a lethal force in the United States. I offered to go on Joe Rogan but not to turn it into the Jerry Springer show with having RFK Jr. on.”

This is still a free country; no one is obligated to debate anyone else. But Hotez essentially argues that his credentials excuse him from having to defend his case publicly in debate. In the past, there might have been something to that: Few would have expected a virologist to debate, say, Jenny McCarthy, even 20 years ago, for better or worse. Why? Because the scientific community could point to decades of success

in health outcomes — longer, healthier lives and fewer childhood diseases among them. The scientists acted as scientists, predominantly worried about following evidence and producing functional solutions to human problems.

Then the scientists decided to promote garbage while hiding behind their credentials. They claimed that men could be women; that universal masking would stop the spread of COVID-19; that schools had to be closed to stop mass death from COVID-19 among children, and that at the same time, protesters on behalf of “racial justice” could safely congregate in close proximity; that the COVID-19 vaccine would stop transmission; that capitalism had to be curbed to stop global warming. They used the credibility of science to preach political nonsense.

And in just a few years, the credibility gained by our scientific institutions has completely eroded. Just 41% of Americans now say that they believe the Centers for Disease Control are doing an excellent or good job. That distrust is entirely earned, given the CDC's egregiously awful performance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of this means that those who purport to speak in the name of science — the same people who have used that label to avoid debate — must now wade back into the arena. They simply don't have the credibility to demand the trust of the public. It's time to earn it.

Ben Shapiro, 39, is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Law School, host of “The Ben Shapiro Show,” and co-founder of Daily Wire.

BE IN TOUCH

Letters addressed to the editor may be sent to letters@nsjonline.com or 1201 Edwards Mill Rd., Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27607. Letters must be signed; include the writer's phone number, city and state; and be no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for style, length or clarity when necessary. Ideas for op-eds should be sent to opinion@nsjonline.com.

Board meets to vote on budget

By Taylor Heeden
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — The board of commissioners convened last Tuesday evening to for its last meeting of the month, where commissioners were slated to talk about next year's budget.

The amended proposed budget would raise the ad valorem tax rate from 66.5 cents to 68.5 cents per \$100 of property evaluation, an increase that county officials say will allow the County to keep the allotted 7% pay increase for employee

pay raises, while also providing an additional \$4,400 pay increase for each employee. Like the proposed 7% increase, the additional \$4,400 pay increase is available to all permanent employees who meet or exceed expectations according to their annual review. The \$4,400 amount will be prorated based on full-time equivalency.

This meeting comes after the board voted to amend 3-2 the proposed budget at the beginning of the month, with commissioners David Delaney and Franklin Gomez Flores dissenting on the matter.

The main reason behind the disagreements between the rest of the board and Delaney and Gomez-Flores revolves around the county's Board of Elections. While the budget does add a full-time Elections Systems Technician position for the Board of Elections, it doesn't fulfill the full requests sent to the county.

In a budget public hearing in May, members of the elections board sought a pay increase and funding for the new elections technician position. The proposed amended budget only funds the new position,

not the salary increase. Delaney said in the June 5 meeting he would not approve a budget without the salary increase for the elections staff.

Elections board members said a salary increase is needed to keep elections fair and efficient in the county. They said without adequate pay for elections staff, the BOE will struggle to recruit and retain hires.

Commissioners Dasher, Howard and Kenlan commissioners, however, disagreed with Delaney's assessment of the funding. They argued that if the elections office saw a salary increase, departments across the county on a similar employment structure would also have to see an increased salary.

The amended proposed budget would raise the ad valorem tax rate from 66.5 cents to 68.5 cents per \$100 of property evaluation.

Silk Hope Ruritan Club donates interactive panels to Silk Hope School

Chatham News & Record

THE SILK HOPE Ruritan Club has donated state-of-the-art interactive video panels to Silk Hope School. These cutting-edge panels serve as tools for teachers, providing them with enhanced capabilities for classroom instruction and acting as the modern-day succes-

sors to traditional blackboards.

The recent donation is a significant step toward the school's goal of equipping every classroom with these interactive devices. During a ceremony, Johnny Johnson, the treasurer of the Silk Hope Ruritan Club, presented a check for \$4,630.96 to Principal Caroline Linker and school secre-

tary Sherri Campbell, symbolizing the club's commitment to supporting educational advancement.

The panels provided by the Silk Hope Ruritan Club are manufactured by Newline, a leading provider of educational solutions for institutions ranging from K-12 school districts to higher education. These

panels are designed to transform teaching spaces and improve the learning experience of students.

One of the key advantages of the Newline displays is their responsive nature, allowing multiple students to touch and draw simultaneously without lag. This feature fosters collaborative and interactive learning, promoting an active-learning environment in the classroom. By encouraging student participation and engagement, these interactive panels have the potential to greatly enhance knowledge retention and overall academic performance.

During a ceremony, Johnny Johnson, the treasurer of the Silk Hope Ruritan Club, presented a check for \$4,630.96 to Principal Caroline Linker and school secretary Sherri Campbell, symbolizing the club's commitment to supporting educational advancement.

Chatham Animal Rescue & Education hires new executive director

Chatham Animal Rescue & Education

CHATHAM ANIMAL Rescue & Education (CARE) is proud to announce the hiring of their new Executive Director Jon Spoon.

Spoon brings a passion for promoting animal welfare along with years of experience as a non-profit director, college administrator and small business owner. He holds a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a law degree from North Carolina Central University.

Spoon is a proven leader in the community and region having graduated from Leadership Chatham, the Rural Economic Development Institute, and the Latino Initiative through Go Global N.C. In 2018, Jon was selected as a Goodmon Fellow for Emerging Leaders through Leadership Triangle.

Spoon is excited to take the reigns for an established and impactful organization in Chatham.

"I think this is a fantastic opportunity to put my local connections and management skillset to use for a cause that is near and dear to my heart," Spoon said. "I care deeply for the community in Chatham County and have always loved



COURTESY PHOTO

CARE recently announced Jon Spoon would become its executive director.

animals. The chance to work for the betterment of both is a very exciting undertaking."

The initial goals for CARE under Spoon's leadership will be to expand its fostering base, diversify and develop its board of directors, and grow its fundraising network through per-

sonal and corporate donations.

Joan Cunningham, president of CARE's board of directors, comments "We are delighted to welcome Jon to the CARE family. He brings a unique combination of experience and leadership skills."

Cunningham continues "Jon

has a commitment to our mission and the energy and skills to help CARE reach and exceed our strategic goals and to maintain our financial health and ensure our sustainability. We are lucky to have someone with such a love for and knowledge of Chatham Coun-

"I think this is a fantastic opportunity to put my local connections and management skillset to use for a cause that is near and dear to my heart. I care deeply for the community in Chatham County and have always loved animals. The chance to work for the betterment of both is a very exciting undertaking."

Jon Spoon

ty to help CARE grow to meet the challenges of the changing character of our county."

Spoon began work as CARE's executive director on June 15, 2023, and will reaching out to volunteers, donors and community partners in the coming weeks.

For more information about CARE, please visit the organization website or reach out directly to Jon Spoon at jons@chathamanimalrescue.org or 919-200-8948.

Teachers, get your applications in for a Bright Ideas education grant!

Teachers, are you looking for new opportunities to fund projects for your classroom? Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. Scan the QR code or visit NCBrightIdeas.com for more information or to apply!



128 Wilson Rd
SANFORD, NC

CEMCPower.com

919-774-4900
800-446-7752



Investors are now looking strong at our area!

Woofspeed is only 4 miles from Siler City, Toyota is 16 miles north of Siler City. This is a great time to sell your house &/or land.

Contact: Billy Williams
919-548-1404



Nationwide wireless broadband network helps Chatham County first responders, celebrates fifth year

By Valeria Cloës
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — Representatives from FirstNet and AT&T, as well as N.C. House Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist.54) and Gov. Roy Cooper attended FirstNet's Five Year Anniversary Celebration at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, at the new Chatham County Emergency Operations Center.

FirstNet in partnership with AT&T provides first responders with a nationwide wireless broadband network during natural disasters and other public safety situations where first responders' networks become compromised or down. FirstNet's 25-year contract with AT&T is operated and overseen by the FirstNet Authority, housed in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Steve Newton, the emergency management director for Chatham County, said FirstNet is already in most of the county.

"FirstNet, for us, is another carrier, another source," he said. "The advantage that we have with FirstNet is the way that their whole network is intentionally designed to be more robust, survivable and recoverable during a disaster. But really, they engineered it around the work that we do every day."

Through a recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, the idea for FirstNet was born because of the widespread communications issue the public safety disaster caused, Jon Olson, senior public safety advisor for FirstNet Authority, said.

For example, Jocelyn Moore,



Gov. Roy Cooper speaks at the fifth anniversary of FirstNet in Pittsboro to a crowd of local and state leaders.

MATT RAMEY | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

FirstNet Authority board member, said she remembered working on Capitol Hill during 9/11 and not being able to call any of her family members to tell them she was OK.

Since 2017, the FirstNet Authority has consulted with over 3,000 public safety stakeholders in North Carolina to understand what the state's needs were and will be in the future, Olson said.

Gov. Cooper opted-in to FirstNet on Nov. 13, 2017, bringing its services and network to the state and build-

ing it out during these first five years, Olson said.

"In just five years, five short years, FirstNet has delivered a network engineered to and built for the unique needs of public safety," Olson said. "Resulting in a differentiated experience for public safety stakeholders, including a dedicated core, now a fleet, of over 150 deployables."

The company has rolled out the Emergency Mobile Communications trucks, with antennas that can broadcast a network within two miles from

the truck, Thomas Nicolette, section chief of the FirstNet Response Operations Group, said, as well as Ford Broncos — spread out around 43 states — equipped with FirstNet connectivity measures.

In addition to those 150 deployables, FirstNet's network covers more than 2.91 million square miles and has "Flying COWS" that can help with connectivity from up to 400 feet for disaster situations like wildfires, according to their website.

The company has five of the

Emergency Mobile Communications vehicles stationed throughout the United States in New Jersey, Georgia, California, Missouri and Texas, Nicolette said. The company hopes to add three more in the future, specifically in Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, and Portland, Oregon, he said.

The Emergency Mobile Communications truck is able to be deployed and on scene within 14 hours of the emergency and can even sleep one person in order to accommodate prolonged use during a public safety disaster, Nicolette said.

Gov. Cooper who attended and spoke at the celebration said he has met with many first responders and that they have lots of courage and determination.

"They [first responders] are always ready to risk life, limb and ready to be away from family," Gov. Cooper said. "... They are totally committed. And I have deep admiration for them. The least we can do is to make sure that they have a reliable way to communicate with each other during crises."

Speaking to specific examples, FirstNet has specifically been able to help North Carolina during hurricanes, especially with Hurricane Florence in 2018, Gov. Cooper said.

"While we're celebrating five years of FirstNet, this isn't the end," President of AT&T North Carolina Trey Rabon said. "And we're going to continue to invest in this network. We're going to continue to evolve the network."

Chatham County residents advised of jury scam

Chatham County Sheriff's Office

RESIDENTS OF CHATHAM COUNTY are being cautioned by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office about a jury duty scam currently making the rounds.

The Sheriff's Office has received several reports last week from residents who were contacted by scammers falsely posing as representatives of the Sheriff's Office. In each case, the fraudulent caller informs the recipient that they have neglected their jury duty obligation and must pay a fine to prevent imminent arrest and incarceration.

If you receive such a call, hang up without providing any information about yourself or taking any action. You may be pressured by the caller into staying on the phone to purchase a money order, pre-paid debit card or gift card, but you should resist and hang up. If asked to do so, do not leave your home or place of work to meet the caller at any loca-

tion.

Statewide, members of the public have reported being scammed out of thousands of dollars through jury duty scams such as these. In reality, per North Carolina statute the penalty for disobeying a jury summons is currently \$50 for each time a juror fails to appear. In North Carolina, official jury summonses, as well as failure to appear notices, are always delivered to your home or post office box by first class mail.

"These deceptive individuals prey on the fear of arrest and exploit our sense of civic responsibility," Sheriff Mike Roberson said. "The Sheriff's Office will never call you to demand payment for missed jury duty. If you receive such a call, please report it to our office immediately. Together we can protect our community from these fraudulent schemes."

Chatham County residents should promptly report any suspicious calls or emails to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office at 919-542-2911.

Congratulations!



The Rotary Club of Pittsboro is excited to announce the installation of our 2023-24 President, Connolly Walker! She is a well-known & respected member of our community who will lead our group to tremendous accomplishments with her steadfast energy & attention to detail. Her vision & purpose-driven efforts will undoubtedly benefit Pittsboro & beyond. We have been challenged by her to think about the legacy we want to leave & encourage those in our community to do the same! Connolly, center, is pictured with our stellar outgoing President, Patrick Walsh, and talented President-Elect, Tammy Ertl.

Want to know more? Join our weekly meetings, noon on Wednesdays at Postal Fish, and follow us on Facebook!






Animal Resources

Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20

Qualified applicants may purchase vouchers to use at participating pet clinics. Submit applications to:

Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center

725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: 919-542-7203 facebook.com/chathamsoar

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm, Closed Sun.

For a printable application, visit:
www.chathamsheriff.com



WE MAKE YOUR LIFE EASY!

Too busy to do your laundry? Just drop it off and let us do it for you. Laundry wash and fold is done for our customers at our Fuquay-Varina, Graham, Siler City and Zebulon locations.

WWW.LIFESTYLELAUNDRYCO.COM

Siler City (120 Chestnut Street)
Graham
Fuquay-Varina • Zebulon
Call Us: 833.DRY.FOLD



FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY SERVICES AVAILABLE
Wash & Fold, Drop-Off, Self-Service,
Commercial Senior & Veteran Discount Serving
5 counties [Chatham, Wake, Orange,
Alamance, & Durham]

OBITUARIES



Penny Nicole Boren Nalley

December 28, 1965 ~ June 19, 2023

Penny Nicole Boren Nalley, 57, of Greensboro, N.C., entered into eternal rest on June 19, 2023, at Yanceyville Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Penny was born on December 28, 1965, in Mobile, A.L. She grew up in Siler City, and spent the majority of her life in Charleston, S.C., and Greensboro, N.C. She loved being at the beach, being a mother, and helping anyone in need. She was the proud owner of her own business, Shiny Penny Cleaning Service, and held many other service related positions throughout her life. Penny will be remembered for her beautiful smile, for her love of animals as she rescued so many, and for her greatest love, her daughter Nicole.

Penny is predeceased by her brother, Ralph McMichael Boren II and her father, Benjamin Clark Boren Jr. She is survived by her mother, Nancy Boren Harris of Greensboro, N.C.; her daughter, Nicole Nalley Oakes (Zach) of Greensboro, N.C.; her sisters, Kathleen Boren Stewart of Greensboro, N.C., and Patty Boren Baldree (Lane) of James Island, S.C.

A graveside service will be held on July 8, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Siler City, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to SPCA of the Triad, 3163 Hines Chapel Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27405. www.triadspca.org

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Boren-Nalley family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.



Judith "Judy" (Weber) Chewning

February 20, 1949 ~ April 4, 2023

Judith "Judy" (Weber) Chewning of Pittsboro, N.C., and formerly Kennebunk, M.E., passed away on April 4, 2023. Judy was born February 20, 1949, in New York City to Paul and Anna May Weber. She grew up in Ramsey, N.J., and attended the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent in New York followed by Long Island University.

Judy was a devoted mother to her three children and a supporter of her community. For many years she volunteered as an EMT for Kennebunk's ambulance service. She donated her time to Caring Unlimited, a domestic violence resource center, and she was involved in

sponsoring refugee families and assisting with their transition into the community. She loved to entertain and was well known for her annual Christmas Eve Open House and for providing late night snacks and counsel to many of her children's friends throughout the years.

In addition to her family, Judy's loves were traveling, spending time in her garden, training and caring for her beloved dogs. Quick to laugh, she enjoyed listening to and telling stories.

She is survived by her former husband Vic Chewning of Kennebunk, M.E.; her brother, Jeff Weber and his wife Judy of San Antonio, T.X.; her daughter, Nicki Chewning and husband David Turner and their daughter Avery of Fryeburg, M.E.; her son Sam Chewning of Siler City, N.C., and his daughter Hailey; and her daughter Anneke Chewning and her fiancée Brittany Mays of Mooresville, N.C.

The final demonstration of Judy's generous spirit was the gift of her body to the Duke University Medical School.

Judy's wishes were to not have a funeral, but for those who would like to honor her memory, please consider making a donation to Chatham Animal Shelter (chathamanimalrescue.org), Happy Hills Animal Foundation (www.hhaf.org), or your local animal shelter.

ELIZABETH ANN EDWARDS CARMACK

December 19, 1942 ~ June 20, 2023

Elizabeth Ann Edwards Carmack, 80, of Goldston, passed away on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at her home.

She was the daughter of the late Major Edwards and Dorothy Layton Edwards. In addition, she was preceded in death by husband Rev. Eugene Carmack; a son, Clyde Robin Davis; and a brother Robert Lee Edwards.

Survivors include a son Robert Davis of Goldston; a daughter Donna Marie Jowett of Inman, South Carolina.; a brother Kenneth Edwards, Carro Gordo, North Carolina; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Visitation was held Wednesday, June 28, 2023, until 7 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, when a Celebration of Life was held with Pastor Jeff Mozingo officiating. A private burial will be held at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church at a later date.

VAUGHN 'BUDDY' CLARK

April 7, 1934 ~ June 18, 2023

Vaughn "Buddy" Clark, 89, of Moncure passed away on June 18, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.

He was born in Fort Bragg, to James Lafayette Clark and Addie Walker Clark. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, James "Jimmy" Clark. Buddy divided his working years between the textile industry and the last ten years as a certified water treatment specialist with Bristol Meyers in Morrisville. His service in the Swann Station Baptist Church brotherhood will be missed by many in the Swann Station community who needed home repairs and wheelchair ramps built. For many years he helped gather funds, purchase Christmas gifts, and provide Christmas parties for the Cameron Boys Camp and later the Duncan Girls Camp, which are affiliated with the Baptist Children's Home.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Joyce Murchison Clark; his daughters, Susan Hardy of Sanford, Vicki Cohen of Trinity and Gayle Marget of Midlothian, Virginia; also eight granddaughters, six great-grandchildren; siblings, Glenda Gaines of Goldston, Ann Burns of Sanford, Mark Clark of North Myrtle Beach, Joanie Clarke of Pittsboro, and Patti Wyrick of Holden Beach.

The family received friends on Friday, June 23, 2023, from 10 until 10:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Swann Station Baptist Church. The funeral service will follow in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. with Rev. Russell Blackmon officiating. Burial followed in Cameron Grove Cemetery.

The family requests that donations be made in memory of Buddy to Swann Station Baptist Church, 7592 N.C. 87 S., Sanford, N.C. 27332.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

LANDA TAYLOR VAUGHN

March 27, 1945 ~ June 12, 2023

Landa Taylor Vaughn, 78, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023.

She was the daughter of the late Grayson Melvin Taylor and Flora Bell Lawrence Taylor. In addition, she was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth D. Vaughn. She was a member of Jonesboro Presbyterian Church.

Landa is survived by her sons, Tim Kennedy of Sanford and Ronnie Kennedy of Cameron; sisters, Lanelia Pettus of Sanford, Lane Dinkins of Fayetteville, and Jane Dinkins of Sanford; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The family received friends on Monday, June 26, 2023, from 1 until 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Jonesboro Presbyterian Church. A Celebration of Life service followed in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. with Rev. John Taylor officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Jonesboro Presbyterian Church, 2200 Woodland Ave., Sanford, N.C. 27330 or plant a tree in her memory.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JEFFREY 'JEFF' LYNN CAMPBELL,

September 29, 1967 ~ June 20, 2023

Jeffrey "Jeff" Lynn Campbell, 55, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

He was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, the son of Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Wilmoth and the late Clyde Campbell. Jeff was employed by General Timber for 39 years.

Jeff is survived by his wife of 35 years Rae Stone Campbell; his children, Chase Campbell, Chance Campbell and Mallory Campbell, all of Sanford; mother and father, Libby and Wayne Wilmoth of Sanford; and sister Sheila Skula of Sanford.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Farmville Cemetery with Pastor Mike Garner officiating.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

SHIRLEY CRICKMORE BECHTEL HOSKINS

October 27, 1931 ~ June 16, 2023

Shirley Crickmore Bechtel Hoskins, 91, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, June 16, 2023, at UNC-Chapel Hill.

She was the daughter of the late Stanley and Lenora Cox Graham. She was also preceded in death by a son Charles Wallace. She was employed in Food Services.

A graveside service was held Friday, June 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Wesley Thomas and Michael Bechtel presiding in the Jonesboro Cemetery

Surviving relatives are sons, Michael Bechtel of Cary, William Bechtel of Sanford; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.



Celebrate the life of your loved ones. Submit obituaries and death notices to be published in NSJ at obits@northstatejournal.com



We are proud to be serving Chatham County and the surrounding areas.

396 West Street, Pittsboro NC 27312

919.542.3057

donaldsonfunerals.com



We offer an on-site Crematory with many options of Celebration of Life services, Traditional, and Green Burials. Call us to set an appointment to come by and learn more.

CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

Charles Campbell



Greg Campbell

Quality Monuments At Affordable Prices
Phone: **663-3120**

Over 50 years experience designing, lettering and erecting monuments in Siler City and surrounding area.
Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

Shots fired at Chatham County deputy's home; reward offered

Chatham County Sheriff's Office

THE PITTSBORO Police Department is investigating an incident Monday night in which shots were fired at a Chatham County Sheriff's Office deputy's home.

This act of violence against a

member of law enforcement and their family is an offense that threatens the safety and security of our community. In response to the crime, Sheriff Mike Roberson has condemned the act and announced a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2023, officers responded to the Pittsboro residence of a Chatham County deputy which was targeted by an individual or individuals who discharged firearms at the home, endangering the lives of the deputy and his family. While no inju-

ries were reported, the incident is a reminder of the risks and challenges faced by law enforcement officers who dedicate their lives to protecting our community.

"The safety and well-being of our officers and their families is of utmost importance to us," Sheriff Roberson said. "An attack

on a deputy's home is not just an attack on one person; It is an attack on the values of justice, security, and the rule of law. This act of violence will not be tolerated. Anyone who targets law enforcement in our community will face the full force of the law."

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office urges anyone with information about the shooting, or the individuals involved, to come forward. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Pittsboro Police Department at 919-542-3200, or the Chatham County Sheriff's Office at 919-542-2911.

Will Independence Day picnics be more expensive this year? For most menu items, the answer is yes

By A.P. Dillon
North State Journal

RALEIGH — As annual Independence Day celebrations approach, picnic meals may be more expensive than last year according to the Wells Fargo Agri-Food Institute's Fourth of July Food Report.

The report says food inflation has slowed down but it still won't be cheaper for this year's festivities.

Sirloin steak is now at \$10.75 per pound, an increase of 2.9% from last year. Last year's price was already up 14% over 2021 prices.

Chicken breasts are running around \$4.24 per pound, which is down nearly 2% over last year, while pork chops are up 1% from a year ago, now priced at \$4.19 per pound.

Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) statistics, ground beef rose by 16% in 2021 and now sits at \$5.36 per pound, which is just under a 1% increase over 2022. If you want cheese on your burger



FILE PHOTO

this Fourth of July it will cost you 10% more than last year.

Other increases on typical July 4th holiday staples over last year's costs include bread

up by 22%, ice cream up by 9%, potato chips up 15% and beer up 8%.

With regard to chips, the report puts them at "\$6.45 a

pound, up 15% from last year," and that "Inflation for potato chips is even higher than the general inflation rate for the catchall category of 'other

foods' which is currently running at 9%."

Additionally, dips and condiments may be about 9% more expensive than last year, per the Wells Fargo report.

Quenching one's thirst may also be more expensive as the soft drink industry is still dealing with higher labor and packaging, per the report which cites a 12-ounce soft drink currently costing 54 cents, an increase of 14% from a year ago.

Other items covered by the report include eggs and milk.

At the onset of 2023, a dozen eggs cost \$4.82. That price has come down significantly, with an average cost now at \$2.67; a 7% drop from a year ago.

"Last year saw record strong milk prices at the producer level. This forced the dairy processors and retailers to pass along those high prices to consumers. Milk prices have fallen substantially over the first part of 2023, but this hasn't yet helped the consumer," the report says.

Apex teen living dream as 'American Ninja Warrior'

Brandon Thomas has reached the semifinals of the show's 15th season

By Ryan Henkel
North State Journal

BRANDON THOMAS was used to the courses and obstacles at his local gyms, but the 18-year-old was now facing a completely new one in the biggest moment of his life.

Thomas was in Los Angeles on the set of the 15th season of NBC's hit series, "American Ninja Warrior," living out a dream he had had since he was 9. It was now all real and he was staring down the barrel of the six-obstacle course in front of him.

If Thomas was nervous, he didn't show it. He stormed through the first few obstacles on the course, letting out victorious roars after each successful completion, and made it to the fifth obstacle, The Cubes, in 47.33 seconds. But Thomas ultimately came up short of getting a shot at the warped and mega walls for \$10,000 as he slipped on the final cube.

The Apex native still qualified for a trip to the head-to-head semifinals as his run was the sixth-farthest and fastest one completed in his qualifier bracket.

"It's been amazing," Thomas said in a phone interview with North State Journal. "It's been weird going from watching it on the TV to seeing how big the obstacles actually are in person. They're massive. It's just been an



ELIZABETH MORRIS | NBC

Apex's Brandon Thomas competes during the 15th season of "American Ninja Warrior."

amazing experience."

Thomas has been a fan of ninja, a fast-growing sport that involves obstacle course competitions, since he was little. He grew up watching the show and his mother, Julie, surprised him with a trip to a ninja gym when he was 14.

"I've been watching the show since Season 4," Thomas said, "but the guy that actually got me into it was Flip Rodriguez. I specifically remember watching him in Season 6, and I told

my parents I was going to be on the show one day while watching him. He was always so quick, and I wanted to run the courses just like Flip. He's been a huge inspiration for me.

"I've always loved the idea of ninja, but there were never any gyms around here for the longest time. One day, it might have been in the middle of eighth or ninth grade, my mom just took me to a gym without telling me. It was just a homeschool event, and from that moment on I just

fell in love with the sport again."

Training and improving his ninja skills at his local gyms — WarriorTech OCR in Morrisville and Rock Solid Warrior in Apex and Fuquay-Varina — had been the norm for Thomas for years, but training for "American Ninja Warrior" was a bit different than what he had been used to.

"Once I got the call for the show, I started running courses that would be similar to previous qualifying-style courses," Thom-

as said. "So roughly six obstacles, some very technical obstacles, agility, and always ending with the warped wall and the mega wall. I also had to adjust my sleep schedule since it's filmed in the middle of the night. I had to make sure my body could function into the late hours of the night.

"Preparing for the show, I was usually waking up somewhere between 11 to 1 in the afternoon and I'd go to the gym as much as I could. I'd just find that earliest open gym and start running obstacles, making sure my body is in peak condition.

"I ran a lot of courses, a lot of just basic skills just to make sure my body control is on point and my technique is as good as it can be on whatever type of obstacle I may see because you never know what you're going to see on the course. Once I was done training at the gym, I'd head home and it was just training my mind to be awake in the middle of the night so I'd be playing a lot of solitaire because that keeps your mind really focused."

The improved training regimen worked like a charm — Thomas is still in the competition and will have a shot at the national finals when he competes in a ninja vs. ninja race in the semifinals in a few weeks.

The small taste of ANW has only inspired Thomas even more.

"Hopefully I'm back for the next season, but I'm going to find a way to keep competing and keep getting stronger so that way the next time I'm on a qualifying course I actually hit a buzzer," Thomas said with a chuckle.

"American Ninja Warrior" airs every Monday at 8 p.m. on NBC.

JULY 4, from page 1

Furry companions will dive off of a dock and into a pool, where they will go head to head in a series of competitions and races. It costs \$40 per dog, and the dog has to "be a comfortable and confident dock diver with no hesitation going off the dock and have experience doing Speed Re-

trieve," according to the event's web page.

Carolina Tiger Holiday Enrichment Tour

Lions, tigers and more, oh my! Carolina Tiger Rescue will be hosting a special holiday tour at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 3. This special Fourth of July-themed

tour will give visitors to the big cat sanctuary the chance to see the kings and queens of the jungle and savannah up close and personal.

Carolina Tiger Rescue's website defines enrichment as "anything that is added to an animal's habitat that stimulates their senses or promotes natural behaviors." The July 3 tour

will feature patriotic enrichment tools such as enticing scents, toys made to withstand the wild animals, different textures and more.

People interested in going on the tour can register for it on the Carolina Tiger Rescue website. Tickets start at \$28 for ages 13 and up and \$21 for children.

Bray Park Aquatic Center

Siler City's Bray Park Aquatic Center will be open on the weekend leading up to and on the Fourth of July.

The pool will be open from noon to 6 p.m., and has many amenities such as a splash pad, bathhouse, swimming pool, picnic shelter and more.

Wolfspeed announces \$1.25 billion funded secured notes led by Apollo Credit Funds

Investment supports domestic capacity expansion plans

Wolfspeed

DURHAM — Wolfspeed Inc., the global leader in silicon carbide technology, today announced a \$1.25 billion secured note financing from an investment group led by Apollo with an accordion feature for up to an additional \$750 million.

The financing supports the company's previously announced U.S. expansion efforts and is a significant step toward achieving the company's \$6.5 billion global capacity expansion plan. Execution of Wolfspeed's U.S. growth plan will accelerate adoption of silicon carbide across a wide array of end markets and support meaningful job creation in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing.

The 9.875% notes will mature in 2030 and are optionally prepayable by the company based on the terms of the indenture governing the notes. The investment was led by funds managed by Apollo's approximately \$450 billion cred-



COURTESY PHOTO

A rendering of the future John Palmour Silicon Carbide Center coming to Siler City.

it business.

"The group's commitment to Wolfspeed further validates the importance of silicon carbide to the global energy transition," said Gregg Lowe, president and chief executive officer of Wolfspeed. "This important step in our financing provides significant capital to scale up near-term operations

at our Mohawk Valley Fab and construction of our Siler City materials facility to help us capture the growing silicon carbide market opportunity. The financing positions Wolfspeed to continue to lead the growth of the industry and focus on the execution of our vertically integrated strategy to meet growing demand."

"Our agreement with Apollo and its capital partners achieves our near-term funding targets while prioritizing our shareholders with a new, non-dilutive source of financing," said Neill Reynolds, chief financial officer of Wolfspeed. "Apollo and its capital partners' investment follows an extensive review of our business

and demonstrates their conviction in our team, operating plan and trajectory."

"Apollo is pleased to provide a dynamic and flexible credit solution to Wolfspeed as it significantly expands its silicon carbide manufacturing capacity. The company's growth plan is designed to deliver critical silicon carbide products for a range of automotive and industrial uses, and support sustainability goals with market-leading technology," said Joseph Jackson, Partner, Apollo Credit. "With the help of our capital partners, we have crafted a facility that can provide up to \$2 billion to ramp the company's expansion plans."

Wells Fargo & Company and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC served as financial advisors to Wolfspeed and Latham & Watkins LLP and Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. served as legal counsel to Wolfspeed. Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP served as legal counsel to the Apollo funds and the noteholder group. Apollo Capital Solutions provided capital markets and structuring advisory services on the transaction.

Town of Pittsboro announces launch of informative website on Proposed Water and Wastewater Systems Merger

Town of Pittsboro

PITTSBORO — The Town of Pittsboro is pleased to announce the launch of a public website dedicated to providing information on the proposed merger of the water and wastewater systems with the City of Sanford.

The website, which can be accessed at www.pittsboronc.gov/merger, aims to keep residents and stakeholders informed about the background, benefits and other relevant details of the merger discussions.

The website features various sections that explain the background of the merger discussions, including how the idea of merging the water and sewer systems came about and what has been discussed so far. Additionally, the website outlines the benefits of merging the water and wastewater systems, providing insights into how this merger could positively impact the communities involved.

One of the highlights of the website is a section that compares the options available to

the Town of Pittsboro and the City of Sanford regarding their water and wastewater systems. This section includes charts that allow residents to visually understand the differences and potential benefits of each option.

Furthermore, the website includes a frequently asked questions (FAQs) section, where residents can find answers to common queries about the merger. In an effort to maintain transparency and encourage community engagement, there is also a form where residents can submit their questions to be answered on the website.

The Town of Pittsboro is committed to keeping the public informed and engaged throughout the merger process. The website will be regularly updated with new information. Residents and customers are encouraged to visit the website to stay informed about the merger and to participate in the discussions by submitting questions and feedback.

For more information, please visit www.pittsboronc.gov/merger.

New Vets Pets hospital set for Pittsboro

From Vets Pets

PITTSBORO — Vets Pets, a North Carolina cooperative network of veterinary hospitals, has announced its latest expansion. Haw River Animal Hospital, situated in the newly built Northwood Landing, is slated to start operations by Fall 2023. The hospital will be located at 40 Ramseur Road, Pittsboro

The Haw River Animal Hospital will provide full-service veterinary care for dogs and cats in Pittsboro and the surrounding communities. The facility will open under the leadership of Dr. Katie Sizer. Sizer will co-own the practice in partnership with Vets Pets and has been with them for the past year.

"I could not be more excited to be opening a veterinary hospital in this community I love so much," Sizer said. "With the partnership of Vets Pets, I am realizing a childhood dream opening a hospital where I can provide high quality, kind care to pets and pet parents."

Having spent her childhood traveling the world as an army child, Sizer has been a North Carolinian since 1995. She pursued her college education at Methodist University in Fay-

etteville, N.C., before attending veterinary school at N.C. State, graduating in 2013. She calls Pittsboro home alongside her husband, two children and three dogs.

Sizer specializes in pain management, dentistry, internal medicine and low-stress animal handling. She is a Fear Free Certified Professional and a Certified Cat Friendly Veterinarian. When not professionally engaged, Sizer enjoys hiking, canoeing, gardening, movie-watching, traveling, and spending quality time with her family.

"We are excited to add Dr. Sizer to our group of exceptional veterinary partners. I feel so fortunate to add another Veterinarian of Dr. Sizer's talent and character to our partner team." Steve Thomas, CEO of Vets Pets, said. "Her passion for veterinary medicine, enthusiasm for leadership and 'can-do' attitude is inspiring. I've really enjoyed working with her so far and look forward to more."

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Sizer, or Vets Pets CEO Steve Thomas, please contact Matt Mumpower by email at mattmumpower@thetvetspets.com or by phone at 252-237-1375.

AMERICA'S BEST STORAGE SPACE

When You Need Space, Let Us Help!

2nd Month FREE!*



Our facility features:

- Conference Room
- Drive-Up Access
- Fully Fenced Property
- Electronic Gated Entry
- Secure Units
- Online Bill Pay

60 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-968-8705

americasbeststoragespace.com

*Buy First Month, Get the Second Month Free. Offer valid through August 31, 2023.

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
866-495-1123**

**FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!**

Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

**Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval**

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Dental Insurance

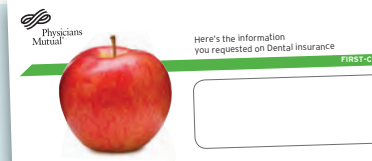
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -

- Cleanings
- X-rays
- Fillings
- Crowns
- Dentures

- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

**Call today for all the details.
844-903-1784**

Call now to get this FREE Information Kit!
dental50plus.com/chatham



Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250O); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B436/B439. 6154-0120

Physicians Mutual
Insurance for all of us.™

Town of Pittsboro receives \$250,000 from the Golden LEAF Foundation for Stormwater Mitigation Project

Town of Pittsboro

“This funding is not just about resolving current challenges; it’s about building a safer, more resilient Pittsboro.”

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry

PITTSBORO — The Town of Pittsboro is pleased to announce that The Golden LEAF Foundation has awarded \$250,000 in funding for a flood mitigation project inside the town.

The Foundation provided these funds to the town to address a critical infrastructure need along Pittsboro Elementary School Road.

The town will use these funds to improve the area’s stormwater infrastructure to enhance the system’s capacity to manage excess water, thereby reducing flooding and overtopping issues that have troubled this area for years.

In their recent meeting, the Golden LEAF Board of Directors awarded \$7,160,085 in funding across three Golden LEAF Programs, with \$1,368,100 allocated for six projects through the Flood Mitigation Program.

The Town of Pittsboro is

honored to be a recipient of these funds, which will have a profound impact on the safety and resilience of our community.

Severe flooding has long been a challenge in Pittsboro, leading to problems such as inundated streets, downed trees and flooded properties, with the area around Pittsboro Elementary School Road being particularly affected.

The investment from The Golden LEAF Foundation will enable us to directly address these issues, significantly improving the safety and resilience of our infrastructure.

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry expressed gratitude for the funding, stating, “This funding is not just about resolving current challenges; it’s about building a safer, more resilient Pittsboro. By improving our infrastructure, we’re enhancing the everyday lives of our residents and laying a stronger foundation

for economic development. We’re grateful to The Golden LEAF Foundation for their crucial support in this endeavor.”

Scott T. Hamilton, president and chief executive officer of the Golden LEAF Foundation, said, “The Golden LEAF Foundation was entrusted by the N.C. General Assembly to administer a program for local governments seeking to mitigate flooding in their community. We are pleased to provide the Town of Pittsboro with the funding to upsize the stormwater infrastructure on Pittsboro Elementary School Road to reduce flooding in heavy rain events.”

The Town of Pittsboro is dedicated to improving the lives of its residents. We continue to seek funding for vital projects like these and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently, always aiming to enhance our community’s well-being and prosperity.

Parents charged after infant suffers drug overdose

Chatham News & Record

ON APRIL 22, 2022, an 11-month-old infant was taken to Chatham Hospital in Siler City suffering from an unknown medical condition.

The infant’s parents — Brian Lavariega, 24, of 176 Belle Lane, Siler City, and Hally Scotton, 21, of 176 Belle Lane, Siler City — offered no explanation to medical staff about the cause of the infant’s declining health.

It was determined that the infant was suffering from a drug overdose and required naloxone, a medicine that reverses an opioid overdose, to save her life. A drug screen later determined that the infant tested positive for fentanyl, norfentanyl (a metabolite of fentanyl) and morphine, consistent with street heroin.

Lavariega and Scotton were each charged with felony child abuse (neglect) serious bodily injury, felony child abuse (intentional) serious bodily injury, and misdemeanor child abuse.

On June 6, 2023, Lavariega was arrested by the Siler City Police Department and held in the Chatham County Detention Center under a \$25,000 bond.

On June 23, 2023, Scotton was arrested by the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office and held in the Chatham County Detention Center under a \$150,000 bond.

They are scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on July 17, 2023.

STEIN from page 1

need more deputies, but I can’t honestly go asking for more deputies if I can’t fill the positions that I’ve got.”

Stein said there are several bills filed at the N.C. General Assembly which could help close the gap in law enforcement vacancies. One of these bills, House Bill 140, was signed into law and allows for police departments in the state to create civilian investigative teams, specifically for responses to traffic crashes and incidents.

“On average, it takes that officer an hour to handle the paperwork involved in the crash,” Stein said. “If we can have civilians do that, that frees up certain sworn officers to be able to do the work that we all want them to do, which is to investigate crime.”

Siler City Town Manager Hank Raper was also present for Monday’s conversation. Raper broke down what he and his staff have done to help fill vacancies at the Siler City Police Department.

As previously reported, Raper said the town approved an officer recruitment program, where they town will hire inex-



NIKKI WITT | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson (center) talks to Josh Stein (left) about law enforcement in Chatham County.

perienced officers to complete Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) and will pay them throughout their 640-hour-long required courses.

The town also increased starting pay, salaries for current employees and created a \$5,000 signing bonus to incentivize new officers — things believed to have helped fill long-time vacancies, leaving the department

with only one opening in its patrol division.

“One of the things was trying to put even more funding into the police department, which is not just an infusion of additional resources, but trying to efficiently and effectively spend the resources that we have,” Raper said. “It’s not 100% successful, but I think if two out of three work out for you, that’s a pretty

good number. The alternative, however, is paying overtime and burning out the officers that you have so you have to accept some costs there and go into that.”

Another hurdle law enforcement offices in Chatham County and across the state face is getting youth interested in law enforcement as a career. Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chair Karen Howard said one of

the concerns from potential recruits is the nature of the job.

“I think we have to be having a different kind of conversation about investing in these professions ... If we want people like us to send our kids and say to our kids what a wonderful profession (law enforcement) is,” she said. “We need smart, thoughtful, kind and compassionate people going into it.”

District Attorney Jeff Nieman also shared a similar sentiment as Howard, saying people who are involved in the criminal justice system who aren’t police officers should advocate for those careers more.

“The idea of holding accountable law enforcement officers who don’t uphold the highest standards is not an opposite to being pro cop and upholding the profession — They coincide,” Nieman said. “Both of those things are about raising up our expectations, honor and tribute that we pay to that profession ... Those of us who aren’t in law enforcement in particular, need to be talking in our communities about what an important, honorable profession law enforcement is.”

Edward Jones

> [edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

Happy 4th of July!

Wishing you a bright and happy July 4th.



Pittsboro

Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®
630 East St Suite 2
919-545-5669

Chapel Hill

Eric C Williams, AAMS®
190 Chatham Downs Dr
Suite 103
919-960-6119

Pittsboro

Blake Stewart
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Governors Club

Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968

Pittsboro

Kevin C Maley, AAMS®
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961

Pittsboro

Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
919-545-0125

Chapel Hill

Jessica L Villagrana, CFP®
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635

Siler City

Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051

[edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILER CITY JETS 14U

The Siler City Jets 14U football team competed in its inaugural season in 2022 and made it to the championship game of the East Wake Football League 14U division.

Siler City Jets 14U team ready for more after successful first season

Registration is still open and games will start after Labor Day

By **Jeremy Vernon**
Chatham News & Record

AIMING TO FILL the hole brought on by a lack of middle school football in Chatham County, the Siler City Jets 14U team was started in 2022 to help give local athletes the chance to play tackle football in the years leading up to high school.

The team, coached by Chatham Middle School teacher Chris Graves, played their games in the East Wake Football League in the 14U at-large division. Despite playing most of the season with just 16 players, the Jets made it all the way to the league's championship game before falling to the Raleigh Revolution, 30-18.

Ryan Johnson, co-founder of the team and the head football coach at Jordan-Matthews, said the team's success in its first year was very encouraging. But what is most important, he said, is giving



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILER CITY JETS 14U

Jordan-Matthews head coach Ryan Johnson poses with the league runner-up trophy after the Jets 14U team's loss to the Raleigh Revolution in the championship game.

area athletes the chance of playing football in their middle school years, something many of them lacked in the

past.

"Before we did this, kids either took a year off when they couldn't afford to or went to

other places where there was middle school football and never came back home," Johnson said. "It's very vital to keep

kids here, and it's also important for the development of these young kids."

Johnson said it has been common practice for he and his coaches to reteach a lot of fundamentals to incoming ninth graders once they reach Jordan-Matthews, as many haven't played the sport since they were 10 or 11 years old.

The hope is that bridging the gap between 12U and high school will help build better players and, with that, more team success. This fall, the Jets will welcome eight players who played on last year's 14U team to their JV squad, a trend Johnson wants to continue in the future.

"The biggest thing is the familiarity," Johnson said. "They get to know the coaches and faces, and it helps make for a smoother transition. We run our system at Jordan-Matthews all the way down at 8U. It starts at the beginning. The most successful programs, they implement their base stuff even at the age of eight. This class coming in, the first 14U class we've had, has had a smooth transition so far. They know what the coaches expect and they know the culture."

Johnson also wants to put the most talented players on the field, something that was hard to do before the youth team started. With the gap between 12U and high school,

See **JETS**, page B4

Last week, Seaforth's Jarin Stevenson announced his decision to commit to Alabama and reclassify to 2023. He is on campus this week to enroll. Stevenson is ranked as the No. 40 overall player in the Class of 2023 by 247Sports' composite recruiting rankings.



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Stevenson explains decision to join Alabama

The 6-foot-10 power forward is also reclassifying and will join the Crimson Tide for the upcoming season.

By **Jeremy Vernon**
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — Last week, local boys basketball standout Jarin Stevenson announced his commitment to the Univer-

sity of Alabama and his decision to leave Seaforth early and join the Crimson Tide ahead of the 2023-24 season.

Stevenson, who is headed to Tuscaloosa to enroll this week, chatted with the News & Record after his announcement to detail why exactly he chose the Crimson Tide over UNC, Virginia and several other schools. He said head coach Nate Oats' program was not

See **STEVENSON**, page B4

Central, Seaforth hope to build on successful 2022 seasons

The Bears reached the 1A title match, while Seaforth went 11-2 overall.

By **Jeremy Vernon**
Chatham News & Record

BEAR CREEK — Last fall proved to be a banner season for Chatham County's girls' tennis teams.

At the 1A level, Chatham Central made it all the way to the state tournament finals before losing to Mount Airy. Seaforth earned the top spot in the 2A east region, but the Hawks fell to N.C. Science & Math in the first round of the playoffs.

On the individual level, Chatham Central seniors Olivia Brooks and Ellie Phillips won the 1A doubles state championship, rallying from a first-set deficit to defeat Bishop McGuinness' Isabella Ross and Nina Holton. It was the second straight season the pair played in the 1A finals.

Speaking with the News & Record earlier this week, Chatham Central head coach Heather Brooks said she's excited for the upcoming season, but knows how hard it will be to replace the graduating duo, as well as fellow senior Jaylee



JAMES KIEFER | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Seaforth rising junior Makenzy Leheuw was 10-2 in singles play last season for the Hawks, who were the top team in the 2A east region entering the state playoffs. The Hawks lost in the first round of the 2A tournament to N.C. Science & Math.

Williams.

"(Olivia and Ellie) were strong leaders," she said. "They had played the top two positions for two years, so all the underclassmen looked up to them. They're going to be hard shoes to fill in terms of leadership. I wouldn't be surprised if they were asked to come hit with some of (our current players) at practice to help them out during the preseason."

Brooks said she expects rising seniors Lauren Caviness, Rachel Albright and Hallie

Webster to pick up some of the slack in the leadership department. While they might not be as strong at the top as last season, the Bears hope they can put together a more balanced lineup this upcoming season.

A few other players expected to help in that regard are rising senior Emma Townsend and rising junior Carlee Callahan.

"(Carlee) is like a little fireball," Brooks said. "I have a feeling she's going to step up."

See **TENNIS**, page B5



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD

Northwood rising senior Drake Powell is competing at the NBA Players Association's Top 100 camp in Orlando, Fla., this week. Powell is a top-15 recruit in the Class of 2024.

Powell earns invite to NBPA Top 100 Camp

By Jeremy Vernon
Chatham News & Record

PITTSBORO — The accolades keep coming for Northwood rising senior boys' basketball player Drake Powell.

This week, Powell is participating in the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Top 100 camp in Orlando, Florida, along with 99 other of the top high school players in the country.

The players who are competing at the camp were chosen with help from John Lucas, a Durham native who played basketball at the University of Maryland before having a 14-year NBA career from 1976-90. The camp has taken place since 1994, and over 300 former campers have gone on to play in the NBA.

Powell is one of two UNC commits attending the camp along with James Brown. Also participating are three of the top-10 players in the class of 2024 — No. 4 Flory Bidunga, No. 7 Liam McNeeley and No. 9 Derik Queen — and the top two overall players in the class of 2025 in No. 1 Cameron Boozer and No. 2 Cooper Flagg.

The Top 100 camp has produced plenty of recent NBA draftees, including 16 players in the 2023 draft. Among the current NBA players who participated in the camp in the past are Devin Booker, Jaylen Brown, Stephen Curry, Anthony Davis, DeMar DeRozan, Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving.

Powell, a 6-foot-6 forward, is ranked as the No. 15 overall player in the Class of 2024. He's

87

Drake Powell currently sits 787 points away from reaching 2,000 for his career (1,213 points so far).

also considered the No. 1 player in the state of North Carolina after recently passing North Mecklenburg forward and Duke commit Isaiah Evans.

Earlier this month, Powell competed with 34 others in USA Basketball's 2023 U19 men's national team training camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Despite not being chosen for the final 12-player roster that is set

to play in the FIBA U19 Men's World Cup in Hungary starting this Friday, the Northwood product has certainly done himself plenty of favors with his play this offseason.

While Powell has set himself up well for life beyond high school, he still has unfinished business at the prep level. Over the past three seasons, he has helped Northwood reach the 3A state championship game twice, but each time the Chargers came up short.

In 2021, Northwood made the tournament finals before losing to Weddington. This past season, the Chargers tied a program record with 28 wins before suffering a lopsided defeat to Central Cabarrus in the 3A title game.

In 75 career games at Northwood, Powell has averaged 16.2

points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.0 steals per game. He will likely end his career with the Chargers with over 1,500 career points, as he currently has 1,213 and totaled 578 last season. To reach 2,000 career points, Powell would need to average 25.4 points per game, given Northwood plays as many games (31) as it did last season.

Powell will undoubtedly lead the Chargers in 2023-24, but there are several other players who will also share the burden. Despite losing starting forwards Max Frazier and Kenan Parrish to graduation this offseason, Northwood expects to bring back rising senior Fred Whitaker Jr. (9.6 ppg), rising senior Jake Leighton (7.8 ppg), rising senior Ashton Elliott (5.3 ppg as a starter) and rising sophomore Cam Fowler (4.3 ppg).



CUSTOM HOMES & RENOVATIONS

BUILD WITH PASSION. BUILD BOLD.



CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION! **919.929.6288**

CHATHAM COUNTY SPORTS

Here are some more of our best photographs showcasing Chatham County sports during the 2022-23 school year. Throughout the summer, we'll share more shots our photographers captured from three seasons of full of high-level competition from local athletes.



P.J. WARD-BROWN | NORTH STATE JOURNAL



JAMES KIEFER | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD



SIMON BARBRE | CHATHAM NEWS & RECORD



P.J. WARD-BROWN | NORTH STATE JOURNAL

COLUMN

It's put up or shut up time for the Hornets



Jeremy Vernon,
Chatham News
& Record Sports
Editor

WELL, THE HORNETS didn't listen to me.

Shocker. Blessed with the No. 2 overall pick in the 2023 NBA Draft, Charlotte opted for Alabama's Brandon Miller over Scoot Henderson/a potential trade. Last week, I argued why one of the latter two choices would be the wisest move. But here we are.

The Hornets have made their bed, and now they have to make sure it doesn't catch on fire and burn the whole house down.

Charlotte came into this year's draft with a less-than-stellar history of picking players. I've seen too many tweets about the players the Hornets could have had — guys like Kobe Bryant, Bradley Beal, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Zach LaVine, Devin Booker and Donovan Mitchell — and the players they rode with instead — Vlade Divac, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Cody Zeller, Noah Vonleh, Frank Kaminsky and Malik Monk.

Am I wrong to question the Hornets' decision-making? The evidence seems to suggest otherwise. So how am I supposed to feel comfortable about what Miller can bring to the table?

I'll give Miller this — He seems to

have this weird irrational confidence, or maybe it's just a solid sense of humor. In the pre-draft process, he went viral for claiming that Paul George was his pick for the greatest player of all time. After he was selected last week, he made more noise by predicting Charlotte would make the NBA Finals this upcoming season.

Shoot for the moon, I guess.

Is Charlotte a contender to win the Eastern Conference in 2023-24? I'd say they're far from it. This past season, the Hornets finished 14 out of 15 teams in the East with a 27-55 record. The Hornets will have a few new additions with Miller and the return of Miles Bridges (yuck), but Charlotte isn't expected to make any big splashes in free agency.

While making the finals seems out of the realm of possibility, the playoffs seems like a much more attainable goal for the team. And there's no reason why they shouldn't be able to fight for a spot.

Before cratering out last season, Charlotte made the play-in round in two straight seasons, but lost before making the actual playoffs. Bringing back Miller and Bridges could get the Hornets over the hump and reach the actual postseason for the first time since 2016.

To help reach that goal, Charlotte will have to lock down key pending free agent forward P.J. Washington as well as make a decision on wing Kelly Oubre Jr. If the Hornets decide to let Oubre go, it would free up about \$16 million in space they could use to bring on another player.

If Charlotte fails to get the ball rolling and can't make the playoffs this year, what is keeping LaMelo Ball from deciding he'd rather play out his second contract elsewhere? Sure, the Hornets could offer him the most money, but they will have inspired zero confidence that they are a franchise worthy of a superstar-caliber player.

From there, things could snowball pretty fast. Who's to say the Hornets won't be moved to a different city like Seattle or Las Vegas? Maybe a change of scenery is just what the doctor ordered.

I kid, a little. Honestly I think the Hornets have a deal signed with the City of Charlotte to stay through at least 2045. But contracts are meant to be broken. And who's to say the city would even want the team that far down the road?

Whatever the next step the Hornets take, they can't afford to have it be the wrong one.

STEVENSON from page 1

only the best decision for his immediate future, but also the one that sets him up best for his aspirations beyond college.

"First off, all the schools are great schools and had great communities," Stevenson said. "But what set Alabama apart is the NBA offense they run and the open spots they have available where I can earn myself an opportunity to play and have an impact as a freshman."

The 6-foot-10 forward, who was recently ranked No. 40 overall in the class of 2023 by 247Sports' composite ranking, is the Crimson Tide's highest-rated commit in the class. Other freshmen set to join the team for the upcoming season are No. 58 Sam Walters (6-foot-8 forward), No. 98 Kris Parker (6-foot-6 forward) and No. 110 Mouhamed Dioubate (6-foot-7 forward).

Stevenson told the News & Record that Alabama's coaches expect him to fill the role Noah Clowney held in the offense last season. Clowney, a fellow 6-foot-10 forward, averaged 9.8 points and 7.9 rebounds per game in 36 games for the Crimson Tide in 22-23, earning SEC All-Freshman Team honors along the way.

Last Thursday, Clowney — who was ranked No. 79 overall in the class of 2022 by 247's Composite rankings — was selected No. 21 overall by the Brooklyn Nets in the 2023 NBA Draft. Stevenson hopes he can make a similar jump over the next year and put himself in place to join the pro ranks next June.

"That's ideally what I would like, but ultimately it's going to happen when the time is right," Stevenson said. "I need to put in a lot of work and continue to get better. I feel like Alabama has the coaches and the resources to help me get there. They've proved it with Clowney and different prospects. I should be ready after Year 1, but if that doesn't happen, whenever the time is right."

At 6-foot-10 with a solid handle and some shooting touch, Stevenson is the ideal type of forward for today's NBA, but there is still plenty he needs to work on with his game to improve his stock over the next year. He shot an O.K. percentage from 3-point range with Seaforth last season (25-of-74, 33.7%), but he'll likely need to bump that up above 35 or 40% to really

catch the eye of scouts.

Another thing he'll need to do is add weight to his frame. At 200 pounds flat, Stevenson could probably stand to gain 30 or 40 pounds to build a more desirable frame for NBA teams. Right now, the only NBA players who stand 6-foot-10 or higher and weigh 230 pounds or less are Miami's Nikola Jovic (205), Brooklyn's Nic Claxton (215), Cleveland's Evan Mobley (215), Memphis' Santi Aldama (215) and Denver's Michael Porter Jr. (218).

Luckily for Stevenson, Alabama has state of the art athletic facilities thanks to the success of its football program, and the men's basketball team has a solid strength and conditioning coach in Henry Barrera, whose previous stops included time as a performance training specialist at Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. Stevenson said he's excited at the chance to put on more weight over the coming months.

"I'm excited to see the cuts and rips I'm going to get," he said. "Alabama is a football school, but that doesn't mean they're just going to put on football weight. They mentioned that they're going to put us in basketball shape and help us put on smart weight. That way I'm still agile and quick on the floor but, at the same time, I'm getting stronger."

While the decision to leave high school a year early was tough for Stevenson, he is grateful for the opportunity he was given to help start Seaforth's boys basketball program. Stevenson played his freshman year at Northwood before moving across town to his new school, and he leaves the Hawks as their all-time leading scorer with 1,011 points in just two seasons.

This past winter, Stevenson earned Gatorade North Carolina Boys' Basketball Player of the Year honors after averaging 21.5 points, 11.6 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game and shooting 60.1% of his shots from the field. The Hawks will have a hard time replacing that kind of production, but Stevenson likes the direction the program is heading.

"It was nice, going to a new school and creating a foundation, Stevenson said. "Seaforth is a great school. We have a great team, and I'm excited for their future. I had a good time playing with them."

“What set Alabama apart is the NBA offense they run and the open spots they have available where I can earn myself an opportunity to play and have an impact as a freshman.”

Jarin Stevenson



Chatham County Aging Services Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, July 3

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Cynthia (at Chatham Grove Community Center)**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Aquatic Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie (Pittsboro Swim Association - FULL)**
- 11 a.m. - **Golf at Chapel Ridge Golf Club; Mind Games w/Alan**
- 2 p.m. - **Table Tennis**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit; Aqua Aerobics at Siler City Pool**
- 10 a.m. - **Cornhole**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Science w/Alan**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**
- 3 p.m. - **Caregiver Support Group**

Tuesday, July 4

Aging Services Centers Closed for Independence Day

Wednesday, July 5

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person & Zoom); Coffee & Games w/Chatham County Sheriff's Office**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio (Learn to Basketweave); Leaving Your Legacy w/Jessica Bryan, Author**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit; Aqua Aerobics at Siler City Pool**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn**

Thursday, July 6

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 10 a.m. - **Bingo**
- 11 a.m. - **Activity w/Alan**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Cards; Bridge**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Bocce & Horseshoes; Music Jam Session**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Mental Health w/Tammy Curry**
- 1 p.m. - **Book Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**
- 3 p.m. - **Thursday Social: Movie - "Polyanna"**

Friday, July 7

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Aquatic Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie at Pittsboro Swim Association (FULL)**
- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Cornhole**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Euchre**
- 3 p.m. - **Jukebox Live! (Dance Music)**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Grief Support Group; Beginning Quilting**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Drawing with Lacy**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance**

For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org



JETS from page 1

many players decided to give up the sport and try new things during the break in between. "We encourage kids to play all sports, but you kind of run through that brick wall of, after a year away from football, do I really want to go back? It's very important to have the program around right now," Johnson said.

Right now, Johnson is expecting five or six rising eighth graders who played for the 14U team to return this upcoming season. Registration is still open for the team, and is expected to run through at least July 9, though Johnson said that deadline would likely be extended. The 14U season will begin after Labor Day, with most games scheduled for Satur-

days and the occasional weekday pending scheduling conflicts. Home games are played at Jordan-Matthews in Siler City. The \$225 registration fee, according to the team's website, includes game pants, game jersey, game socks, helmet, a mouthpiece and shoulder pads. Items not included are padded practice pants, cleats and a practice jersey.

Of course, the Siler City Jets aren't the only 14U team offered in Chatham County. Also competing as part of the East Wake Football League is the East Chatham Chargers, which acts as a feeder program for Northwood and Seaforth. For more information on both teams, including details on how to register for the 2023 season, head to ecchargers.org.

"It's very vital to keep kids here, and it's also important for the development of these young kids."

Ryan Johnson, Jordan-Matthews head coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER BROOKS

The Chatham Central girls tennis team made it to the 1A state finals in 2022 before falling to Mount Airy. Seniors Olivia Brooks and Ellie Phillips also claimed the 1A doubles title.

TENNIS from page 1

Last year was her first year playing, so she was a little timid and nervous. But I really feel like this year she's going to emerge. She really works hard and wants to do the best that she can." At Seaforth, the Hawks will bring back their entire roster of players after competing in just their second-ever varsity season in 2022. The top returning singles

player for Seaforth will be rising senior Evelyn Atkins, who went 7-4 overall at the No. 1 spot last season. Also coming back are rising senior Lauren Keeley (7-1 singles) and rising juniors Bailey Shadoan (8-4 singles) and Lillian McFall (9-2 singles). In doubles play, the top returning pair is Keeley and rising junior Makenzy Lehev, who were 8-1 between the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles spots last fall.

Chatham Central and Seaforth will compete in the same conference in 2023 along with other county programs Jordan-Matthews and Northwood. The Chargers join the fray in the Mid-Carolina Conference this season after spending the past several years competing at the 3A level. Brooks said she welcomes all the tough competition in the area, as she believes it will only help her team going forward.

"I would much rather play the harder competition than the weaker," Brooks said. "The harder competition only makes you stronger. It makes the girls play harder and develop their skills more. That's one reason Olivia and Ellie were so good. They would play tournaments on the weekends and play tougher competition. I'd rather that happen than us going into the playoffs against a tough team and not knowing how to react."

"(Olivia and Ellie) were strong leaders. They had played the top two positions for two years, so all the underclassmen looked up to them."

Heather Brooks, Chatham Central head coach

AT YOUR Service

LAW OFFICE WADE PASCHAL
119 North Fir Avenue, Siler City, NC
Ph: 919-742-6006 • wadepaschal@gmail.com
56 YEARS OF SERVICE

TRAFFIC TICKETS • DIVORCE • POWERS OF ATTORNEY
WILLS • DEEDS • REAL ESTATE • RESIDENTIAL AND
COMMERCIAL CLOSINGS • APPOINTMENTS NIGHTS
AND WEEKENDS • ET CETERA LEGAL

Bob Atkinson, GRI, CRS, E-PRO
Homes-Land-Investments
C: 919-362-6999

LearnAboutLand.com

Atkinson Properties Group
bobatkinson321@gmail.com

TREE MASTERS

- Brush Chipping
- Tree Climbing • Stump Removal
- Free Estimates

(919) 775-7408
Tommy Dunigan Cell: (919) 548-3542

D & G PLUMBING

Plumbing Problems?

Commercial and Residential Installation and Service
Located in Siler City

Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy
Licensed and Insured
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374

JHJ Painting & Power Washing

"We Specialize in All Your Painting & Power Washing Needs"

Deck Washing, Renewal & Repair • Window Washing & Install
Carpentry • Door Install • Other Small Repairs

John Hayes, Jr • **919-548-0474**

ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC

Beautiful Yards Start Here!

Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties

205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!



NC DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE
SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE
INFORMATION PROGRAM

ARE YOU APPROACHING 65? MAYBE YOU ARE ALREADY 65?

Do you have questions about Medicare or prescription drug coverage?

Come attend one of our informative Welcome to Medicare sessions for those approaching 65, or Medicare 101 for those already 65. We have three convenient dates and locations:

Tuesday, August 1 –

(Wren Memorial Library, 500 North Second Avenue, Siler City)

“Approaching 65” – Welcome to Medicare, 10 a.m. – noon

“Already 65” – Medicare 101, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

* Limit of 35 participants per class

Monday, August 7 – (Goldston Public Library,
9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road, Goldston)

“Approaching 65” – Welcome to Medicare, 10 a.m. – noon

“Already 65” – Medicare 101, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

* Limit of 20 participants per class

Monday, August 14 – (Chatham County Agriculture &
Conference Center, 1192 US 64 West Business, Pittsboro)

“Approaching 65” – Welcome to Medicare, 10 a.m. – noon

“Already 65” – Medicare 101, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

* Limit of 72 participants per class

***To reserve your spot for
one of these classes,
call 919-742-3975 or email
lawana.schulze@chathamcountync.gov***

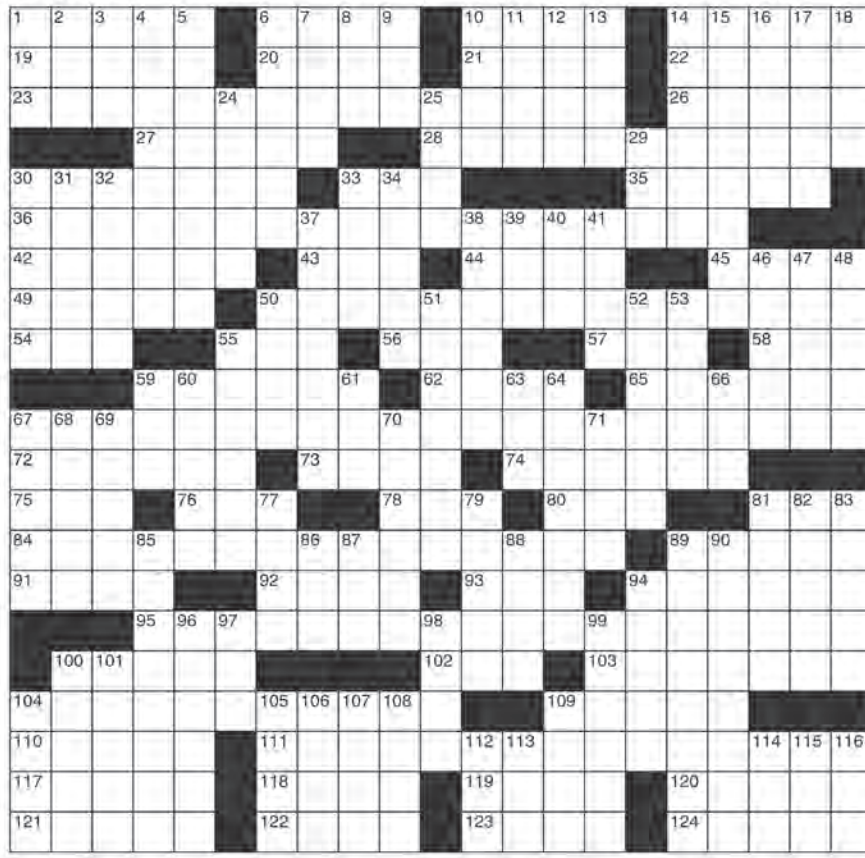


WEEKLY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TRIPLE-E PLAY

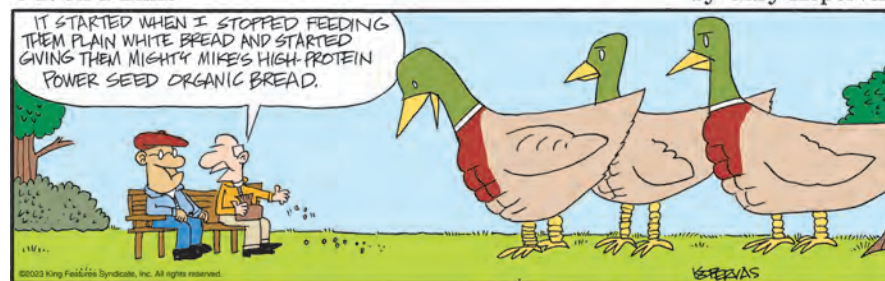
- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| ACROSS | 50 Hearty brunch dishes | 94 Israeli money | 7 Performs | 40 Insurance co. bailed out in 2008 | 83 Solders, e.g. |
| 1 Degrade | 54 People with "Grown Ups" | 95 "Sixteen Tons" | 8 Era | 41 General — chicken | 85 Tall marsh plants |
| 6 Sandler of | 55 That woman clout | hitmaker of 1955 | 9 Furious | 46 1994 French Open winner | 86 Golf's Trevino |
| 10 Adverse fate | 56 NBC TV inits. | 100 See | 10 Itinerary info | Bruguera | 87 — Vegas |
| 14 Birch's cousin | 57 The "S" of RSVP | 102 Hi-fi discs | 11 Big Apple stage award | 47 Actor Hawke | 88 Is in the red |
| 19 Bob of folk rock | 58 Pi follower | 103 Sets off to the right of the margin | 12 Wind quintet instrument | 48 "I feel — coming on!" | 89 2017-19 HBO drama series |
| 20 It uses poses called asanas | 59 Port in Italia | 104 Fish also called "unagi" | 13 Lots of | 50 Thunder god | 90 Doctor's pass-along to a specialist |
| 21 "Waterloo" group | 60 Moore of the Brat Pack | 109 Fury | 14 Playground retort. | 51 Makes lovable | 94 Bum slightly |
| 22 Wife of Gorbachev | 61 Christmas carol whose titular flower symbolizes Mary | 110 Root in perfumery | 15 Like a shallow bay in an atoll | 52 Olympic skater Ito | 96 Itty-bitty |
| 23 Paper version of an online publication, informally | 72 Hindu god incarnate | 111 R.E.M.'s debut single | 16 Handy sort | 53 "The Waste Land" poet | 97 Science educator Bill |
| 26 Cairo's home | 73 — bene | 117 Garlic mayonnaise | 17 Some sports awards | 54 Scanty | 98 Greeting to 'Enry' Iggins |
| 27 1989 Series champs | 74 Brainpower | 118 Old overlord | 18 Per-unit cost | 55 "Fat chance!" | 99 Forty-five times two |
| 28 Share the same view | 75 TV's Turner | 119 Pub projectile | 24 Color again, as hair | 56 Enlightened | 100 Actress. Dressler |
| 30 Region of northern France | 76 Q followers | 120 Rapids craft | 25 Rae of "Insecure" | 57 Kin of "equi-" | 101 Chef's wear |
| 33 That man's | 77 Curve part | 121 Jam-packed | 29 Start for glottis or Pen | 58 Wifely title | 104 "The Grapes of Wrath" hero Tom |
| 35 The "P" of S&P | 80 Geller of psychic acts | 122 "Don't look —!" | 30 Joe of "Home Alone" | 59 Espresso with hot milk | 105 Mex. miss |
| 36 Assessment of a worker's performance | 81 Just out | 123 With 100-Across, sailor's greeting | 31 "To clarify ..." | 60 Gp. activated by a 911 call | 106 Sunrise side |
| 42 Moon goddess | 84 Portrayer of Rainbow Johnson on "Black-ish" | 124 Flee to marry | 32 Grade just above average | 61 Attacked | 107 Dutch cheese |
| 43 Dernier — (latest thing) | 89 Clan | DOWN | 33 Man. in Berlin | 62 Roger of film review | 108 St. Pat's land |
| 44 Patronage: Var. | 91 Kett of cornics | 1 Tack on | 34 Wall-climbing plants | 63 Beach bird | 109 Prefix with space |
| 45 Befuddled | 92 Bona fide | 2 "Later!" | 37 Level of rank | 64 Inch along | 112 Rx watchdog |
| 49 Give rise to | 93 Lamb nurse | 3 Styled like | 38 Actress Sobieski | 65 Pentax rival | 113 Cheer word |
| | | 4 Sob stories | 39 Fleece-lined boot brand | 66 Width to wear when solving this puzzle? | 114 Arist. Yoko |
| | | 5 Make a king | | | 115 Dad |
| | | 6 Sailor's positive reply | | | 116 Apt shoe |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

M	A	R	A	C	A	A	W	A	R	E	S	L	O	A	T	T	U		
I	M	A	M	A	C	M	O	R	E	L	W	A	V	E	S	K	I	S	
B	I	N	A	N	D	S	C	O	N	E	S	E	M	E	R	S	O	N	S
Z	A	C	K	W	E	D	A	N	D	B	R	O	A	D	E	R			
A	C	H	E	D	I	W	O	P	E	S	T	O	S						
S	H	E	D	A	N	D	H	O	L	D	E	R	S	S	O	A	P		
T	E	E	E	S	A	O	A	T	A	A	M	I	L	N	E				
R	E	B	I	N	D	T	H	U	D	A	N	D	B	L	U	N	D	E	R
A	K	I	R	A	A	T	E	N	D	S	C	R	A	M	S	I	R	K	
L	Y	E	A	N	D	B	A	R	G	E	O	S	L	O	Y	E	A	S	
Q	U	O	I	E	N	D	O	N	E	A									
H	E	M	I	G	L	O	W	T	O	E	A	N	D	S	H	E	L	L	
O	T	O	S	T	E	R	E	O	U	T	N	E	T	O	N	I	O		
W	H	A	C	K	A	N	D	B	L	I	G	H	T	B	O	O	S	T	S
L	I	N	E	A	G	E	A	N	I	M	I	A	I	C	E				
S	C	A	M	R	E	F	F	E	D	A	N	D	L	I	G	H	T		
E	M	O	T	E	R	O	N	A	A	M	N	I	O						
B	R	U	T	E	A	N	D	R	A	N	C	H	I	A	M	B			
A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S	J	E	N	A	N	D	B	A	R	R	I	E
A	V	E	R	S	E	T	O	A	V	E	R	Y	B	R	U	I	N	S	
S	P	R	Y	S	E	X	B	E	T	M	E	A	R	E	N	A	S		

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



The Garden Bug

Also known as "tickseed" or "pot-of-gold," coreopsis is easy to grow. Sprinkle the seeds over a prepared area of soil in a very sunny location, and cover lightly with soil. Keep this area watered until the seeds germinate in about 3 weeks. This plant tolerates heat, humidity, and drought. It is well suited to beds, borders and containers. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but also small birds like goldfinches love its seeds. It's an excellent cut flower in a mixed bouquet. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: linnet.geog.ubc.ca, www.gardeningknowhow.com, almanac.com

GET IN line.

Amusement parks and retirement communities do have one thing in common. *Long wait times.*

EXPLORE MORE AT GALLOWAYRIDGE.COM

GALLOWAY RIDGE AT FERRINGTON

AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Ashley joined Harris & Company in 2019 with over 18 years experience as an insurance agent. He is the Pittsboro agency's primary sales agent and is eager to serve clients with Personal, Business and Life Insurance needs.

HARRIS & COMPANY
Insurance Since 1935
Auto - Home - Business - Life

ASHLEY BEAL
Insurance Agent
ashley@hc1935.com

60 Mosaic Blvd., Ste. 130 Pittsboro
919-726-3003
www.HC1935.com

An Independent Agent Representing

You've found the one, now say **"I do"** to our honeymoon services!

CALL NC TRAVEL
919-742-2839 or Email Amy: apugh@northcarolinatravel.net
Check out our website: www.nctravel.world
105 N. Chatham Ave, Siler City, NC

TEMPLE THEATRE
(919)774-4155 www.templeshows.org

Annie

BASKERVILLE
A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

A CHRISTMAS STORY

'Til Beth Do Us Part

THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS
THE MUSICAL!

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
ELVIS PRESLEY | JERRY LEE LEWIS | CARL PERKINS | JOHNNY CASH

2023-2024 SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

MAGIC MAZE ● SAILING SHIPS

H C Z X V T R P N L F J R H E

M C C O N S T E L L A T I O N

A A Y W I E L V Y T R P M N K

Y L K I N G S I G E E C A B R

F A I R A M N S Z X L W P U A

L S R E P G O M U L U J I I S

O G B E C D B A Y E C X N W Y

W Y M L A V I C T O R Y T U T

E S O R Y R A M T S E P A Q T

R U O V A E D N E P H O N L U

D K J N O I T U T I T S N O C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SANTA —

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Beagle | Endeavour | Mayflower | Preussen |
| Constellation | Flying Cloud | Nina | Valmy |
| Constitution | Hercule | Pamir | Victory |
| Cutty Sark | Mary Rose | Pinta | |

GRIN and BEAR ITTM Wagner



"We used all foreign parts to make the best domestic car available!"

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA
Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.
400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGT.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES



SUDOKU

3			2					7
	6			4		9		
		8			9		3	
		4		3				2
9					2		4	
	3		5			8		
		1		6		2		
5					7			3
	8		9					1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

The local pharmacy you can trust to provide the best personalized care, professional advice, and convenient services.
We offer FREE* walk-in Shingles vaccinations
Have allergies? We have solutions!

Angelynn Fox McClary

Pharmacist Manager & Owner



202-A East Raleigh Street
Siler City, NC 27344

T: 919-663-5541

www.silercitypharmacy.com
info@silercitypharmacy.com

*Cost covered by most insurance plans



Downtown Siler City

OLD NORTH STATE



INSURANCE SERVICES

Storms? Accidents? Fire!
Let us help you avoid the major costs of the "What Ifs" of life

Kim Lindley, CISR

919-742-3422 Ext #2 | kim@oldnorthstateins.com

Kevin Reavis, CRM, CIC, CPIW

919-742-3422 Ext #7 | kevin@oldnorthstateins.com

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



SOLUTIONS

SAILING SHIPS

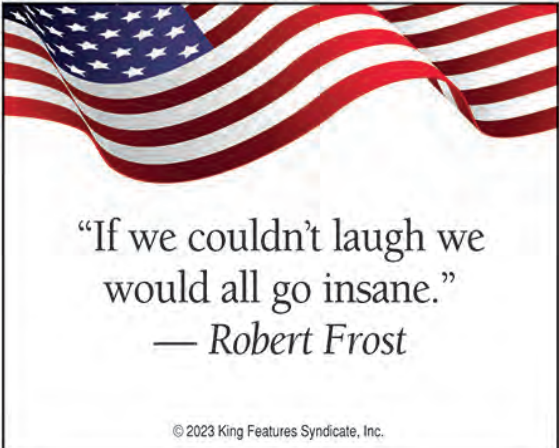
M	C	O	N	S	T	E	L	L	A	T	I	O	N
A	I	E	L	Y								M	K
Y	N	G	S	I								R	A
F	A	N	S						E			P	A
L	B	E	G	U					L			I	S
O	W	M	L	A	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	N	Y
	E	S	O	R	Y	R	A	M		E	P	A	T
	R	U	O	V	A	E	D	N	E	H			U

3	4	9	2	5	8	1	6	7
7	6	5	3	4	1	9	2	8
1	2	8	6	7	9	4	3	5
8	1	4	7	3	6	5	9	2
9	5	7	1	8	2	3	4	6
2	3	6	5	9	4	8	7	1
4	7	1	8	6	3	2	5	9
5	9	2	4	1	7	6	8	3
6	8	3	9	2	5	7	1	4



SERVING PITTSBORO, CHAPEL HILL AND DURHAM
919.230.1230

Americanisms



SILER CITY CENTER NOW HIRING
RNs, LPNs, and CNAs

Siler City Center offers shift differentials, benefits, 401k, updated wages, and new sign-on bonuses:
 RN-\$15,000
 LPN-\$15,000
 CNA-\$5,000

Contact Brittany Burton with inquiries or to apply:
 brittany.burton@genesishcc.com

Genesis
 Vitality for Living

900 West Dolphin St, Siler City, NC 27344 • 919-663-3431

New Horizons downtown
 A Unique Boutique in Pittsboro
 Women's Apparel & Shoes and Gifts for the whole family.
 53 Millstone Street
 (919) 549-7200
 Monday - Saturday 10 - 6
 Every Sunday 12 - 5

New Horizons west
 Provisions for Work, Travel & Outdoor Adventures!
 674 West St, Pittsboro, NC
 M-F 10-6 Sat 9-4 Sun 11-5
 (919) 542-8487

To ensure the operation of safety systems as intended by the manufacturer, our staff is **"Factory Trained & Certified"** to repair your vehicle--this helps to keep you, and your family, safe in the event of another accident



CARS MART
 THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE IN COLLISION REPAIR

Chapel Hill 1174 US Hwy 15-501 N 919-537-0770	Pittsboro 1022 Sanford Rd 919-542-2334	Burlington 1238 Rauhut St 336-228-6684
--	---	---

www.carsmartcollision.com



John Cheesborough, MD



Dawn E. Kleinman, MD



Mary Candace Seagle, PA-C



Brittany Atkinson, PA-C

Proudly serving Chatham County over 30 years!

Sanford Dermatology

Accepting New Patients Any Age

Self-Pay & Insurance

Conveniently located in Platinum Commons
 959 East Street, Suite B - Pittsboro

919-775-7926
 www.sanforddermatology.com

Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology

Dysport, Botox & Fillers

GRILL OUT FOR LESS THIS SUMMER
20# TANKS FILLED FOR \$15.98 + TAX
WE FILL ALL SIZES!

STOP IN TODAY!

Get Ready to Grill!



193 Lowes Dr., Suite 110, Pittsboro
 919-704-8589
 strickslpgas.com

SILK HOPE PRO RODEO



PHOTOS BY MATT RAMEY

Silk Hope Pro Rodeo a hit in Chatham County

SILER CITY — Thousands of residents made their way to the Ruritan Club in the Silk Hope community to attend the Silk Hope Pro Rodeo on June 23 and 24.

The Silk Hope Pro Rodeo featured seven different events where cowboys and cowgirls alike competed for best in show. From bull riding to cattle roping, the rodeo highlighted a unique kind of athleticism from competitors.

Dennis “Strawberry” Pruitt said the Silk Hope rodeo is one he’s looked forward to since last year. He said after the success of last year’s event, he hoped to raise rodeo patrons’ expectations with a higher capacity, even more vendors and food options and a local event people of all ages can enjoy.

“It’s a small community, but it branches out,” he said. “This also helps the Ruritan Club — They raise money there for all the stuff they do throughout the year. Lots of people in the community there get involved in coming sponsor-wise and just to help out ... It’s amazing.”

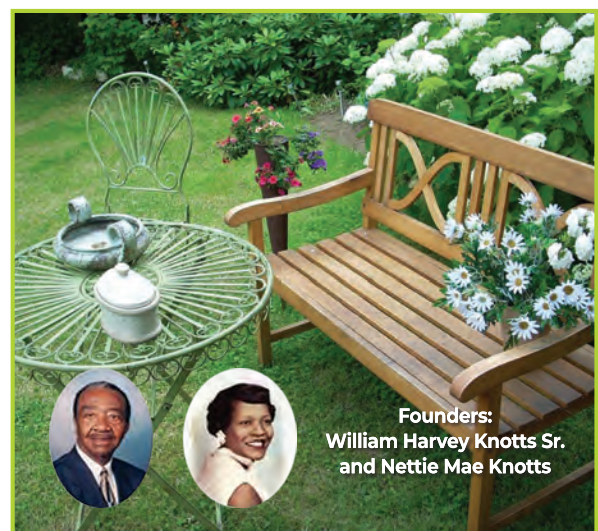


Working tirelessly to provide you with a beautiful, lasting tribute to your loved one

Thank you
for allowing us
to serve your
families for more
than 60 years

Knotts
FUNERAL HOME

SANFORD: 719 Wall St • 919-776-4345
CHAPEL HILL: 113 N. Graham St • 919.968.7780
PITTSBORO: 50 Masonic St • 919-542-6180
knottsfuneralhome.com



Founders:
William Harvey Knotts Sr.
and Nettie Mae Knotts

Sweden, redux

By Debbie Matthews
Curious Cook

TODAY, I made the home shopping pilgrimage to Ikea.

And, because I just adore that nutty store and that cafeteria that resembles elementary school in the abundance of comfort food that never challenges the palate, but is always a culinary hug from your Swedish Grandma, I decided to revisit a column from the first visit I made to Ikea.

When I write a column, I have a topic. Today's topic is the Swedish meatballs at Ikea, and the copycat recipe I have. Then the column begins to write itself in my head — which this one has, but in an uncharacteristically fragmented way. The last thing that happens is that I come up with the opening line; often in the shower, or while walking the dog.

Today I both showered and walked the dog almost four miles and came up with bu-pkis.

I do though, have some crazy weather facts about the Lapland region of Sweden that I discovered while doing research for this piece.

Kiruna is in Lapland and the northernmost city in Sweden. It lies ninety miles north of the Arctic Circle. The warmest temp ever recorded was 88.9 (F) degrees, in July 1945. The coldest was -45.9 (F) in January 1999. The sun does not set for the fifty days between May 28 and July 16 and doesn't rise from Dec. 11 to Jan. 1 (22 days). Yikes.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom

FURNITURE STORE SWEDISH MEATBALLS

1 cup homemade white bread crumbs
2 tablespoons butter
1/3 white onion, minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
kosher salt, or to taste
1/4 teaspoons freshly ground pepper
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
3/4 pound ground veal or turkey
1/2 pound ground pork
1 large egg, plus 1 egg white, beaten

vegetable oil, for baking sheet
2 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cup beef stock
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup heavy cream
kosher salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper, to taste

For service:
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
Lingonberry or tart mixed-berry jam

To make meatballs: Put bread crumbs in a large bowl. Heat 2 tablespoons butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, allspice, 2 teaspoons salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and cook, stirring, until soft, about 5 minutes. Add milk and 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce and bring to a simmer. Pour milk mixture over bread crumbs and stir to make a thick paste (called panade); let cool. Add ground veal or turkey, ground pork, egg and egg white to the bowl and mix until combined. Brush baking sheet with vegetable oil. Scoop meat with small portion scoop, then roll into 1-inch balls and arrange on prepared baking sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.



Bake meatballs for about 20 minutes or until cooked through.

To make gravy: Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add flour and cook, whisking, until smooth. Whisk in beef broth, 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce and bring to simmer. Add heavy cream and meatballs. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until gravy thickens about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Transfer to serving dish and sprinkle with the parsley. Serves six meatballs. Serve with a simple starch like egg noodles or mashed potatoes and a dollop of jam. You can also serve on toasted and buttered bread like a split baguette or Texas toast.

Because of the very rich nature of this dish, green vegetables as a side and post-prandial walk are highly recommended by me, your doctor, your arteries and your Levi's.

We are cooperative, social-minded, curious, inclusive, searching.
A niche firm with an environmental ethic.

Happy Pride Month!

919-929-5658 • info@WeaverStreetRealty.com

WeaverStreetRealty.com

At **Dossenbach's** you have choices!

Some groups have choices of arms, leg color, seat cushion and cushion design!

From Reclining Sofas to Accent Chairs... it's Your Choice!

OVER 400 FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM!

LOTS of CHOICES Lots of Styles

OVER 500 FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM!

WE HAVE 6 DIFFERENT BEDROOM SUITES THAT HAVE UP TO 4 DIFFERENT FINISHES. ALL MADE IN THE U.S.A.!

CHERRY, GRAY, MERLOT, WHITE

LATTICE FOLKSTONE, GRAY, SIENNA

"Always a Saving"®
Dossenbach's
FINER FURNITURE

Downtown Sanford
215 Wicker Street
4 Building 1/2 Block Showroom
(919) 775-7237
www.dossenbachs.com

2018
The Sanford Herald
Best of Sanford

*New Inventory Arriving Daily

Mental Health Services that Meet Your Needs.

RENAISSANCE WELLNESS
RWS
SERVICES LLC

• Outpatient Therapy
• Intensive In-Home Therapy
• Outpatient Plus
• School Based Counseling
• Substance-Abuse Intensive Outpatient Therapy

919-704-8449 • rwellnessservices.com

288 East St, Suite 1001-F7
Pittsboro, NC 27312

235 E Raleigh St.
Siler City, NC 27344

HIRING ON ALL SHIFTS!

GROW YOUR CAREER WITH MOUNTAIRE

- General Labor starting at **\$14.50/HOUR**
- Industrial Maintenance positions starting at **\$23/HOUR** (starting pay increases for experience)
- **FREE** transportation to and from work from Greensboro or High Point
- Guaranteed on-site interviews

OUR BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- On-site Health & Wellness Center
- 401(k) and profit sharing
- Great benefits
- Educational assistance
- One week of vacation after 90 days and additional week after 180 days
- Employee discounts on chicken



MOUNTAIREJOBS.COM

1100 E THIRD STREET | SILER CITY | NC
4411 W GATE CITY BLVD. | GREENSBORO | NC
8 AM - 5 PM | MONDAY - FRIDAY
(919) 663-6712