

# Merry Christmas

Inside: the News+Record's special holiday section

## Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C.

Thursday, December 20, 2018

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With visions of sugarplums in her head, Lily Sorenson seems to have the right idea as she prepares for Christmas which will be here Tuesday. Lily knows one thing for sure: jolly old Saint Nick is in the process of making his list and checking it twice. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

### SCHOOL NURSES

## Are Chatham schools fully staffed?

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

In the last academic year, school nurse Melissa Lassen estimated she saw more than 3,000 Northwood High School students come through her small office.

Based on a school calendar that ran just more than 170 days, that's an average of at least 17 students a day for issues ranging from headaches to a chronic health condition requiring 30 minutes or more of attention.

And she does it all by herself.

"If I was walking in here and had not ever been the nurse at this school," Lassen said, "I would feel very overwhelmed."

A 12-year veteran of school nursing currently in her seventh year at Northwood and Chatham County Schools' head nurse, Lassen is one of eight working for the district. The nurses help care for 8,835 students across 18 schools.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and American Academy of Pediatricians recommend that school districts have one nurse per every 750 students, and the AAP says having a full-time nurse in each school is "the best means of ensuring a strong connection with each student's medical home."

As of September 2018, Chatham County's ratio is just more than 1,104 students per nurse, and Lassen is the only nurse that works at one school full-time.

Chatham isn't alone. A 2015 report from the National Association of School Nurses said that around two in five schools had a full-time nurse, and a quarter of schools did not employ a nurse at all. According to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, North Carolina school nurses serve an average of 1,112 students. Lassen, who recently at-

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### A.D. TUBI TO BRING 18 JOBS TO SILER CITY

## Grant helps new business to renovate old building

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

The town of Siler City received a \$235,000 grant last week to support the renovation of the old Olympic Steel building for A.D. Tubi, a European manufacturer of welded tubes.

The company, which also goes by the name Apex Investment, is investing \$6,291,073 and is expected to create 18 jobs at the Siler City location on Hampstone Road.

The jobs created will have an average wage of \$58,989, which is in excess of the current average wage in Siler City for full-time employment, according to Alyssa Byrd, Interim Executive Director of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation.

Byrd told the News + Record typically the grant is based on the number of jobs and the county's economic tier. With Chatham County being a Tier III county, the classification for wealthier counties, the typical award would have been \$5,000 per job.

However, the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority which approved the grant used its discretion, taking the average salary into account and increased the amount

based on the value of the jobs.

"Having competitive wages attracts talent and in this case attributed to attracting investment from the state," Byrd said.

The grant was one of 19 approved by the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, totaling \$7,275,100. According to N.C.

Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland, the public investment in these projects will attract more than \$95 million in private investment and create 407 across the state.

"Rural North Carolina communities have a lot to offer families and businesses, and they need infrastructure that complements those unique assets," said Copeland. "These new Rural Infrastructure Authority grants will help invest in that infrastructure and support the creation of good jobs across our state."

According to Byrd, for every five jobs created in the iron and steel pipe industry, another job is created elsewhere in the region's economy. This would mean that the company's 18 jobs would likely create three to four additional jobs in the community.

The investment will yield an additional \$5.4

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*'Having competitive wages attracts talent and in this case attributed to attracting investment from the state.'*

-Alyssa Byrd, EDC

### CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Students lend help during holidays

BY CHIP PATE  
CN+R Correspondent

SILER CITY — Bundled up on an overcast Saturday afternoon, George Jacinto and Ruby Jacinto Matul light up when they describe Christmas from a few years ago.

The siblings now attending Jordan-Matthews High School can't recall off hand what year it was — in fact, they debate it for a while, but can't agree. It was at the very end of elementary school or maybe right at the start of middle school. But what happened made such an impression that other details remain fresh in their minds.

Their father came home from work one night with a surprise. He got out of the car and walked toward their home carrying a couple of boxes and pushing a bicycle decorated with a big bow, one of those details George doesn't forget.

"Merry Christmas!" he told

his children.

Ruby recalls her joy opening the boxes to find a teddy bear and brand-new sweater. It's a moment that still has an emotional impact. "It's not something we ever expected," she says. "I just remember being really happy with my sweater." She even remembers what happened to the gift. When she outgrew her Christmas sweater, she passed it along to her cousin to enjoy.

That memory had a particular resonance because George and Ruby are standing in front of the Siler City Walmart ringing bells for The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign, a holiday tradition started more than 125 years ago to provide Christmas dinner for struggling people in San Francisco. It was the Salvation Army that provided the bicycle, teddy bear and sweater that made Christmas so special a few years ago.

The siblings haven't forgotten what a difference people's contributions made in their lives and want to make the same thing possible for others. "I remember being very happy," she says, as a young shopper entering the store walks up to drop

a few coins in the kettle. "Just knowing that other kids will have that experience makes me very happy for them."

### MORE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Ruby and George aren't the only ones ringing bells. Giselle Castro is outside the other entrance, near the grocery aisles, and all three of them are members of the Jordan-Matthews Leo Club, a student auxiliary of the Siler City Lions Club dedicated to public service.

The holidays are particularly busy. Not only did the Leos ring bells for the Salvation Army and hold a shopping expedition to purchase gifts as part of a Christmas Angel outreach, but they held one of their usual projects as well. Between bell ringing and gift shopping, they spent one Saturday morning helping the American Legion pick up trash along the Legion's Adopt-a-Highway segment on northern edge of Siler City.

Other Chatham students were busy serving their communities as well. Fifteen

miles east, two student groups at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro were beginning to wrap up an annual schoolwide holiday food drive that was quite a production.

About 60 members of the National Junior Honor Society and Student Ambassadors

organized a month-long campaign to collect food that will be distributed this year by Fuel Up, a local outreach of the West Chatham Food Pantry that sends backpacks of food home with students who otherwise

See 'Students' page A6



Erika Delgado Avalos, one of the most active volunteers in Horton's National Junior Honor Society, sorts and organizes food that will be distributed as part of the Fuel Up outreach. (Photo by Chip Pate)



## Community Calendar

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

• The town of Siler City offices are closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1.

• The town of Pittsboro offices are closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 24-26.

• All Chatham County libraries will be closed for the holidays on the following schedule: Closed Saturday, Dec. 22, Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25 and Wednesday, Dec. 26.

• With a few exceptions, Chatham County offices are closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1.

The exceptions are:

• **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety offices remain open 24/7, including holidays.

• **COUNTY PARKS:** County park facilities (not the main Parks & Recreation office) are open throughout the upcoming holidays except for Christmas Day. You can go walk off your New Year's Eve calories at the parks on New Year's Day.

• **WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CENTERS:** The Collection Centers will close early at 2 PM on Christmas Eve and closed all day on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Bonlee, Cole Park, Pittsboro, and Siler City centers will be open Wednesday, Dec. 26. All centers will reopen as usual on Dec. 27. Please note that the Solid Waste & Recycling Main Facility will be closed from Dec. 24 through Dec. 26.

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### ABOUT US

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### THURSDAY

• The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players will meet at the Seymour Center on Home-stead Road in Chapel Hill at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20. Beginners, experts, and all stringed instruments are welcome. For more information, contact Shirley Ray at ShirleyRay@aol.com or 919-929-5359.

### ALSO HAPPENING

• Start your New Year off on a good foot with a First Day Hike! Join Friends of Lower Haw on Jan. 1, 2019 for a "Discover the Winter Landscape" walk in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area led by botanist Ken Moore, retired Assistant Director of the NC Botanical Garden. Contact lowerhawevents@gmail.com to pre-register.

• Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive Parent in Chatham County. Call 919-642-6956 to learn more about the Foster or Adoption Program.

• The Council on Aging will host a Health & Wellness Discussion Group on the Third Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. To sign up for information, contact Alan Russo at 919-542-4512 or alan.russo@chathamcoa.org.

• Chatham County Rescue Squad Blood Drive will be held Monday, Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 201 South Second Avenue, Siler City. To schedule your life-saving appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: ChathamRescue or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Give more life! Donate blood.

• Wake Up Wednesday, the local forum for sharing news about your products, services, skills, or non-profit events and programs, is held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Carolina Brewery near Lowes Home Store in Pittsboro. Doors open at 8 a.m. The program starts at 8:30 and ends at 9:30. \$5 gains you entry, a fresh hot breakfast with coffee, and access to approximately 50 people looking for new clients and customers in the community.

• Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy's Christmas luminary service that was canceled on Sunday, Dec. 16 because of the snow storm has been re-scheduled. The event now will be Sunday, Dec. 30 at 6:30 PM at Siler City's First United Methodist Church. A number of area choirs and musicians will be performing with a time of refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

• A new exhibit in the Chatham Historical Museum highlights the sacrifice of Chatham County resident William T. Durham, Seaman First Class on the USS Arizona, who perished in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. William's re-mains were identified from his Pittsboro High School ring, which is among artifacts recently donated to the Chatham Historical Museum by his family. Some of these items are on display at the Museum during December. The Museum is located in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse and is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., weather permitting. 919-542-6222.

• For Drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps! Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, NC District 33, Meeting schedules available at 866-640-0180 for Chatham, Alamance, Caswell and Orange Counties.

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

• The Sixth annual "Coming Home for Christmas" concert will be held Friday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at Bynum General Store featuring the New Direction Bluegrass. Special guests are expected from near and far. There will be refreshments and sweet treats for the whole family. Come join us as we celebrate "Christmas in Song"!

• Second anniversary of the Chatham County Public Libraries Giving Tree. 'Tis the season for giving! From now through December 20, Chatham County Public Libraries invite you to give back to the Chatham County community by sponsoring books from our Library Giving Tree. Each library branch will host a tree. Patrons may take a tag from the tree, follow the URL on the tag to the Library Giving Tree Amazon wish list and purchase a listed item. Items purchased from the Library Giving Tree list will be donated to the Sunflower Seeds Christian Preschool & Learning Center in Siler City. Purchased items will ship directly to the Center.

### Opportunities for Scouting

• Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.org for more information.

• Pack 924 of Siler City First United Methodist Church meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cob Scouts.

• Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney's United Methodist Church following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information



### BOE members sworn in . . .

Gary Leonard, Del Turner, and Jane Allen Wilson were all sworn in during the Chatham County Board of Education meeting Monday night by Chatham County Clerk of Court Dana Hackney. Leonard retained the position as the chair of the board through a unanimous vote. Wilson was also selected unanimously to remain as the board's vice chair. (Staff photo by John Hunter)

## For Second Bloom

# Anonymous donor pledges to match December donations

#### CN+R Staff Report

An anonymous donor has pledged to match donations to the new non-profit, Second Bloom of Chatham, Inc. from now until December 31.

The donor has pledged to match on a two-to-one basis on all donations giv-

ing between now and the end of the year to Second Bloom of Chatham up to a total of \$10,000. If you contribute \$100, the donor will donate \$200.

Second Bloom of Chatham, Inc., is a new non-profit formed to provide support services and education for survivors

of domestic violence and sexual assault in Chatham County.

Donations may be sent to be matched at Second Bloom of Chatham, Inc., PO Box 598, Pittsboro, NC 27312 by December 31. Second Bloom will mail donors a tax receipt

containing your federal ID number and tax deductibility upon receipt of your check.

Second Bloom of Chatham, Inc., is also raising funds at their Thrift Shop operating at 10 Sanford Road in Pittsboro.



# Opinion

From the Publisher's Desk

## The Christmas tree code

Every year, since our kids were old enough to read, the presents have gone under our Christmas tree without tags.

Instead, my wife Lee Ann and I came up with a code to identify which gift belongs to which child. We'd write the code — either a letter or a number, or a combination — on one corner of the gift. If the kids snoop under the tree, they have no way of telling which gift belongs to whom.

Times have changed, of course, as our kids have grown. At the age our three are now — Zach's 26, Addison is 24 and Karis will soon be 22 — the volume of presents has significantly decreased. There are no more toys; the few gifts we do give reflect their more adult needs and wants. Plus, as any parent of adult knows, the biggest spending on kids isn't at Christmas — it takes place all year long, especially when those children are in college, as our youngest still is.

But we still talk about "the code." Coming up with the code was usually my job. It started off as something pretty simple — for instance, taking the 3rd letter of their first name and writing that down ("c" for Zachary, "d" for Addison and "r" for Karis) faintly near a corner of the wrapped gift. As the kids got older, the code got a bit more complex and usually involved substituting numbers which corresponded with letters in the alphabet (1 for a, 5 for e, etc.). We might take the last letter in each of their middle names, for example, go back five letters in the alphabet, and work the code from there.

This would occasionally make for some interesting Christmas mornings at our house when Lee Ann and I would have trouble remembering exactly what the code was. I remember more than one year where, perplexed over the code we created, we

had to identify one gift as belonging to a particular child, then finding the faintly-written letter or number somewhere on the gift — and then extrapolate the code from there.

One year, a long time ago, late on a Christmas Eve, after Zachary and Karis had gone to bed, Addison — our musician and mathematician, the kid who taught himself how to read at age 2 (unbelievable, except to the people who know Addison) — puzzled over the letters on the various gifts for a few minutes, then broke that year's code. When at last he figured it out, he was surprised the code was so easy. That year, if I recall, the code was a letter — the letter coming before the last letter of their name in the alphabet... X for Zachary (written so that it could be seen as an "X" or a "T"), M for Addison (written to that it could be seen as an "M" or a "W") and an R for Karis.

The code's purpose was partially to confuse, but also it was to provide identification.

It got me thinking about the puzzle that is the birth of Christ, which for us is what Christmas is about. Some people get so caught up in trying to figure out all the permutations of life's code — a creation coming from a Creator, a divine path, the prophecies, a miraculous birth, a sacrificial death, a redemptive plan — they forget that the point of it all is a gift, the gift of God's Son. It's a personal gift. Each of us has been given a gift, a gift with our name written plainly on the tag.

There's a mystery, surely, but it starts with the gift — and at some point simply making the decision to accept the gift.

This Christmas, I hope you do. Unwrap with joy. And Merry Christmas.

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## Fraud claims should trouble conservatives

BY JOHN HOOD

RALEIGH — While the term "whataboutism" may be relatively new — coined within the last few decades, and newly prominent in the age of Donald Trump — the logical fallacy it denotes is as ancient as politics itself.

The rhetorical trick goes something like this. A political leader or group is accused of doing something wrong. In response, a defender tries to change the subject. "You say President Trump lies," for example, "but what about when President Obama said that under the

Affordable Care Act, people could keep their health plans if they wanted? He wasn't telling the truth, and you didn't go after him!"

As it happens, Obama wasn't telling the truth about that, as he and anyone else involved in health policy must surely have known. I lost my own health plan because of the Affordable Care Act.

But that example does not establish a defense of Trump's dishonesty. In fact, to grant that it is wrong in principle for pol-

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## Leading a dog's life not that ruff ... er, rough

There's probably not another human being alive who loves a dog more than I do.

Well, at least a good dog.

Dogs and people sometimes have a lot in common. Both can be ornery, cantankerous, annoying or just downright unpleasant.

I remember a dog like that from years ago. A chihuahua, she barked and yipped and yapped at the slightest provocation, one of those whiny obnoxious barks. If you looked at her wrong, she'd go into a frenzy. I think it was probably because she was mad at life, not knowing for sure if she was a dog or a mouse on steroids.

For the most part, however, most dogs are good dogs and have much to offer their masters, although the jury is still out on who is the master in most people-dog relationships. You want to know how important a good dog is to a good life? An old-timer told me long ago a dog is a reflection of God's love.

"Whadda you mean 'a reflection,'" I asked.

"Well, just take a look at how it's spelled," he said. "'God' spelled backwards is 'dog' and backwards is a reflection. You can pretty much beat a dog — not that you should or should

want to — and he'll still love you. Dogs are faithful; they'll follow you anywhere. Cats? They're too persnickety; you have to earn their love and that's not love."

Lately I've found out that not only do people and dogs have much in common but I've also found out a dog can teach an old master new tricks.

Since I was a wee lad, I've had my share of dogs. There was Tootsie, who was already in our family when I came to be. She was 16, almost blind and hard of hearing when a driver went out of his way to hit her one Sunday morning as I stood at the edge of the road frantically calling her to come back to the yard. I must confess to you I've wished many a time he still has trouble sleeping.

Later on, we got Socks, a tan fellow with four white feet who was supposed to be a small dog, only he never got the message so we gave him to a family who lived way out in the country. Same thing with a pair of pups, black and white who we named

Spic and Span. If you remember a washing detergent by that name, you've had a few birthdays.

Later, after I'd grown into adulthood, at least in number of years, we had Charlie, the black collie/shepherd mix who loved to kill snakes; Butch, the black German Shepherd who got tangled up on ice and came in second in a confrontation with a heating oil truck; Fred, who didn't know

it was a bad idea to sleep in the road; Sam, the little black Spaniel who loved to chase ashes when I'd set a newspaper on fire on the ground and who just disappeared one day.

We also had Ralph and Russel and Lewis — we started liking people names for our dogs, something our children Spot and Fido didn't understand — and Savannah, the Golden Retriever we inherited from our niece when she had to move to a "no dogs" apartment; Clara and Ellie and finally Hunley, so named by our first grandchild after the dog on "Curious George."

All those were great dogs and I feel like I'm

leaving some others out; suffice it to say we've seldom been without a canine, including the Australian Shepherd/border collie who now lives with Shirley and me. She was supposed to be the property of three of our grandchildren who live next door to replace Hunley, a good dog who went to the rainbow bridge but apparently she didn't get the memo.

Our daughter says it's because she recognizes a sucker when she sees one and there's a good deal of truth in that. But here's perhaps the most significant revelation of all for me: she's taught me something, namely that if given the chance a dog will prefer to sleep inside the house.

See, up to now, every one of those other dogs lived outside where they had full roam of the yard and pastures. They had plenty of water, either in their dishes or the ponds. We fed them well and often. They did not have to ask for permission to be excused; rather, they just found a convenient spot and made themselves right at home. They had sleeping quarters full of hay and cedar shavings

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### Movin' Around

WITH BOB WACHS



It was a bad idea to sleep in the road; Sam, the little black Spaniel who loved to chase ashes when I'd set a newspaper on fire on the ground and who just disappeared one day.

All those were great dogs and I feel like I'm

## Stringing Christmas lights a challenging tradition

When it comes to holiday traditions, we probably can't help being influenced by how we were raised.

My parents, for instance, while by no means anti-Christmas, were steadfast in their tradition of putting up Christmas decorations no sooner than one week before Christmas Day.

Visiting friends' houses during the holidays, I knew we were in the minority on this tradition, and maybe even a tad odd when it came to the timing of our decorating.

Likewise, my mother, citing some superstition she'd picked up somewhere, also insisted that all holiday decorations — tree, lights, candles, wreaths — be taken down absolutely no later than Dec. 31. To leave Christmas decorations languishing into the new year, she explained to us year after year, was "bad luck."

As an adult capable of making traditions of my own, in spite of historic influences, I've varied from my parents' traditions somewhat. At our house, we normally have decorations up soon after Thanksgiving.

But for better or worse, as familial influences go, I still cling to that "bad luck" notion and see to it that all of our decorations are removed and packed away until next year by the new year.

As circumstances dictated this year, quite by accident our Christmas decorating coalesced neatly with the way my parents handled decorating. Just over a week away from the holiday, we finally got around to decorating over the weekend.

I think we procrastinated because neither of us relished hauling boxes of holiday stuff down from the attic.

But once over that hump, which we accomplished Saturday, we got on a roll and about an hour later, we not only had our artificial tree unboxed and branched, we had it lighted and decorated and tinselled, too.

Another hour or so later, we had a wreath on the door and even a few presents wrapped and under the tree, just so it didn't look so empty.

All that remained was placing the strands of icicle lights across the roofline of the front of our single-story house.

With few exceptions, every year in recent memory we've adorned our house with those simple but inviting outdoor lights. It's one of our traditions of our own making and one of my favorite Christmas touches.

But it's one that, inevitably, presents challenges, and if you've ever handled a strand of Christmas lights, you can relate. What I mean is: no matter how gently I remove those lights (before Jan. 1, of course) and carefully pack them for future use, when the next year comes those lights always need fresh attention because there will always be a couple of lights that don't light, even though they worked beautifully when last plugged in.

This year was no different.

I've learned to test them before going up and down a ladder placing them, and

as expected, a few isolated portions of the connected strands of lights didn't light in their test run.

I fiddled with them for a while, trying to find the single defective bulb, but with no luck, before making the executive decision to scrap the bad strand and replace it with a new strand.

It's no Clark Griswold-worthy light display we're after. But the process involved in that simple strand of white lights often feels nearly as involved and frustrating as the travails Mr. Griswold experiences trying to refresh his house for the holidays with elaborate lights in "Christmas Vacation."

The process is frustrating but the end result is rewarding.

I can be as "bah humbug" as I want about the demands of holiday decorating, and for a bit of that I thank my parents, but I'm glad we bit the bullet and finally — even though we were pushing deadlines — decorated for the 2018 season.

It's beginning, at last, to look a lot like Christmas. Here's to a merry one for all.

Chatham News + Record

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# Life (Continued from Page A4)

sheltered from the elements. I could have slept in them and stayed warm.

But a couple of weeks ago, present pooch showed up on our front porch one Sunday afternoon with a significant flesh wound on her abdomen. Nothing was broken so we don't know if she was hit or attacked by coyotes or a bigger stray dog. But bottom line was she needed to visit her local vet.

Which she did. Stayed for a week. Had surgery. Came home on meds and some nursing we had to provide. Had to go back in 14 days to have stitches removed. Doc did a good job.

Now, the dog is doing great. Loves Vienna Sausages, a convenient way to hide her medicine. And did I mention that

since her traumatic event she's been sleeping in our utility room? When the temps dropped into the 20's recently, I reasoned in her delicate condition it was too cold for her to sleep on the porch in her doggy bed. So, we brought it inside and she followed.

Yes, that room smells like a dog lives there. Fortunately, her bodily functions are in order, meaning she had some experience as an indoor puppy before we got her. I'm not sure how much longer all that will continue but so far, she likes it, so much that she lets me rub her head . . . and feed her . . . and water her . . . and let her out and in as she needs.

I'd say she's done a good job training me.

# Fraud (Continued from Page A4)

iticians to tell falsehoods is obviously to strengthen the case against any particular politician telling falsehoods, not to weaken it.

Indeed, whataboutism is formally known as *tu quoque* ("you also" in Latin), the appeal to hypocrisy. Hypocrites may deserve all sorts of scorn. But their inconsistency doesn't disprove the value of the ethical standard they are violating. It's a separate infraction, one might say.

Consider the election-fraud allegations in North Carolina's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Operatives working for the campaign of Republican Mark Harris allegedly went beyond the legal distribution and collection of absentee-ballot requests and illegally "harvested" the absentee ballots themselves, opening up the possibility that the ballots were tampered with or discarded in ways that benefited Harris.

Republicans have variously responded by pointing out that there are also credible allegations of ballot harvesting and other questionable tactics by Democratic operatives in Bladen County this year; that the key Harris contractor in question, McCrae Dowless, had also done absentee-ballot work for Democrats in recent election cycles; that his 2018 tactics may have been motivated by a broad perception that previous Democratic election fraud had never been seriously investigated, much less punished; and that Democrats in states such as California have actually fought to legalize and expand the use of ballot harvesting, which they used to great effect in defeating Republicans in 2018.

These are all correct statements, as far as I can tell. If made to provide context, and to challenge the absurd overstatements and "guilt by association" claims made against all North Carolina

Republicans in the aftermath of the 9<sup>th</sup> District fiasco, they are warranted. But to the extent these claims have devolved into whataboutism, they fail. If Dowless did what is alleged, and Harris exercised poor judgment at the very least in hiring and incentivizing the Dowless crew, then they deserve what may be coming to them. That others may also deserve criticism or consequences for their own choices doesn't change that.

If it is to stand for anything at all other than short-term electoral victories or "owning the libs," the conservative movement must stand for standards, for the rule of law as well as for rules that may be tacit and lack the force of law yet make it possible for people with differing interests, values, and political beliefs to co-exist in relative peace and security.

It's not easy to defend rules when they feel inconvenient, delay immediate gratification, or provoke hypocrisy. The Silent Sam controversy at UNC-Chapel Hill is a case in point. Wherever you think the statue should ultimately reside, do you really want to live in a society where people think they can take the law into their own hands if they conclude that following the rules will not immediately get them what they want?

If you believe that the "other side" is being unreasonable or hypocritical, by all means call them out. But don't lapse into whataboutism. Don't let explanations become excuses. And don't call people chumps for following the rules — particularly if your goal is to advance conservatism.

*John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) is chairman of the John Locke Foundation and appears on "NC SPIN," broadcast statewide Fridays at 7:30p and Sundays at 12:30p on UNC-TV.*

# The ideal New Year's Resolution for 2019

While many are fretting over the just-right Christmas present, tackling last-minute holiday details or preparing for years-end, many of North Carolina's high school seniors have the added stress of preparing applications for college.

Unless you parent a high school student it is hard to understand the intense pressure and competition in getting accepted into schools of their choosing. It's not uncommon for students to apply to as many as 15 institutions, a time consuming and expensive process. Many believe their future success depends on this one decision.

Why so much pressure? Beginning in elementary grades we directly or indirectly impress on students that future happiness and financial well-being depends on a college degree. Our college-oriented school curriculum is predicated on the belief that everyone can and should get a college degree. This mantra has become accepted truth.

The My Future NC Commission engaged a Gallop organization study and 94 percent of those surveyed affirmed it was important to complete

a degree or certification program after high school, adding the additional education helps to get a good job and a good job helps them have a high quality of life.

There is a huge disconnect between our conditioning, however, and reality. Only 34 percent of North Carolina adults have an associate or higher degree, according to the Hunt Institute.

That disconnect gets even worse. North Carolina invests almost \$10,000 per year for each student in grades k-12. After graduation, we continue to contribute significant state moneys for in-state students at our public universities and community colleges and provide tuition tax credits for private schools. Sadly, we have no pathway, no real plan to invest in those not travelling the higher education road.

Perhaps we don't want to admit the obvious truth that some can't or don't want college. Maybe we just aren't sure how to

develop a sophisticated alternative track or aren't willing commit the funding necessary to do so. Whatever the reasons, however, the result is discrimination bordering on elitism, essentially picking winners and losers.

Don't get us wrong. We know the benefits of a higher education degree and encourage every student to consider that path, but we also ac-

knowledge that two-thirds won't get that degree. Many European countries have a plan, starting as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, where students choose between a college curriculum or a vocational track. North Carolina has paid lip service to the concept, but we are too timid to acknowledge that college isn't for everyone and haven't put our determination, best efforts or real money behind the concept.

Imagine a program where the first two years of high school are the traditional curriculum. Beginning year three, time is split between a choice of structured vocational programs (employing our

community colleges) with subsidized internships or work programs, a path that could require two or more years, depending on the vocational path chosen.

Think of the great advantages. Many more would be better trained and earn higher incomes, benefiting our economy as well as public tax coffers. Employers, already complaining about finding workers with needed skills, would fill vacant job openings. If we are willing to pay companies thousands of dollars to bring new jobs to our state, why not invest in people on the front end? Businesses want to come where there's a ready work force.

That's a New Year's resolution worth making... and keeping!

*Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of NC SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of NC issues that airs on UNC-TV main channel Fridays at 7:30pm, Sundays 12:30pm and UNC North Carolina Channel Fridays at 10:00pm, Saturdays at 4:00pm and Sundays at 10:00am. Contact him at [www.ncspin.com](http://www.ncspin.com).*



**My Spin**  
By Tom Campbell

## Letters to the Editor

# Leaders should address effects of climate change realistically

### To the editor:

James Andrews' letter (10/25/18) challenging the man-made climate change theory was quite refreshing. I agree with him. I call it cosmic change; a small chapter in earth's 4 billion year history.

The two letters in last week's paper (12/13/18) suggest mankind is likely the culprit and that we Americans should support a carbon tax to atone for our portion. The letters ironically counter the French protests of their new carbon tax. Canada may soon be facing a similar circumstance. Half the global civilized population do not subscribe to indicting man for global warming and oppose Western leaders' methods to address it. This resistance, aligned with the fact that emerging powers

China, India, and Brazil will not abandon their fossil fuel dependent industrial growth, highlights the fruitless effort in North America and Western Europe to fractionally reduce emissions in hopes it will make a global difference. It's pretentious. Even if carbon emissions are the cause it's like throwing billions of dollars into the wind.

A Harris-Mann Climatology study covering over 4500 years [2500BC-2040AD forecast] shows 78 major temperature cycles. It identifies 5 major warming periods. The hottest one, recorded around 1100 BC, makes this current one look tame. The coldest and longest period in the 4500 year study [AD 1400-1900], called the "little ice age", has recently, in cosmic time, ended.

It only makes sense that sea and air temperatures, pole ice, glaciers, fauna, flora, and other natural phenomena are reacting to this long term climate change. Several studies similar to this one suggest that global warming and cooling are primarily the result of long-term climatic cycles, solar activity, and sea-surface temperature patterns. Scientists like Harris and Mann suggest that humans are contributing to this global cocktail but that the alarmists' outcry and demand for bureaucratic-laden programs are expensive, ineffective, and misdirected.

Don't let anyone mislead you into thinking Carbon Act HR 7173 will pay a cash dividend to each American. There's a catch; any for-profit company paying a carbon

tax will invariably get it back from the consumer through product pricing. The term "sleight of hand" comes to mind. The only winners will be the bureaucrats feeding at the public trough in a newly created Federal Carbon Tax Department. Contrary to the writers' request to ask Congressman Mark Walker's support of the Act, urge Walker to oppose it.

Global leaders and governments need to address the effects of climate change realistically and purposefully by developing methods, institutions, and treaties that allow for acceptance and adaptation to, rather than mitigation of, warming. Mankind will never conquer Mother Earth and the Universe.

**Philip H. Johnson**  
Siler City

[www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com)

# Survey finds sportfish in hurricane-affected rivers

### From N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

RALEIGH — Nearly three months after Hurricane Florence caused substantial fish kills in many coastal rivers in North Carolina, fisheries biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission have found largemouth bass, sunfish and crappie in all rivers surveyed to date, albeit in reduced numbers.

After Hurricane Florence made landfall in southeastern North Carolina on Sept. 14, fisheries biologists documented isolated fish kills in most rivers east of I-95 from South Carolina to the Virginia state line, and major fish kills in the lower Cape Fear, Northeast Cape Fear and Waccamaw rivers. Fish kills were mainly due to significant declines in dissolved oxygen levels, rather than contaminants, pollution or

other factors. The lower sections of these rivers were devoid of oxygen and unsuitable for aquatic life for more than 30 days.

After dissolved oxygen levels returned to normal, biologists began conducting electrofishing surveys to determine the extent and severity of the fish kills.

"Although their abundance was below normal, we found largemouth bass, crappie and redear sunfish in the Northeast Cape Fear, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers," said Kyle Rachels, the Commission's District 4 fisheries biologist.

Although spawning populations for most species will be low next spring, in the absence of competition and predation, it is not unusual to see successful reproduction following fish kill events, Rachels added.

"Because, it takes five to seven years or more for

some species to naturally recover to pre-hurricane levels, we will supplement populations by stocking white catfish, channel catfish, redear sunfish and largemouth bass in many of our southeastern rivers next summer," Rachels said.

Stocking rates and locations will be recommended based on additional surveys conducted in spring 2019 to determine adult abundance. Fish produced for stocking will be released during the early summer in most cases. Staff biologists will conduct follow-up surveys in the affected rivers during the fall of 2019 to document natural recruitment and survival of stocked fingerlings.

The striped bass population in the Cape Fear was also impacted by Hurricane Florence as many adult fish were present in fish kills especially in the Wilmington area.



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# Dennis Streets oversees Chatham Council on Aging



This week, we speak with Dennis W. Streets, the executive director of the Chatham Council on Aging, about the council's work and services. Streets joined the council in 2014 after retiring as director of the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. His other work experience includes government service with the State Division of Social Services and the Triangle J Area Agency on Aging, time in the private sector as director

of a non-profit long-term care organization (The Evergreens in Guilford County) and as a professional relations representative with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. In addition, he spent time as coordinator of the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Streets was co-editor of the book *The Field of Adult Services*, published in 1995. Among his professional honors are the 2015 Appreciation Award, presented by the

N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature; the 2014 Leadership Excellence Award in the Field of Aging of the N.C. Association on Aging; the 2014 Margaret Hart Hardee Preeminence in Aging Award of the N.C. Association of Area Agencies on Aging; the 2012 Presidential Award of the N.C. Association on Aging; the 2008 Jim Long Outstanding SHIIP Service Award from the N.C. Dept. of Insurance; the 2007 Jane Kennedy Excellence in Aging Award of the Southeastern

Association of Area Agencies on Aging; and the 2000 Executive Leader of the Year Award of the NC Association on Aging. Streets earned his BA in Political Science, a Masters in Public Health (with a concentration in Health Administration and Policy), and a Masters in the Arts of Teaching from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He's a long-time resident of Chatham County, and his wife, Dawn, is a teacher at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School.



Dennis Streets

## Older population growing in Chatham County

### What is the main focus of the Chatham County Council on Aging right now, considering the trending up of the older population in the county?

Recent population estimates and projections from the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management continue to show the "graying" of Chatham. While as of 2017, nearly a third of Chatham's population were aged 60 or older — and by 2037, it is projected that four in 10 Chatham residents will have already celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The growth of Chatham's older population is outpacing other age groups — most dramatic is the projected increase among those aged 85 and older. While today those 85-plus compose about 10 percent of the older population, by 2037, they are projected to represent more than 16 percent. This is important as the oldest of our population

may be most in need of assistance.

The Chatham County Council on Aging takes the short and long view of what to do in preparing for and responding to these demographics. Its mission has remained much the same since the Council was established as a nonprofit organization in July 1974. Through a wide range of programs and services, the Council promotes independent living and wellness. It also recognizes the importance of supporting family caregivers, promoting volunteerism and engaging the entire community to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population.

### Can you tell us about the comprehensive aging plan for Chatham County and why there's a need for it?

A recent article in *Governing*, a national magazine, reported that the census tract with the highest estimated life

expectancy in the United States is in Chatham — "a wealthy enclave" between Ferrington Village and The Preserve at Jordan Lake. Chatham holds a notable distinction that reveals work to be done to assure a long and healthy life expectancy for all. Based on the most recent figures, Chatham ranks fourth highest in North Carolina for life expectancy at 81.2 years — but also among the highest in the difference in life expectancy between whites and African-Americans.

To help address this disparity and promote a healthy and long life for all Chatham residents, the Council on Aging collaborates with many community partners to address factors vital to safe and quality living. Toward that end, the Council recently led an effort to develop a comprehensive aging plan for Chatham.

With assistance from graduate students of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, this five-year aging plan for 2018-2023, outlines

steps vital to addressing major areas of concern for Chatham seniors and their families: housing, transportation, health care, home care services and caregiving, and social connectedness and community engagement.

### What is the Council's focus for the current crop of seniors and their needs?

While planning for the future of aging is essential, so is addressing seniors' current needs. For those at risk at home, the Council offers Meals on Wheels, in-home personal care, minor home modification and repair, loaning of assistive equipment, and arranging transportation to medical appointments. Many of these seniors are among the quarter of those aged 65 and older who live alone in Chatham.

The December 7th cover story of the Triangle Business Journal was "The Extraordinary Rise in Number of Elder Orphans" (*written by the*

*News + Record's Zach Horner*). The article's statistics are compelling. More than 20 percent of Americans are at risk of being alone as they age and there is a decreasing number of potential family caregivers.

For family caregivers, the backbone of long term care, the Council offers a support group, training, and occasional respite, although there is currently a waiting list. Additionally, the Council maintains a list of sitters while encouraging users to do thorough reference checks.

To help those not homebound but struggling with independent living, the Council provides a noon-day lunch Monday through Friday through its two state-designated "Senior Centers of Excellence." Participants also enjoy various educational, social, and recreational activities. The Council arranges transportation to its centers through Chatham Transit.

### What does the Council offer in

### terms of keeping individuals active and engaged as they get older?

The quote — "The idea is to die young as late as possible" — is attributed to anthropologist Ashley Montagu. Healthy aging is something to which all can aspire but is not always easy to achieve. Still, there are ways to progress toward this goal.

Exercise is certainly a key factor and the Council on Aging does its part to promote physical fitness. There is no shortage of opportunities as participants enjoy the fitness rooms and exercise classes at the Council's Pittsboro and Siler City Centers. Persons aged "50 and better" can participate in Chatham's Senior Games and Silver Arts competition, which the Council coordinates. Among North Carolina's 53 local/regional programs, Chatham ranked fourth highest in percent growth in participation between 2016 and 2018.

For those not up for friendly competition, there is plenty more to do. The Council has a hiking group, a men's group, a new photography class, wood carving, a wide array of other activities and special events (see [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org)).

Two recent events included a Salute to Veterans celebration and Chatham's second Senior Education Conference. Coordinated with Cooperative Extension, the all-day education conference at Chatham's Agriculture and Conference Center featured a rich schedule of workshops.

### How have you seen the community support the work of the Council and how important is that work?

This narrative gives only a glimpse of the Council's programs. While seen as the primary portal for seniors and their families, its success depends on the efforts of a large pool of dedicated volunteers, many community partners, and the contributions of citizens committed to helping seniors remain living safely at home. The Council's Medicare counseling, tax assistance, scam alerts, emergency assistance and other activities stem from this broad support.

While financial donations are vital to helping the Council reduce wait lists for such services as respite and in-home personal care, so too are the inconspicuous acts of those who perform selfless good deeds for friends, neighbors and strangers. It could be a family raking a senior's yard or clearing snow from steps. It's the teenager who visits an elderly neighbor. It's the church who builds a ramp or takes responsibility for a Meals on Wheels route. It's the law enforcement officer who does a wellness check on a senior living alone, or the public health nurse providing flu vaccinations to the homebound.

The African proverb of "it takes a village" not only extends to children but to meeting the needs and interests of Chatham's growing older population.

## At Paul Braxton Gym Pittsboro Youth Theatre to present 'Annie Jr.' in Siler City on Dec. 20

### CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — The Pittsboro Youth Theater will perform the musical "Annie Jr." at the former Paul Braxton School, 126 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Siler City, on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Joy Roberts, 919-663-6159 or 469-358-7469.

## Deadline to Register for Federal Hurricane Florence Assistance Extended to Dec. 19

### CN+R Staff Report

BURGAW -- The deadline for North Carolinians who suffered damage during Hurricane Florence to apply for federal help has been extended to December 19.

Gov. Cooper requested the extension to give North Carolinians more time to take the critical step of applying for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Recovery efforts in North Carolina following Hurricane Florence continue to progress, with now more than \$1 billion in state and federal resources approved for people in the state.

The first step in applying for assistance is to register with FEMA. The deadline to register has been extended to December 19, at 11:59 p.m.

"We want to make sure that our hurricane survivors get the help they need to get their lives back on track," Cooper said. "I urge anyone impacted by Hurricane Florence to register with FEMA right away."

For more information on North Carolina's recovery from Hurricane Florence, visit [ncdps.gov/Florence](http://ncdps.gov/Florence) and [FEMA.gov/Disaster/4393](http://FEMA.gov/Disaster/4393).



A visit by Rudolph was spotted in the woods of Chatham last week, seemingly getting ready for a night of flying Santa's presents coming up. But Rudolph seems to be missing his antlers. With the magic of a paintbrush on the computer, photographer Jeff Davis has turned this doe's nose into a red-nosed deer. Don't worry kids, the real Rudolph will be visiting soon! (Photo illustration by Jeff Davis)

## NCDA&CS announces specialty crop block grant recipients

### CN+R Staff Report

RALEIGH — The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced funding for 16 projects from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in 2018

"North Carolina received over \$1.2 million in funding to enhance the quality of specialty crops grown in our state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve

Troxler. "The selected projects range from pest maintenance and production improvements to marketing and social media campaigns."

North Carolina's specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, Christmas trees, turfgrass and sod, and nursery and greenhouse crops. Grant proposals were submitted by nonprofit organizations,

commodity groups, government agencies and universities.

2018 grant recipients and selected projects are:

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association – Evaluating the Efficacy of Organic Pesticides

N.C. Christmas Tree Association – Building Brand Awareness among Millennial Families.

N.C. Potato Association – Enhancement of N.C.

Potato Markets

N.C. Sod Producers Association – Turfgrass Sod Social Media Campaign

N.C. State University – Automation in Container Nursery Weed Control; Biochar: Generating Profitability on Sandy Soil; Biosurveillance of Cucurbit Downy Mildew; Breeding Blueberry Cultivars for Mechanical Harvest; Control of

Invasive Nematodes in Sweet Potato; CRISPR-Based Genome Editing in Christmas Trees; Improving N.C. Pumpkin Production and Marketing; Integrated Management of Rapid Apple Decline; North Carolina Hop Breeding Phase II; Production of Landscape/Forest Hemlock Seedlings; Towards Adelgid-Tolerant Christmas Trees

PHARMN – Creating a North Carolina Ginseng Seed Source.

Wishing our readers a very Merry Christmas!

# Living in Chatham

## Kitchen Kapers

(or Good Grief, It's supptime again')

By Mary John and Alan Resch

### By Mary John Resch

Steve's family is Italian, and they introduced me to the Italian dessert: tiramisu. Whenever we go to an Italian restaurant, Steve, the kids and I split one order of tiramisu. When I saw this recipe, I liked how it gave a cookie the flavor of tiramisu. My family agreed the cookies hit the spot.

### TIRAMISU COOKIES

Cookies:  
2 cups all purpose flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature  
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1 tsp rum extract

### Filling:

8 oz marscarpone (sweet Italian Cream Cheese), room temperature  
3 Tbsp unsalted butter, room temperature  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
1 tsp instant coffee granules  
2 cups powdered sugar  
1 Tbsp cinnamon plus 1/2 tsp for dusting  
1/2 tsp cocoa powder for dusting

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line 2-3 baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

Cookies: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, salt and baking powder, then set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream butter, 1 cup of sugar, vanilla and rum extract until light and fluffy, about 3-5 minutes. Add the egg and beat until combined. Slowly add the flour mixture and mix until well combined.

Using a small cookie scoop or a tablespoon, portion out the dough and roll into balls. Place 1/2 cup of sugar in a small bowl and roll each ball in the sugar before placing on the parchment covered baking sheets. Use the bottom of a glass to press the dough balls flat. Bake for 9-10 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet, then move to a wire rack to cool completely.

Filling: Combine marscarpone and 3 Tbsp of butter in a mixing bowl and beat to combine using a hand mixer. In a small bowl, mix together the vanilla extract and the instant coffee until the coffee crystals dissolve. Add to the marscarpone/butter mixture. Slowly add the powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Turn half the cooled cookie over and pipe or spread about 1 tsp of filling onto the bottom of the cookie and top with another cookie. Mix cocoa powder and cinnamon. Dust tops of cookies. Store in airtight container in the refrigerator.

### Builders group chooses president

#### CN+R Staff Report

**DURHAM** -- Eric Chupp, Vice President of Capkov Ventures, Inc. was installed as the 58<sup>th</sup> President of the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange, &

Chatham Counties in installation ceremonies on December 13 in Durham.

Leon Meyers, BuildSense and North Carolina Housing Hall of Fame Inductee, formally installed Chupp.

### WALTER EDWARD BOGGS

Walter Edward Boggs, 84, of Sanford, died Sunday, (12-09-2018) at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Saturday, (12-15-2018) with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

He was born in Moore County, on August 16, 1934 to the late Eddie McGill Boggs and Ettie Florence Frye Boggs. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his sister, Lula Belle Hudson and a son, Ronald F. Boggs. Mr. Boggs worked as a supervisor for Whiten-Roberts Company until his retirement.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Faye Bullard Boggs; son, Stephen Edward Boggs of Aberdeen; daughter, Ann Boggs Parker of Aberdeen; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to Vass United Methodist Church, PO Box 628, Vass, NC 28394.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

### ALLENE WARD MOODY

Allene Ward Moody, 93, of Siler City died Thursday, (12-13-2018).

The funeral was held Sunday, (12-16-2018) at 2 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church, Siler City with Rev. Bill Browder officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Moody was born in Chatham County on October 9, 1925, the daughter of Archie and Blanche (Simmerson) Ward. Allene had worked at Chatham Hospital as a CNA. She was a homemaker and member of Mt. Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Henry Moody; brothers, Womack, Henderson and Ernest Ward.

Survivors include her daughters, Alma M. Barker of Sanford, Jean

## Area Obituaries

Continued from Page A3

and Son Funeral Home.

### SAMUEL LEE COVINGTON

Samuel Lee Covington, 68, of Sanford passed on Sunday, (12-16-2018) at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

### DERRICK DION WILLIAMS, JR.

Mr. Derrick Dion Williams, Jr., 24, of Sanford passed on Friday, (12-14-2018) at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford. Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home.

### ALFONZO WEATHERS

Alfonzo Weathers, 72 of Broadway, passed on Saturday, (12-15-2018) at Central Carolina Hospital. Visitation was held Wednesday, (12-19-2018) from 12 to 1 p.m. at Faith Christian Fellowship in Spring Lake. The funeral was held after visitation at 1 p.m. at Faith Christian Fellowship. Interment followed in Lee memory Garden in Sanford. Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

### DIEGO ORTIZ VALERIO

Diego Ortiz Valerio, of Siler City passed on Friday, (12-07-2018) at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill. Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

### ALFRED GRAVES, SR.

Mr. Alfred Graves, Sr., 91, of Siler City passed on Thursday (12-13-2018) at Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro. Arrangements by Knotts and Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

### MARY LOUISE JORDAN

Ms. Mary Louise Jordan, 89, of Siler City passed on Sunday, (12-16-2018) at UNC in Chapel Hill. Arrangements by: Knotts & Son Funeral Home.

### GLORIA MAY PAYNE

Mrs. Gloria Mae Payne, 80, of Bear Creek, passed away on Friday, (12-14-2018) at UNC Hospital. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

### E. DANICE HANNER

Mrs. E. Danice Hanner, 72, of Siler City, passed on Saturday, (12-15-2018) at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. Arrangements by: Knotts

# CHRISTMAS CANTATA

## "PEACE HAS COME"

Sunday, December 23  
@ 11:00AM

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SILER CITY is located at 314 North Second Avenue, Siler City

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24, 2018  
at the  
First Baptist Church  
of Siler City  
314 N. Second Avenue  
Siler City, North Carolina  
5:00pm

Join us for Carol Singing, Communion, and Special Music

**Scooters Power Chairs Lift Chairs**  
LiteRider™ Compact, portable, quickly disassembled for transport or storage.



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### BEAR CREEK BAPTIST DEC. 24 SERVICE

Looking for a meaningful way to spend a few minutes on Christmas Eve? Bear Creek Baptist Church will celebrate its annual Christmas Eve candlelight communion service at 5:30 PM in recognition of the birth of the Christ child, the real reason for the season. Bear Creek Baptist Church is just west of Chatham Central High School, off NC 902. Watch for the sign at the intersection. The public is invited.

### Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through twelfth grade for the 2019-2020 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2019. The application period ends on January 25, 2019. Applications may be obtained online ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) under the "Admissions" link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

Chatham Charter School is a nonprofit, nondenominational public school providing quality education for children of all races, creeds, handicaps, and national origins.

### La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del primer grado hasta el grado doce para el año escolar 2019-2020. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2019. El periodo de aplicación termina el 31 de enero, 2019. Puede obtener una aplicación al Internet ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) al enlace admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todas las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.

- Small Class Size**  
Las clases pequeñas
- Individual Attention**  
Atención individualizada
- Over 30 Middle and High school sports teams offered**  
Ofrecen Mas de 30 equipos de deportes para los grados 6-12



Knights in Service member greets morning car riders.

- Extra Curricular Activities**  
Las actividades extracurriculares
- College Preparatory**  
La preparación de universidad
- Tuition Free**  
Enseñanza gratuita

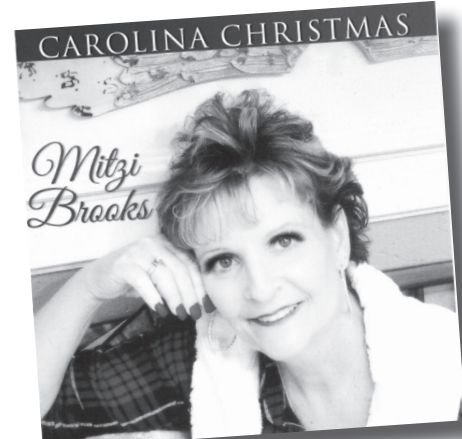
**K-12 Interest Meeting Thursday, January 11, at 6:30pm in the gym.**

**K-12 reunion de informacion, el jueves, 11 de enero 6:30 a las en el gimnasio.**

*Chatham County's own Mitzi Brooks*  
**New Christmas CD-Carolina Christmas**  
Just Released - \$10<sup>00</sup>

#### AVAILABLE AT

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brewer's Grocery - HXR          | Routh's Grocery - Bennett     |
| Harper's Restaurant - HXR       | JR Moore & Son - Gulf         |
| Dry Dock Seafood - Siler City   | Chicken Hut - Robbins         |
| Bestfood Cafeteria - Siler City | Carpenter's Shop - Sanford    |
| Lizzie's Grill - Goldston       | Southern Supreme - Bear Creek |







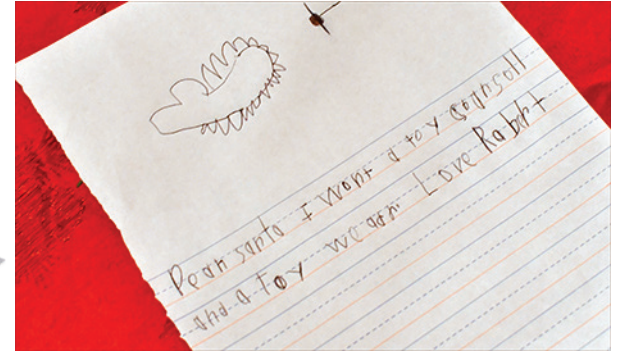
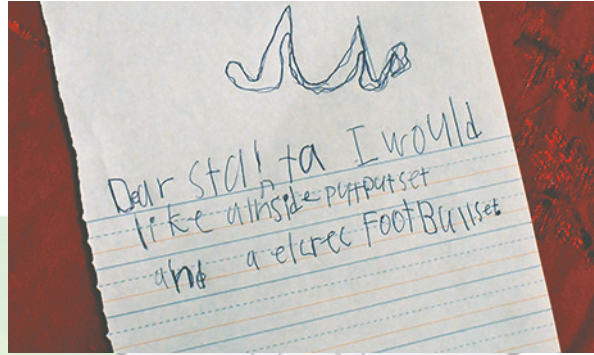
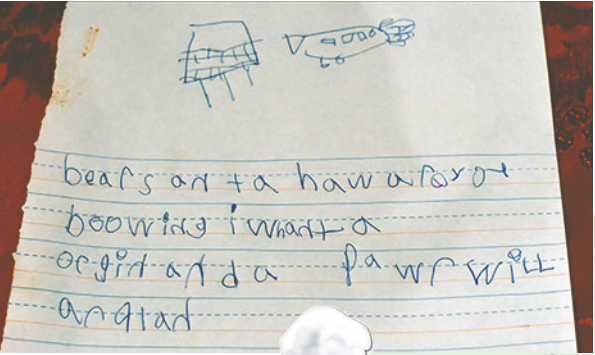
Cooper Karstaedt, above, asked for 'an organ and a powel wheel', a smaller version of a vehicle you can ride on.



Eight year old Parker told Santa he was wanting an inside putt-putt and electric football game.



Robert thinks about it, then says he's asking for toy chainsaw and Weedeater



# LETTERS TO SANTA

By Bob Wachs  
News + Record staff

According to Gene Autry – and a host of other singers, as varied as Bruce Springsteen to Fred Astaire to Justin Bieber – Santa Claus is coming to town and he's watching you.

On top of that, ol' boy Saint Nick is making a list and checking it twice to see who's been naughty or nice. So for many youngsters of all ages, a letter to Santa is either a reminder of year-long good behavior or a last-ditch effort to receive a few of the Christmas goodies he'll have in his sleigh.

These days, while social media and electronic

gadgets are becoming more of the norm for communicating today, a surprising number of youngsters still take pen or pencil to paper to press their case. While the origins of youngsters writing letters to Santa is woven throughout American history with no absolute dates, there are some notable signposts along the way that reveal the tradition and its changes. The Smithsonian Institute says the practice, at least 150 years old, began with letters from Santa, often written by parents trying to encourage better behavior from their children,

instead of letters to him from children making their Christmas present wishes known.

In those early days, the Smithsonian says, Santa was a stern disciplinarian. The first-known image of him in the U.S. shows him in religious garb with a switch in his hand next to a crying child. And the first-known picture book shows him leaving a birch rod in a naughty child's stocking, with a note in which he urges "a Parent's hand to use / When virtue's paths his sons refuse."

It was around the time

of the American Civil War that the image of Santa began to soften, perhaps in response to the horrors and hard times of war. While there was a shift in thought about Santa's nature before the conflict, in part due to such things as Clement Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" with its signature line "Twas the night before Christmas," cartoonist Thomas Nast did much to provide much of the imagery of Santa still with us today.

Nast, drawing for the

then-popular Harper's Weekly, gave us Santa with a white beard and dressed in a red suit. Nast also drew a cartoon in 1871 showing Santa at work at his desk, reading letters from children and separating them into two piles – "letters from naughty children's parents" and "letters from 'good children's parents'."

Eight years later, another Nast cartoon was the first known image of anyone using the U.S. mail system to write to Santa. That drawing shows a youngster dropping a letter addressed to "St. Claus, North Pole" into a mailbox. But by then, the mail system had already been used for several years.

There was a problem in Santa getting his mail, however. The post office either sent the letters to the Dead Letter Office or returned them to the sender. By around 1900, a number of charities and individuals wanted to assume the duties of writing letter from Santa, especially to needy children, but the mail system wasn't especially keen on that idea until a blistering 1906 editorial in The New York Times.

In that opinion piece, the newspaper blasted the post office, saying "The Christmas season has no charm" for its employees, called the agency "unsympathetic" and affected by "red-tape-bound officialdom." So, in a public relations effort, the next year the Postmaster General allowed employees to turn the letters over to those individuals and charities in an effort to respond to the children.

But another problem arose when the folks intent on doing good had to decide if the youngsters really were in need. A number of complaints arose and the program was discontinued.

All was not lost, however. In 1912, new Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock issued an order saying that all letters addressed "plainly and unmistakably to Santa Claus" were to be delivered to "responsible" individuals or institutions." And in 1913, the decision was made permanent.

Recent history has also had an effect on the practice, including several years in the 1960s when Johnny Carson read some of the letters on The Tonight Show. In 1989, Santa got his own ZIP Code.

So want to drop Santa a note? Try this address: Santa Claus, Santa Claus Main Post Office, FI-96930, Arctic Circle. Just remember that with all the letters he gets, Santa often uses helpers to get them all answered. Want to know more? If you're interested, the post office can give you more information and tell you how to help.

Post office staffers in Chatham County say while the volume isn't overwhelming locally, they have received a number of letters addressed to the jolly man with the white beard in the red suit. All those letters are forwarded to a central collection location where Santa's "helpers" show him the letters and help with replies.

Among the youngsters taking advantage of writing to Santa are the Karstaedt brothers of Pittsboro. Eight-year old Parker and 6-year old twins Cooper and Robert have some pretty specific ideas about what they'd like to see under their tree come Christmas morning. Parker told Santa he wanted an "inside Putt-Putt and an electric football." Apparently, he's into sports and feels he's qualified to get those gifts because, as he says, "I've been good."

His brother Robert qualifies that by noting that Parker is good "most of the time." While Robert doesn't ask for athletic or sports gifts, he does have a taste for the outdoors. "I want a toy chainsaw and weedeater," he wrote to Santa. Meanwhile, Cooper is passing on all those kinds of items and sees his request for an organ as a natural progression from the piano and the lessons he's taking on the ivories.

Will Santa be able to fill all those requests? Time will tell but the boys – and hundreds of other youngsters across both county and country – say they're not ready to give up on the whole idea.

After all, if not this year, there's always next.

Staff photos by

Jeff Davis



An inpromptu mailbox for Santa sits outside a home in Moncure as a decoration. After over 150 years, kids are still sending Santa Claus their Christmas wishes.

## At the movies

# 'Stan & Ollie' is loving, heartfelt tribute to comedy legends

"Stan & Ollie" is a loving, heartfelt hagiography that's as comfy and inoffensive as one of its titular duo's comedic acts. Indeed, long stretches of the tidy 97-minute running time are spent recreating the routines of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, on- and off-stage. There's a delightful soft-shoe they perform during the film "Way Out West." There's a confusing bit of misdirection as they attempt to rendezvous at a train station. And, of course, there's their famous catch-phrase, "Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into!" and their theme song, "The Dance of the Cuckoos."

If nothing else, director Jon S. Baird's mellow material sheds a much-deserved spotlight back on nearly forgotten comedy geniuses, once two of Hollywood's most bankable stars. Laurel & Hardy appeared together in over one-hundred films that bridged the silent film era to talkies. Their formula was straightforward: slapstick involving a fat man and his short, skinny pal. But as Baird and screenwriter Jeff Pope reinforce, their success was more than simple silliness. The

English-born Laurel and Georgia-born Hardy, the son of a Confederate veteran, were opposites who produced acute alchemy together.

The film opens with a six-minute tracking shot set in 1937, at the height of Laurel & Hardy's popularity. The duo walk about Hal Roach Studios, discussing their daily lives and careers before Laurel (Steve Coogan) confronts Roach over a contract dispute and then he and Hardy (John C. Reilly) film the "Way Out West" dance sequence. The film then segues to 1953, with a much-older Laurel and Hardy arriving in Great Britain for a stage-show tour they hope will fuel a comeback film, a Robin Hood spoof named "Rob 'Em Good." It's been eight years since their last studio picture, and the two find themselves playing to sparse houses in third-rate theaters. However, their aging diehard fans are out there, and once Laurel and Hardy accept the indignity of doing a plethora of PR, the crowds grow and propel the tour all the way to London's Lyceum Theater and beyond.

However, Laurel learns early on that funding for his pie-in-the-sky film project has dried up, yet keeps that info from his partner until a failing

heart pushes Hardy to the edge of retirement mid-tour. That anxiety exposes fissures in their relationship, a profession-



al success that never fully translated to personal respect. The friction extends to their oil-and-water spouses, Lucille Hardy (Shirley Henderson) and Ida Laurel (Nina Arianda), who exchange their own barbs along the way.

Still, the narrative tension never rises above a simmer, as "Stan & Ollie" doesn't want to risk tarnishing its protagonists' halo. Indeed, the stage is never far removed from the film's vision of reality. Baird projects slapstick routines into Laurel and Hardy's everyday lives, like a sequence where

they struggle to lug luggage upstairs. And while Coogan and Reilly's physical performances are

### Neil Morris Reviews

**Stan & Ollie**  
Grade: B -  
Director: Jon S. Baird  
Starring: Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Shirley Henderson, Nina Arianda, and Danny Huston  
MPAA Rating: PG-13  
Running Time: 1 hr. 37 min.

sublime, their dialogue delivery often sounds like an extension of their stilted, vaudevillian diction, as if actors from that era spoke during everyday life the same way they did on the sound stage.

The net effect is to negate the notion that we're delving deep into the psyche of either comedian. Instead, "Stan & Ollie" is a sweet salute to two superstars and the ups and downs of their stardom. It's also a film that not nearly as elaborate as the average Laurel & Hardy gag.



Steve Coogan, left, plays Laurel while John C. Reilly, right portrays Hardy in the movie Stan and Ollie



A volunteer sorts through an armory full of toys, bicycles and presents for needy families last week. The donations poured in for The Salvation Army's drive to help out families this Christmas. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

## CCCC medical program graduates 475 students

### From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Approximately 475 people are the most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College's Continuing Education Medical Programs, which held its graduation on Dec. 13 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

The certificate areas include Cardiovascular Monitor Technician, Central Sterile Processing, EMS Leadership, EMT, Laboratory Assistant, Massage Therapy, Medical Billing and Coding, Nurse Aide I, Nurse Aide II, Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, and Physical Therapy Aide.

Tanner Whitt, a Nurse Aide I graduate who attended class in Chatham County, was among the student speakers. "Everyone deserves dignity in care," he said. "That is the lesson I have learned during clinical rotation and is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Nurse Aide I graduates Kaleigh Diniz, Janet Casanova, and Kiara Jones, who attended

class in Harnett County, each spoke. Diniz said, "No matter who you are or what you have been through, you can do anything if you set your mind to do it ... You can be anything you want to be." Casanova said, "It's never too late to go back and continue your education, and CCCC is a great place with the best teachers that like to help you achieve your goal." Jones said, "So don't let anyone, including yourself, deter you or tell you that you can't do something, or that you won't achieve anything. Or that you're not going down the right path, because I'm here to tell you that you can and that your path is yours to choose."

Nayeli Navichoque, a Nurse Aide I graduate who attended class in Lee County, commented, "One of the most important things that I have also learned is that you have to have passion for what you're doing. This way, everything you do for someone, you do it with love and care."

For more information about Continuing Education Medical Programs, call (919) 718-7500.

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Miles Bell, Duke Energy Lineworker

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# CRIME REPORTS

## SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

On December 15, Thomas DeAndre Baldwin, 29, of Bear Creek, was arrested for felony larceny of a motor vehicle, felony possession of a motor vehicle, driving while license revoked, failure to maintain lane change, and hit/run leave the scene. He was held under a secured \$5,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court on January 7.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

uled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 17.

On December 12, Jackie Tilley, 38, of 85 Jordan Grove Rd, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Justin Brown for probation violation. He was jailed under a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Rutherford County District Court in Rutherfordton on January 14.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

bezzlement, larceny by employee. He was jailed under a \$7,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on December 21.

On December 16, Vanquas Scotton, 31, of 215 Fletcher Siler Rd, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Will Cockman for assault on a female. He was jailed under a mandatory 48-hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 2.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On December 7, Carrie Allred, 30, of 47 Creason Dr, Siler City was arrested by Deputy Israel Foxx for posses methamphetamine, simple possess SCH II CS (M), simple possess SCH IV CS (M). She was jailed under a \$10,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

Jackie Tilley, 38, of 85 Jordan Grove Rd, Siler City, was arrested on December 7 by Deputy Will Cockman for Breaking & Entering, Larceny after breaking and entering, larceny of motor vehicle, possess stolen motor vehicle. He was jailed under a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

On December 8, Sean Bancroft, 40, of 3035 Silk Hope Gum Springs Rd, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for fondling, sexual battery, statutory sex offense with child. He was jailed under a \$250,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

Kenneth Marl, 35, of 107 Sir Richard Lane, Chapel Hill, was arrested on December 10 by Deputy Johnny Griffin for larceny by employee. He was released under a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

On December 10, Thomas Laney, 36, of 421 Jack Bennett Rd, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Investigator Brent Fonville for common law robbery, attempted robbery with firearm/dangerous weapon, assault on female, communicating threats, common law robbery. He was jailed under a \$280,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

Thomas Laney, 36, of 421 Jack Bennett Rd, Chapel Hill, was arrested on December 12 by Deputy Greg Barrett for failure to comply with pretrial release. He was jailed under a \$10,000 secured bond and is sched-

Brandon Kelly, 28, of 42 Cross and Taylor Rd, Moncure, was arrested on December 12 by Deputy Daniel Ortega for probation violation. He was jailed under a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 2.

On December 14, Garlon Hackney, 63, of 353 Bynum Church Rd, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Dexter Jarmon for Failure to comply with judgement of the court. He was jailed under a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 8.

Trevor Felts, 24, of 691 Stage Coach Rd, Siler City, was arrested on December 14 by Deputy Bryan Andersen for possession stolen motor vehicle, obtain property false pretense. He was jailed under a \$1,000 unsecured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

On December 14, Catherine Jones, 59, of 75 Dover Rd, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for warrant service for other jurisdiction. She was jailed under a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on December 31.

Jacob Dowd, 20, of 849 Glover's Grove Church Rd, Bear Creek, was arrested on December 15 by Deputy Brandal Harrington for burglary/breaking & entering, trespass of real property, injury to real property. He was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

On December 15, Lisa Thomas, 33, of 149 Bonlee Bennett Rd, Bonlee, was arrested by Deputy Grant Carter for larceny, trespassing. She was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Siler City on January 15.

Gina Riaz, 27, of 175 Fletcher Siler Rd, Siler City,

was arrested on December 16 by Deputy Will Cockman for simple assault. She was jailed under a mandatory 48-hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 2.

On December 16, Joshua Anderson, 23, of 55 Ernest Teague Rd, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for assault on a female, battery of unborn child. He was jailed under a mandatory 48-hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Siler City on January 8.

Gregory Craft, 39, of 324 Roberson Creek Rd, Pittsboro, was arrested on December 16 by Deputy Johnny Griffin for em-

## NORTH CAROLINA HWY PATROL

On December 11, Jose Luceromendoza of Barker Rd, Bear Creek was traveling south on US 421 when it drove off the right side of the road and overturned. His vehicle came to rest off the southbound shoulder of US 421 on its roof. NOTE: Luceromendoza stated an unknown tractor trailer merged into his travel lane causing him to drive off the road to the right to avoid a collision. He was taken to Chatham Hospital by First Health.

Ines Henry of Forest Ridge Ln, Pittsboro and Karen Ferrier of Millbrook Dr, Pittsboro were traveling north on US-501 on December 12. Henry stopped at the stop light at Fearington Rd. Ferrier's vehicle slowed to stop and then struck Henry's vehicle in the rear. Both vehicles came to rest in the roadway. Ferrier stated that she had on boots that made her slip off the brake.

On December 12, Lakeshia Green of Eveton Rd, Sanford was traveling north on US-1. Green traveled off the roadway to the right and struck an embankment. Green's vehicle came to rest near the area of impact off the roadway. \*\*NOTE\*\* The roadway was snow, ice, and slush covered.

Modesty Alston of Country Manor Est, Siler City was traveling west on Piney Grove Church Rd on December 13. Samantha Tucker of Bish Rd, Staley was traveling south on Old US 421. Alston came to a stop at the intersection and then proceeded to make a left turn onto Old US 421. Alston pulled into the path of Tucker's vehicle and they collided in the intersection. Alston was cited for failure to yield.

On December 15, Clark Fleming of Manor Rock Rd, Siler City was traveling southeast on Lambert Chapel Rd. Fleming rounded a curve, lost control and ran off the road to the right. His vehicle then impacted a tree where it came to rest facing south. The road had been prepared for resurfacing and had some loose asphalt rock on the surface of the roadway. NOTE: Fleming stated that he swerved to avoid a deer that ran into the roadway.

Juan De Jesus Frias-Garcia of Saunders St, Sanford was travelling south on Chatham Church Rd on December 15. Frias-Garcia travelled off the roadway to the right and struck a mailbox and then culvert causing the vehicle to overturn. His vehicle came to rest on its side facing north. Frias-Garcia was cited for exceeding a safe speed for conditions, and failure to maintain lane control.

On December 15, Lauren Cleveland of Springleaf Ct, Holly Springs was travelling south on Moncure Pittsboro RD. Her vehicle crossed the centerline and travelled off the road to the left striking an embankment and then overturning. Her vehicle came to rest on its top facing south. \*\*NOTE\*\* Cleveland swerved to avoid colliding into the rear of two vehicles that were stopped in the roadway.

## Deputies follow tracks to recover stolen four wheeler

**CN+R Staff Report**  
Follow the tracks. That's exactly what Chatham County deputies did to recover a stolen four wheeler earlier this month. Deputies responded to a trespassing call on December 9 near Ridgecrest Drive, Siler City. Once they arrived at the scene, deputies discovered visible four wheeler tracks in the snow. Deputies followed the tracks to a nearby residence. After speaking with witnesses and viewing surveillance footage, deputies verified that the driver of the four wheeler was Jacob Dowd, 20, of 849 Glover's Grove Church Road, Bear Creek. Deputies also discovered that the four wheeler involved was reported stolen.

Dowd was arrested on December 13 and charged with felony possession of stolen property. He was assigned a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.





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**Chatham County Public Health Department**  
Holly Coleman, MS, RS, Health Director  
[www.chathamnc.org/publichealth](http://www.chathamnc.org/publichealth)

# Silk Hope Ruritans announce 2019 officers

The Silk Hope Ruritan Club held its annual Christmas Banquet and 2019 officer's installation ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

Club members and their spouses attended, along with several special guests, includ-

ing widows of deceased members.

Musical entertainment was provided by Ruritan District Lt. Gov. Jeff Neese and his wife, Ronda, before Neese oversaw installation of new club officers for 2019.

Incoming president Neill Lindley will take

over for outgoing president Mike Braxton. Other new officers are Vice President Ned Gaudette, Secretary Paula "Missy" Thompson, Assistant Secretary Daniel Rickard, Treasurer Chelsea Gaudette, Assistant Treasurer Johnny Johnson, and board members Mike Hcken, Conner Tomlinson and Mike Smith.

Special recognitions were given to Rita Rogers, Volunteer of the Year; Jim Brewer, Agri-Business Person of the Year; and Mike Smith, Ruritan of the Year.



Rita Rogers, left, is the Silk Hope Ruritans' 2018 Volunteer of the Year while Mike Smith, right, was honored by Silk Hope Ruritans as their Ruritan of the Year



Pictured are the Silk Hope Ruritan Club's 2019 officers (from left) President Neill Lindley, Vice President Ned Gaudette, Assistant Secretary Daniel Rickard, Secretary Paula "Missy" Thompson, Assistant Treasurer Johnny Johnson, Past President Mike Braxton, and board members Mike Smith and Conner Tomlinson. Not pictured are Treasurer Chelsea Gaudette and board member Mike Hecken



## Blood donors have chance Dec. 24 in Siler City

### CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Emergencies don't take a holiday. The American Red Cross urgently needs blood and platelet donors to make an appointment now to give and help ensure patients can get the treatment they need at a moment's notice.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 20-Jan. 15 include:

Chatham: Siler City, Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chatham County Rescue Squad, 201 S. Second Ave.

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross is to become a volunteer transportation specialist and deliver lifesaving blood products to local area hospitals. Volunteer transportation specialists play a very important role in ensuring an ample blood supply for patients in need by transporting blood and blood products. For more information and to apply for a volunteer transportation specialist position, contact <insert local contact information> or visit [rdcrss.org/driver](http://rdcrss.org/driver).

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.



Siler City Parks and Rec held 'Supper with Santa' recently where the sold-out event featured a catered meal, crafts and a movie.

## Santa has sold out supper in Siler City

### CN+R Staff Report

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department recently held a special event at the Earl B. Fitts Community Center, presenting "Supper With Santa."

The first-time event offered families the opportunity to create crafts in Santa's Workshop, enjoy a catered meal, watch Christmas movies and a enjoy a visit with Santa.

Santa opened the event as he was escorted to the community center by the Siler City Fire Department in a bright red truck to match his bright red suit.

The event was completely sold out, Siler City Parks and Recreation Department officials said, adding they look forward to making the event an annual tradition for the holidays in Siler City."

# MOON'S CHAPEL

## *Baptist Church*

*A chapel of mercy where all are welcome*

---

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR!

DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

10:30AM: Cantata-

*"COME Worship THE Wonderful KING"*

Presented by the Adult Choir

---

6:00PM:

Christmas Communion

DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

*"Carols by Candlelight"*

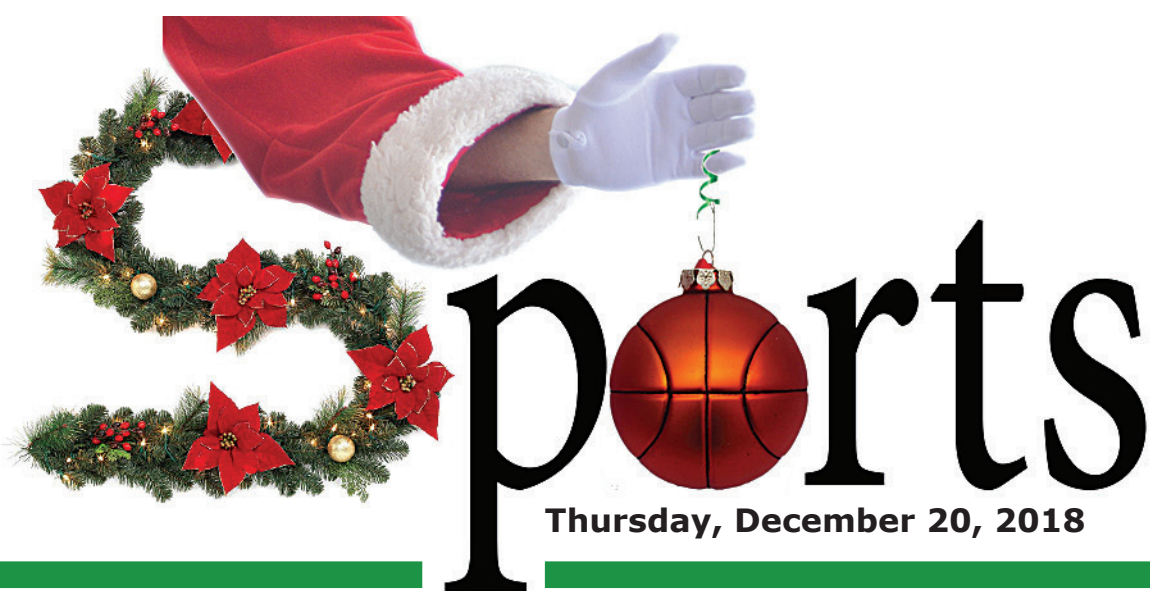
4:00PM and 9:00PM

Join us for a holy evening of joyous praise as we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Savior

JESUS!

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Church Office: (919) 742-4569



# ports

Thursday, December 20, 2018

**JM's Mitchell has double-double**

## Wildcats break tie, hold off Lady Jets

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record staff

April Presnell converted both ends of a one-and-one opportunity with 1:33 to play, breaking a 43-all standoff, before Eastern Randolph sank two-of-four free throws in the final 56 seconds to hold off stubborn Jordan-Matthews 47-44 in the PAC 7 2A Conference opener for both schools Friday night on the winners' court.

The victory lifted the Lady Wildcats to 2-5 for the season, while J-M lost its third consecutive outing in falling to 3-5 overall.

Both teams shot 15-of-46 (33%) from the field while the Lady Jets commanded a huge 42-19 advantage on the boards, but it wasn't enough to overcome 25 turnovers, whereas Eastern Randolph turned the ball over 16 times.

Jordan-Matthews' Jocelyn Mitchell registered a double-double with 20 points and 16 rebounds, while Courtnee Carter tossed in a dozen points and Aniyah King added 10 for the Lady Wildcats.

J-M's only lead in the contest was 3-2 following a Mitchell foul shot with 7:11 to go in the opening stanza prior to Tehya Jordan's jumper from the right wing 23 seconds later that gave Eastern Randolph a one-point advantage which it expanded to 13-7 by the end of the first quarter.

After the Lady Wildcats increased their lead to 18-11 on Lilly Whitaker's three-pointer from beyond the top of the key with 4:52 left in the second period, Mitchell's conventional three-point play plus Avery Headen's jumper off the right baseline two minutes later drew the Lady Jets within two.

But Eastern Randolph then closed out the frame with a 7-4 spurt to carry a 25-20 advantage into intermission.

Following Headen's trey from the right wing with 4:39 remaining in the third stanza that trimmed the margin to 28-27,

See 'Hold' page B2



Lilly Whitaker, center, drives through the defense of Jet defenders Seniah Wiley, left, and Tyrell Brooks at Eastern Randolph Friday night. The Wildcats held off the Jets 47-44. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

## Jets stage comeback at ER, but fall short

**By Duck Duckson**  
News + Record staff

Eastern Randolph built a 16-point third-quarter advantage and appeared to be in control before Jordan-Matthews staged a furious comeback that narrowed the gap to three midway through the fourth period but could pull no closer down the stretch prior to suffering a 73-63 setback to the Wildcats in the 2A Piedmont Athletic Conference opener for both teams Friday evening in Ramseur.

Snapping a three-game losing streak to the Jets, Eastern Randolph raised its overall record to

5-2 while J-M dropped to 3-5 for the year.

Zach Manley topped the Wildcats with 19 points, Braxton Luther finished with 18 and Jalen Jones added 10 for the winners, who shot a phenomenal 62% (28-of-45) from the floor but only 13-of-30 from the foul line while committing 21 turnovers.

Camden Fuquay and Caleel Waden led Jordan-Matthews with 16 points apiece while Xavier Woods chipped in 10 off the bench. The Jets connected on 46% (23-of-50) of their field

See 'Short' page B2



Jet Brayden Teague works on a rebound as Eastern's Jalen Jones, 3, sticks a hand in. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

**Former J-M Jet, Minnesota Viking Defensive coordinator helping make a difference**

## Edwards launches 'birthday club' for foster kids

**BY DON BEANE**  
News + Record Staff

It's been a busy fall for former Jordan-Matthews star and Siler City native George Edwards up in the North Star state.

Edwards and the Minnesota Vikings are on the cusp of once again making the NFL playoffs on the field, while off the field, the Duke University graduate recently founded "The Birthday Club" for foster children.

Currently the Vikings are 7-6-1 after drubbing the Miami Dolphins 41-17 at U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday afternoon in Minnesota.

Edwards, in his 5th season as Defensive Coordinator for the Vikings and 21st season in the NFL, saw his troops limit Ryan Tannehill to just 11-of-24 passing for 108 yards while allowing only 10 points.

Minnesota currently yields just 22.0 points per contest, good for 12th overall in the NFL, while allowing only 314.3 yards per game (4th), including 202.9 (4th) through the air, and 111.4 (13th) on the ground.

Wins by the Vikings in Detroit this Sunday, and at home against Chicago a week later, will almost guarantee Edwards and Minnesota a Wild Card spot out of the North Division in the NFC side of the upcoming

playoffs.

Off the field, Edwards work this fall can only be seen as a huge impact for the youth of the Minneapolis area.

Edwards partnered with The Children's Home Society of Minnesota to launch the inaugural "The Birthday Club" the week of Thanksgiving.

The event provided children in the foster care system with a birthday celebration, food, gifts and games.

Edwards, his wife Jami, and Akin Ayo-dele, who played for Edwards in Buffalo, teamed up to form the program for more than 800 children eligible for adoption in Minnesota.

"It was a joyous event, and I'm glad to be a part of it," said Edwards after the inaugural

celebration. "It was awesome, and you can't put a price on that."

Edwards continued by point

**"It was awesome, and you can't put a price on that."**  
-George Edwards

out making a difference in these kids lives is what it's all about.

"Depending on the situation you grow up in and what's available as far as the resources, there are a number of who aren't settled, and their journey is a little bit tougher," added Edwards. "Giving them this day and letting them know that we're thinking about them and praying for them is what we want to do."

The foundation will be a monthly event for the foster kids in Minnesota.



George Edwards, a Siler City native, left, launched a monthly club for Minnesota foster kids. (Minnesota Viking photo by C. Morgan Engel)

## Hold

(Continued from page B1)

back-to-back Carter hoops ignited an 11-4 quarter-ending burst by the Lady Wildcats that stretched their lead to eight entering the last eight minutes.

Presnell's jumper in the lane with 6:47 to go in the game gave Eastern Randolph its biggest advantage of the evening at 41-32 before Mitchell tallied seven points during an 11-2 Jordan-Matthews run that tied the score at 43-all on her two charity tosses with 1:38 left.

But five seconds later Presnell stepped to the line and canned a pair of free throws to put her team ahead to stay, and foul shots by Brooklyn Rush and King offset a Mitchell free throw in the final minute to secure the Lady Wildcats' win.

**Wildcats 47,  
Jets 44**

J-M 7 13 11 13 - 44

ER 13 12 14 8 - 47

**Jordan-Matthews (3-5, 0-1)** - Glover 2 0-0 4 Ray 0 0-1 0 Mitchell 5 10-13 20 Headen 2 0-0 5 Wiley 1 2-4 4 Scotton 2 0-1 4 Wright 3 1-6 7 Artis 0 0-0 0 TBrooks 0 0-0 0. **Totals 15 13-25 44.**

**Eastern Randolph (2-5, 1-0)** - Carter 4 3-4 12 Rush 1 1-4 3 Jordan 2 1-5 5 King 3 4-10 10 Whitaker 1 1-2 4 Snider 2 1-2 5 Faulkner 0 0-0 0 Moore 0 0-0 0 ABrooks 0 1-2 1 Presnell 2 2-2 7 Brower 0 0-0 0. **Totals 15 14-31 47.**

**Halftime**-Eastern Randolph, 25-20. **Three-point goals**-Jordan-Matthews 1-10 (Headen 1-6, Mitchell 0-2, Wright 0-2); Eastern Randolph 3-10 (Whitaker 1-2, Carter 1-2, Presnell 1-2, Jordan 0-2, King 0-2). **Fouled out**-Jordan, Carter. **Rebounds**-Jordan-Matthews 42 (Mitchell 16); Eastern 19 (King 6). **Turnovers**-Jordan-Matthews 25; Eastern Randolph 16. **Total fouls**-Jordan-Matthews 21; Eastern Randolph 22.

## Short

(Continued from page B1)

ed on 46% (23-of-50) of their field goal attempts and converted 10-of-23 tries from the charity stripe besides holding a 28-26 edge on the glass while turning the ball over 25 times.

Each squad managed to forge a four-point advantage in the initial stanza that featured three lead changes before J-M entered the second quarter up 12-10.

A Landon Collins jumper from the right wing with 6:46 remaining in the second period put Eastern Randolph in front for good at 13-12 and the Wildcats extended the margin to 26-18 on Luther's layup with 2:42 left in the first half prior to Jordan-Matthews cutting the difference to 28-21 at the break.

Eastern Randolph fashioned a 16-point advantage three times in the third stanza, the last instance at 46-30 following Carter Moore's jumper off the right baseline with 2:28 to go in the frame before things got interesting.

At that point Chandler Matthews came off the bench for the Jets and proceeded to fire in a trio of three-pointers over the final two minutes of the period as J-M went on an 11-2 quarter-ending run to pull within 48-41.

Jordan-Matthews then closed the gap to three on three occasions in the fourth period, the final time at 57-54 on Fuquay's bank shot off the right baseline with 4:06 to play.

But Manley and Avery Jones combined for six points over the next minute as the Wildcats stretched their lead out to 63-56 with 3:02 left in the contest and the Jets never got closer than four in the time remaining.

**Wildcats 73,  
Jets 63**

J-M 12 9 20 22 - 63

ER 10 18 20 25 - 73

**Jordan-Matthews (3-5, 0-1)** - Fuquay 7 0-0 16 Waden 4 7-11 16 TMoore 1 0-0 2 Campbell 0 1-2 1 SMOore 0 0-0 0 Teague 1 0-0 2 Woods 5 0-6 10 Causey 1 1-2 4 Matthews 3 0-0 9 Murchison 0 0-0 0 Johnson 1 1-2 3. **Totals 23 10-23 63.**

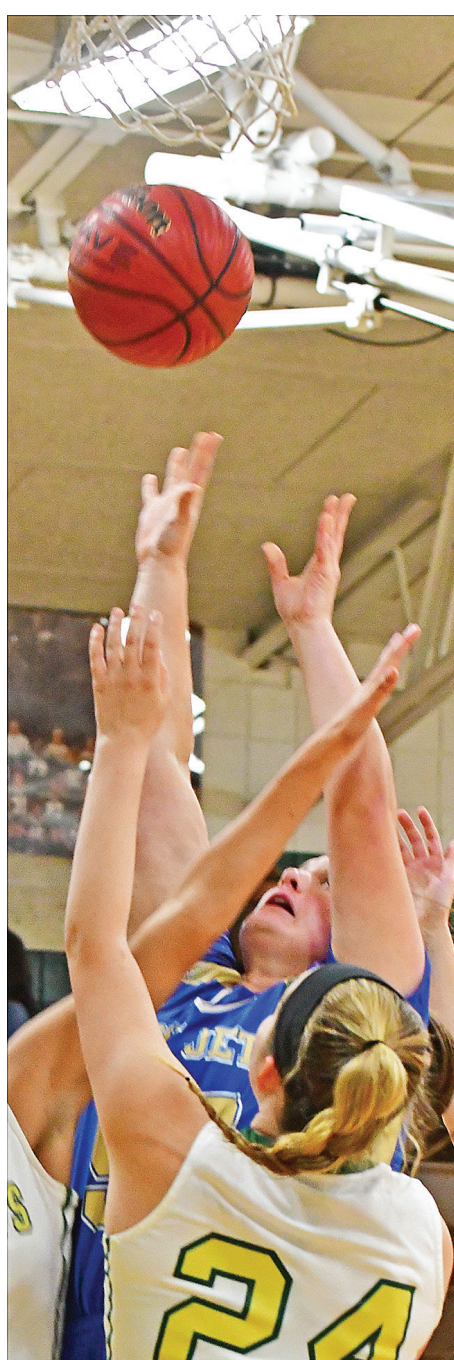
**Eastern Randolph (5-2, 1-0)** - AJones 3 0-0 6 JJones 4 0-0 10 Marley 3 3-7 9 Luther 6 4-7 18 Manley 8 3-6 19 Sotherly 0 2-2 2 Warner 1 1-8 3 Collins 2 0-0 4 CMoore 1 0-0 2 IKidd 0 0-0 0. **Totals 28 13-30 73.**

**Halftime**-Eastern Randolph, 28-21. **Three-point goals**-Jordan-Matthews 7-18 (Matthews 3-7, Fuquay 2-3, Waden 1-2, Causey 1-4, SMOore 0-1, Woods 0-1); Eastern Randolph 4-12 (Luther 2-4, JJones 2-5, Manley 0-1, AJones 0-2). **Fouled out**-Marley, SMOore, Fuquay. **Technical foul**-Marley. **Rebounds**-Jordan-Matthews 28 (Waden 7); Eastern Randolph 26 (AJones 8). **Turnovers**-Jordan-Matthews 25; Eastern Randolph 21. **Total fouls**-Jordan-Matthews 24; Eastern Randolph 21.

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Jets Xavier Woods, 11, Huston Causey, left and Wildcat Avery Jones, 11, can only watch as the ball begins to head out of bounds in basketball action Friday night. Eastern rambled by the Jets 73-63. In the left photo Lady Jet Jocelyn Mitchell pulls down one of her 16 rebounds in the game. Mitchell wound up scoring 20 points to go with the rebounds. They weren't quite enough as Eastern won 47-44. (Staff photos by Jeff Davis)



Chargers have 24 on squad

## PAC-8 names All-Conference for '18

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record staff

The Big Eight 3A Conference has announced its 2018 All-Conference teams in football, volleyball, men's soccer, cross-country, women's soccer, cross-country, women's tennis and women's golf, and a number of Northwood athletes have been recognized for their accomplishments on a variety of varsity squads.

**Brendan Harrington** and **Cameron Goins** were named to the All-Conference football team for the third straight year, while **Brendan Vogel** was selected for the second consecutive year and **William Lake** was a first-time selectee. **Samuel Montoya** was chosen to the Honorable Mention team for the second straight year, while **Deuce Powell** was named for the first time.

**Cera Powell** was named to the All-Conference volleyball team for the fourth consecutive year while **Cameryn Ekeler** and **Trinity Watson** were selected to the Honorable Mention squad.

In men's soccer, **Guadalupe Amezcua**, **Daniel Lewis** and **Andrew Norman** (second time) were

all chosen to the All-Conference team, while **Tyler Moore** and **Nuno Aguiar** were selected to the Honorable Mention squad.

**Caroline Murrell** was named to the women's All-Conference cross country team, while **Malachi Levy** was chosen to the men's All-Conference cross country squad. Northwood also received the **Sportsmanship Award** in cross country.

**Sam Sparrow** was named to the women's All-Conference tennis team for the second straight year and was joined on that squad by **Evelyn Lippers**. **Sophie Cook** was selected to the Honorable Mention team for the second consecutive year and was joined on that squad by **Korinne Fuller**.

In women's golf, **Katharina Floyd** captured **Player of the Year** honors for the third consecutive year and was joined on this year's All-Conference team by **Kayla Amy** and **Lindsay Vicker** (At-Large choice).

Congratulations are extended to all these student athletes for their achievements while representing Northwood during the fall sports season.

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Dec. 25th

## Area Sports Calendar | Week of Dec. 19-25

| Wednesday                                  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  | Monday         | Tuesday   |
|--|--|---|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Dec. 19</b>                             | <b>Dec. 20</b>   | <b>Dec. 21</b>  | <b>Dec. 22</b>  | <b>Dec. 24</b> | <b>Dec. 25</b>  |
| <b>Wrestling</b><br>Chapel Hill at NW-6 PM | <b>Basketball</b><br>Courier-Tribune Tourney-Asheboro-JM vs SW Randolph-girls 7 p.m.<br>1st Bank Tourney at NW<br>NW vs. So. Alamance-7 pm<br><b>Wrestling</b><br>Thomasville at CC-6 pm | <b>Basketball</b><br>CT Tourney JM Girls at either 3:30 or 7:30 pm<br>1st Bank Tourney NW boys at either 1 or 7pm<br><b>Wrestling</b><br>NW at Bunn<br>So. Alamance at CC-6pm | <b>Basketball</b><br>CT Tourney JM Girls-TBA<br>1st Bank Tourney NW boys -TBA |                |  |

### CCCC Athletics announces 5K Race

**BY DON BEANE News + Record Staff**  
 The Central Carolina Community College Cougar Athletics program announced its upcoming New Year's 5K race. The event will take place on Saturday, January 19th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Sanford with all proceeds going towards the Cougar Athletic program. All ages are welcomed to participate with medals given in the timed race, and t-shirts guaranteed for racers who register by January 13th. Participants can also register at 9:00 a.m. the day of the race, or online at [www.itsyourrace.com/events.aspx?id=11598](http://www.itsyourrace.com/events.aspx?id=11598). Cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for children 17 and under, and free for children 5 and under. The registration and start of the race is at the Black Belt Leadership Academy located on 1716 Westover Drive in Sanford. For more information, contact R.V. Hight, Director of Communications at CCCC, at 919-

### Rams add another title

The Reidsville Rams stormed from down 14 much of the game to stun Northeastern with a 31-28 win as Zach Baber hit a 24-yard field goal to give Reidsville its first and only lead with just four seconds remaining in the game at Carter-Finley Stadium on Saturday afternoon in the NCHSAA 2A State Finals. The win gave Reidsville their program's 17th NCHSAA Football State Championship, and their second state title in the last three years. Northeastern took no time to get on the scoreboard, as the Eagles went five plays and 79 yards capped off by a 55-yard touchdown run from Aaron Harris to go up 7-0 on the opening possession. The Eagles tacked on another first quarter score when a deflected pass from Harris found Quasi Thomas who rumbled 22 yards to the end zone to put Northeastern up 14-0 with 1:26 to go in the quarter. The two teams exchanged turnovers in the second quarter, with



**See 'Rams' B4**  
 Chatham Middle's Juan Soto, center barrels through Bennett's Jacob Gilliland, left, and Matt Murchison in middle school action last week. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)



**Eastern Randolph's Kolby Snider, left, tries to slow down Jet Ellia Wright in Friday's basketball game. Wright drove on through en route down the court but the Lady Wildcats won the game 47-44. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)**

### Murphy crushes Pamlico for 1AA state championship

The Murphy Bulldogs reeled off 21 first quarter points on their way to a 60-27 victory over Pamlico County and the school's ninth NCHSAA football state championship at Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham on Saturday afternoon in the NCHSAA 1A State Finals. The win was Head Coach David Gentry's 406th career win, which is second all-time for Head Coaching wins in the NCHSAA. Murphy's defense got the scoring started when Micah Nelson recovered a Pamlico fumble and returned it 35 yards for a touchdown just 17 seconds into the game. The next possession for Murphy was after another Pamlico turnover, as the Bulldogs started at the Hurricane 34. Six plays later KJ Allen galloped

five yards to the end zone and a 14-0 lead. The Bulldogs built a huge advantage on the ground, racking up 479 yards to just 153 for Pamlico. Allen led the way for Murphy with 153 yards on 18 carries and four touchdowns as he was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Murphy's Devonte Murray also added two touchdowns on his six carries with 106 yards. Pamlico got on the board for the first time in the latter portion of the first quarter. Senior quarterback Lamont Murray settled into the game and was able to lead his team on a 12-play, 66-yard drive that took 5:28 off the first quarter clock. Murray capped the drive with a seven-yard touchdown run to trim the Murphy lead to 14-7 with 2:54 to go in the first. Four plays later, Murphy stretched their lead back out to 14 when Reid Beal hauled in an 18-yard pass from Micah Nelson with 1:47 to go in the first. Nelson was named Murphy's Most Outstanding Offensive Player as he completed 3 of his 5 pass attempts for 42 yards and a touchdown while running for 49 yards on two carries. The Bulldogs took a 21-7 lead into the half and came out ready to roll in the third quarter, adding two scores in the frame. Ray Rathburn scored from 11 yards out on the ground to go up 28-7. Five minutes later Allen ripped off a six-yard

touchdown run for his second score of the night. Pamlico did not quit despite trailing 35-7, after a long kickoff return into Murphy territory by Jarrod Ramsey, Murray bought time and found George Jones open over the middle for a 42 yard touchdown pass to make it 35-14 with under a minute to go in the third. Just three plays later, Murray raced 46 yards to the end zone for a touchdown, however the point after failed and Murphy led 41-14. Murray went back to work for Pamlico, finding room and sprinting for a 17-yard touchdown to make it 41-20 after the point after failed. After touchdown runs by the Bulldogs' Murray and Allen made the score 54-20, Pamlico's Murray launched another touchdown pass, this one from 18 yards out to La-Monti Lewis to trim the lead to 54-27. Lamont Murray finished the night with 157 yards passing and two scores to go along with 79 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. He was named the Most Outstanding Offensive Player for the Hurricanes for his efforts. William Lovick was the Hurricanes' Most Outstanding Defensive Player as he tied for the team lead in tackles with nine. Hunter Shope took home Most Outstanding Defensive Player honors for Murphy, racking up nine tackles, 1.5 of them for a loss.

### Tar Heels battle Sandlappers to 10-10 stalemate

**BY DON BEANE News + Record Staff**  
 North Carolina and South Carolina battled to a 10-10 stalemate here at Gibbs Stadium on the campus of Wofford University on Saturday afternoon in the 82nd renewal of the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas. North Carolina entered the contest on an impressive three-year win streak, but the Tar Heels were missing several key players due to the NCHSAA State Championships being pushed back to the same day due to postponements caused by Hurricane's Florence and Michael. Despite the reshuffling of the NC roster during the final week leading up to the contest, the Tar Heels gave the Sandlappers all they could handle, and appeared to have the contest won after heading into the final 3:32 of the contest leading 10-7. South Carolina would block a North Carolina punt, setting up shop at the Tar Heels 28-yard line.

A stingy NC defense, led by N.C. State commits Savion Jackson (Clayton), Drake Thomas (Heritage), and Joshua Harris (Roxboro Person), and Virginia Tech commit J.R. Walker (Clayton), the team's Defensive MVP in the contest, held the Sandlappers to a 25-yard field goal attempt with just 2:05 left on the clock. Michael Hayes of West Florence High connected on the field goal, and forced a 10-10 tie, the first stalemate in the contest since 1947. South Carolina opened the scoring in the first quarter when Davis Belville, a University of Pittsburgh commit, found Quendarius Jefferson on a 45-yard touchdown pass at the goal line for the score. Hayes booted through the PAT to give the Sandlappers a 7-0 advantage with 5:19

left in the opening frame. Led by defensive end Zack Pickens, a Clemson commit, South Carolina kept North Carolina off the board until early in the second period when N.C. State commit Zonovan "Bam" Knight (Southern Nash) broke free off left tackle, cut down the left hash, and out ran the Sandlapper defense to the end zone on an electrifying 61-yard score. Matthew Chmil added the PAT to tie the game at 7-7. Knight would earn Offensive MVP honors in the contest after rushing for 151 yards and a score on 24 carries. Hayes added a 19-yard field goal with :48 seconds left in the half to give North Carolina a 10-7 advantage at the intermission. The Tar Heels would never score again in the contest, setting up the late field goal by Hayes to tie the game at 10-10.

**North Carolina 10**  
**South Carolina 10**

|    |   |    |   |   |     |
|----|---|----|---|---|-----|
| NC | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | -10 |
| SC | 7 | 0  | 0 | 3 | -10 |

**First quarter**  
 SC – Jefferson 45 pass from Beville (Hayes kick), 5:19

**Second quarter**  
 NC – Knight 61 run (Chmil kick), 10:39  
 NC – Chmil 19 FG, 0:48

**Fourth quarter**  
 SC – Hayes 25 FG, 2:05

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**Rushing:** NC: Knight 24-151, Howell 4-10, Mauney 5-8, Bonner-Steward 6-6. SC: Pickens 7-37, Jackson 14-36, Meredith 3-12, Ford 2-10, Chisholm 1-7, Beville 2-6.  
**Passing:** NC: Howell 6-13-0 40, Bonner-Steward 4-6-0 76, Brewington 3-4-0 31. SC: Beville 9-16-0 114, Meredith 4-8-0 7  
**Receiving:** NC: Groulx 7-60, Simmons 3-23, Brown 2-61, Brayboy 1-3. SC: Jefferson 4-65, Ford 3-15, Chisholm 2-25, Earle 1-11, Toney 1-7, Jackson 1-3.



**Lady Panther Kelsey Hussey, left, begins to shoot the ball in their game at Chatham Middle last week. The Panthers won the middle school game. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)**

# Warriors down Falcons for 3AA state crown

The Weddington Warriors struck first, and struck often, as they ripped off a 27-14 victory over Southeast Guilford to claim the school's second state football championship at a foggy and damp Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill on Friday night in the NCHSAA 3AA State Finals.

James Shipley starred offensively and defensively for the Warriors, with an interception and return that set up a fourth quarter score to go with a 50 yard touchdown pass on a reverse pass and an 8 yard touchdown catch from his receiver spot. With ten receptions for 113 yards, as well as contributions in other areas, he was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

On Weddington's first drive, Whitner Litton lofted a pass to Max Brimigion down the left sideline for a 42 yard score to put the Warriors up 7-0 with 9:25 to go in the first quarter.

The Warriors second possession was a bit more of a sustained effort, as they went 64 yards in seven plays capped off by a bit of trickiness. Wide Receiver James Shipley took the reverse hand-off and set up to throw long to a wide open Will Shipley who took it the rest of the way 50 yards down the left sideline for a score to go up 14-0 with 2:29 to go in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, James Shipley found the endzone on the receiving end of an eight yard pass from Litton with 8:52 to play in the half. The PAT was blocked and the Warriors led 20-0.

SE Guilford intercepted a screen pass midway through the second, which swung some momentum back the Falcons way. They mounted their best drive, chewing up over five minutes of clock with Ryan Douglas

helping power the rushing attack. However, with time winding down in the half the drive stalled and a 44 yard field goal attempt was no good.

Southeast Guilford recovered a Weddington fumble in the early part of the third quarter, setting up the Falcons with a short field on the Warrior 36 yard line. Southeast scored four plays later as Douglas rushed across the goal line from 12 yards out to make it 20-7 with 6:42 to go in the third.

The Falcons were intercepted to start the fourth quarter, and James Shipley returned it to the Falcon five yard line. Two plays later Weddington cashed in the turnover on a Will Shipley one yard run to go up 27-7 with 11:01 to play.

After the two teams traded possessions, Southeast Guilford took a shot deep and Douglas hooked up with Tyler Hoff who took it 83 yards to the endzone to trim the Warrior lead to 27-14 with 6:19 to play.

Douglas was named Southeast Guilford's Most Outstanding Offensive Player with 126 yards through the air and a touchdown to go with his 86 yards and a score on the ground.

Quantez Mansfield was the defensive Most Outstanding Player for the Falcons with six tackles including one sack and an interception from his defensive line spot.

Weddington's Most Outstanding Offensive Player was Whitner Litton as the quarterback threw for 172 yards and two touchdowns while completing 67% of his passing attempts.

The defensive Most Outstanding Player for the Warriors was Eamon Murphy who led the team in tackles with 9 and intercepted a pass, returning it deep into Falcon territory to set up the final Weddington score.

## NCHSAA Football State Championship Results

| 1A Finals                     | 3A Finals                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Murphy 60 Pamlico 27          | Catholic 17 Jacksonville 14         |
| 1AA Finals                    | 3AA Finals                          |
| Tarboro 50 East Surry 10      | Weddington 28 Southeast Guilford 14 |
| 2A Finals                     | 4A Finals                           |
| Reidsville 31 Northeastern 28 | East Forsyth 35 Scotland County 28  |
| 2AA Finals                    | 4AA Finals                          |
| Shelby 42 North Davidson 21   | Wake Forest 9 Charlotte Vance 7     |

## Rams (Continued from page B3)

A Northeastern turnover, this one an interception in their own end, set Reidsville up with a short field. The Rams capitalized as Breon Pass caught a 19 yard touchdown pass from Kyle Pinnix and the PAT cut the lead Eagles' lead to 14-7 with 9:20 to go in the first half.

Late in the first half, Northeastern stretched their lead back out to 14 as Traveon Freshwater scored from nine yards out to give the Eagles a 21-7 lead with 1:51 to go in the half. The Freshwater touchdown capped off an 11-play, 75-yard drive that saw 5:20 wind off the clock.

Reidsville evened the score at 21 with a pair of third quarter touchdowns while the defense buckled down. Pass grabbed his second touchdown catch from Pinnix, this one a 5 yard grab with 8:09 to go in the third, that trimmed the Eagles lead to 21-13 as the point after failed.

Later in the quarter, Pinnix found Logan Graves for a 32 yard scoring strike with 1:32 to go in the third to pull the Rams within a two-point conversion. Pinnix hit Lionel Long for the conversion attempt, knotting the score at 21.

Harris would score again in the later stages of the fourth quarter, ripping

off a 40-yard touchdown run to put the Eagles up 28-21 with 4:14 to play.

The Rams quick-strike ability evened the score again quickly as Pinnix hit Demontez Canada for a 37 yard touchdown pass just three plays after the Northeastern score, tying the game at 28 with 3:06 to play.

Pinnix finished the game with nine completions for 116 yards and four touchdowns and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Long was named Reidsville's Most Outstanding Offensive Player as he had 103 yards rushing and 21 yards receiving to keep the Rams moving all afternoon.

Trell Rankin was selected as the Rams Most Outstanding Defensive Player with six tackles, two of them sacks and a fumble recovery in the game.

Harris was tapped as the Most Outstanding Offensive Player for Northeastern, as he rushed for 175 yards and two touchdowns in the game. He also threw for 47 yards and a score on the afternoon. Robert Ferguson took home Northeastern's Most Outstanding Defensive Player award, leading all players with 15 tackles in the game, adding a pass break-up to his stat line.

## Northwood High Wrestling Results

**Eastern Alamance Invitational:**  
 113 Champ. Round 1 - Eli Whitlow (Northern Guilford) over Zion Verinder (Northwood) (Fall 0:00)  
 113 Champ. Round 2 - Elan Mitchell (Southeast Guilford) over Zion Verinder (Northwood) (Fall 0:00)  
 120 Andrew Kimbrel (Northwood) over Koa Weatherspoon (Millbrook) (Dec 6-5)  
 120 Matthew Smith-Breeden (Orange) over Andrew Kimbrel (Northwood) (Dec 8-4)  
 120 Champ. Round 1 - Jacobie Ray (East Chapel Hill) over Andrew Kimbrel (Northwood) (Dec 11-10)  
 120 Cons. Round 2 - Andrew Kimbrel (Northwood) over Evan Lucas (Bartlett Yancey) (Fall 0:00)  
 126 Champ. Round 1 - Joe Sipper (Northwood) over Maison Mayton (Southern Alamance) (Fall 0:00)  
 126 Champ. Round 2 - Shane Chavis (Northwest Guilford) over Joe Sipper (Northwood) (Fall 3:57)  
 126 Cons. Round 2 - Joe Sipper (Northwood) over Kameron Scott (Bartlett Yancey) (Fall 0:00)  
 126 Cons. Round 3 - Joe Sipper (Northwood) over Kevin O'Brienhalla (East Chapel Hill) (Fall 0:17)  
 132 Champ. Round 1 - Noah Kelley (Northwood) over Dominick Molinari (Southern Alamance) (Fall 0:00)  
 138 Champ. Round 1 - Jamison Davis (Northwood) over Autumn Coles (East Chapel Hill) (Dec 6-1)  
 138 Tayton Alvis (Orange) over Nathan Davis (Northwood) (Fall 5:45)  
 145 Champ. Round 1 - Grant Ray (Northwood) over Grayson Crea (Southern Alamance) (Fall 0:00)  
 145 3rd Place Match - Andrew Dawson (Eastern Alamance) over Grant Ray (Northwood) (Fall 2:13)  
 160 Champ. Round 1 - Nick Nefe (Northwest Guilford) over Josiah Dunnivant (Northwood) (Fall 1:00)  
 170 Nolan Ellis (Northwood) over Cyril Rodts (Millbrook) (Fall 1:57)  
 182 Champ. Round 1 - Dylan York (Eastern Randolph) over William Lake (Northwood) (Fall 0:00)  
 182 Cons. Round 1 - William Lake (Northwood) over Jason Bird (East Chapel Hill) (Fall 0:45)  
 195 Donald Hicks (Orange) over Harrison Knapp (Northwood) (Fall 2:58)  
 195 Champ. Round 2 - Jacob Hardy (Northwest Guilford) over Harrison Knapp (Northwood) (Fall 0:35)  
 195 Cons. Round 2 - Harrison Knapp (Northwood) over Bricy Chavis-Munoz (Eastern Alamance) (Fall 1:29)  
 220 Daniel Ponton (Millbrook) over Matt Briggs (Northwood) (M. For.)  
 220 Quarterfinals - Shyheed Wheeler-Nave (Eastern Randolph) over Matt Briggs (Northwood) (Inj. [time])  
 285 Juan Navarro (Orange) over Abraham Pena (Northwood) (Fall 5:57)  
 285 Quarterfinals - Abraham Pena (Northwood) over Alan Eagan (Eastern Randolph) (Fall 0:00)  
 285 3rd Place Match - Abraham Pena (Northwood) over Marcus Harnarain (Northwest Guilford) (Dec 3-1)



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# HO-HO-HO

## These guys get to portray Santa Claus all year round

By ZACHARY HORNER  
Chatham News + Record Staff

Did you know there was an organized, diverse and experienced group of Santa Clauses in your backyard?

Maybe you did. There's a good chance that, if you've been to a Christmas celebration, mall or other store in the Triangle area in the last few years, you've seen a member of the Triangle Santa Buddies, a group of 22 men that portray Santa Claus at various events every holiday season.

Oh, and there are also a few Mrs. Clauses in the mix.

According to the group's mission statement, the group is "dedicated to improving the quality of Santa and Mrs. Claus services through continuing education, fellowship and mutual support."

There's even a Santa Claus Oath.

Three men are among the group that have taken the oath and spend their winters talking to children, taking pictures and strapping on the red suit. They are:

**Santa Al:** Al Capehart is the founding member of the Triangle Santa Buddies and has portrayed Santa in various spaces for more than 20 years. He lives in Pittsboro and has written a memoir, "Behind Santa's Smile," about his experiences. His father was a back-up Santa in the 1970s and 80s at a Richmond, Virginia, department store.

**Santa Fabian:** Also known as the "Diamond Star Santa," Fabian Williams has portrayed Santa since 2015. He said he relishes being a "Santa of color" and that it speaks to kids who may not have seen a Santa like that before. Williams is originally from Massachusetts and said he never visited a Santa when he was younger.

**Santa Norm:** This holiday is Willow Springs resident Norman Hull's first Christmas as Santa. He refers to himself as the "rookie of the crowd." But he wasted little time getting into the game this year, already booking more than 130 hours at Cabela's in Garner and Bass Pro Shops in Cary. Hull also worked with pre-teens and teenagers for 40 years in Miami, Florida, in Scout camps and Sunday school classes.

### GETTING STARTED

A nearly-universal symbol of Santa Claus is the long white beard. Very few depictions of the character in film and television over the years have shown him without it. And according to our Santas, it's one of the main reasons they found themselves in the position.

**Santa Al:** "In March of 1992, I stopped shaving. I'd planned a July European train tour with my son Albert Cameron (AC) to celebrate his college graduation. I wanted the convenience of not shaving while traveling. I had a beard for the trip, and decided to keep it. By October, I had grown more than two inches of grey facial hair. Suddenly, Santa Claus began to speak to me through my customers. One customer simply started calling me 'Santa.' And a longtime Duke Forest customer said, 'You would make a great Santa Claus. You are thoughtful. You look like Santa. You should go to the mall. See if they will hire you to play Santa.'" (Excerpt from "Behind Santa's Smile")

**Santa Norm:** "It was kind of interesting. My son used to work at Bass Pro Shops in Cary. So he said that that particular year, one of those years they worked there they had three Santas working. One of them, by the name of Santa Larry, they struck up a good friendship. My son invited me out one night to meet him, and I did that. Just talked with him a while and enjoyed conversation with him. I had a little beard going, which I've had

quite a while. After that conversation with Santa Larry, my kids were poking at me a little bit, saying, 'You can do this.' So I quit shaving."

**Santa Fabian:** "In 2015, a young lady came up to me. I had my beard somewhat growing a little bit. She said, 'You know what, you would make a great Santa.' And I said, 'OK.' So I started growing the beard and getting into what Santa does, buying the items I needed to portray Santa. I have

asked me), 'Are you really Santa Claus?' If you're in uniform, you are really Santa Claus. You will look them in the eye and say, 'I really am.' They calm down and I say, 'Who else would I be?'"

**Santa Fabian:** "I love the smiles and the things they get when they see you. I don't know if it's the twinkle in your eye or the smile that keeps them hopefully believing in Santa. That's the first question I ask, 'Do you believe in the magic of

part of being anywhere from 18 months to 30 months old, you don't trust anybody but Mom and Dad."

**Santa Al:** "Santa Claus becomes a physical manifestation of the legendary character. A lot of transfer takes place which allows a different kind of understanding and relationship to the point that Santa's intent, of course, is to spread the Christmas spirit. If it is the Christmas spirit, the more you share the Christmas spirit, the more Christmas spirit there is. It's the spreading of the Christmas spirit — that's Santa's job."

**Santa Fabian:** "Most kids have not seen a black Santa. I've seen what they've been looking for in adults, looking for a helper or looking for someone to understand them. (My goal is) 'I'm here to listen to you. I'm here, just tell me what you want. Let's open the door on that.' It's been a joy for me so far. It seems like I'm expanding more than I did last year. One child said to me, 'Santa, I've seen all the other Santas, but you're a Santa that looks just like me.' That moved me big time."

### PART OF A LEGACY

There are no readily available statistics as to how many people dress up as Santa Claus every year to entertain at malls, retail stores, business parties and more, but it's been a staple of the holiday season for many years. Search "Santa Claus schools" on Google, and you'll come up with results for schools in Atlanta, Charlotte, Michigan, Oregon, Canada and more.

Perhaps thanks to that, they say, members of the Triangle

Santa Buddies believe that the tradition will last.



Three Triangle Santa Buddies staying busy this time of year include "Santa Norm" Hull (left), "Santa Fabian" Williams (above) and "Santa Al" Capehart (below, photos contributed).

a really decent beard by now."

### IT HELPS TO LOOK LIKE SANTA

For each Santa, appearance is a big deal. Hundreds and hundreds of dollars are spent on getting the right outfit, the right look. And it's vital that it's authentic. Al Capehart's first public appearance as Santa, sitting on a merry-go-round with a three-year-old girl, came in a 1992 newspaper advertisement for Northgate Mall in Durham.

**Santa Al:** "I was taken aback by the transformation the Santa suit had made. The man on the carousel was Santa Claus. I did not see Al. I had become Santa Al, and it took seeing that print ad to show me who I had become. Santa was saying to me, 'Come on son, you can do this.' In that moment, my self-perception changed and a new path in my life was revealed. My life changed. To this day I do not market myself as Santa Claus. I can't claim to be Santa Claus. I offer Santa Claus services." (Excerpt from "Behind Santa's Smile")

**Santa Fabian:** "When you use a fake beard, then there's a problem. People look at you like you're not the real Santa. Kids pull your beard and want to know if you're the real Santa or not. It's been natural for me. I have a completely white beard that I grew."

**Santa Al:** "It took me eight months to grow my beard, and I haven't shaved since 1992. I shampoo occasionally. When I first started out, I had to bleach it a lot."

### HANGING OUT WITH THE KIDS

Another popular part of the Santa story is his interaction with children, asking them what they want for Christmas. But according to our Santas, they ask just as many questions of him as he does of them.

**Santa Norm:** "(A kid



Christmas?" Of course they say, 'I have my doubts.' I say, 'Once you stop believing, you'll stop receiving gifts from Santa.' You just want to keep a smile on the face of the kids."

**Santa Al:** "It's a calling. I think of all the Santas I know, I don't know of one that hadn't been a Boy Scout to start with. That's a certain kind of person, personality."

### GOING BEYOND THE CHARACTER

According to Christian tradition, Saint Nicholas, the inspiration for Santa Claus, was known for being a gift-giver. These Santas say they try to embody the spirit of Santa Claus, and for them, that goes beyond tangible items.

**Santa Norm:** "You have fun with them and try to keep them smiling and keep their spirit going. It won't be long before they are unfortunately told the truth. But in the meantime, you try to keep them going. We stay in character all day long. Even when you get a screamer, it's OK. It's

**Santa Al:** "It wouldn't be there without the kids, and that's why there's always going to be a Christmas. There's always going to be kids. Saint Nicholas will continue to be a part of that wonder of the birth of Jesus. A visit from Saint Nicholas tells us when Christmas comes."

**Santa Norm:** "Santa's a very special part of everyone's life, and I hope it does. From what I've learned, there are hundreds of thousands of Santas. There are hundreds of schools that teach men and women how to do this art. It's in the entertainment business. I gotta think that, as widespread as it is, that it will endure. I think as long as good people get together and try to keep something going on behalf of the children of the world, we'll be OK. As long as I can breathe and chuckle, I'll keep a twinkle in my eye and try to pass that on to the kids."

## Triangle Santa Buddies

At a glance



Network of individual professional Santas throughout the Triangle and North Carolina



Created by Pittsboro resident Al Capehart in 2003



Currently includes 22 Santas



Meets 6 times a year -- including January to debrief the previous season and November to get an update on the latest toys



Motto: "The more Santas there are, the more Christmas spirit there is. But only one Santa in a mall at a time."

Source: TriangleSantaBuddies.com

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Celebration big for Hispanic culture

**BY JOHN HUNTER**  
News + Record Staff

At 4 a.m. on a recent Wednesday, while most of Siler City slept, a full-on celebration was taking place just outside the town.

At St. Julia Catholic Church, congregants were dancing and singing at the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebration.

For more than 500 years, Our Lady of Guadalupe has been a powerful symbol of devotion and identity for Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and other Latinos.

“Especially for the Mexican people, this day is so important,” said Father Julio Martinez of St. Julia Catholic Church. “It’s a celebration for the mother of Jesus. But this is open to anyone. We are all welcoming.”

“This is a big celebration locally,” Janet Ramirez, Hispanic Liaison program & volunteer coordinator said. “People who aren’t familiar with this get confused. It’s not a Christmas holiday, even though it is celebrated near Christmas.”

At St. Julia, the morning began with Las Mañanitas, a traditional serenading of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But the celebration itself began two days before with a series of musical performances and dances with more than 200 youths singing and praying together.

“This is a love affair with the people and their mother. There is a saying in Mexico, ‘Mexico is Guadalupe, and Guadalupe is Mexico,’” Martinez said.

A painting of the virgin, who appears pregnant, as symbolized by a black ribbon tied around her stomach, sits at the altar of the church. The congregation brings flowers to rest beside the image as a tribute to the virgin mother.

“People come in, they say prayers, they sing,” Martinez said. “They want to honor their mother. It’s a beautiful thing.”

That evening, Dec. 12, would be even more full, he said.

“There will be nowhere to sit. We will sing and dance, and then we eat. December 12 is the feast day, so we will all eat together after the mass and the folk dancing.”

“Typically, for the feast day, tamales are served,” Martinez said. “That’s a staple of the feast. But over the weekend, we had some issues with the winter weather, so we had tamales and pizza. It’s very fitting for the younger kids who are growing up here.”

The origin story of Our Lady of Guadalupe dates back to Juan Diego, a native Mexican peasant. According to the story, Diego experienced a vision of a young woman on December 9, 1531, at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which later became a suburb of Mexico City called Villa de Guadalupe.

The woman spoke to Diego in his native Nahuatl language, and identified herself as the Virgin Mary. She asked for a church to be built at that site in her honor.

Diego met with the archbishop of Mexico, Fray Juan de Zumárraga to tell him about the vision. The bishop, however, did not believe Diego. Later that day, he saw the vision of the Virgin Mary again. She asked him to continue asking for the church to be built.

The next day, Diego met with the archbishop again. The bishop asked Diego to return to Tepeyac Hill and ask the lady for a miraculous sign to prove her identity. He returned to Tepeyac later that day and encountered the vision for a third time. He returned

to the bishop and said that she consented to provide a sign the next day.

But the next day Diego’s uncle fell sick, and he was obligated to take care of him. In the early hours of December 12, his uncle’s condition had worsened. He left to find a Catholic priest to hear his uncle’s confession and help minister to him on his deathbed.

Ashamed of being unable to meet the Virgin Mary the day before, he chose a path around Tepeyac. Instead, he was intercepted by the vision and asked where he was going. He explained why he was unable to meet her. She gently scolded him for not seeking her help. She asked, “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”

Those words are now inscribed in Spanish over the main entrance of the Basilica of Guadalupe. She told Diego that his uncle would fully recover and she instructed him to gather flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill. The area of Tepeyac was normally barren, but still he found Castilian roses, a flower not native to Mexico.

The Virgin arranged the flowers in Diego’s cloak. Later, he opened his cloak before archbishop Zumárraga on December 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and on the fabric was the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

The next day, Diego’s uncle was fully recovered. His uncle also recounted that he, too, had seen the apparition. He said that the apparition told him to inform the bishop of his miraculous cure, and



Flowers surround the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Julia Catholic Church (Photo courtesy of St. Julia Catholic Church)



Dancers participate in the celebration last Wednesday (Photo courtesy of St. Julia’s)

that she now wanted to be known under the title of Guadalupe.

The Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world’s third most-visited sacred site. Roughly seven million

pilgrims visit the Basilica every year.

“This is a holiday that stays close to Hispanic and Latino people for their whole lives,” Ramirez said. “You see really young people celebrate, and that continues through their whole life. It’s a way to remember where they came from.”



New Direction Bluegrass will play at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21 for the annual Bynum Front Porch Christmas Party at Bynum General Store, 950 Bynum Road. The public is invited. All of the concerts and storytelling shows are free, however the host passes a pith helmet to pay the performers.

## Hydrilla Discovered in Deep River

Wildlife Commission Offers Tips to Prevent Spread

CN+R Staff Report

**RALEIGH** — After the discovery of hydrilla in the Deep River, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is asking people who boat, fish or swim in the river to help to prevent the spread of this invasive aquatic weed.

Hydrilla is a highly invasive, nonnative plant that creates dense mats of stems and leaves on the water’s surface.

A survey conducted by N.C. State University in 2017 confirmed the presence of hydrilla covering over 90 acres from N.C. Hwy. 22 in Highfalls in Moore County to U.S. Hwy 1 near Moncure, located in Chatham and Lee counties.

Hydrilla mats crowd out native vegetation, make boating difficult, and, ultimately, can harm fish and other aquatic organisms, and even birds, according to Brena Jones, an aquatic wildlife diversity research coordinator for the Commission.

“Hydrilla chokes our aquatic systems and destroys fish and other aquatic species’ habitats. It can lead to decreased levels of dissolved oxygen in the river which can suffocate fish, mussels, and

other aquatic life, which is particularly concerning in this river, the home of the federally endangered Cape Fear Shiner,” Jones said. “Furthermore, hydrilla beds can harbor a cyanobacteria, which causes Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy (AVM), a fatal disease that infects waterfowl and predatory birds, such as bald eagles.”

Hydrilla infestations can clog intakes in rivers and reservoirs that are used for drinking water supplies and irrigation, and can make fishing and boating almost impossible.

“Aside from impacts to both rare species and popular fishing and hunting targets, infested areas incur great expense because they must be treated to protect native resources and safe use for human communities,” Jones said. “A single location can cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$400,000 for a single year of treatment and controlling hydrilla requires a minimum of seven to 10 years of treatment. What’s worse, eradication is difficult to impossible, so prevention and limiting spread are critical.”

To prevent the further spread of hydrilla and

other harmful invasive species, at the conclusion of every outing on the water boaters and anglers should:

Clean all equipment of all aquatic plants, animals and mud.

Drain water from boats, livewells, bait buckets and all equipment including fishing gear, shoes, waders, coolers, etc.

Dry all equipment thoroughly.

Never move fish, plants or other organisms from one body of water to another.

In the coming months, the Commission will work with the N.C. Aquatic Weed Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other state agencies and local stakeholders, to develop a management plan that addresses the infested areas and helps prevent hydrilla from spreading. The management plan will examine treatment alternatives and will include recommendations for the best course of action, along with monitoring guidelines.

Developing a plan that prevents the spread hydrilla is critical because the infested areas are home to the of the federally endangered Cape Fear Shiner.

## Patients get presents

### Local childcares spearhead Christmas for UNC hospital kids

**By BOB WACHS**  
News + Record staff

**CHAPEL HILL** -- Holidays often bring out a deep longing for home. There’s even a musical standard that says “Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays, no matter how far away you roam.”

But not everyone gets to spend those special days in special places surrounded by special people. Among them are deployed troops, law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, fire fighters and medical and hospital staff.

And hospital patients.

While no one likes being hospitalized, Christmas often seems the most difficult time for that for both patients and their families and especially for children – and especially for children dealing with cancer.

It’s for those folks that some Chatham County daycare workers and the children they care for have come up with a really big gift. For the second year in a row, the locals have worked to make sure patients at the UNC Children’s Cancer Hospital in Chapel Hill won’t be forgotten when it comes time to pass out presents.

The effort is the brainchild of two local women who operate child care facilities – Penny Pavon of Siler City and Lisa Cox of near Bonlee.

“Last year,” Pavon says, “parents and our older children started talking about Christmas gifts and we decided rather than give gifts to each other, we would try to find some children who were really in need. It was just laid on my heart to reach out to the UNC pediatric cancer unit.”

Soon, word of mouth took over and when Pavon mentioned the idea to Cox, her good friend, things really got rolling.

“Lots of churches and people got involved,” Cox says. “We had gifts and money coming in. Lots of the gifts were toys for younger children so we took the money and filled in the gaps so the older children would have something. There were toys in abundance for the young children so the money went for clothing and things appropriate for older children. The unit has patients from newborn to 17.”

By the time the collections were complete last Christmas, there were enough gifts to fill a small trailer. “We had enough for 200 children and their siblings,” Pavon says. Siler City

resident Rodney Cook delivered the items to the hospital last year and this year, as well.

“When he got there,” Pavon says, “an orderly met him pushing one little cart. Rodney looked at it and told him he was going to need more carts and more people to unload. The nurses said they had never seen anything like that before.”

The local gifts become part of the “Santa’s Sack” program at UNC hospital, the current effort to provide gifts for child patients. Amber Kirkley, a nurse in the unit, is the coordinator of the program.

“There’s been something like this for years,” she says, “but last year when those gifts showed up, we were just blown away. It was awesome.”

Santa’s Sack is a group of nurses, nursing assistants and volunteers who work to collect toys to make sure every child gets a giant bag at Christmas.

“We start with the inpatients,” Kirkley says, “including the pediatric floors and emergency department. We have patients from premature babies to older teens, even some special needs adults.”

It’s been a blessing. We hope to do this every year.’  
-UNC Nurse Amber Kirkley

After gift bags – “200 of them,” she says – are prepared, “we look for opportunities to help others. That may include outpatients, like kids on dialysis or even families with big medical bills. The last thing they need is more stress with everything else going on.”

This year, gifts were loaded into the trailer on Dec. 14 and delivered to the hospital the next morning. “We didn’t have quite as much this year as last,” Pavon says, “but we had enough to do what we hoped to do. Last year we had enough not only for the cancer patients and their siblings but also for the pediatric mental health patients and the regular pediatric ward.

“It’s been a blessing,” she says. “We hope to do this every year.”

And hospital personnel are in complete agreement. “The needs are growing,” Kirkley says, “as inpatient and out-patient numbers expand.

“It’s so rewarding to watch the community and the hospital come together to meet the



LEGAL NOTICES

Executor 1709 Wescott Dr Raleigh, NC 27614 D13,D20,D27,J3,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 18 E 634

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of THURMAN HART WALTERS of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 13, 2019 or

this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 13th day of December, 2018. Jean Phillips Walters, Executrix 709 N 3rd Ave Siler City, NC 27344 D13,D20,D27,J3,4tp

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NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ROBERT G. QUERY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all

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The pastel colors of sunrise illuminate this Chatham County pasture early one morning last week. The cows were grazing in a field of light frost as the sun climbed up behind some clouds. It wasn't long before the pastel colors became bright and vibrant, and helped the cows to warm up some. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

## Gas prices drop for 10<sup>th</sup> straight week

### CN+R Staff Report

Gasoline prices in North Carolina have fallen 4.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.24/g on Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 5.7 cents per gallon versus last week to \$2.36/g, according to GasBuddy.

Average gasoline prices on December 17 in North Carolina have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.30/g in 2017, \$2.19/g in 2016, \$1.98/g in 2015, \$2.51/g in 2014 and \$3.22/g in 2013.

Including the change locally during the past week, prices on Sunday were 6.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 27.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has dropped 26.1 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 5.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

# County included in hurricane assistance

By JOHN HUNTER  
News + Record Staff

Federal aid may be coming to Chatham County in the wake of the two hurricanes which struck North Carolina, if a request by Governor Roy Cooper is approved.

Cooper sent a letter to President Donald Trump last week seeking federal assistance for 21 North Carolina counties that were affected by Hurricane Michael.

"Tropical Storm Michael inflicted major damage to North Carolina at a time when it was already devastated by Hurricane Florence," Cooper said in a released statement. "Many people are suffering from the effects of Hurricane Michael and we want to get them the help they deserve."

Chatham County was included in the governor's request. The request for FEMA Public Assistance

(PA) was made for eligible work performed by eligible entities located in Chatham County, which may include state and local governments, and certain private nonprofits, according to Chatham County Director of Emergency Management Steve Newton.

"Public Assistance declarations are delineated by county, and if Chatham County is declared it doesn't necessarily mean

that Chatham County Government is seeking assistance as an applicant," Newton said. "We are not aware of enough individual/business uninsured losses to qualify for an Individual Assistance declaration."

Chatham County was included in the request for federal Public Assistance because of debris removal and road/bridge work that was reported by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and utility work reported by Randolph Electrical Membership Corporation. The Chatham County government did not report any eligible work as part of the Preliminary Damage Assessment that led to the inclusion of Chatham in the governor's request for federal assistance.

A total of \$260,555 in eligible emergency work and permanent repairs were reported as part of the PDA for eligible entities in Chatham County, Newton said.

"This met the Public Assistance threshold for Chatham County of \$240,048.90," Newton said. "Chatham County Government did not report any eligible emergency work or permanent repairs as part of the PDA."

"To my knowledge, the only expense Chatham County Government may be reporting is fuel used by generators at critical facilities during the prolonged power outage, and only if it exceeds the

\$3,200 FEMA PA Project Minimum Threshold," he added.

Emergency Management has not been alerted to any public entity with unmet needs or significantly damaged structures in the county as a result of Hurricane Michael. The cost of repairs and work reported in the PDA is for work performed by the NCDOT and Randolph EMC in the days following the initial impact of the storm. Those costs may be eligible for assistance under FEMA PA guidelines, Newton said. If those costs are declared for PA, eligible public entities may report additional eligible work that was not captured in the PDA.

The 21 counties included in the request for federal help received between four and nine inches of rain during a 24-hour period. More than 100 people were rescued from flash flooding and eight temporary shelters opened. Power outages affected 860,000 homes and businesses at their peak.

Preliminary damage assessments conducted by the state and county governments found damages in excess of \$22 million from Michael, which hit North Carolina in early October after making a devastating landfall in the Florida panhandle. Four people died as a result of the storm.

The other counties included in the request were

Alamance, Brunswick, Caswell, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Granville, Hyde, Iredell, McDowell, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Vance, and Yadkin.



An ornament hangs from a Christmas tree, giving notice that the holiday will be here shortly. Here's hoping you have your shopping done. (Staff photo Jeff Davis)

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