

Chatham News + Record

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Siler City struck by drive-by vandalism spree

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — At least one vandal, armed with an air gun, shot nearly a dozen different storefronts and numerous car windows late Saturday night or Sunday morning, shattering windows and leaving at least 30 holes in windows of downtown businesses.

The vandalism spree stretched from West Raleigh Street through downtown Siler City to East Third, North Fifth, and South Sixth Avenues.

At least seven separate incident reports are believed to be connected, according to Det. Dean Johnson of the Siler City Police Department, who is leading the investigation in the case.

"It appears to be a pellet gun, but we haven't found a BB or a pellet," Johnson said. "The damage appears to be consistent with damage caused by those air-type

projectiles. Depending on the type and how it's powered determines the velocity of the projectile. These things can cause personal injury. I have met people who have been hurt severely by them."

Authorities are "following up aggressively," said Siler City interim Chief Jeanne Miller. "We are also working with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office."

See **VANDALISM**, page A3

The Chatham Rabbit in downtown Siler City had its entire window destroyed by a vandal or vandals who used a pellet gun over the weekend. Community members came out on Sunday to help owner Brooke Simmons clean the mess so that it could reopen on Monday.

Photo courtesy The Chatham Rabbit



SWIFT WATER RESCUE

For those in dire straits, trained teams come to help



Staff photo by Lee Moody

South Orange's Carly Sherrod 'rescues' North Chatham's David Thompson. Sherrod used free swimming techniques, meaning without any equipment, to 'save' Thompson and safely swim him to shore.

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

On a recent cold and rainy Saturday, members of the North Chatham, Pittsboro and South Orange swift water rescue teams prepared to enter the chilly Haw River at Saxapahaw for training.

"If it ain't rainin', we ain't trainin,'" Lt. Eddie Freeman said.

Freeman is a member of the North Chatham Fire Department and North Chatham's Swift Water Rescue Team, and he's also an instructor for swift water rescue training. His career stretches beyond three decades and in that time Freeman has acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge — and some pretty good stories.

The North Chatham Department averages about three swift

water rescues per year. The calls are what team members call "low frequency, high risk." These rescues may account for less than one percent of the calls the fire department answers, but they also some of the most dangerous. Rescuers may be called to help someone on a raging river in Chatham County, or beyond.

"If they call us, we'll come," Freeman said.

The teams work together, backing each other up. The North Chatham team works with teams in Durham, Orange, Apex, Alamance, and Lee County's burgeoning team.

"We work really closely together," Freeman said. "We have back-up people so we don't have to do it by ourselves. We always have two teams for a

See **SWIFT**, page A8

County's final parks plan calls for 85.3 miles of greenway

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Chatham County's new parks master plan makes recommendations that could significantly alter the recreation landscape of the area.

Perhaps chief among them is a proposal to add 85.3 miles of greenway and nature trails over the next 10 years. It was one of the major suggestions from design and engineering firm McAdams Company of Durham, which worked on the plan.

"Trails are really an emerging phenomenon, they have been for quite a few years," said Rachel Cotter, a project manager with McAdams who spoke to the Chatham County Commissioners last week. "It is free, for the most part, for users and can be used by people of all ages, all ability levels. We're finding that greenways and trails are one of the best ways for reaching people from a recreation and health perspective."

The recommended 85-plus miles is what the firm says the county needs to meet the Level of Service for 2028.

The LOS is determined by measuring national standards, industry best practice, community input and recreation trends. Cotter said the county parks only provide .09 miles of trail per 1,000 residents — for a total of 6.7 miles — while the recommended LOS is 1 mile per 1,000 citizens, taking into consideration the growth in the county, plus the expected population growth from Chatham Park.

Cotter said it's not "alarming or surprising" that the county is below the level. She recommended, with support of county parks and recreation staff, that the county establish a long-range trail network plan that would establish corridors throughout Chatham to reach the mileage called for. Nature and greenway trails were the top amenity requested by county residents during a recent survey and community meetings.

The master plan, approved by the county's board of commissioners Feb. 18, also called for near-immediate master planning and investments for Southwest District Park in Bear Creek and Earl Thompson Park in Pittsboro. Cotter estimated that improvements to those facilities could cost anywhere between \$18,000 and \$60,000.

The final plan also indicated that staffing levels and budget for the county's parks department needed to rise, as well as

See **PARKS**, page A3

Not relying on statistics



Staff photo by David Bradley

Despite just 2 percent of educators across America being black men, Chatham County Schools has three in major administrative roles: from left to right, Chris Poston, executive director of elementary and middle grades education; Derrick Jordan, district superintendent; and Melvin Diggs, executive director of the EC and AIG programs.

CCS' black male administrators defy national education trends

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — According to the U.S. Department of Education, around 2 percent of public school educators in America are black males.

But a look at Chatham County Schools' administrative team might make you think differently.

Derrick Jordan (superintendent), Chris Poston (executive director for elementary and middle grades education) and Melvin Diggs (executive director of Exceptional Children's and Academically or Intellectually Gifted programs) are all African-American men. They're not in their positions because they're intentionally trying to buck that statistic, they say, but

because they're following their passion, what they want to do with their lives.

Jordan, Poston and Diggs spoke to the News + Record about their paths to education, their experiences with black educators and what individuals like them can bring to the teaching profession and to students.

The influence of others

Jordan and Poston had similar experiences in choosing a career in education — a desire from a young age.

"I can't remember a time when I didn't want to be a teacher," said Jordan. "I toyed in high school with the idea of doing law, but I've always known that I would be a teacher, and even in my current role, I find myself being drawn back to the classroom."

Poston pointed to his middle school math teacher, Ronald Chavez, at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.

See **EDUCATION**, page A12

IN THE KNOW

Point/Counterpoint: Chiosso, Smith talk trees. **PAGE A5**

Pittsboro, Chatham Park tree battle rages on. **PAGE A7**

SPORTS: Five area basketball teams head to state. **PAGE B3**

REVIEW: 3rd 'Dragon' film feels a bit long in tooth. **PAGE B5**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ON THE AGENDA

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on March 4 at the Siler City Town Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. Second Ave in Siler City.

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on March 11 at the Pittsboro Town Hall located at 635 East Street in Pittsboro.

FRIDAY

• **Chatham Community Library and the Career and Employment Training program** at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) are partnering to offer free employment assistance. Timir Cox, a Career and Employment Training instructor at CCCC, will be available to assist with employment skills and related questions from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. each Friday through March 29. Job seekers can meet one-on-one with Cox to learn how to search for jobs, research employers, accurately complete applications, create resumes and cover letters, and practice interview strategies. Assistance is free to those who are unemployed, underemployed, working and eligible for the federal earned income tax credit, or those who have received notice of a layoff. No appointment is necessary. Participants will be asked to complete brief registration paperwork on their first visit. Sessions take place in the computer lab at Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro, on the campus of Central Carolina Community College.

SATURDAY

• **New Hope Audubon Society** 4 events:

• #1: 8 a.m. Saturday, March 2, meet behind Bojangles at Oak Creek Village Shopping Center in Durham for a 2-3 hour bird walk at a nearby site. Questions, contact Jim Capel at jim.capel@mindspring.com.

• #2: Stream Watch, 9 a.m. Saturday, March 2, water quality monitoring at several sites on New Hope Creek. If interested, contact John at jnkent25@gmail.com for information.

• #3: 2-3 hour walk, 8 a.m. Wednesday, March 6, meet in front of Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Crossing Shopping Center in Chapel Hill. Questions to Nan Dewire at ndewire@hotmail.com for information.

• #4: New Hope Audubon Society month meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 7. Join us at the NC Botanical Garden (100 Old Mason Farm Rd. on 15-501 at the intersection with Old Mason Farm Road in Chapel Hill.

Elsa Youngstead from NC State University will speak on the topics of "Pollination Ecology of the Venus Flytrap and other Rare Plants in NC."

There is no charge for admission and all are welcome, members and non-members alike.

SUNDAY

• The **Chatham Historical Museum** will be open from noon until 4:30 p.m. on March 3. In addition to permanent museum displays, see our temporary "Crossing Racial Lines: The Tod Edwards Family of Siler City" exhibit.

• **Local Tables** is back in Briar Chapel for 2019 on a new night, with a

new time, and in a new location. All are invited on Sunday nights at 5 p.m. for this gathering led by Pastor Brent Levy. Dinner and childcare provided. Local Tables are small gatherings of friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and people who are about to become your friends. At your Local Table, you'll share a meal, talk, listen, be encouraged, and make friends who become like family. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, Local Tables give you the opportunity to lean in, listen, and know you're not alone. Learn more about what to expect and why we think these matter at <http://thelocalchurchpbo.org/tables>.

MONDAY

• **Writing Toward Resilience**, a weekly opportunity for all those grieving or current caregivers, meets at noon every Monday at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC. No writing experience necessary. Facilitated by Carol Henderson, a professional writer and workshop leader. No registration needed. The UNC Hospice Home is at 100 Roundtree Circle, behind Bojangles in Pittsboro. For further information, contact Ann Ritter, 919-984-2650 or email at ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Chatham Community Library** is celebrating Women's History Month with a three-part film series starting from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, March 7, in the Holmes Meeting Room. Films in the series include:

• 3/7: RBG (2018). At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But the unique personal journey of her rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans – until now. RBG explores Ginsburg's life and career. Directed by Julie Cohen and Betsy West, RBG is a nominee for the 2019 Academy Award's Best Documentary Feature category.

• 3/7: Birding on the Haw River - Join Ranger McMurray from 9 to 11 a.m. on March 9 on the Old Bynum Bridge for an hour or two of exploring close by. We will try to locate birds in the area, discuss bird identification

• 3/14: Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed (2004). This outstanding documentary chronicles Brooklyn-based Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's 1972 presidential bid. Chisholm '72 was a nominee for Best Documentary at the 2006 Black Reel Awards. It was directed by Shola Lynch.

• 3/21: The Legend: The Bessie Coleman Story (2018). This feature documentary details the life and career of Bessie Coleman, the first woman of African-American descent and the first of Native American descent, to hold a pilot license. Coleman staged the first public flight by an African American woman in America on Labor Day, September 3, 1922. She became a popular flier at aerial shows, though she refused to perform before segregated audiences in the South. Speaking at schools and churches, she encouraged blacks' interest in aviation. This was written and directed by Gardner Doolittle.

• The **Guardian ad Litem** program is looking for volunteers to be the voice of an abused or neglected child in our community. Training begins March 9. Chatham County is in need of volunteers to be an advocate for children who are currently in foster care. For more information, contact Nickie Siler, GAL Program Supervisor, District 15B North Carolina Judicial Branch, at: nickie.siler@nccourts.org or 919-545-3650 or visit at: www.VolunteerforGAL.org.

• Highfalls 84th annual **Fiddler's Convention** is scheduled for Saturday, March 9 at North Moore High School Auditorium. Registration from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with show time starting at 6. Admission will be \$7 per person. There will be entertainment and food. Cash prizes will be given in ten categories.

• Birding on the Haw River - Join Ranger McMurray from 9 to 11 a.m. on March 9 on the Old Bynum Bridge for an hour or two of exploring close by. We will try to locate birds in the area, discuss bird identification

and songs. Anyone is welcome, from beginner to expert, young to old. Parking available near the bridge and at the lower parking lot at Lower Haw River State Natural Area. For further information, contact Ranger McMurray at steve.mcmurray@nparks.gov.

• **Randolph Health**, free colon cancer screening is scheduled for Thursday, March 14 at Randolph Health private dining room from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Get checked by registering at the Community Events Desk at 336-633-7788 or by visiting randolphhealth.org.

• **Chatham Community Library** will host an author event with Iris Yang on Saturday, March 16 at 2 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room. Born and raised in China, she has loved writing since a child. She studied science and holds a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Her debut novel, *Wings of a Flying Tiger* was published in 2018 and its sequel, *Will of a Tiger* was published in January, 2019. She is now working on a story based on her grandmother, the first Chinese woman to receive a master's degree in Edinburgh in the UK. She is a part time resident of Sedona, AZ and Chapel Hill. The event is free and open to the public.

• Twice a month join the gathering for the **Bluegrass Jam Circle** and make music at 950 Bynum Rd. You can join the fun every second and fourth Saturday throughout the year. The circle forms around 10 a.m. until noon. Singers, new pickers (spoons, washboards) and audience members are all welcome. This is an open circle type jam for all skill levels and ages. If you pick, bring your instrument. If you sing, bring your voice. Come to enjoy great music at the historic Bynum General Store. Pickers are asked to bring acoustic instruments only. The Circle Jam is free and open to the public.

• **Wake Up Wednesday** is a networking event that occurs from 8 - 9:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Carolina Brewery, located at 120 Lowes Dr in Pitts-

boro. In today's media packed world where we're bombarded with as many as 3000 advertising images, and slogans a day, a person may require anywhere from 8-12 exposures to a concept or idea before a connection is made with a potential customer. And as most of us know, in order to influence someone to buy your product, join your cause, they need to know, like and trust you. So please come to Wake-Up Wednesday often, as it is one tool that you can utilize to build relationships in the community.

• **The Spring for Literacy Luncheon** to benefit Chatham Literacy will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 10 at Governors Club. Best-selling author Frances Mayes will be keynote speaker. She will share about her adventures in Italy and new book. Registration started February 1. Tickets are \$100; available at chathamliteracy.org or 919-542-6424.

• **The Chatham County Local Emergency Planning Committee** (LEPC), which meets to discuss county-wide emergency preparedness, has scheduled its 2019 quarterly meetings for May 2, August 1, and Nov. 7. The meeting sites for the year will be the Chatham County Detention Center, the new Mountaire Farms facility in Siler City, and the county's Emergency Operations Center in Pittsboro. Specific details for each meeting will be made known via media notification, county E-Notify, Facebook, and Twitter at least two weeks prior to the respective

meeting dates. For information concerning hazardous material facilities in Chatham County or the LEPC in general, contact Emergency Management at 919-545-8163.

ALSO HAPPENING

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering a series of free computer classes. Find a full description of each class, including topics covered and prerequisites for attending, by visiting www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Classes take place in the computer lab at the Library, on the campus of CCCC.

• **Volunteers Needed** - Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, care for animals. **Chatham Connecting** website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community. www.chathamconnecting.org

• **Chatham County Council on Aging** presents its VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program). Appointments are being taken for persons/families of low to middle income, planning to file a 1040 Form. To schedule an appointment, call the Council on Aging at 919-542-4512. VITA is a service of the IRS, where their volunteers assist with income tax preparation with no charge to you. Locations at: Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro and the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City.

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Fun Fact

Did you know the man who invented cruise control was blind? His name was Ralph Teetor.

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CHATHAM COUNTY EDC Interim President Byrd takes over

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Alyssa Byrd has been named


Byrd
president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation.

EDC Board

Chairman Doug Emmons announced the board's selection at the organization's Opportunity Chatham breakfast Friday at the Chatham County Ag Center in Pittsboro.

"This is the best job in the state," Byrd said. "I get to help a community grow. I get to help people achieve their goal."

Byrd has been in Chatham County for eight years. She joined the EDC as its communications specialist in 2011. After a brief time away, she was asked to return as direc-

tor of communications and special projects.

When Kyle Touchstone, the former EDC president, announced his resignation last July for an opportunity in Texas, the EDC board named Byrd interim president.

Since that time, she has staffed the EDC as it concluded an arduous process to finalize new by-laws, the governing documents of the non-profit organization. The process had been a focus of the EDC for more than three years.

"Thank you for this opportunity to continue serving Chatham County," Byrd told the Opportunity Chatham audience. "I look forward to being your partner in economic development."

Byrd is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill with a double bachelors degree in journalism and political science. For the past eight years, Byrd's life has been rooted in

Chatham.

She met her husband, Justin, soon after she was hired at the EDC. He was the IT professional who came to set up her computer there when she was hired. Now the couple has two children, ages 3 and 4, and live in Pittsboro. Byrd voiced gratitude for the opportunity to build her life, family and a career based on successful partnerships.

"It is amazing," Byrd said of living in Chatham County. "It's such an incredible opportunity in one of the fastest growing areas. We are uniquely positioned to leverage that growth to our own benefit. I love the Chamber and the county and the town. I've been working with them for years," Byrd said. "We have great working relationships. I'm excited to continue to grow and strengthen those relationships."

PARKS: 'Very many next steps'

Continued from page A1
marketing efforts. A cost for all of the recommendations was not provided.

The three commissioners at the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the report and recommendations, but said priorities need to be established.

"(The plan) outlines some actionable items that we can start thinking about now, and I think that's important," said board chairman Mike Dasher.

Board vice chairman Diana Hales added, "There's a very big apple out here to taste. Ten years goes by very fast. I think there's more to be sorted out in terms of what's first."



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

In this file photo from January 2019, Ashley Lux of Pittsboro pushes daughter Grace, 2, on the swings at Northwest District Park in Siler City.

It sounds to me like there's very many next steps."

Commissioners Jim

Crawford and Walter Petty were absent for the discussion and presentation.

VANDALISM: Police on foot patrol

Continued from page A1

West of town, Iglesia Misión Evangélica Pacto, an Hispanic church, and its neighbor, the Tienda La Jalisco convenience store, sustained damage to windows. Vehicles of several residents on East Third, North Fifth, and South Sixth Avenues also suffered window damages from shots.

Perhaps the most sustained damage was in downtown. On North Chatham Avenue, the vandals appeared to have fired shots all along storefronts on the western side of the street. Beginning with Turnberry Interior Design Group with two pellet holes all the way to the Old Farmers' Market location with four pellet holes, at least 30 pellets were fired into downtown businesses.

Both of the Chatham Rabbit's front windows were completely shattered. Owner Brooke Simmons had some volunteer help on Sunday to clean up the mess at the downtown coffee shop, placing plywood over the windows in order for the shop to open on Monday.

Siler City Police were patrolling on foot patrol Monday, assessing the damage to update reports and to have a police presence downtown.

If anyone has any information on the cases, please contact the Siler City Police Department at (910) 742-5626.



Photo courtesy The Chatham Rabbit

The Chatham Rabbit lost its entire front window because of the string of vandalism this weekend. Its logo rabbit survived the blast, surrounded by shattered glass.



At least ten downtown businesses have pellet holes in their front windows similar to this one at the N.C. Arts Incubator. The vandal or vandals hit numerous locations in town including businesses, churches and homes.



Iglesia Misión Evangélica Pacto (left) and the La Jalisco store (right) in West Siler City have shattered windows due to vandals shooting an air powered pellet gun late Saturday night.

Staff Photo by David Bradley

County growth highlights talk at EDC's 10th annual Opportunity Chatham event

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County's economic gains of the last decade were celebrated at the Chatham Economic Development Corporation's annual Opportunity Chatham breakfast, a gathering of business, government, and community leaders to discuss growth and trends in Chatham County.

At the 10-year anniversary event, held at the county's Agricultural & Conference Center, EDC President Alyssa Byrd discussed the first Opportunity Chatham breakfast that took place in an empty manufacturing plant in Siler City. That building was the former Acme McCrary building, which now houses MAS Acme, a distribution center. The site, Byrd noted, was the first designated foreign trade zone in Chatham County.

"A lot can happen in 10 years," Byrd said. "There has been substantial progress marked by incremental change."

Byrd credited that progress to successful partnerships. These included Siler City's Brownfields Assessment grant, a highly competitive grant to support the town's efforts to redevelop former industrial sites, investment in infrastructure to support economic growth, revenue sharing agreements between municipalities, and Carolina Core, the new marketing collaborative for economic development for the US-421 corridor stretching from the piedmont south to Fayetteville.

"These are things we work for daily," Byrd said. "We're here today because we see opportunity."

Keynote speaker Anthony M. Copeland, the N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary, described how N.C. went from being listed as the second poorest state in the country in the 1960s to being one of the fastest growing today, with half of its population being not native to the state. Copeland noted that growth required investment in housing, roads, and education to keep up.

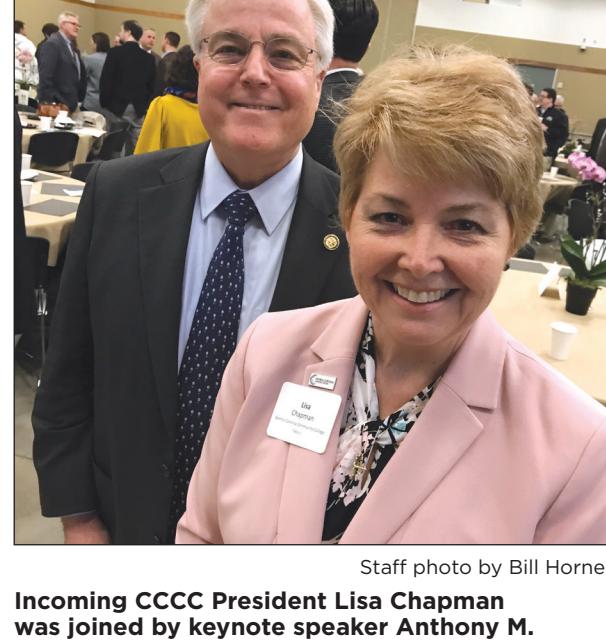
Copeland further emphasized the need for counties to prepare for growth to attract growth.

"Unless you're prepared, it's just real estate," Copeland said.

Being "prepared," Copeland said, includes a trained workforce, infrastructure, and property being site-ready — and



Staff photo by Bill Horner
Retiring CCCC President Dr. T. Eston 'Bud' Merchant poses with Chatham EDC President Alyssa Byrd at EDC's annual Opportunity Chatham breakfast last week.



Staff photo by Bill Horner
Incoming CCCC President Lisa Chapman was joined by keynote speaker Anthony M. Copeland, the secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce, at the annual Chatham EDC Opportunity Chatham breakfast last week.

he praised Chatham for its efforts to be prepared.

"As commissioners and leaders," Copeland said, speaking of the Chatham County megasites, "I understand when you put in public funding years in advance for something that's not there yet, it can make you nervous. But you doing it here it's a kind of long game you're playing. I commend you for what you're doing."

Lisa Chapman, the incoming President for Central County Community College, also spoke briefly about returning to the area after five years working in Raleigh.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to be here with you and to be coming home," Chapman said. "I am very grateful for this

opportunity and I don't take it lightly."

Chapman focused her remarks on the importance of a talented workforce and the "talent pipeline" that is critical for economic development.

"We know our role," Chapman said. "We know how important it is that we be connected to you."

The event closed with presentations to two retiring members of the EDC board. Dr. T. Eston "Bud" Merchant, the outgoing president of CCCC, and Linda Harris, long-time EDC member and former executive in the agriculture industry.

"You have the most unique place in N.C." Merchant said. "I am thankful for letting me be a part of it."

NCASCD distinguishes McMillan for teaching excellence

CN+R Staff Report

PINEHURST — Michael McMillan, seventh grade teacher at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, received the 2019 NCASCD Teaching Excellence Award during the organization's annual conference at The Carolina Hotel on the Pinehurst golf resort.

Horton Principal Valencia Toomer and Horton Assistant Principal Bradyn Robinson nominated McMillan for the award, which recognizes an innovative teacher in North Carolina who for at least three years has met the needs of his or her students through unique ideas with proven results in student achievement or whole-child tenets.

"I'm very grateful to Mrs. Toomer and Mr. Robinson for the nomination and was very proud to represent Horton Middle School and Chatham County Schools at the conference," McMillan said. "Every seventh-grade science teacher — every teacher — should prioritize pos-



Submitted photo
Michael McMillan, seventh grade teacher at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, received the 2019 NCASCD Teaching Excellence Award during the organization's annual conference in Pinehurst.

itive relationships with students and making the curriculum as fun and engaging as possible."

VIEWPOINTS

Hey, watch your \$*#&^ language

A mea culpa wasn't what I expected to hear when I switched on the TV.

It was a few Aprils ago and I wanted to catch a few holes of The Masters, which, if you're familiar with it, is the most sanitized sports broadcast in the universe. Not two seconds after powering up my remote, though, I heard this from commentator Ian Baker-Finch: "For any of you that may have heard something offensive on 13, we apologize."

Curious to know who the culprit was, I didn't have to wait long. Moments later the cameras showed Tiger Woods – in the woods – off the 13th fairway.

Was there any doubt? Tiger,

of course, is known for his bombs – his long, towering drives from the tee and the f-word he favors when his shots go awry. He's drained some of golf's most memorable putts. But because his entry in a televised golf event guarantees the cameras will be trained on his every swing, Woods has

been caught dropping plenty of profanity, even in the sterile world of Augusta National.

Sportsmanlike or not, there must be something in the water that makes the athletic airwaves so crowded with curse words. You might remember Bryan Price, the former manager of baseball's Cincinnati Reds, unloaded on a newspaper reporter — yeah, we newspaper folks are good at p*\$%# people off — mixing in a total of 77 f-bombs in a 5 minute, 34-second tirade that included a total of 91 obscenities. Price threw in nearly a dozen vulgar references to another f-word — feces — for good measure. (If you're scoring at home, that total included two for bovine, one for equine.)

Turns out, though, that Price's expletive ratio of one curse word every 3.7 seconds doesn't even lead the major leagues. That honor belongs to former Kansas City Royals' manager Hal McRae, who somehow managed to exhale 32 expletives in a 1 minute, 25-second tirade (against reporters...sigh) in 1993.

I watched it on YouTube again not long ago. Somewhere in my attic the corners of all my old McRae baseball cards curled.

Cursing is as common as sweat in sports. Athletes and coaches

in the heat of battle obviously feel they should be given a pass every now and then if they pepper their comments with salty phrases, and sometimes they apologize. Price eventually took to Twitter to ask forgiveness for his "wholly inappropriate language," but by then I'd gotten to thinking about an encounter with expletives years back, an incident from probably a dozen years ago at bowling alley arcade during a birthday party one of my children was attending. I was helping one of my sons get change for video games and one youngster, probably 12 or 13 years old and not a part of the party, was holding court with a couple of friends showing off his limited command of the King's English and his mastery of profanity. Every fourth or fifth word out of his mouth was an f-bomb.

He wasn't mad. And he wasn't some inebriated fan sitting behind us at a hockey game. He was just a kid at an arcade who felt the need to prominently feature the f-word at least once, and sometimes three or four times, in every sentence,

"Hey," I said, irritated after hearing the 17th f-bomb. "Do you mind watching your language?"

I braced myself for an f-word

in his response. He didn't disappoint.

"It's a free country," he said.

It wasn't the f-bomb I expected, but it had about the same impact. A hint: don't ever tell me "It's a free country," especially if you're sassy brat who doesn't know a report card from a republic and wouldn't know liberty if it was an app on your iPhone. "Free country" remarks from nitwits making excuses for stupidity have made my blood boil ever since my then-pregnant wife, Lee Ann, went into the women's restroom of a prominent Sanford non-smoking eatery years ago to find a woman standing at a sink, puffing away, creating a thick cloud of blue second-hand smoke for all who entered. Lee Ann said something to her about flouting the law and health concerns. The woman cursed at her and said: "It's a free country."

In my mind, if you're smoking in a non-smoking restaurant, you'd better be on fire. And if you're a juvenile delinquent dropping f-bombs around little kids, you need your mouth washed out with soap.

"Yeah, it is a free country," I said to the kid in response, not really thinking about whether

the Constitution guaranteed him the right to use the f-word over and over in full earshot of about 40 pre-adolescents. "But there are children around here. Do you have to talk like that?"

"Pffffttt," he said, turning on his heels.

I've wondered for years if I could have responded in a better fashion, but I've also kept in mind that when it comes to the tongue, I'm not totally innocent. I was about that boy's age when my mom overheard me say "damn," which back then was a really bad word.

Mom slapped the \$#^ out of me. I deserved it.

Unfortunately, I've said worse since.

Times may have indeed changed. You hear much worse language on network television today than you ever could have imagined 30 years ago. And there are more and more of those for whom dropping casual f-bombs in normal conversation is, like Tiger, par for the course. (Tiger recovered from his wayward drive, by the way, to birdie that hole.)

But for Tiger, and Bryan Price, and for that kid in the arcade and for me, the question is still a legitimate one: do we really have to talk like that?

Hard fought DIY victory still satisfies

Things are going along great and then...they aren't. Sometimes that's the way things go.

And that's the way it went with one of the two toilets in my house.

One day it was working properly, as it had all those hundreds of days before, and the next, it wasn't. When flushed, it continued to run, perpetually filling with water and not shutting off.

We recognized the problem immediately, and set about to correct it.

Never mind that we had to deconstruct a medicine cabinet that we'd built around the toilet just to get to the toilet. We've come to expect such complications

when things go wrong.

Once the preliminary carpentry part of the job, which involved first finding the correct allen wrench, had been completed — no small task just to gain access to a toilet tank — we could lift the lid to see what was wrong and determined that a rubber seal was kaput and would need to be replaced.

It's one of those "easy" fixes that a handy person can complete painlessly and quickly.

First stop was Lowe's, where I surveyed the stacks until I found the part I thought I needed, "thought" being the key word.

This wasn't my first toilet repair, so I brought a little past experience to the project. But I'm the sort of person who learns best by repetition; and when a few years have passed between such projects, I tend to forget the finer points.

At Lowe's, I bought the wrong part.

But I've learned through my years of DIYing that no project gets finished without at least two, more often three trips to the hardware store, so why should this project be any different? I was just getting started, after all.

On my return trip to Lowe's, this time to get the part I actually needed, I decided to swallow my pride and ask someone with more knowledge than me for advice. And, I took with me a picture of the problem piece.

I found what I needed: both a helpful staffer and, with his patient assistance, the proper part.

I went home again, confident now that I'd have the toilet fixed and operating again in short time. Some time later, with toilet parts and tools scattered about the bathroom floor and a half dozen bath towels soaking up water from the floor, I was feeling defeated.

I'd read the instructions. I'd installed the part, several times. And yet...I had a personal tsunami in the bathroom every time I test-flushed the toilet.

Call a plumber? Maybe. With an increasing sense of despair, frustration and defeat, I went as far as to consider phoning a professional.

But, still determined to do it myself (and reminding myself that this was, in fact, an easy job) I nixed the plumber notion and did something completely risky: I took the only other working toilet in the house apart to ensure I was putting everything in the non-working toilet back together properly.

And that, it turned out, did the trick.

I realized the error I'd been making and, after a couple more failed attempts to get things just so, and a few more drenched towels, I fixed the problem.

So what that I spread a job out over hours — even turning one toilet repair into two — where it would have taken a more skilled worker 20 minutes to complete.

So what that I wasted a lot of gas driving back and forth for parts when someone else would have made one trip.

No matter. I still felt a sense of accomplishment, hard fought as it was, having done it myself.

Chatham News + Record

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It's all good if things get better on the way to becoming the very best



Movin' Around

Bob Wachs

My favorite high school subject, other than lunch and U.S. history (both of which are still favorites even today) was English. Part of that comes directly because of two great ladies — Mrs. Annie May and Mrs. Strowd Rigsbee — who were my teachers of English.

English not as in "literature," although we did have some of that.

Rather, English as in the study of the language itself and its parts of speech and when and where and how to use them. For instance, I loved diagramming sentences and if you're a certain age and don't know what that means, find an older person to explain it to you.

That love of language, too, is still with me this day. And I'm still learning and trying to master it and I'm not there yet even though it's my mother tongue.

For example, there's the use of two similar words but with different meanings: "less" and "fewer." "Less" means "amount;" "fewer" means "how many." So, grammatically

speaking, there's less coffee than we had yesterday but there are not "less" people to drink it. Instead, there are fewer people since some of them left when we started running out of coffee.

I say all that as a lengthy introduction to another group of words: "old," "older" and "oldest." The simple rule we learned was that "older" was when you compared two people or things, as in "that coffee is older than the other." As for "oldest," well, that was what you said when the coffee you'd been drinking had been around longer than any of 43 varieties in the house.

And here is where I am having some difficulties with my mastery of English.

From time to time in this space I will refer to my two brothers. I am the last born of the three sons of our mama and daddy which makes the first one the oldest. But when I take me out of the equation, how do I distinguish between the two since they are both older. If I say "my older brother" to whom am I referring — not to mention I should never in such a situation use language such as "who am I referring to?"

Now that I have run all this into the ground, I will come to the point — mercifully for you, dear reader, if you're still here. My oldest older

brother — or is it older oldest brother — continues to pile up birthdays.

I'm glad. So is he.

He had one the other day. He used to say his claim to fame was that George Washington had the same birthday as he did. Now his claim to fame is that he keeps having birthdays.

Interesting thing about those birthdays. He has 10 more than I do or, put another way, I have 10 fewer. Years ago, those 10 were more like 30 or 40. Today, now that both of us have to keep a fire extinguisher close to the candles on our birthday cakes, those 10 years have melted into about 15 minutes.

One of my pet stories is that I'm here because of him, that mama and daddy had him first and said, "That's not so bad; let's have another one."

Then along came the younger of my two older brothers and the folks said, "Well, that's pretty good, too. Let's take a break and in a few more years try for perfection." And bingo . . . here I am. He, of course, if he gets to go first, says the opposite, that things were going downhill fast so they applied the brakes. Either way, here we both are. It's good; I like it.

Hopefully, it'll keep on getting

gooder...or more better.

Is that OK, Mrs. Rigsbee?

LETTERS

The invasion of illegal aliens

TO THE EDITOR:

The progressive liberal Democrats are anti-America, seeking evil against everything that made America great.

Congresswoman Omar is even speaking evil toward the Jewish people. The

liberal Democrats seem to care more about the illegal aliens' babies and children than the babies and children of America. These liberals are OK with killing the babies just before birth. They want open borders because they know they are losing American voters. Many Democrats want to turn this country into socialism.

They want to do away with our law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These loyal Americans are removing the MS-13 gang members and all illegal criminals from the U.S.A.

We welcome all that want to come legally and be Americans. Our white, black, Hispanic, and all other kids are dreamers

What's on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns.

At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication.

Each letter must contain the writer's full name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become property of the Chatham News + Record.

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to bhorner3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

too. Finally we have a president who cares about all of America.

I pray for understanding for Americans to see what's happening to the Democratic Party. Jesus Christ is the answer for all people.

James Mitchell
Pastor of the Church of Living Water
Siler City

VIEWPOINTS

TREES AND CHATHAM PARK: THE DEBATE CONTINUES

Why more trees need to be saved in Chatham Park

Why do people love trees? Because we understand their many benefits. Trees are nature's stormwater engineers — holding soil in place, filtering out water pollution, preventing flooding and recharging groundwater.

POINT
Elaine Chiosso

Trees are home to birds and wildlife, and very important in reducing climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and reducing heat. We love trees for their beauty and refuge in a noisy world. We often take for granted the summer shade, spring blossoms and autumn foliage of our native Piedmont forests. Imagine our world without them.

People have been speaking out to protest the very large percentage of mature trees that Chatham Park will cut down as they build their planned development on over 7,000 acres. The proposed "Chatham Park Tree Protection Additional Element" submitted to the Town of Pittsboro is woefully inadequate. These Chatham Park rules would require saving as little as 10 percent of the existing tree coverage for much of Chatham Park development, with 0-3 percent in some of the densest areas, only 20 percent in residential areas (only 25 percent if all replanted trees). Small, widely spaced saplings planted to replace bulldozed forest will take many decades to mature, before providing the shade and benefits of a tree canopy.

Concerns have been raised about how many of the existing trees will survive development construction. The size of the proposed root protection zone for trees during grading, is much smaller than most experts recommend, and could result in poor tree survival. The trees in open spaces and in stream buffers are in danger of being razed for utility crossings, greenways and recreational uses.

We recognize that trees will be cut, and forest lost, as Chatham Park is developed. But Chatham Park will be built near important, already threatened resources — the Haw River and Jordan Lake. What the Town of Pittsboro decides on tree coverage in Chatham Park could be felt by hundreds of thousands of people in our greater region, because of impacts to drinking water, air quality and climate change.

How does Chatham Park's tree ordinance compare to other places?

Chapel Hill's ordinance requires 30-40 percent tree coverage (20 percent in light industrial) in a city with about the same population (60,000) that Chatham Park envisions.

Chatham Park says their rules are based on the City of Durham's tree protection ordinance for their urban/suburban tier. Is that the best model for this land near the Haw River and Jordan Lake? Durham's mayor does not believe their tree ordinance

is protective enough, and work is under way to improve it.

Other cities are also trying to find ways to increase their "tree canopies", the amount of overhead cover the branches and leaves of the urban forest provide. The Charlotte City Council has adopted a "50 percent tree canopy by 2050" initiative. The Town of Cary has 46 percent tree canopy coverage. Even New York City has 22-24 percent tree canopy, credited with removing thousands of tons of water and air pollution, and they are planting one million new trees.

Pittsboro could adopt, an excellent model, "Recommendations for Implementing a Tree Protection Ordinance in the Town of Pittsboro," funded by the N.C. Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program in 2015. It would require 15 percent (most urban) to 60 percent (largest residential lots) tree coverage in new development. It includes many excellent tree protection strategies, with the highest priority being the preservation of existing trees. We urge the Town of Pittsboro to use these recommendations for both Chatham Park and the town's new Unified Development Ordinance.

Pittsboro has already backed away from the 2,000-foot Haw River buffer in their 2012 Land Use Plan, and the greater protections for the Haw River promised in their 2010 NPDES permit application. Chatham Park should be held to its commitment to be "exceptional." We cannot keep building as usual without considering the needs of future generations, who will live in a world where climate change is a reality. We cannot keep destroying the forests that provide clean air and protect streams, unraveling the defenses that our natural world provides, including flood control for the increasing number of major rain events. Chatham Park should commit to preserving much more of the existing forest before the bulldozers arrive.

We speak for the trees, since they cannot. Chatham County is known for its beautiful forests and waters, a reason many new people make this their home. The Town of Pittsboro should make sure that what is treasured most, is not lost, as Chatham Park is built.

Editor's note: The News + Record asked Elaine Chiosso to write a 750-word opinion piece on the subject of the tree issue in Chatham Park. Chiosso is Executive Director of the Haw River Assembly, a nonprofit organization working to protect the Haw River since 1982. She has lived in Chatham County for 45 years and has served on the N.C. Sedimentation Control Commission, the Chatham County Planning Board and Environmental Review Board, and currently serves on the Environmental Review Advisory Committee. Links to information and documents in this article can be found at www.hawriver.org.

Chatham Park's tree protection is exemplary

For the past few years Chatham Park has been developing and implementing regulations for its development. Public comment has quickly jumped to conclusions that, at best, are incorrect assumptions and, at worst, blatant misrepresentation of truth. With respect to Chatham Park's tree coverage, this has been especially true.

Below are examples of the Haw River Assembly's talking points repeatedly used to decry Chatham Park's proposed tree coverage percentages:

- "This proposal will mean less tree coverage than New York City."
- "Charlotte is proposing 50 percent tree coverage. Chatham Park only 10 percent."
- Pittsboro's canopy coverage in its Town Limits is 50 percent. Chatham Park will have fewer trees than any city in North Carolina."
- Chapel Hill's Tree Coverage ordinance requires 30-40 percent for almost all new development and should be the model for tree requirements."

Every example confuses Chatham Park's tree "coverage" measurement with tree "canopy."

COUNTER-POINT
Chuck Smith


Tree canopy vs. tree coverage

What is tree canopy and how does it differ from tree coverage? Tree canopy is the area the tree's branches and leaves cover when viewed from above. Tree coverage is the land area where the tree grows. Trees in parking lots, single family lots and planted in street rights of way do not receive credit for tree coverage in Chatham Park. Tree canopy is typically three times the tree coverage area.

LET'S BE CLEAR: WITH REQUIREMENTS PROPOSED OR ALREADY IN PLACE, CHATHAM PARK WILL NEVER FALL BELOW 50 PERCENT TREE CANOPY!

Let's break down these frequently stated misconceptions:

1. This proposal means less tree coverage than New York City.

A provocative sound bite but not factually accurate. A number of studies have measured tree canopy (not coverage) in New York with results ranging from 24 percent in 2006 to 13.5 percent in 2017 by MIT.

CHATHAM PARK WILL HAVE AT LEAST 50 PERCENT CANOPY VS. NEW YORK CITY'S 13.5-24 PERCENT.

2. Charlotte is proposing 50 percent tree coverage. Chatham Park is only 10 percent.

TreesCharlotte estimates Charlotte has 47 percent tree canopy with a goal of 50 percent by 2050. The tree coverage requirements in their ordinances range from 10-15 percent (except in the urban center with 0 percent required.) With their "low" coverage requirements, Charlotte has maintained 45-50 percent tree canopy over the city.

CHATHAM PARK'S TREE CANOPY WILL EQUAL OR EXCEED CHARLOTTE'S GOAL OF 50 PERCENT.

3. Pittsboro's canopy coverage in its Town Limits is 50 percent. Chatham Park will have fewer trees than any

other city in North Carolina.

In 2013, The Conservation Ordinance Review Committee (CORC) drafted recommendations for a Tree Protection Ordinance in Pittsboro. This report estimated there is 53 percent "canopy coverage" in the Town Limits. Most of this canopy is located in residential lots, again area not counted in Chatham Park's coverage regulations. Powell Place, the most comparable example of a Chatham Park type development in Pittsboro has 34 percent tree canopy with 12 percent tree coverage. In spite of what you've heard, very few municipalities in the state have tree ordinances and Chatham Park compares very favorably to those that do. While using different coverage (not canopy) metrics, Charlotte (10-15 percent), Raleigh (10 percent), Durham (10-20 percent), Greensboro (10 percent) and Winston-Salem (10 percent) are generally the same as Chatham Park's 10-20 percent.

CHATHAM PARK WILL HAVE MORE TREES THAN MOST CITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

4. Chapel Hill's tree coverage ordinance requires 30-40 percent for all development and should be the model for tree requirements.

CORC recommendations suggest that Pittsboro use Chapel Hill as its model. Chapel Hill requires 30-40 percent tree canopy coverage but Chatham Park's standards will provide at least 50 percent canopy. Chapel Hill has no canopy requirements for the Town Center or UNC's campus while Chatham Park's tree coverage requirements for its Village Centers result in more canopy.

AS A UNIVERSITY TOWN AND THE LEAST AFFORDABLE TOWN IN NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A MODEL FOR ANY TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT.

The combination of the tree protection, open space, parks, public facilities, water quality and water conservation requirements placed on Chatham Park will provide more environmental protections than any other property along the Haw River. An important part of these protections are tree requirements resulting in tree canopy never falling below 50 percent. Chatham Park's core value of thoughtful, environmental stewardship is one of the many reasons this will be an exemplary community in which to live, work and play.

Editor's note: The News + Record asked Chuck Smith to write a 750-word opinion piece on the subject of the tree issue in Chatham Park. Smith is the Vice President of Planning and Development for Preston Development Company overseeing the development of Chatham Park. He has more than 35 years experience as a licensed landscape architect specializing in land use planning, retail and mixed use design, golf course design, and recreational and open space planning. Prior to joining Preston Development Company, Smith was Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture for Withers & Ravelin, a multi-disciplinary design firm in Cary. He is a current member of the North Carolina Board of Landscape Architects and serves on the Board of Directors of the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards serving the US and Canada. Smith is also a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and has been a licensed real estate broker in North Carolina for more than 30 years.

LETTERS

Chatham Park investors need more transparency

TO THE EDITOR:

Your advice to letter writers is to avoid attacks on individuals, though apparently it's fine for an editorial ("There's a way for progress and preservation to both be valued," Feb. 21) to attack people as a group. Thus I must object that I didn't hear any "public official" accuse Chatham Park of being "dishonest," and I attend every meeting.

The effect of Chatham Park's latest tree rules is not in fact transparent and I hope our town board doesn't approve them until it is clear what it will mean for the built environment. As just one of many, many examples, after two and a half years, Chatham Park suddenly proposes to do what other towns wouldn't allow: avoiding tree coverage requirements on a development site because there are excess trees on another site or in a larger area.

I also feel I should correct something else in your editorial. Chatham Park may be a "private development" but plans legally required to be submitted to the Town are not private, and Chatham Park Investors have been no more transparent than they have to be. You seem strangely unfamiliar with how local government works.

Nor did I hear any public

speakers uttering "patent falsehoods." Much public concern centers on how little tree coverage Chatham Park plans to even put back, even where there will be room to do so.

In fact, preserving and providing more trees should be the aim of those who want Chatham Park to proceed, and succeed, because to compete for businesses and home-buyers, Chatham Park needs to actually be visibly exceptional, with more preserved mature trees than other competing areas.

While your editorial called for balance, it seemed more designed to sow division, as if this was a choice between trees or growth, trees or jobs, when we could have both, and will need one for the other.

Liz Cullington
Pittsboro

Destroying trees for dense development an outdated concept

TO THE EDITOR:

Chatham News + Record's recent opinion piece and limited coverage of the Procession to Speak for the Trees held Feb. 15 did not adequately convey the legitimate concerns of citizens who want to protect our treasured natural resources.

A turnout of 150-200 people of all ages circled the courthouse in Pittsboro with banners and signs saying "Chatham Park: 10% is not enough," "Cut

Greed, Not Trees," even an owl on a poster saying "Who-o Cares about trees? We do!"

Basically people rallied to bring attention to low amounts of trees the developers want. We're asking Chatham Park to save more trees than the percentages they have proposed to the town board recently.

Perhaps the involvement of some at the newspaper with Chatham Park showed with Mr. Horner's recent editorial in the paper. How can you suggest CP will meet "environmental standards higher than most communities in NC" when the Department of Environmental Quality has expressed concerns about storm water runoff from the development into the Haw River? How can clear cutting in 7,000 acres of forest and bulldozing swaths of terrain be considered innovative or "exemplary"?

Destroying the topography, ecosystems, and most of the trees for a dense development is an outdated concept and will make the development look like "anywhere USA" instead of preserving the unique landscape and rural heritage of Chatham County the Town of Pittsboro says it wants to keep.

Chatham Park was granted greater density in the watershed by the town and should honor that opportunity by protecting the water quality of the Haw River. Down river, Jordan Lake is a major water supply. Saving more existing trees and a 2,000 foot forest

buffer along the river's edge will help prevent some storm water runoff and pollution from the massive development. Chatham Park's flexibility could protect critical environmental resources and preserve more intact forest near their dense developments; saving forests and shade trees would improve their aesthetic appeal and provide more wildlife habitat.

People at the rally and community members at town board meetings are urging the town to make Chatham Park keep greater tree coverage than the 3 percent, 10 percent in their plans. The Town of Pittsboro currently has about 50 percent canopy; Chatham Park needs to preserve that much or conserve percentages of tree coverage much greater than they are asking.

Joy Hewett

Pittsboro

Promise of 'green living' not always lived up to

TO THE EDITOR:

One thing I have learned

as a resident and business owner in a newer development in Chatham County is that developers are motivated by financial gains with little concern about environmental or sustainability issues, even in developments that were advertised as green communities.

I am a resident of Briar Chapel developed by Newland Communities, built on the foundation of "green living" as they stated on their website back in February 2018:

"Briar Chapel community was designed as a place in harmony with nature" and that the nearly 900 acres of preserved land was intended to create "a more natural habitat for wildlife." Briar Chapel also prides itself in that "our respect for land has motivated us to find innovative ways to build new homes, while minimizing the impact on the environment."

Yet, despite advertising themselves in this light, the reason many Briar Chapel residents moved here, there has been a history of complete disregard of community concerns and environmental impact.

With a pending timeline of two years of further involvement in Briar Chapel, Newland is leaving the estimated 2,600 households to deal with their mess. Imagine what this means for Chatham Park that is 10 times the size.

Amy Coughlin

Pittsboro

VIEWPOINTS

Methodists engaged in a family feud

Do you remember the TV game show Family Feud? It was good fun as one family competes with another for cash prizes, but we all know that real life family feuds can be bitter, divisive and cause great damage.

For many years the United Methodist Church, along with many other denominations has been having differences over human sexuality, specifically about whether to ordain homosexual pastors, as well as whether or not to marry gay couples. Those discussions have become heated and emotionally charged, pitting families and congregations with different

beliefs against each other. It has reached a point where the issue now threatens the unity in the United Methodist Church. Methodists comprise the third-largest faith organization in our nation.

In St. Louis, Methodist delegates from four continents will gather to attempt to resolve those differences. Among the thousands of delegates attending this special session of the General Conference will be traditionalists, contextualists and progressives. Traditionalists believe in marriage between one man and one woman. They want greater accountability and fidelity within that union and disallow the ordination of and marriage of homosexuals. Contextualists acknowledge there are differences within various settings and are willing to allow those disparate beliefs and practices. Progressives want full inclusion of all persons in the life

of the denomination and believe the church can celebrate same-sex marriages.

For almost two years 32 people representing 9 countries have been praying about, meeting and discussing this issue. They represent a cross section of the Methodist faith and have been tasked with finding "a way forward," a solution that will cause the least damage to the denomination, result in the fewest loss of members or financial support, and have the least impact on the overall mission of making disciples for Jesus. It should come as no surprise that after two years this group has been unable to find a solution that can be universally embraced. Now they are taking it to the church as a whole for a solution.

Already this issue has torn asunder the Episcopal and Presbyterian denominations. In both instances the resulting survivors

are smaller in numbers, less influential and significantly weaker financially. Next week's St. Louis conference threatens that same outcome for Methodists.

This gathering is symptomatic of society today. Nobody admits to wanting to widen divisions among races, sexes, religious faiths or political parties, yet few are willing to compromise or yield their positions significantly enough to prevent the resultant damage. The feuds rage on.

We continue to fight these cultural, philosophical and religious battles, an acknowledgement that we never really learned from feuds from the past.

Nobody knows for a certainty what will happen at the Methodist summit. You don't have to be a Methodist to be in prayer that people of faith and good will can summon the grace, compassion, understanding and wisdom to find

a solution that will continue them united. And, if they are able to do so, that they will come home and demonstrate to us how to reconcile differences and heal wounds.

The family feud might make a good game show, but in real life there are losses on all sides and the experience can wreak damage for years to come. Hopefully all will agree that at this moment we need some reconciliation and peace.

Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina state treasurer and is creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that airs on UNC-TV main channel at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 12:30 p.m. Sundays and UNC North Carolina Channel at 10 p.m. Fridays, 4 p.m. Saturdays and at 10 a.m. Sundays at 10 a.m. Contact him at www.ncspin.com.



N.C. SPIN
Tom Campbell

Could Brooklyn-North Carolina lightning strike again?

Do you remember the important North Carolina connection to "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," one of America's most loved novels?

The book was written in North Carolina.

Although its author, Betty Smith, based the novel on her experience growing up in Brooklyn, she wrote the book in Chapel Hill. As a struggling

divorced woman with two children, she found work at the university until Harper & Brothers published her best-selling book in 1943.

It usually happens the other way, with the southern writer moving to New York to write.

So you would have to think that this Brooklyn to North Carolina story is something special, one not likely to happen again. Surprise! It will happen again next Tuesday, March 5, when Smith's publisher, now HarperCollins, releases "A Woman Is No Man," the debut novel of Etaf Rum.

Like Smith, Rum bases her novel on

her life growing up in Brooklyn. Like Smith, the divorced Rum moved to North Carolina. Like Smith, she had two children. Like Smith, she found work in higher education, in Rum's case, community colleges near where she lives in Rocky Mount.

Rum's Palestinian immigrant family and neighbors in Brooklyn in the 1990s and 2000s are not the same as Smith's families whose roots were in western Europe.

Still, both books deal with women's struggles to make their ways in families and communities dominated by men.

The central character in the first pages of Rum's book is Isra, a 17-year-old Palestinian girl whose family forces her into marriage with an older man, Adam. He owns a deli and lives with his parents and siblings in Brooklyn. Adam and Isra move into the family's basement. Isra becomes a virtual servant to Adam's mother, Fareeda, who pushes the couple to have children. She wants males who can make money and build the family's reputation and influence.

When Isra produces only four children, all girls, she is dishonored by Fareeda.

Adam beats her regularly.

The central character of the second part of the book is Deya, Isra and Adam's oldest daughter. Because Adam and Isra have died, Fareeda raises the children. Following the community's customs, when Deya is a high school senior, Fareeda looks for a Palestinian man for her to marry. Deya wants to go to college, but she is afraid to bolt her family and the community's customs.

She knows of women who have stood up against male domination and then faced beatings and even death.

"A Woman Is No Man" is fiction, but it is clearly autobiographical. As such,

Rum explains, the book "meant challenging many long-held beliefs in my community and violating our code of silence."

"Growing up," she writes, "there were limits to what women could do in society. Whenever I expressed a desire to step outside the prescribed path of marriage and motherhood, I was reminded over and over again: a woman is no man."

She writes that "what I hope people from both inside and outside my community see when they read this novel are the strength and resiliency of our women."

"A Woman Is No Man" will stir readers for other reasons too.

Its themes of conflict between a drive for individual fulfillment and the demands of community and family loyalty are universal.

Readers who have given up some life ambition because it conflicted with a family or community expectation will identify with Isra and Deya. So will those who have lost family ties when they breached community norms.

The author's well-turned and beautiful writing makes reading a pleasure.

Finally, her careful, fair-minded, sympathetic descriptions of complicated and interesting characters give the story a classic richness.

Whether or not "A Woman Is No Man" becomes a bestseller and attains the beloved status of "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn," it will, in the view of this reader, surely be a widely appreciated treasure.

D.G. Martin hosts "North Carolina Bookwatch" at 11 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Tuesday on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesday and other times.

Amendment decision endangers Democrats

RALEIGH — Arguing that GOP-tiled districts had

rendered elected law-makers "usurpers" who "did not represent the people of North Carolina,"

Wake

County Superior Court Judge Bryan Collins has struck down two constitutional amendments approved by state voters last fall: one requiring a photo ID to vote and the other capping North Carolina's income-tax rate at 7 percent.

I have advocated nonpartisan redistricting reform for more than 30 years. But to Democrats gleeful about what Judge Collins has just done, I can only say that you are making a grave error.

North Carolinians support voter ID and the tax cap. They just added them to the state constitution. If this decision survives appeal, voters will view the state's judiciary as the usurpers—and they'll be right.

Legal disputes about redistricting have, unfortunately, been part of our political landscape for decades. One reason I favor redistricting reform, and am working with a wide-ranging coalition to pass it this year, is that I believe this litigation to be a costly, convoluted, and divisive force in North Carolina politics.

However, I also understand that opinions differ about what fairness in redistricting means, and that judges have repeatedly altered the standards for legally permissible districts. Although courts must inevitably settle some such disputes, it would be foolish and reckless to insist that elections held in districts subsequently found to be noncompliant have no democratic legitimacy—that such legislatures do not "represent the people of North Carolina."

The implication of Col-

lins's theory is that every bill enacted by the General Assembly before the 2018 elections represents an invalid exercise of legislative power. Every tax dollar collected and appropriated by a budget bill, every pay raise for teachers and state employees, every change in civil and criminal law is suspect.

Collins was clearly aware of how ridiculous this would make him sound, so he tried to distinguish the legislative authority to propose amendments (requiring a three-fifths supermajority) from the authority to enact other bills. But the distinction doesn't work here. Collins

noted that two-thirds of all legislative districts had to be redrawn to satisfy the court order—which, of course, means that the Republicans' majorities, not just their supermajorities, were at issue. Indeed, under his theory it would make more sense to strike down enacted budgets and statutes than to strike down constitutional amendments, since only lawmakers ratify the former while the people themselves must ratify the latter.

"The prospect of invalidating 18 months of laws is the definition of chaos and confusion," Senate leader Phil Berger said in response. Quite so. No matter how

passionate they feel about blocking voter ID, raising taxes, or reforming redistricting, Democrats should not embrace this radical and irresponsible ruling.

Its radicalism and irresponsibility extends beyond redistricting. Among the "findings of fact" in the decision was that capping the income tax was a racist act—that it will "act as a tax cut only for the wealthy" and tend to "favor white households and disadvantage people of color."

This claim by one of the plaintiffs, the NAACP, is offensive and factually inaccurate. Before the General Assembly enacted tax re-

form in 2013, North Carolinians who earned more than \$60,000 a year were subject to an income tax rate of 7.75 percent on that income. The threshold was \$100,000 for a married couple.

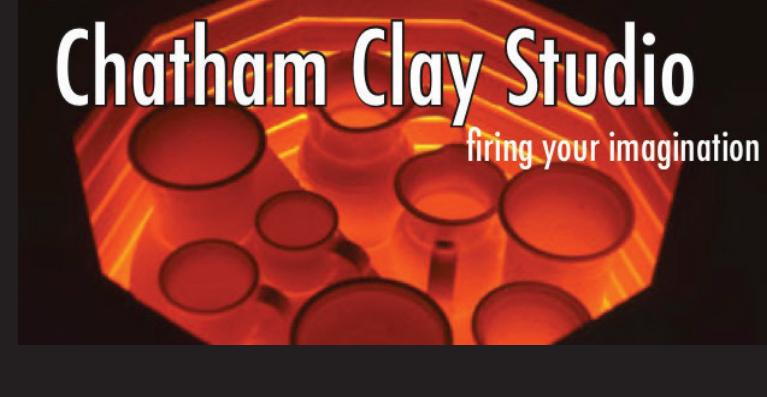
Do you consider all these North Carolinians "wealthy"? Do you think they were all white? That Judge Collins took this claim seriously as a justification for the NAACP's standing to challenge the tax cap should tell you all you need to know.

Politically, the plaintiffs have handed Republicans a potent election issue. If a Democratic judiciary strikes down popular policies just approved by the

voters themselves, most will see the Democrats as the party hostile to popular sovereignty here, not the Republicans.

The plaintiffs have also done the cause of redistricting reform a great disservice. By blocking partisan abuses and producing fairer, more compact, more voter-friendly districts, reformers seek to promote stability and cooperation, not chaos and confrontation.

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



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OBITUARIES

JEFFERY LYNN JONES

Jeffery Lynn Jones, 60, of Moons Chapel Church Road, Siler City died Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at UNC Hospitals.

Mr. Jones was born in Chatham County on January 1, 1959, the son of Lynn Willard and Sarah (Smith) Jones. Jeff had worked in maintenance at Gold Toe in Burlington and loved his time spent with his family, especially spoiling his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jeff is survived by his wife of 27 years, Vickie (McDaniel) Jones; daughter, Amanda Jones of Siler City; sons, Chad Allen and wife Angie of Coleridge, Kevin Jones and wife Sandra of Atlanta, Ga.; sisters, Denise Burgess and husband Robert of Coleridge, Lisa Perry of Siler City; brother, Phil Jones of Coleridge; grandchildren, Addison Allen, Connor, Landon, Eli, Aubrey and Adalyn Jones.

The family received friends Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 30 North Second Avenue, Siler City. A memorial service followed at 3 p.m. in the Smith & Buckner Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Darrell Williams officiating.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

JESSE RACHEL

Jessie Rachel, 83, of Siler City died Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Laurel of Chatham, Pittsboro.

Mr. Rachel was born in Chatham County on March 15, 1935, the son of James R. and Mamie (Caviness) Rachel. Jesse retired from Hadley Peoples Manufacturing and was an active member of Oakley Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, served as a deacon and was a member of the Brotherhood. He enjoyed watching NASCAR and wrestling. Jesse was preceded in death by his parents; brother, James Russell Rachel; sister, Wanna Mae Moore and his twin, Bessie Brown.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara (Trogdon) Rachel; daughter, Dianna "Dee" Brafford of Lexington; son, Jeff Rachel and wife Wanda of Siler City; brother, Lynn Rachel of Greensboro; grandchildren, Brittany and Ryan Rachel, Jason Brafford, Jennifer B. McMahan (Josh); and great-grandchildren, Vada, Myers, and Eloise.

The family received friends Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Oakley Baptist Church, 2300 Siler City-Glendorn Road, Siler City. The funeral followed at 3 p.m. at Oakley Baptist Church with Rev. Jeff Johnson officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Chatham Relay for Life, c/o Ann McDaniel, PO Box 526, Siler City, NC 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

ANNABELL 'VICKIE' BROCK BADROW

Annabell "Vickie" Brock Badrow, age 92, passed away at her home in Carolina Meadows Retirement Community in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

She was born on September 6, 1926 in Paterson, New Jersey to William Randlett Brock and Evelyn Goode. She attended Sweet Briar College and Oakland University, receiving her bachelors and masters degrees in Social Work and Education. She married Edward Vreeland Badrow in 1951. They had three children, Charles Edward Badrow, William Brock Badrow, and Elizabeth Benson Hopp. Annabell, known to family and friends as Vickie, worked as a social worker and then as a school teacher at St. Pius X Catholic School in Flint, Michigan for 22 years. After retirement, she and her husband moved to Carolina Meadows Retirement Community in the year 1991. Vickie as well as her husband became an active volunteer at Habitat for Humanity. In addition, Vickie volunteered for several years at North Chatham Elementary, Pittsboro Elementary, and lastly, Willow Oak Montessori. She was instrumental at Carolina Meadows in running the library and organizing book sales for many years. Vickie also volunteered for UNC Hospitals in the breast cancer program and at the Church of the Holy Family. As her vision began to decline, Vickie organized an education group for the visually impaired at Carolina Meadows. Both Vickie and her husband were recognized by the State of North Carolina in 1999, receiving the Governor's Volunteer Award for their efforts in support of Chatham Habitat for Humanity. In 2011, Vickie was awarded the Community Service award for her long-standing volunteer contributions to Chatham County by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

She is survived by her three children, her three grandchildren, Steve Grime, Roselyn Hopp, and Heather Hopp, in addition to two great-grandchildren, Katie and Galen Grime. Vickie deeply enjoyed being a grandmother and spending time with her family.

A memorial service was held on February 23 at the Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill. Memorials may be made in Vickie's name to Chatham Habitat for Humanity.

es-Cameron Funeral Home, 600 West Main Street, Sanford, NC 27332 or online at funeraldonationapp.com.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

SYLVIA BURNS COLLINS

Sylvia Burns Collins, 79, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, February 22, 2019.

The funeral service was held in the Bridges Cameron Funeral Home Chapel at 2 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2019 with Rev. Doug Western officiating. Burial followed at Moore Union Christian Church Cemetery.

She was born in Lee County on May 4, 1939 to the late Ulysses and Erma Thomas Burns. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Grant Burns. Sylvia was a member of Kendal Acres Free Will Baptist Church and she had

worked at Wyeth.

Sylvia is survived by her husband of 60 years, Troy Collins; daughter, Cathy Frazier of Wake Forest; brother, Sammy Burns of LaGrange, GA; and three grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

SHIRLEY CRAVEN JOHNSON

Shirley Craven Johnson, 73, of Siler City died Monday, February 25, 2019 at Siler City Center.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 1, 2019 from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 1 p.m. at Parks Cross Roads Christian Church, Ramseur with Rev. Jason Dickerson officiating.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Chatham County on October 4, 1945, the daughter of Rich-

ard and Edna (Stout) Craven. Shirley was a member of Deep River Baptist Church and retired from Acme McCrary. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Eugene Craven.

She is survived by daughter, Teresa Smith and one son, Richard Foushee, both of Siler City; sister, Ruth Clark of Ramseur; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

PATSY BANKS

Mrs. Patsy Banks, 80 of Pittsboro, passed on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Brian Center Southpoint in Durham.

Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CHRISTOPHER JULIUS GILLIAM

Christopher Julius Gilliam, 60, of Sanford, passed on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ANNIE JANE (MCLUCAS) POWELL

Annie Jane (McLucas) Powell, 78, of Sanford, passed on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Hock Family Pavilion, Durham.

Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JENNIFER DIETZ

Jennifer Dietz, 59, of Carthage, passed on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, Pinehurst.

Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

YVONNE WOMBLE MOORE

Ms. Yvonne Womble Moore, 77, formerly of Goldston, passed on Monday, February 18, 2019 at her residence in Baltimore, MD.

Announced locally by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

PITTSBORO & CHATHAM PARK

Town's tree discussion continues forward; commissioners schedule tree workshop March 18

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's Town Board on Monday continued its extended process to complete the tree protection portion of the Chatham Park Development plan, hearing more input from residents and activists but taking no action — other than to schedule a workshop solely devoted to discussing tree protection for March 18.

Chatham Park, planned development of more than 7,000 acres just north of the Pittsboro town limits, is expected to add at least 30,000 new residents over 30 years. Tree protection has become one of the most contentious elements of Chatham Park's master plan, which also includes things such as affordable housing, lighting, landscaping, stormwater management and public art.

Chatham Park representatives attended the Monday meeting to answer any questions from the board on the tree protection element.

Seventeen people spoke during the public comment section of the board meeting, each taking up the allocated three minutes each for comments and each speaking in opposition to Chatham Park's plan. Over the next hour, one by one,

each person addressed the board — sometimes passionately, with some shedding tears during remarks — about their desire to protect trees in Chatham Park as the community is developed.

Following the comment period, Pittsboro Town Planner Jeff Jones provided a primer of the town staff understanding of the element as currently proposed. The element identifies three different area types which determine the amount of tree protection the element would mandate. The "Village Center" area is similar to a very dense downtown core, according to Jones. The next area, an "Activity Center," is less dense and includes all land uses. The last area, which was noted as "outside of commerce," was compared to suburban areas.

Jones then compared the tree protection requirements in the element to those in Durham's ordinances, noting that was a request made by the board. Chatham Park's tree protection element would require three percent of tree protection in the residential areas of the village centers. Durham does not require any tree protection in its downtown area. It was also noted that Chapel Hill and the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill don't require any tree protection.

In the Chatham Parks' proposed Activity Centers, tree protection will range from 10 to 15 percent on a sliding scale. If Chatham Park keeps more of the older, more established trees, the percentage will be closer to 10 percent. If it chooses to replant, then it would be closer to a 15 percent requirement. Durham currently has a three percent tree protection requirement in similar areas, but Jones noted that they are currently discussing increasing that to seven percent.

In areas outside of the main commercial zones, tree coverage in Chatham Park's residential areas would be 20-25 percent, while non-residential uses would be required to maintain 10-15 percent tree coverage. Jones noted that was almost identical to Durham's ordinances.

Pittsboro Commissioner Bette Wilson Foley questioned why Pittsboro was basing its element on Durham.

"You should engage Chatham Park," Jones said. "That's what we were asked to research."

Pittsboro Commissioner Michael Fiocco noted Durham's ordinance was "one that incentivizes tree preservation" as a key feature through its sliding scale, similar to the one in the tree protection element, which was something the board said it wanted.

Fiocco also noted some of the concerns raised by residents and wanted to clarify some misunderstandings.

"We are not contemplating clear-cutting

90 percent of Chatham Park," Fiocco said.

Fiocco noted that other parts of the Chatham

Park Master Plan include tree coverage that does not count toward the tree protection coverage. That included parks which would be under the Town of Pittsboro's ownership, greenways, and street and landscaping requirements which have already been put into place. Fiocco also noted that the required tree buffers for streams and rivers in Chatham Park range from two to 10 times more than state regulations for the same.

"This concept of 90 percent of all trees going away is not true," Fiocco said.

"We have to find a balance between environmental concerns and socio-economic concerns," he said. "We need affordable housing, we need jobs. A big piece of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan is to preserve the rural natural of the county and focus growth in the towns. We are trying very hard to reach that balance."

Jones also noted the rest of Pittsboro has no tree protection ordinance. Small developers building anywhere else in town don't have tree protection requirements to build in town limits.

"Anything we do now will be better than what we have," Jones said, noting that the state will only allow protections to a certain extent, and then suggesting the board seek advice from the town attorney to see where they do or do not have legal standing.

Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz noted concern for the "dramatic removal of trees" if land was turned over for forestry management, the process by which a landowner can legally timber their land. Timbering in Chatham County is a very common practice that

"This concept of 90 percent of all trees going away is not true."

MICHAEL FIOCCO, Pittsboro commissioner

is protected under state statute. There was some discussion about whether the town could limit the possibility of forestry management on Chatham Park land.

Town attorney Paul Messick repeatedly told the board that preventing private owners from having forestry

management plans which follow all the rules as prescribed by the state would violate state law.

"I am still accumulating questions for Chatham Park," Bonitz said. "I think we need a workshop."

"We received this in May 2017," Fiocco replied. "I would like to take the time when it's on the agenda. If no one else feels prepared, I understand."

At that point, Chuck Smith, vice president of planning and development for Preston Development Company, which is overseeing the development of Chatham Park, came to the podium to answer questions and make any changes to the element the board requested.

Fiocco then began to go through the document page by page, asking for slight changes to ensure clarity, expand protection areas, and ensure that the term "mixed-use" would not be able to be used to limit tree protections.

Smith obliged each request. Smith also clarified that parks Chatham Park sets aside for the town of Pittsboro could not be used in calculating tree protection areas. Similarly, greenways would also not be used for calculating tree protection areas but tree areas surrounding those greenways

could be.

Commissioners Bonitz and Foley asked questions about enforcement for tree protection. It had been noted earlier in the meeting by Jones that when the town came to inspect properties during the final process to ensure all zoning ordinances were followed, tree protection would be included in those inspections.

Commissioners then engaged in a lengthy discussion about whether landowners who purchased property following the initial development were still beholden to the tree protection element. It was clarified that individual landowners, whether homeowners or commercial owners, would then be responsible for their properties and that the tree protection element was for the initial Chatham Park development alone.

Bonitz and Foley asked if there could be a way to enforce landowners who may lose a tree due to storm damage or disease be forced to replant. The town attorney noted that there's currently no ordinance that requires that noting the difficulty in enforcing such a plan. There was also commentary that such an ordinance may put the town in a situation of sorting through neighbor versus neighbor conflicts.

Without a vote or decision, the board concluded its discussion and scheduled a tree protection workshop to take place at 6 p.m. on March 18 at the Pittsboro Town Hall, located at 635 East Street.



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Staff photo by Lee Moody

Swift water rescue teams from South Orange and North Chatham converged on Saxapahaw on a cold, rainy morning to train and practice on the Haw River. From left to right are Chris Mygrant, Robbie Barnes, Nate Montminy, Connor Gaines, Carly Sherrod, Nick Walker David Thompson, and Lt. Eddie Freeman.

SWIFT: Rescue squad members participate in variety of drills

Continued from page A1

rescue."

Pittsboro's Fire Department is also currently building a Swift Water Rescue team. Chief Daryl Griffin of the Pittsboro Fire Department was previously on the swift water rescue team at North Chatham before moving to Pittsboro. He's been working for several years to develop a team there.

"We've been buying equipment for two years," Griffin said. "We're in training mode. We're not going to get ourselves into any trouble until we feel comfortable."

North Chatham Fire Department has 37 career and volunteer firefighters who are certified for swift water rescues, with 17 who are considered advanced qualified. The team also include two instructors, Freeman and Lt. Eric Solomon.

Swift water training

On the last weekend in February, close to a dozen men and one woman were in Saxapahaw to work on getting certified, recertified or simply keep their skills up for swift water rescue. The students donned special dry suits that keep the water off their skin. The gear is designed to allow the rescuers to spend long periods in cold water. Training in the winter gives the students the experience needed to work in any conditions.

"We've been out in the snow before," Freeman said. "I've had to break ice in the river before just so we could get in."

Each swift water rescue squad member has specially design personal flotation devices with pouches where they carry equipment. This includes carabiners, pulleys, anchor straps, a whistle, and even some snacks.

They also have a throw bag which is a bag that holds a rope that is connected to it. It's a fundamental tool for a rescue member and a lifeline for a victim. They can be used to aid a struggling victim, connected to stretch across a river, and even used to stabilize someone stuck in the water and needing help keeping head up.

"You've got to be accurate," Nate Montminy of South Orange Rescue said to the students. "You have to think about how big they are, how swift the water is. You can always wrap it around a tree so the tree takes the force and helps hold the victim."

The students were taught how to deal with

"My first task is to introduce them to the water. There's energy that the river can give you. You can either use it or be abused by it."

LT. EDDIE FREEMAN, one of the team instructors

victims in a crisis, practicing drills before even stepping foot in the water. The students are instructed to tell the victims to "look at me," and "rope, rope, rope" when throwing the bag, and which shoulder the victim should place the rope to ensure they are pulled to the shoreline without pulling the rescuer with them.

"They will be in a panic," Montminy said. "You're going to have to tell them everything you want them to do. This could be their last chance before they head downstream."

After their drills on dry land, members of the group headed to the Haw River. Their first task was to practice swimming in the current, using specific techniques to get to specific locations near the bank from which they can stabilize themselves to mobilize a rescue.

"Read the location," Freeman said. "Don't get tunnel vision on the victim."

Freeman talked the students through the different aspects of the water such as understanding currents, rapids, and any eddy that may form in the water.

"My first task is to introduce them to the water," Freeman said. "There's energy that the river can give you. You can either use it or be abused by it."

After swimming from shore to shore multiple times, the group was ready to practice simulated rescues. They performed several different techniques and drills. The first was called "live bait."

The students took turns playing rescuer and victim. A "victim" enters the water upstream, floating down where the rescuer has positioned themselves to attempt to save the person.

The rescuer uses a carabiner to attach a rope to themselves. Another member uses a belay technique to wrap the rope around themselves with a third rescuer holding the second to prevent them from being pulled down the river.

Farther downstream, Freeman was waiting on the shore where the victims and rescuers would eventually end. His role was that of a "safety," a last-ditch effort to save the rescuer if something goes wrong.

Fortunately, all the "victims" who practiced the live bait were rescued. But the exercise wasn't without its own dangers. Twice the weight of the rescuer and victim pulled the teams on the shore, disengaging the rocks.

After a full morning of drills, the group broke for a well-earned lunch. The break was necessary not only to provide the team with sustenance, but to ensure that their



Staff photo by Lee Moody

South Orange's Carly Sherrod and Chris Migrant help North Chatham's David Thompson to shore. All of the members at the training worked together to ensure each reached safety.

they were using the stabilize themselves. Though bruised and battered, and with a tear in one dry suit, the students soldiered on.

The second drills were called "contact" rescues. In this scenario, rescuers swam to the victims, and then swam the two to the shore. This is where the lone female student's abilities really shone.

At 29, Carly Sherrod of the South Orange Rescue Squad is one of the youngest members of the team. And at about five feet tall, Sherrod is also the smallest. She has been a certified member of the team for years. She is also a member of the rope rescue team, a group that is trained in rappelling into deep crevices to secure and extract a victim.

"When you're doing

rope work, it helps if the rescuer is small," Freeman said. "Not only can they get into tight spaces, but it's a lot less weight when you're pulling someone out."

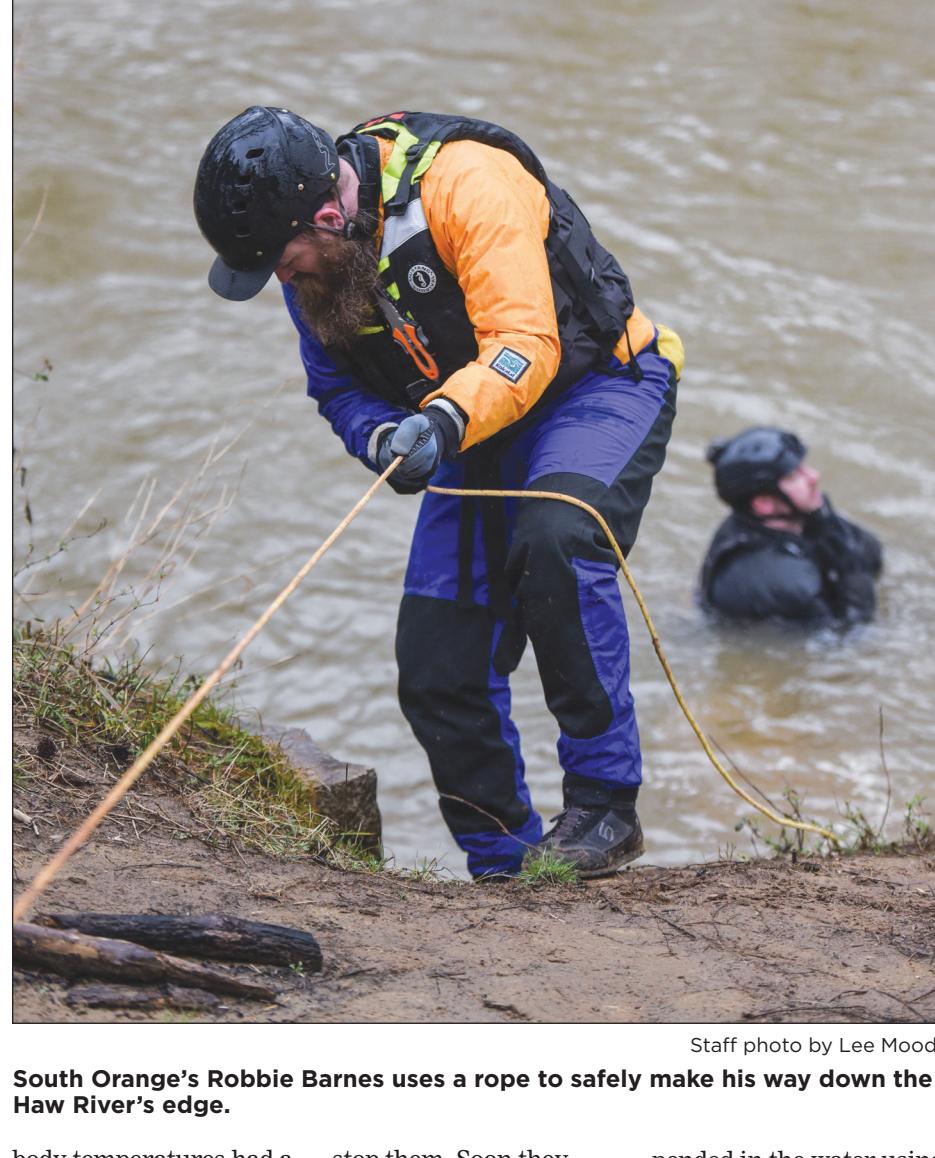
As Sherrod spotted the 200-pound victim, she shouted "Look at me, look at me!" As he approached,

she jumped toward the victim, snatching him and securing him to herself with her legs and arms.

"Keep calm," she said in a controlled tone. "I've got you. OK, now in a second, we're going to roll jump a little on our left and I'm going to need to start kicking."

Using the victim's kicking motion and her one arm that wasn't securing the victim, Sherrod made her way to the shore, victim in tow.

After a full morning of drills, the group broke for a well-earned lunch. The break was necessary not only to provide the team with sustenance, but to ensure that their



Staff photo by Lee Moody

South Orange's Robbie Barnes uses a rope to safely make his way down the Haw River's edge.

body temperatures had a chance to warm back up.

Afterward, the team walked back down toward the river, donned gear again and filed back into the river. The temperatures were dropping and the morning rain made the river water even colder than before.

As the students made

their way into the frigid water, the cold and exhaustion was evident on their faces. But it didn't

stop them. Soon they were coordinating the afternoon's drills, each member participating in setting up the exercises.

With ropes anchored to either side of the shore, the students took turns on the zipline, only to have to swim back across the river to try again.

Some of the drills were meant to acclimate the students to treacherous water conditions. For example, each was sus-

pended in the water using a pulley on the zipline in the middle of the river.

As they hung there, water flowed over their heads. They held there until the whistle blew, signaling them to release. The goal was to make them comfortable in dangerous situations so they remain calm.

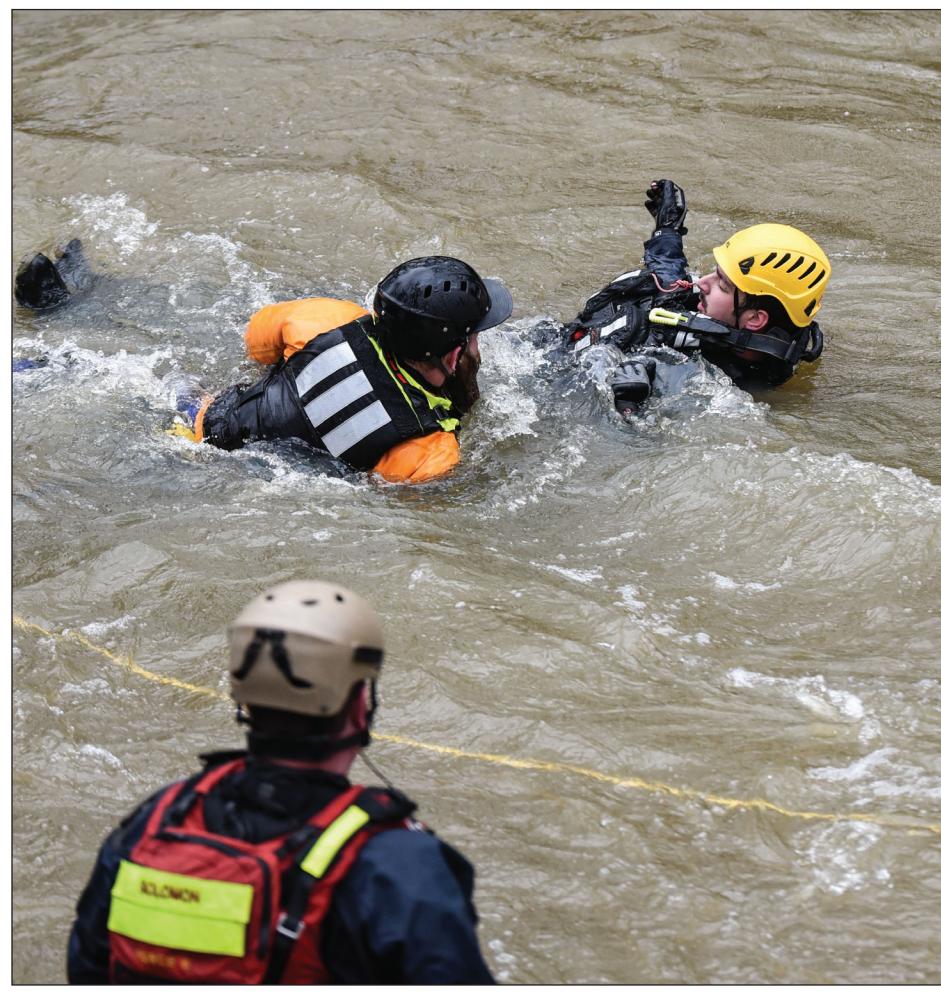
The instructors emphasize that each rescuers'

See **SWIFT**, page A9



Staff photo by Lee Moody

North Chatham's Lt. Eddie Freeman serves as a victim as the instructors demonstrate techniques to free a victim whose foot is trapped by a rock. Several techniques were practiced on dry land before braving the cold Haw River.



South Orange's Robbie Barnes practices using ropes to 'rescue' North Chatham's Connor Gaines as Lt. Eric Solomon monitors the technique.



Staff photo by Lee Moody

South Orange's Nate Montminy (in black) demonstrates how to properly secure a fellow swift water rescue squad member with North Chatham's Lt. Eddie Freeman. The technique is used by teams to ensure that rescuers aren't dragged downstream with the victims they are trying to save.



Staff photo by Lee Moody

Members of the South Orange and North Chatham rescue squads convene at an area downstream in the Haw River where they will climb out only to walk upstream get back in the Haw River to practice more drills.



Staff photo by Lee Moody

Members of the North Chatham and South Orange swift water rescue squads receive instruction by the Haw River's edge prior to entering the river.



Staff photo by Lee Moody

N. Chatham's Lt. Eric Solomon, an instructor in training, directs swift water rescue squad members prior to the teams entering the Haw River.

SWIFT: 'Helping people'

Continued from page A8

decade ago, Freeman was at home when he received a call for a rescue of three people who lost their canoe on the river, which was a mere six inches from flood stage. He joined members of North Chatham and Apex, his being the safety boat.

"The big thing is to be able to save themselves when things go wrong," Freeman said.

Lt. Eddie Freeman

Freeman shies away from the spotlight, but with decades of experience and stories, and being just a few years to retirement, his legacy should be shared. He's a second-generation firefighter.

"I grew up around helping people you don't know," he said.

When Freeman started with the North Chatham team, the group wore wet suits which didn't protect from the elements and the cold, and had mostly white-water rafting equipment. Over the years, he built the team to what it is today.

He even saved a cow once.

About five years ago, the team was called to rescue some kayakers near Chicken Bridge. At the same time, they got a call about a cow that was stuck. Animal rescues are not what the team normally addresses, but this time they did.

They could see the cow's head, but the rest of it was stuck in the mud. It would have died had the team not intervened. They had to call in a wrecker to pull the animal out.

The fire department was using new radio equipment at the time. Freeman had thought that he had a private line to his team when it radioed "I've rescued a cow and a kayaker on the same day." Shortly after he heard over the radio, "Central...copy... saving cows and kayakers all on the same day."

Freeman has never lived the moment down.

"You see some crazy stuff on the river," he said. "The water environment is dynamic, it's relentless."

And then there was the time when Freeman almost had to be rescued on the river. About a

decade ago, Freeman was at home when he received a call for a rescue of three people who lost their canoe on the river, which was a mere six inches from flood stage. He joined members of North Chatham and Apex, his being the safety boat.

"It was the first time in 35 years I ever had to make a mayday," he said.

With the primary boat out of position to give aid, the safety boat navigated rapids before being dragged under a tree that had fallen across the channel.

The tree hit Freeman in the chest, knocking him out of the boat. Another firefighter was left clinging to the tree with only one person left in the boat.

"I knew I needed to get back into boat," he said. "It was probably record time. I was very motivated."

The original team had rescued the civilians and the team called in South Orange Rescue to assist in getting the member stranded on the tree. They made their way to shore and hiked back to safety.

The episode earned team members the Higgins & Langley award 2012, an international award for first responders.

"It's because all the teams worked together," Freeman said. "It's not what one person did. It's because everybody did it right. It's because of everyone's training."

Freeman will likely retire in the next few years. He has been working to train Solomon to be able to instruct in his stead.

"Nobody is so important they can't be replaced," Freeman said. "It would be rude to not train somebody to take that position. But if you're important you need to make sure somebody can take your place."

If you're interested in joining one of Chatham County's Fire Departments or their Swift Water Rescue Teams contact either Chief John Strowd or Deputy Chief Mark Riggsbee at 919-542-3380.

CHATHAM CHAT | DR. EMILY HARE

CCCC's Hare, foundation focus on scholarship programs

Central Carolina Community College's campuses in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties serve thousands of students, many of whom benefit from financial help from the college's foundation.

This week, we speak with Dr. Emily Hare, the foundation's executive director. A native of Pinehurst, Dr. Hare received her Bachelor in Arts in communications from Wake Forest University, her MBA from Pfeiffer University, and her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of the Cumberlands. Dr. Hare and her husband, Bud, have two children, Delaney and Caroline.

What is the primary role of the Central Carolina Community College Foundation? How does it contribute into the success of the college?

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, Central Carolina Community College. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of the college and

Hare

uses them to promote its educational mission and assist students through scholarships and grants.

The primary mission of the CCCC Foundation is to support the needs of the college not covered by the state budget. A big part of that is scholarships. How significant a focus is that for the Foundation, and why are scholarships so important?

Our endowment and scholarship program is the bread and butter of the Foundation. Many of our students face significant financial barriers that impede them from persisting toward graduation. By providing scholarships to our students, we are able to alleviate some of their financial pressure that enables them to hopefully focus more on their schoolwork and stress less about where their next tuition payment is coming from. Many of our students work full-time along with going to school full-time. A scholarship potentially eliminates the need for a job or at least can help them reduce hours since the funds needed for tuition, books, and other fees are either reduced or zeroed out with the Foundation assistance.

CCCC is one school, but has campuses in three different counties. Thinking specifically of Chatham County, are there any ways in which the Foundation's contributions to Chatham are unique?

The Foundation does have specific contributions to each county. In Chatham County, we have specific endowments that are for Chatham residents, graduates of one of the Chatham County high schools, or for students in one of the Chatham County specific programs like Sustainable Farming or Sustainable Construction. Another unique Foundation contribution to Chatham County is the Chatham Cottage Auction. The Chatham Cottage, handcrafted by Central Carolina Community College students enrolled in the college's Building Construction Technologies program, is auctioned each year. The proceeds roll back into the fund, allowing our Building Construction Technologies students to gain practical experience each year. A third contribution we have is our Dream Keeper Fund, which has specific monies set aside to assist Chatham County students

in emergency situations. Another contribution to Chatham County is the Hayes Sustainable Speaker Series. This series is held annually on our Pittsboro campus. We are proud of all of our Chatham programs and the Foundation is pleased to be able to support our students, faculty, and staff at the Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro and the Siler City Center in Siler City, and in the future, at the Chatham Health Sciences Center that is being built in northern Chatham County.

Does the Foundation host any certain events during the year?

The Foundation is proud to host the Scholarship Donors Luncheon each November, which is a way to show our thanks for the Foundation's many generous supporters and allows an opportunity for our student scholarship recipients to thank the donors for their support of their education. One of our major fundraisers each year is a Foundation golf tournament held in each of our three service counties.

The 6th Annual Chatham Golf Tournament will be held at Chapel Ridge Golf Course on May 8, 2019. For

golf tournament information, contact Jonathan Hockaday at (919) 718-7231 or email at jhockaday@cccc.edu.

The Foundation provided nearly \$500,000 in support for CCCC in the last fiscal year. How has that level of support changed over the years, and what do you think is the Foundation's potential impact on the college in the coming years?

The Foundation growth has been impressive, thanks to the generous support provided by our area citizens who believe in our mission: to support the needs of the college in order to advance its academic mission in areas not covered by the state budget. Contributions from the Foundation help fund the needs of faculty and staff and also provide financial assistance to students.

When you talk about the Foundation, you share the idea that a give "of any size" helps. Elaborate on that, and talk about how — financially and otherwise — people can

Chatham County earns national recognition for advancing solar energy

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Chatham County recently received notice that it earned the highest designation, a Gold Award, from the national SolSmart Program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to use solar energy. Chatham joins Asheville and Carrboro as the only local governments in the state that currently have earned the Gold Award.

According to SolSmart, "This designation recognizes Chatham County for taking important steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development. A SolSmart Gold designation is a signal that Chatham is open for solar business."

Interim County Manager Dan LaMontagne said, "We are excited to know that our efforts to be solar-friendly have allowed us to earn this recognition. Our departments have worked hard to make it as simple as possible for residents and businesses

to install a solar energy system."

SolSmart recognized Chatham County for:

- Creating an online permitting checklist that increased transparency for community members and solar installers;
- Reviewing local zoning codes and identifying restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar photovoltaic (PV) installations;
- Making changes so that all land use zones will allow solar installations without special permits or public hearings;
- Cross-training both inspection and permitting staff on solar PV systems; and
- Providing a streamlined permitting pathway for small PV systems.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology converts sunlight into direct current electricity using semiconductors. When the sun hits semiconductors on a solar panel, electrons are freed and generate an electric current. Solar panels are the most widely used way

to collect sun energy. To receive the Gold Award designation, SolSmart reviews changes local governments have made to local processes that reduce the time and money needed to have a solar energy system. This includes evaluating local permitting processes, as well as planning and zoning procedures. SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association

(ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. More than 200 cities, counties, and small towns have achieved SolSmart designation since the program launched in 2016. SolSmart uses objective criteria to award communities points based on the actions they take to reduce barriers to solar energy development. Communities that take sufficient action are designated either gold, silver, or bronze.

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(Estimated to continue through the middle of May.)



For more information:
(919) 542-5516
www.chathamnc.org/recycle

Medical device manufacturer locating in Pittsboro

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Downtown Pittsboro will soon have a new tenant.

EG-Gilero, a medical and drug delivery device manufacturer based in Morrisville, has purchased a property at 158 Credle Street near the corner of Hanks and Fayetteville Streets and is proposing to create 60 new jobs and invest \$3.9 million in the property. In return, the company is seeking a property tax incentive from Chatham County.

Alyssa Byrd, interim president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, presented the incentive request to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Feb. 18. She said the building EG-Gilero is preparing to inhabit has been empty for six years. The company is proposing an average annual salary of \$40,167 for the 60 employees that are projected to work at the facility in five years, the length of the investment.

Based on further studies, Byrd said, it's estimated that the creation of every two jobs within this industry would create one more job somewhere else.

Kevin Miller, the com-

pany's director of finance, told the commissioners that construction work on the space should begin within the next few months, with work beginning this calendar year. Miller added that the facility will house engineers and some light assembly of devices.

"The building is a perfect fit for our company," Miller said. "There's a lot of clean room and lab space in the building, but it has sat vacant for a number of years. We want to make it a little more attractive. We want it to have a nice clean feel to it."

The company is also applying for a building reuse grant from the state, which requires a 5 percent local match. Byrd said the incentive, if approved by the county, could go toward that match.

Byrd recommended the county OK the grant "based on the proposed investments, the impact and what a great neighbor they would make in downtown Pittsboro." Miller added that the company "love(s) Pittsboro" and sees it as a "hidden gem."

"We're looking forward to joining the community and getting to work," he said.

The board did not vote on the incentive, but will discuss it at its March 18 meeting.

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Local businesses that make Pittsboro an engaging place to live

'Carolina Core' finding space in crowded economic development landscape

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

While the "Carolina Core" is made up of a broad swath of land, people and facilities across central North Carolina, its proprietors see it as a strategy, a strategy designed to bring employers to the middle of the state.

"It's strategic in its own right," says Stan Kelly, president and CEO of Piedmont Triad Partnership and lead voice for the Carolina Core. "On the other hand, it's a logical, how do you put Central North Carolina together in a way that increases our likelihood of winning and thriving in the future."

Birthed out of the Greensboro-based Piedmont Triad Partnership, economic development organization, the Carolina Core is about five months old as a branding strategy of acres of land stretching from Surry County near the Virginia state line all the way down to Fayetteville, along the U.S. Highway 421 corridor. It incorporates four major megasites — including the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing Megasite in Siler City and the Moncure Megasite — several four-year and community colleges and multiple airports and military



Photo submitted

A map of the Carolina Core, a swath of land from Surry County to Fayetteville along U.S. Highway 421 that economic developers are pitching as a profitable place for companies to expand or relocate.

bases. Its tag line — "Your Next Big Move" — is symbolic of Kelly's goals for the area: recruiting a "transformational project."

Penny Whiteheart, executive vice president for the PTP, said the Toyota/Mazda project considering Chatham County — but ultimately went to Huntsville, Alabama, at the beginning of 2018 — led to good feedback about the area's workforce, which she said is many communi-

nities' "weak point." Kelly said Toyota saw it as "a qualifying element that kept us in the game as long as we were...not only the size but the skill set."

That labor pool, plus the megasites and developing infrastructure, make the Core an attractive option for corporations, he said. But ultimately, Kelly and Whiteheart stress, it's the collective region as a product that they're pushing.

To do that, Kelly and Caroli-

na Core-based economic development officials have spent the last few months getting buy-in from state and local leaders. So far, they say, it's been a successful push.

Alyssa Byrd, president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, represented the Core at the Institute for Emerging Issues ReCONNECT forum on Feb. 11 in Raleigh. She told the News + Record that the Core is about making the message across the region consistent.

"Regional marketing is not a new concept, but this is definitely changing how we work together and compete against each other, but as partners," Byrd said. "We're obviously still focused on Chatham County and wins for Chatham County, but we know when our neighbors have success, we'll have success here."

The Carolina Core group is also preparing to launch a "pretty massive marketing campaign," Kelly said, as well as creating a list of businesses to approach about expansions or potential relocations from other areas.

"All we want is more chances at bat," he said. "And then we'll have to sell as best as we can. We think it's a pretty compelling story."

What does this mean to the

teacher in Pittsboro or farmer on the outskirts of Siler City that's not looking for a job, that's not thinking about a career change? Kelly and Whiteheart say most of their work will have a spillover effect on that everyday Chatham County citizen.

"A community that is not built on industrial and commercial development is going to create a real imbalance in the services versus the revenue for a local government," Whiteheart said. "A community needs to balance its portfolio and types of tax base. Growing a commercial and industrial tax base is usually a high priority of medium-sized rural-ish communities."

In layman terms, that growth equals a bigger tax base, which means more government services and/or a possible lower tax rate, depending on the decisions of that local government. But while individual communities may benefit from the Core's work, Whiteheart said that it will grow the region as a whole.

"What we're trying to do is provide an umbrella for similar economic development strategies along the 421 corridor," she said, "where we're all looking for a similar profile of employer and economic development profile, and just be stronger together."

CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE

Abandoned cougar Beau makes journey from Washington state to Chatham County

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Imagine being a child, lost in the woods, without your mother. You haven't yet developed the skills needed to survive and there's

a chance that if you're caught, you could be killed.

That's the story of a four-month old cougar named Beau.

In January, Beau was discovered wandering in a Cle Elum, Washington, neighborhood. In

Washington, cougars are considered nuisances and when discovered, officials are supposed to either re-house them or euthanize them. Since Beau was found at such a young age and orphaned without the guidance of his mother,

the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife had few options outside of euthanization. Officer Rich Beausoleil of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife took pity on the cougar cub and put out a call for an organization to adopt him.

Carolina Tiger Rescue in Pittsboro answered that call.

Carolina Tiger Rescue, which is celebrating its 45th year, is the only accredited big cat sanctuary in North Carolina. CTR has rescued 22 animals in the past three years, but Beau is the first baby animal it has nurtured in over a decade. His name is an homage to the officer who decided to save his life. According to Carolina Tiger Rescue's Communication Coordinator Michelle Meyers, The Wildcat Sanctuary in Minnesota also played an integral role in transporting Beau. Beau traveled from Washington to Minnesota where he was picked up by staff from The Wildcat Sanctuary that drove him to Indianapolis. There they met a transport vehicle from CTR for the long journey to his new home.

Every rescue has its own story. Some of the animals at the Carolina Tiger Rescue were adopted from roadside attractions, ill-equipped owners, or junkyard zoos. These "zoos" are often just a series of cages on the side of the road. Animals are basically held in dog cages. Some animals rescued are those that either escaped their enclosures or were released once an owner decided their care became too cumbersome. One tiger, Rajah, was found on the side of the road in Charlotte with his sister.

Each rescue has its own needs in terms of its enclosure. Some animals are more socialized than others while some are very isolated. The more socialized animals are located closer to the Carolina Tiger Rescue's tour route while others' enclosures are placed further in the back to prevent them from undergoing the stress of the public.

Meyers notes that about 30 of the animals that live at the sanctuary are not socialized. For example, Meyers noted that one of the tigers has an issue with men in red hats, likely due to stress from his previous life. Rather than outlaw men in red hats, the organization placed his enclosure away from the route. This is just one of the ways the Carolina Tiger Rescue puts the animals first. While zoos build enclosures to allow



Photo courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue
Beau is a cougar cub rescued from Washington where he would have likely been euthanized.



Photo courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue
Beau is in isolation for about a month as medical teams evaluate and complete a battery of tests. Vet services are the only time these animals will have human contact.

for the best viewing by the public, Carolina Tiger Rescue creates enclosures that best serve the animal.

"It's a respect thing," Meyers said. "These animals never had a chance to make choices or have freedom. So we try to respect them and their needs."

Some of the animals are in their own enclosure while others are part of a pack. This depends on whether the animal was rescued with others or not. As many big cats come to the Carolina Tiger Rescue declawed or defanged, keeping them isolated from other big cats is a matter of protecting their lives as well.

Many of the animals that come to the Carolina Tiger Rescue are very sick and may not make it six months. For those who do survive, the sanctuary offers a forever home for the animal until its passing. As is standard operating procedures for the Carolina Tiger Rescue, Beau will be quarantined for 30 days. He was provided medical care and looks very healthy, according to Meyers.

"He is growing well and very active," Meyers said. "We will release him from quarantine after his test results come back and he will live in his own enclosure in the back, away from tour groups."

Carolina Tiger Rescue

already has two cougars at the facility. Cougars are not social creatures typically and each have their own enclosure. Meyers called cougars "hiders," noting cougars they generally don't like people.

Meyers estimates that the cost of Beau's rescue, quarantine and new habitat will be about \$20,000. The care for Beau and the other animals are extraordinary. The sanctuary's annual food budget alone is \$80,000 and that is in consideration of a great deal of food donations from farmers and hunters.

As many of the animals are suffering the affects of human exploitation and the pet trade, Carolina Tiger Rescue's medical bills are astronomical, according to Meyers.

The Carolina Tiger Rescue held its annual fundraiser, the Black Tie and Tails Ball, Saturday at Durham's Washington Duke Inn. Organizers described the event as a "journey through ancient cities, diverse cultures, and epic landscapes...on a virtual tour of the many mysteries of Morocco." This year's Fund-A-Cause raised over \$28,000 for life-saving x-ray equipment. Proceeds from the formal event will provide care for the animals and fund education programs at the 67 acre sanctuary in Pittsboro.

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Polar Plunge lives up to its name

On Saturday, a crowd of men, women, and children gathered to plunge into the chilly waters of Jordan Lake to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics North Carolina. Despite frigid rain and temperatures hovering around 40 degrees, a sizable crowd turned out to cheer on some 45 willing participants, including Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and his wife Annette, who were among the first in the water. "Our goal was to raise money for an amazing cause," said event coordinator Sergeant Rocky Smith, who plunged into the water three separate times during the event. "Our sponsors and Polar Plungers delivered above and beyond our goal." More than \$10,000 was raised during the event. "I am especially grateful to Mark Jacobson Toyota, Bold Construction, Pittsboro Rotary, Fritsch Engineering, NC State Parks, Recovery Logistics and Tonya Bracken for sponsoring the event and supporting Special Olympics NC," he said. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will be hosting additional fund-raising events for Special Olympics NC, including a Chicken Tender Dinner in Goldston on May 3 and a golf tournament on May 13th at Governors Club. More information on upcoming events will be available on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CSSONC as well as on www.chathamsheriff.com.



Capt. Chris Cooper (left) took to the frigid Jordan Lake waters with the Polar Plunge Vikings.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks
Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and his wife Annette were first to take the Polar Plunge in support of the Special Olympics.



The Polar Plunge Snow White team braved the waters to help raise money for the Special Olympics.



About 45 people came out on a cold, rainy day on Saturday to dip into Jordan Lake to support the Sheriff's Office Polar Plunge and raise money for the Special Olympics.

EDUCATION: 'Showing them that they can be great and do great things'

Continued from page A1

"He was amazing," Poston said. "He really pushed me particularly. Him seeing that potential, it really sparked something in me."

Unlike his co-workers, Diggs picked education late in life. He graduated from Elon University and pursued corporate life, but decided to "re-tool" his career. He ended up getting a masters degree in special education at N.C. Central University.

"A couple of personal situations...grew me closer to wanting to impact kids' lives," he said. "Once I got in special education and became a teacher, I just wanted to know more and be able to provide more services to the students I was working."

Each took varied travels to end up in Chatham County. Jordan, originally from Rocky Mount, got degrees from N.C. Central, East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill while teaching in Edgecombe County and starting in administration in Chatham County in 2008. Poston, originally from Pittsboro and a Northwood High School graduate, got his undergrad degree from Guilford College and graduate degree from UNC and has taught in Chatham his entire career. A High Point native, Diggs worked in senior administration in Wake County and for the state Department of Public Instruction.

Jordan says that he has a bit of a different experience than most in terms of black male educators. His elementary school principal, a middle school

"If I had relied heavily on the statistics, I would not have graduated from high school, much less earned a doctorate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. The possibilities exist, it's my desire to make sure students see that possibility through the work."

DERRICK JORDAN, Superintendent, Chatham County Schools

math teacher and four high school teachers were all black men.

"So in as much as the percentages are low, I can't relate directly to the notion of not having been exposed to black males over the course of my schooling," Jordan said. "I'm pretty proud of that and perhaps that's why I believed that I could be a teacher so early."

Poston said he was inspired by African-American figures inside and outside the school building, people in leadership positions he "hope(d) to emulate someday." Diggs had more black male role models that were sports coaches, but not many teachers. That, he said, "motivated (him) later on in some ways to become a leader in education."

What black male teachers provide

Jordan is quick to say that just because he's a black male, he's automatically qualified to relate to other black males.

"I think that because I had a mom who broke her back trying to make sure her son had the very best that she could provide that I'm able to, in situations where that exists for our students, understand what that

means," he said. "But I hope that I'm able to do that for a non-minority student that has a similar situation."

Poston recalled that in his first teaching job at Pittsboro Elementary, he had several African-American boys in his class.

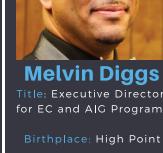
"They were just looking for someone to just encourage them and do the things that have been done to me in education," he said. "I think that we have so many students that may not have conformed to all of our school norms, but they still have so much potential, and their minds are working a million miles a minute."

Diggs sees his role in education as an advocate as he works with and for another group of minorities, the disabled.

"(Being a minority) brings a perspective of intensity to advocate for kids regardless of their color, but to know that there's an experience there that some African-American males bring to the table that some students do not," he said. "Especially from my perspective of disabilities and giftedness, a lot of our kids may not get all the social norms of life to understand how to

Leading by Example

Three of Chatham County Schools' top administrators are black males. Just 2 percent of public school teachers across America are black males. Get to know Chatham's prime examples.



Melvin Diggs

Title: Executive Director for EC and AIG Programs

Birthplace: High Point

Alma Mater: Elon, NC Central

Favorite School Subject: Debate

Favorite Thing to Watch: The Matrix film series



Derrick Jordan

Title: District Superintendent

Birthplace: Rocky Mount

Alma Mater: NC Central, ECU, UNC-Chapel Hill

Favorite School Subject: English/Language Arts

Favorite Thing to Watch: Documentaries/History Channel



Chris Poston

Title: Executive Director for Elementary and Middle Grades Education

Birthplace: Pittsboro

Alma Mater: Guilford College, UNC-Chapel Hill

Favorite School Subject: Math

Favorite Thing to Watch: College basketball, NFL

Graphic by Zachary Horner

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The ruling is notable for declaring separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional, but Diggs sees its effect going beyond that.

Equity first

The school district has put a lot of work recently into trying to create an environment where all things are equitable, where each student is receiving the same level of education while meeting their individual needs and circumstances. That's led to the formation of an E3 (Equity and Excellence for Everyone) team which guides the district's efforts.

So while inspiring the next generation of minority students is important for Jordan, Poston and Diggs, so is inspiring the next generation of students of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

Diggs referred specifically to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision

"I hope that folks get into education because it helps inspire our young people."

Poston said he's already seeing the fruits of the district's efforts.

"It's been a beauty to be able to go to all the schools in our district, elementary and middle," he said, "and watch our teachers and our principals really work hard to make sure every child is reaching his or her potential."

Jordan added, "We're just committed to doing all that we can in the way of providing opportunities for students, being role models for students, making sure they recognize that the possibilities are really limitless. If I had relied heavily on the statistics, I would not have graduated from high school, much less earned a doctorate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. The possibilities exist, it's my desire to make sure students see that possibility through the work."



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J. Grant Brown
grant@woodsdoster.com

Grant's main areas of practice focus largely on transactional work. These areas include Estate Planning, Real Estate Transactions, Business Formations, Contract Disputes, and Delinquent Collections.

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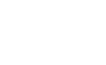
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Chatham News + Record SPORTS

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 6, 2019 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Lady Bears steamroll Jaguars to capture CTH tourney crown

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

ALTAMAHAW — Mission accomplished!

The Chatham Central girl's basketball team added the 2019 1A Central Tar Heel Conference tournament title to its regular season crown on Friday night in convincing fashion.

The Lady Bears overwhelmed River Mill early enroute to a convincing 73-42 victory up in Altamahaw at Clover Garden Charter School.

"We played really well tonight," said Chatham Central head coach Lynda Burke after the impressive win. "I thought we executed well offensively and came focused and ready to play. It was a team effort, I

think nine different players scored for us. We were really balanced and everyone contributed."

It was clear early on that Chatham Central didn't come to go through the motions, rather the Lady Bears showed up ready to make a statement.

The result was the locals posting a dominating 30-10 opening stanza that saw Mary Grace Murchison, Taylor Hughes, and Abby Elkins collect eight points apiece. Elkins had four baskets in the paint, Hughes two transition

buckets, a short jumper, and a pair of foul shots for her tally, and Murchison a pair of bombs from behind the arc to go with a fast break basket.

"They sort of feed off one another," Burke pointed out. "Abby opened up things down low for the guards, and Mary Grace, Taylor and Cami (Hughes) opened things up inside with their outside shooting."

Cami Hughes added four points in the period while River Mill

See CROWN, page B3

Chatham Central's Eliana Phillips heads up court after making a steal on Friday night in the Lady Bears' 73-42 beatdown of River Mill in the CTH tournament finals.

Staff photo by Lee Moody



Homolka to take over Northwood football program

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The hire has been made after months of speculation.

Northwood High School has hired Cullen Homolka as its head football coach, replacing Brian Harrington, who resigned after four seasons.

Harrington, a Northwood graduate, took over for the departing Bill Hall in the 2015 season and compiled a 23-23 mark in four seasons at the helm, including a 4-6 campaign in 2018 in which the Chargers missed the state playoffs.

Homolka, who will teach health and physical education at Northwood, spent the past two seasons as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Clayton High School.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Northwood High School family," Northwood football coach Cullen Homolka said. "This is an amazing opportunity and I look forward to bringing my coaching experience to the classroom and field, as we build on the past success in this new era of Charger Football."

"We are thrilled to have Coach Homolka join our athletics department," Northwood co-athletics director Jason Amy said. "He brings a blue-collar mentality that we hope will permeate our football team. He has high expectations, and his enthusiasm for teaching the

See TAKE, page B3

Turnover, cold shooting loom large as elusive title escapes Knights



Chatham Charter's Connor Murphy (14) goes up for a block attempt against Research Triangle's Keeyan Itejere (30) in CTH tournament championship action last Friday night in Altamahaw. Research Triangle won the nailbiter 46-45.

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

ALTAMAHAW — A bid for its first ever league title fell just short for the Chatham Charter boys team here on Friday night in Altamahaw at Clover Garden Charter School as the Knights failed on two scoring opportunities in the final 14 seconds of the contest to suffer a gut-wrenching 46-45 defeat to Research Triangle in the finals of the 1A Central Tar Heel Conference Tournament.

In reality, the loss did nothing to affect Chatham Charter in regards to seeding in this week's NCHSAA State Playoffs as Research Triangle already had the top-seed wrapped up entering the event, while the Knights clinched second two nights earlier in the semi's with a 52-50 triumph over Chatham Central. But to miss bringing the Siler City school its first conference title will sting for a while.

"It's a tough way to lose, we had our chances down the stretch and just couldn't make the key shot when we needed it," said Chatham Charter head coach Jason Messier. "We battled against a very good team in Research Triangle and put ourselves in position to win. It just didn't happen."

Messier was proud of how his club competed the entire

See ESCAPES, page B4

Golden a hit with local youth

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Factory in Siler City hosted a special "Hit Night with Casey Golden" for area youths to meet the Siler City native and former Jordan-Matthews baseball standout, who currently plays in the Colorado Rockies organization.

Golden, primarily a shortstop in his playing days at J-M from 2009-2013, was a four-year All-Conference performer and All-State selection his senior year before attending UNC-Wilmington, where he played outfield and achieved numerous awards prior to finishing his collegiate career ranked in UNC-W's top-10 in 10 different categories.

Besides being named to All-Conference, All-State and All East Region teams as well as being chosen the Colonial Athletic Conference Player of the Year in his final season with the Seahawks (2017), Golden started 57 games his senior year and led UNC-W with 21 home runs, which tied the school's single-season record, in addition to concluding his



Casey Golden (left) poses with a local fan on Friday night at The Factory in Siler City. Golden hosted an event for area youth league players before heading out to Arizona on Sunday for the start of Spring Training.

See YOUTH, page B3

Northwood gearing up for inaugural girls' lacrosse season

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Move over boys, here come the girls!

Northwood High School will be fielding a girl's lacrosse team at the varsity level for the first time ever in the 2019 spring season, joining a Chargers boy's program that has quickly developed into one of the most competitive in the state.

The interest level was so high for the girls that a junior varsity schedule will also be played by the Lady Chargers.

Northwood Co-Athletic Director Cameron Vernon is very pleased at the implementation of the sport for the females student-athletes at the Pittsboro School.

"We are very excited to start girl's lacrosse this season at Northwood," said Vernon. "The last few years we have had girls expressing interest in lacrosse and currently we have around 40 girls out total to complete

a jayvee and varsity team. Coach (Amanda) Huegerich has been great to work with and is working our girls hard in preparation for the upcoming season."

The Lady Chargers will play a challenging 11-game regular season schedule featuring the likes of 4A club's Wakefield, Heritage, Wake Forest, and Athens Drive, as well as local 3A Big Eight Conference foes Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill.

All eyes currently are focusing on March 5, and a 5 p.m. contest in Pittsboro versus Carrboro.

Huegerich has been impressed with her club thus far.

"I'm excited about this season and the team," said Huegerich. "We have incredible grit and drive – that's our greatest strength. These players do not give up, even when the weather has not offered the best playing conditions."

See SEASON, page B2

Knights off to finals after escaping Bear attack

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

BURLINGTON — Whenever Chatham Central and Chatham Charter meet on the hardwood, fans anticipate seeing a full-fledged start-to-finish battle, and Wednesday night's Central Tar Heel 1A Conference tournament semifinal match-up between the two county rivals at Clover Garden High School served to fulfill their expectations once again.

A.J. Alston's fourth three-pointer of the evening with 2:41 remaining to play gave the Knights the lead for good and Chatham Charter managed to hold off the Bears in the closing seconds to escape with a 52-50 victory.

Defeating Chatham Central for the second time in three meetings this season, the second-seeded Knights improved to 26-3 and advance to play top-seed and regular-season league champion Research Triangle (22-3) in Friday night's title game, while third-seeded Chatham Central fell to 13-9 for the year and now awaits to see who it will face in the upcoming state playoffs.

Alston topped Chatham Charter with a dozen



Staff Photo by David Bradley

The buzzer sounds the end of the game as the last ball hangs in the air. Chatham Central's Lucas Skchick puts the ball in the air for three, and the game-winning basket... and misses.

points while Jordan Hamilton finished with 11 points and a game-high eight rebounds.

The Bears' Michael Moore led all scorers with 15 points while Riley Lagenor registered 10 points off the bench.

"I thought this was a good team win," Knights' coach Jason Messier said following the outcome.

"A.J. hit some huge baskets for us this evening while the defense dug down deep to get loose balls when we needed them, and we made just enough plays down the

stretch to pull out a victory."

Chatham Central coach Robert Burke commented he felt his team played hard but had difficulty getting into its offense with starting guard Jamieon Degriffenreaidt not on the court.

"I thought we did a good job keeping the ball away from Hamilton and (Connor) Murphy but we were so concerned about them we left a couple of their players open on the wings and they managed to burn us."

"Missing Jamieon on

the floor was huge as we couldn't get rolling in our set plays, and in the end we just came up a little short."

The lead alternated back and forth seven times in the initial period before Alston's trey from the right corner with 1:32 to go in the stanza broke a 9-9 standoff and gave Chatham Charter a three-point advantage after one quarter.

The Knights built as much as a five-point lead on four occasions in the second period before Moore's three-pointer

from the right wing with 2:58 remaining in the first half drew the Bears within 22-20, but Hamilton's turnaround jumper in the lane a minute later allowed Chatham Charter to carry a four-point advantage into intermission.

Chatham Central fought back to eventually pull even at 30-all on a Lucas Skchick lane jumper with 1:40 left in the third quarter prior to Trevor Golden's free throw with 27.3 seconds left in the frame that sent the Knights into the final

eight minutes with a one-point lead.

Moore's trey from the left corner to start the fourth period gave the Bears their first advantage since the opening stanza, and following Hamilton's put-back off the right baseline that regained a 42-41 lead for Chatham Charter with 3:30 remaining in the contest, Lagenor's three-pointer from behind the top of the key gave Chatham Central its final advantage with 3:09 to play.

But Alston's trey from the left corner 27 seconds later put the Knights in front to stay, and Connor Murphy's conventional three-point play with 1:37 to go increased the winners' lead to 48-44.

With time running out and Chatham Charter holding a 51-47 advantage, Lagenor's three-pointer from beyond the top of the bonus arc with 5.3 seconds left narrowed the difference to one.

After Golden made the second of two free throw attempts with 4.1 seconds on the clock, the Bears had one last opportunity to salvage a triumph, but Moore's desperation heave from midcourt as the final horn sounded fell short of the mark.

Snively trey ignites Northwood past East Chapel Hill

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Alex Snively's three-pointer from the left corner with 1:36 to play ignited a 9-0 Northwood run that snapped a 54-all stalemate and propelled the Chargers to a 65-56 triumph over pesky East Chapel Hill in opening-round action of the Big Eight 3A Conference tournament Monday night in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

The victory lifted third-seeded Northwood to 17-8 for the year and sent the Chargers into a semifinal round matchup Wednesday evening at second-seeded Southern Durham (19-5), while the sixth-seeded Wildcats closed out their season 10-15 overall.

Deuce Powell led three Northwood players in double figures with 18 points, Aaron Ross chipped in 15 and Jalen McAfee added 13. East Chapel Hill's Will Tyndall tossed in a game-high 20 points, with teammate Miles Merriweather contributing 15.

While both teams connected on 20 field goals, including five three-pointers apiece, the outcome was decided at

the free throw line, where the Chargers converted 20-of-23 attempts compared to the Wildcats sinking 11-of-17 foul shots.

"Northwood did a good job being the aggressor early on and put more energy into getting loose balls, especially in the second quarter when I felt we played passively," said East Chapel Hill coach Ray Hartfield. "As a result we found ourselves down by 12 at intermission and facing an uphill climb in the second half."

"But then we managed to cure our rotation in the third quarter and took advantage of good post passes to make a run and pull even until we let Northwood off the hook by committing crucial turnovers on our last three possessions."

Chargers' coach Matt Brown explained free throws were a huge factor in the contest, noting his team made all 13 of its charity tosses in the final period to pull out the win.

"After building a nice lead at halftime, we stopped looking inside for high percentage shots and instead were content to shoot from the corners and the high post area," remarked Brown.

"Meanwhile, East Chapel Hill began attacking the rim and we didn't respond well, which allowed them to seize the momentum early in the fourth quarter."

"But our ability to pick up our game in the paint down the stretch proved to be the difference as we took advantage of their fouls to get to the line and convert our opportunities."

A seesaw opening stanza featured six lead changes and ended with the Wildcats on top 16-15 following Ryan Levy's turnaround jumper in the lane with 1.8 seconds left on the clock.

Back-to-back Ross hoops to begin the second quarter sparked an 8-0 Northwood run that put the winners up by seven midway through the frame, and after the Wildcats trimmed the gap to 27-22 on Merriweather's trey from the left corner with 2:57 remaining until the break, the Chargers closed out the half with consecutive lane jumpers by Powell and Ross coupled with Adam Omar's three-pointer from the right wing to forge a 12-point advantage at intermission.

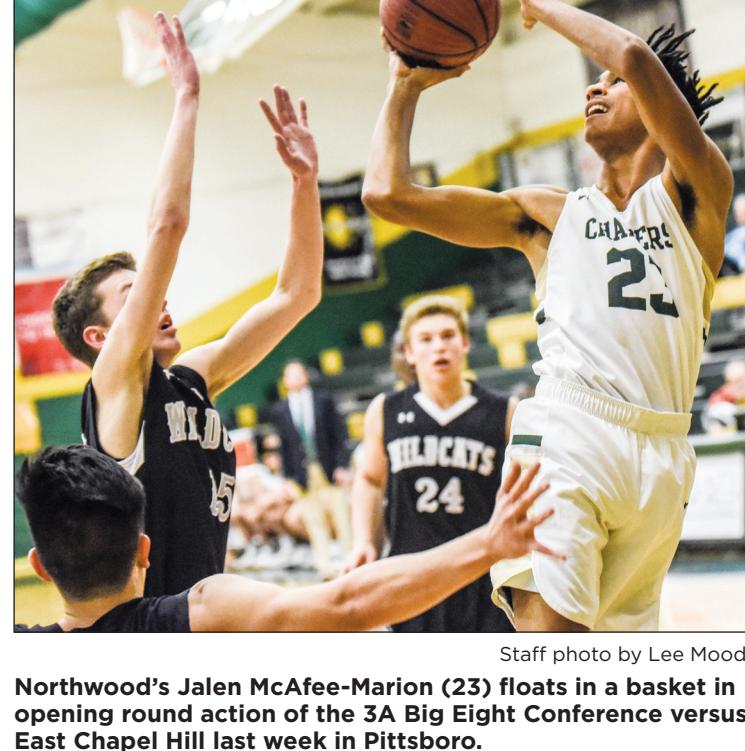
Outscoring Northwood 13-7

in the third period, East Chapel Hill cut its deficit to 41-35 when Merriweather canned a trey launched from near midcourt at the horn and eventually reclaimed the lead at 45-43 on Tyndall's lane jumper with 6:06 left to play.

The advantage then went back and forth five times before

a foul shot by the Wildcats' Yashiya Crespin knotted the count at 54-all with 2:38 to go.

But after Snively's trey a minute later gave the Chargers the lead for good, Northwood sank six straight free throws and added a Ross fast break layup in the time remaining to put the game away.



Northwood's Jalen McAfee-Marion (23) floats in a basket in opening round action of the 3A Big Eight Conference versus East Chapel Hill last week in Pittsboro.

SEASON

Continued from page B1

We have a phenomenal goalie and some dynamos with a shot."

Even though its a first year program, Hegerich expects her squad to be formidable, even against the much more seasoned and experienced teams on the 2019 spring schedule.

"All around our team will come to play — we will not be an easy opponent. Our conference is stacked with amazing lacrosse teams and players while many of our players are learning the basics (catch, throw, rules). That said, by the end of the season I trust our team will be a strong contender and everyone will be talking about the amazing Northwood girls' lacrosse team."

Vernon says it took a lot of people in the community to make things happen.

"I'd like to thank the Chatham County Board of Education, Dr. Jordan and Mr. Blice for giving our student-athletes this opportunity. They fully supported our efforts to get girl's lacrosse started at the high school level in Chatham County."

Those efforts will come to fruition on March 5th, and the biggest winners will be the Northwood girls regardless of the outcome on the score-board.

Lady Bears dealt unjust state playoff seed

When my cell phone blinked Saturday afternoon and I read a message from

Chatham Central girl's basketball coach Lynda Burke informing me of the draw her squad had received for the upcoming 1A NCHSAA state playoffs, my body temperature went from 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit to about 2000 degrees in .0002 seconds.

Learning that the Lady Bears had gotten a 4th

seed overall in the East

was just unfathomable to me.

After talking with Burke, I decided to call the NCHSAA in Chapel Hill to get an explanation.

What I found out was interesting, albeit, I still 100 percent believe the seed is unjust, and that the Chatham Central girls deserved a 2 seed, or at the least, a 3 seed.

First, let me say this, when NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker called me back later in the day, she was nothing short of gracious and professional, which she always is. And she precisely laid out the reasoning behind the seeding.

To my surprise, or more aptly put, to me turning a blind eye, the seeding all came down to Maxpreps rankings.

Yep, you got it, the website that struggles to get times, schedules, coaches names, etc., correct on a routine basis played that significant of a role deciding the final seeds. Tucker was thorough with how the process worked, and then plainly stated that Maxpreps was being used because this is what the coaches voted for and wanted.

Now, having been around Tucker, and those she had worked with for so many years in Charlie Adams and Rick Strunk, I can vouch that what she says are facts, though I must say, I have yet to talk to any coaches, especially football, that admit they are proponents of using the Maxpreps rankings to decide seeds.

But it is what it is, and that explained a lot

of why the Lady Bears drew the fourth seed.

At the end of our conversation, Tucker asked me point blank, what is your reasoning behind feeling that Chatham Central should be seeded higher. It was an honest question, and one with no chippiness or ill spirit.

And neither was my answer.

I plainly stated, "reality."

And that's what my opinion, which again, I feel is 100 percent accurate, is based upon.

The Chatham Central girls, all 12 members strong plus head coach Lynda Burke and assistant coach Kathryn Hackney, did about all that they could do this season.

The Lady Bears went a perfect 12-0 to win the 1A Central Tar Heel regular season title, then repeated the feat in the league tournament last week in dominating fashion.

In compiling a 19-3 mark, Chatham Central lost games to 2A state playoff berth winner Providence Grove, 3A state playoff berth winner Orange, and 3A Southern Alamance. To put it shortly, the Bears did not lose to a 1A opponent this season and beat everyone that was put on its schedule within the conference.

Now, to bolster my facts that are set in reality, and not into the Maxpreps rankings, these are the teams in the East that are seeded above the 4th seeded Bears.

Top seeded Pamlico. The Hurricanes are 23-2, went 12-0 in league play, and won their conference tournament. They are, and should be the top-seed, period, end of story.

At the No. 2 seed is East Carteret. This one is close, because the Lady Mariners finished 18-3 overall, and won their conference tournament, including beating 2A Croatan, which had issued East Carteret two of its three losses on the season.

East Carteret plays in a split 1A/2A Coastal 8 Conference, and also lost to 2A Richlands while going 10-3 in the league, but received the 1A top seed issued the conference.

Now, I understand playing in the split league with 2A teams, and that is a valid argument. The Mariners didn't lose to a 1A team, and won their conference tournament. So, though I think three losses in the conference

should certainly have been a deciding factor and the Lady Bears should have been the No. 2 seeds, that one is a little easier to swallow.

Washington County on the other hand, the No. 3 seed, is a different story. There simply is no reasonable explanation.

The Vikings closed the season at 16-3, went 9-1 in the conference in the regular season, and lost in the opening round of its conference tournament.

Insert me shaking my head and throwing my hands up.

I mean, I don't care of what some computer put out in California says, this Sports Editor here in NC emphatically states that Washington County receiving the 3 seed over the Chatham Central is completely wrong, and to the point of being a joke.

There is absolutely no conceivable way that Chatham Central should not be the 3rd seed. Simple as that.

To Coach Burke's credit, she wasn't happy, nor did she agree with the 4 seed, but she did make a classy and realistic retort to me personally on Saturday, saying, "Well, we will just have to prove them wrong."

And as I told Tucker on Saturday, I have nothing against Washington County and the people in the Plymouth area, nor down in the East Carteret community. Both are great places. But facts are facts, and they needed to be recognized in hopes of possibly tweaking the system in the future so that these kinds of things won't happen.

With that said, one plus to the injustice for the Lady Bears is that Bishop McGuinness was sent to the East Bracket. Now granted, this isn't the Bishop McGuinness of old, but the Villains are still very formidable at 18-8, and lost mainly to bigger schools.

So in the end, it could work out better for the locals. Who knows? The bottom line is the Lady Bears have to play and take it one game at a time, just as the Chatham Central boys, the Chatham Charter boys, and the Northwood boys and girls team have to do.

At the end of the day you just always want to see your local teams get rewarded fairly for their hard work.

TAKE

Continued from page B1

game will be extremely beneficial for our student-athletes."

Homolka, a Clafin, Kansas, native, was a fullback for the University of Kansas. From there, he coached at a number of universities, including N.C. State University, where he was the Director of Player Personnel for Wolfpack head coach Dave Doeren.

CROWN

Continued from page B1

received five from Mercedes King, including a trey, and four points from Trinity French.

The second quarter was a stalemate as both clubs scored 14 points to send the Bears into the locker rooms up comfortably at 44-24. Lauren Oldham had four points for the Bears in the stanza while Elkins chipped in three more.

Haley Bradshaw had six points for the Jaguars in the second while Megan Wilcox added a conventional three-point play, and King her second trey of the evening.

Any threat of a River Mill miracle comeback ended quickly in the third as the Bears scored eight straight points to open the stanza before posting an 18-9 advantage to pull ahead 62-33 entering the fourth. Maddy Elkins took over inside for Chatham Central in the frame, collecting nine points, while Murchison added a trey.

King sank her third three-pointer of the evening on the way to five points for the Jaguars in the third.

Lauren Collins would can a trey and a field goal for five points for the Bears in the fourth as the locals cruised on to the 73-42 win.

Maddy Elkins led all scorers in the contest with 15 while Abby Elkins chipped in 13 more for Chatham Central, and Murchison closed with 12, Taylor Hughes with 10, Collins with seven, and Oldham and Cami Hughes with six apiece.

River Mill was led offensively by 13 points from King, and 10 more from Bradshaw.

Big stage is now set as county basketball teams enter NCHSAA state play

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

One of the most exciting times of the year is here as the NCHSAA basketball state playoffs have arrived.

All told, five area basketball teams qualified for the right to compete in the tournament field.

In 1A, three Chatham County teams made the tournament, including both boys and girls at Chatham Central, and the Chatham Charter boys.

The Chatham Central girls will take a 19-3 mark and No. 4 seed into the East Bracket, fresh off claiming Central Tar Heel Conference regular season and tournament titles. The Lady Bears were scheduled to begin play at home on Tuesday night by when entertaining No. 29

seed Voyager Academy (11-15) down in Bear Creek with the winner moving on to battle the survivor of No. 13 seed Henderson County (16-8) and No. 20 seed South Davidson (12-12) on Thursday night.

The winner of that quad will face the survivor of the quadrant filled with No. 5 seed Vance Charter (24) and No. 28 seed Franklin Academy (11-15), and No. 12 seed Northampton County (19-7) and No. 21 seed Northside-Pinetown (10-10).

The 1A boys bracket features Chatham Charter (26-4), fresh off coming in second place in the Central Tar Heel Conference tournament, and Chatham Central (13-9), which came in third place in the CTH tourney.

Chatham Charter, the No. 11 seed, was scheduled to host No.

22 seed South Stokes (8-17) on Tuesday in Siler City with the winner tangling with the survivor of No. 6 seed Hayesville (20-5) and No. 27 seed Highland School (10-13) on Thursday at the higher seed.

Chatham Central enters as the No. 24 seed and was headed to the coast on Tuesday to clash with No. 9 seed Ocracoke (15-8). The winner was slated to tangle with the victor of No. 8 seed Pamlico (14-7) and No. 25 seed Franklin Academy (14-14) on Thursday at the higher seed.

In 3A, both Northwood boys and girls teams were set for first round action on the road on Tuesday.

As the No. 23 seeds in the boys East Bracket, Northwood (17-9) was set to battle No. 10 seed Southern Durham (20-6). Both

teams are from the Big Eight Conference, and the Chargers have lost to the Spartans three times this season, one by 12 points, and two contests by seven points, including a 55-48 decision in the league tournament semifinals just five nights earlier.

The winner advances to Thursday night to take on the survivor of No. 7 seed East Wake (19-6) and No. 26 seed Rocky Mount (13-10) at the higher seed.

In the girl's East Bracket, Northwood (13-9), the No. 28 seed, was set to travel to No. 5 seed Dudley (21-4) on Tuesday evening. The winner will advance to Thursday night to battle the victor of No. 12 seed Terry Sanford (20-5) and No. 21 seed Rockingham County (19-7) at the higher seed.

Hillside girls flex muscle in semifinal stomping of Chargers

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

DURHAM — A young Northwood girl's basketball team played its best game of the season in a 3A Big Eight Conference tournament opener against Chapel Hill.

Two nights later versus Durham Hillside, the opposite could be said.

The Lady Chargers played about as poorly as they could last Wednesday evening up in Durham as the locals were no match for powerful Hillside.

With that said, the Hornets deserve a great deal of credit in

moving into the conference finals with the decisive 55-25 win over the Chargers. Hillside used a relentless pressure defense which basically swarmed Northwood the entire four quarters while allowing just six points for the locals in the opening three stanzas, and seven in the fourth.

"We really struggled tonight with Hillside's pressure," said Northwood head coach Cameron Vernon after the tough loss. "They made it very difficult for us to do anything on offense and were able to turn our miscues into easy transition points for them."

Northwood played tough

defense of its own in the opening eight minutes while allowing just nine points.

Hillside broke the game open in the second, however, with a 20-6 run which sent the hosts into the intermission with a commanding 29-12 advantage.

Things only got worse in the second half as the Hornets outscored the Chargers 12-6 in the third to go up 41-18, and 14-7 in the fourth to cap off the easy 55-25 semifinal victory.

Northwood (14-12) failed to place a scorer in double figures. Chandler Adams led the way with nine points while Myla

Marve chipped in eight.

Hillside (19-5) received 23 points from Faith Blackstone on 10-of-12 shooting in the victory while Dajah McFee added nine. Blackstone, a junior, also had 15 rebounds, four assists and six steals in a game.

Next up for Northwood is the opening round of the 3A NCHSAA basketball state playoffs. The Chargers were scheduled to open up in Greensboro against Dudley on Tuesday night.

"Hopefully we can regroup and pick ourselves back up because we have a similar test versus Dudley on Tuesday."

Chatham Charter middle school boys complete 17-0 season

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

GRAHAM — The Chatham Charter boy's middle school team put the wraps on a perfect 17-0 season with a 45-30 whipping of River Mill in the Mid-State Conference finals in Graham.

Adam Harvey pumped in a game-high 24 points

to lead the Knights, including 16 in the second half as the locals blew the game open in the fourth period with a 16-4 run.

Chatham Charter led precariously 8-7 after one quarter of play as Harvey scored four baskets for the locals, and A.J. McClary four points for the Jaguars, and Kris Barnwell a trey.

In the second, Jackson Brown would tally six points, including going 2-for-2 at the charity stripe, to spark an 11-7 advantage in the frame for the Knights, and ultimately a 19-14 lead at the break.

Barnwell sank another three-pointer on the way to five points for River Mill in the second.

The Jaguars would

rally in the third behind a pair of Barnwell treys to close to within 29-26 entering the fourth.

Eight points from Harvey kept the locals in the lead.

Harvey would add eight more in the fourth and Amir Mapp chipped in four more, and Noah Snyder three as Chatham Charter exploded for the

16-4 run to put River Mill away and add the tournament title to the regular season crown.

Mapp chipped in seven points for the Knights in the win while Brown added six, and Snyder five.

Barnwell had 14 points for the Jaguars in the loss while McClary and Jeff Bradshaw added eight and six respectively.

NCPREPS STATE BASKETBALL POLLS

BOYS

CLASS 1A

1. Washington County (7) 21-0 - 123
 2. Winston-Salem Prep (6) 19-4 - 119
 3. Northwest Halifax 20-1 - 99
 4. Henderson Collegiate 23-2 - 85
 5. North Rowan 21-2 - 81
 6. Community School of Davidson 21-3 - 63
 7. West Columbus 20-3 - 53
 8. Princeton 20-2 - 34
 9. Hayesville 20-4 - 21
 10. Bishop McGuinness 17-7 - 14
- Honorable Mention:** Lincoln Charter (19-6) - 9; North Stokes (17-5) - 4; Research Triangle Charter (20-3) - 4; Holmes (19-4) - 3; Starmount (18-4) - 2; Pine Lake Prep (16-7) - 1.

CLASS 2A

1. Farmville Central (10) 24-0 - 127
 2. Forest Hills (3) 22-2 - 118
 3. East Lincoln 22-2 - 102
 4. Hendersonville 19-2 - 83
 5. Kinston 19-6 - 71
 6. Mountain Heritage 17-2 - 53
 7. Maiden 21-3 - 47
 8. Greene Central 18-6 - 45
 9. North Davidson 20-4 - 24
 10. Walkertown 18-6 - 13
- Honorable Mention:** Shelby (18-5) - 9; Wilkes Central (19-3) - 7; East Rutherford (18-4) - 7; Mount Pleasant (20-4) - 1; West Stokes (17-6) - 1; Hixson (18-4) - 1.

CLASS 3A

1. Southwest Guilford (6) 24-0 - 121
 2. Cox Mill (6) 22-2 - 112
 3. Eastern Alamance (1) 24-0 - 110
 4. Freedom 23-1 - 94
 5. Northern Nash 22-1 - 75
 6. Hillside 22-1 - 66
 7. Williams 22-2 - 57
 8. Hickory 19-4 - 36
 9. Southern Lee 21-3 - 26
 10. Kings Mtn. 18-5 - 12
- Honorable Mention:** Southern Guilford (18-4) - 2; Westover (17-5) - 1; East Wake (18-5) - 1; White Oak (20-4) - 1; Southern Durham (18-5) - 1.

BOYS

CLASS 4A

1. Millbrook (8) 24-0 - 125
 2. South Central (5) 23-1 - 119
 3. North Mecklenburg 20-3 - 103
 4. Davie County 22-1 - 86
 5. Holly Springs 19-3 - 65
 6. West Charlotte 18-6 - 61
 7. Wakefield 21-3 - 59
 8. Olympic 18-4 - 45
 9. Independence 18-6 - 17
 10. Seventy-First 21-3 - 13
- Honorable Mention:** Butler (19-5) - 9; Vance (18-5) - 9; Laney (19-4) - 4.

BOYS

CLASS 1A

1. Wakefield (13) 23-1 - 130
 2. Laney 23-1 - 108
 3. Heritage 21-2 - 101
 4. Vance 22-2 - 90
 5. Southeast Raleigh 19-5 - 76
 6. Leesville Road 19-3 - 66
 7. Butler 22-2 - 49
 8. Ragsdale 20-3 - 34
 9. Northwest Guilford 19-4 - 27
 10. Hickory Ridge 20-3 - 20
- Honorable Mention:** West Forsyth (20-3) - 7; South Central (21-3) - 6; Jordan (19-3) - 1.

— Deanna King

YOUTH

Continued from page B1

career by tying the school record of 40 round-trippers.

After being selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 20th round of the 2017 Major League Baseball draft, Golden began his minor league career with Grand Junction (CO), where he hit 20 homers, the most in the Pioneer League that season and the most in Grand Junction history.

Last year he played for the Asheville (NC) Tourists and was named the South Atlantic League MVP after walloping 32 home runs. His two-year total of 54 homers is the most in the entire Rockies' organization during that period at any level.

Wanting to give something back to the community where he grew

up before heading off to Arizona on Sunday for the start of spring training, Golden teamed up with fellow instructors Barry Culberson and Alec Allred on Friday night to offer some hitting and fielding tips to area youngsters looking to improve their baseball skills.

Following a short period of warm-up exercises, participants were shown the proper technique for fielding ground balls by squaring up on the ball and bringing it to their chest before making a throw.

Next came a demonstration on how to properly catch fly balls by aligning the glove to the side of the face, followed by a drill that stressed the proper way to dive for a ball.

Attention was then centered on the proper stance to take in the batter's box. The importance of balance and how it starts with the correct placement of the feet was identified, reminding those in at-

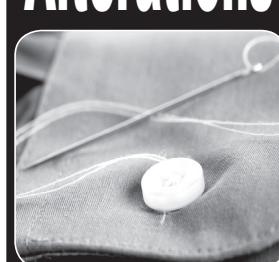
tendance that lower body strength is a key to hitting and being able to finish your swing. Everyone then had an opportunity to practice what they had learned by taking multiple swings in the batting cage.

Before the event concluded, Golden shared some insights to being a better ball player. He mentioned the importance of learning how to play every position on the field while stating not to be overly concerned regarding what position a player has in the batting order because every spot up and down the lineup is significant.

Golden told the attendees that every time they step on the playing field do it with confidence, be aggressive, believe in yourself and above all have fun.

Golden then made himself available to sign autographs and pose for pictures while pizza and drinks were enjoyed by all prior to heading home.

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Lady Chargers take giant step toward state playoff berth

BY DON BEANE
News + Record

CHAPEL HILL — Coming into Monday night's 3A Big Eight Conference Tournament opener with Chapel Hill, the Northwood girls basketball team was on the bubble of making the upcoming 3A NCHSAA state playoffs.

Pencil in the Lady Chargers.

In its most impressive performances of the season, Northwood routed Chapel Hill 48-32 over in Orange County to all but sure itself a state playoff berth.

Cameron Vernon was more than proud of his young Chargers after the big win.

"This was by far our best game of the season," commented Vernon. "It started on the defensive end and we did a really nice job of not allowing them to dribble penetrate which happened the first game we played this season that Chapel Hill won 60-54."

Vernon continued by saying that defensive effort by his club carried over to the offensive end.

"I thought the defense

carried over on offense and our execution on the offensive end was great. We only had 7 turnovers and our guards Rae McClarty, Jy Smith, McKenna Snively, Myla Marve, and Natalie Bell did outstanding taking care of the ball."

For Vernon, the continued progress of his young squad is coming at just the right time.

"We seem to be coming around and it's a great time for that. We have a real tough test against Hillside and hopefully we can play as well as we did Monday night."

On Monday night in Chapel Hill, the Lady Chargers broke open a 24-20 lead at the half with a decisive 16-2 spurt in the third period. Smith had six points in the frame including a pair of huge momentum shifting treys, while Harris chipped in six points to the NW cause, and Chandler Adams four more as the locals raced in front 40-22.

The Tigers never could recover.

Northwood scored just eight points in the fourth,

including four apiece by Marve and Bell, but it was more than enough as the locals cruised to the easy 48-32 victory.

Riley Corcoran had five points for Chapel Hill in the fourth.

Earlier in the game, the contest was back and forth as Harris canned four points for the Chargers in the first period, and McClarty a trey, as NW went up 10-8 after the opening eight minutes. Morgan Korfas had five points on the strength of a three-pointer in the period.

Northwood used a 14-12 spurt in the second behind four points from Adams and another trey from McClarty to go up by four at the intermission. Corcoran had six points for Chapel Hill in the frame while Laney Beale chipped in four.

Harris led all scorers with 12 points for the Chargers while Adams chipped in nine points and six rebounds, and Kaya Hill six boards.

The Tigers were paced by 11 and 10 points respectively from Beale and Corcoran.

Knights roll in CTH tourney opener

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Chatham Charter boys basketball team did what all good teams are supposed to do when facing an inferior opponent on Monday Night in Siler City in 1A Central Tar Heel Conference tournament first round action. And that's roll.

Chatham Charter completely dismantled visiting Cornerstone Charter 76-45 in a game not as close as the final score indicated.

The Knights improved to 25-3 on the season with the win and advanced into the semifinals against county-rival Chatham Central.

The Cardinals, out of Greensboro, closed its 2018-2019 campaign at 6-17.

From the outset, Chatham Charter dominated, using a 21-9 spurt in the opening period to grab control.

"We wanted to set the tone early and to come out aggressive on both ends of the court," said Chatham Charter coach Jason Messier. "Defensively, we put the pressure on them and created a lot of turnovers in the opening half."

The result was the Knights expanding its lead to 51-25 at the intermission after a 30-point outburst in the second period.

"In the second quarter we played about as well as we have the entire season," continued Messier who's team shot 48% (30-63) from the field. "The ball movement was great and we

found a lot of open and high percentage shots."

That was highlighted by the Chatham Charter score sheet which saw 10 different Knights score in the victory in about as balanced a performance as a team could get.

Chatham Charter outscored Cornerstone 20-7 in the third to take a commanding 71-32 advantage into the fourth before cruising to the 76-45 triumph.

Jordan Hamilton led the way with 14 points for Chatham Charter while Cole Milholen, Connor Murphy, and Ryan White added 10 points apiece, Trevor Golden nine, A.J. Alston eight, and Tyler Dettmer seven.

Hamilton added seven rebounds and four assists, Milholen an assist and six steals, Golden four boards and two assists, White four rebounds and three assists, and Murphy four boards, an assist and three steals.

Cornerstone was paced by 13 points, 5 rebounds, four assists and two steals from Daniel Carson while Noah Edwards chipped in 10 points, 10 boards, one steal and an assist.

"It was a big win in that we played well and took care of business to advance," closed Messier. "The game with Chatham Central is very important in that it will decide the No. 2 seed when the state playoffs start next week. So we need to come out with the same focus and intensity."

ESCAPES

Continued from page B1

night.

"Honestly, it felt like a playoff game as far as intensity goes, and that should help us next week when the states start," continued Messier. "Our kids gave a great effort and I think came focused and ready to play. Turnovers hurt, we gave away too many possessions, and we couldn't buy a three-point attempt. But we competed hard, and played hard defensively in what was a grind it out type of game. I'm proud of our guys."

The two teams split in the regular season including Chatham Charter taking a 66-64 victory in Siler City back in late January.

The contest was back and forth in the opening half with

neither team managing more than a five point cushion as the opening period ended with Chatham Charter leading 14-13, before Research Triangle scored the final six points of the second quarter, including four by Beau Bryant, to take a 26-24 advantage into the break.

Connor Murphy tallied 14 first half points on a variety of drives while Jordan Hamilton powered in 10 more from down in the paint.

The Raptors opened on an 11-5 spurt to open the third quarter as the Knights struggled to get any clean looks due to the length of the Research Triangle defenders. Bryant had five points in the surge by the Raptors while Ethan Clappenhagan chipped four more.

Trailing 37-29 with 2:33 left in the frame, Chatham Charter went on a 6-1 run to close the period and trim the deficit

to 38-35 entering the fourth. Baggio Rodriguez make a steal and converted a lay up for his initial bucket of the contest before cutting to the basket and scoring off an assist from Murphy to highlight the Knights surge.

It was a defensive battle the entire night as the officials let the players play, and the final eight minutes of action was no different.

With the tournament title on the line, both squads left it all on the court. Hamilton canned a pair of baskets in the stanza, the final of which closed the gap to 44-43 with 2:53 left in the contest.

Bryant yanked down a rebound and scored moments later to send the Raptors back in front 46-43, but a driving Murphy hoop drew Chatham Charter to within a point once again at the 2:07 mark.

Research Triangle would hold the ball for a minute before the Knights elected to foul with :51.5 ticks remaining on the clock. Jonny Roberts missed the attempt, and Hamilton pulled own his game-high 12th rebound of the contest to give Chatham Charter possession.

A forced jump ball resulted in the Knights luckily regaining possession with 14.7 seconds remaining, but Knight guard Cole Milholen had the ball knocked off his leg and to roll out of bounds on a nice defensive play by the Raptors.

Bryant would miss at the line, however, and with 4.7 seconds remaining, Chatham Charter called a timeout.

Staring at going the full length of the court, all the nights could muster was a 30-foot heave from Milholen which was partially tipped by the 6'4

Bryant as the buzzer sounded. Hailton paced Chatham Charter with 18 points, going 7-of-11 from the field, while Murphy chipped in 16 points, four rebounds and an assist.

The Knights were down right dismal from behind the arc, shooting 6% (1-16), with A.J. Alston making the lone attempt in his nine tries.

Bryant paced the Raptors with 17 points and 11 rebounds while Klappenebach chipped in 10 points, and Josh McLaurin and Keeyan Itejere six apiece.

Chatham Charter (26-4) was scheduled to host South Stokes on Tuesday in Siler City in West Bracket play in opening round action of the 1A NCHSAA State Playoffs while Research Triangle (23-3) was slated to host Roxboro Community Charter than same night in the East Bracket.

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CHURCH NEWS**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

There will be a "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake Supper from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 5 in the Parish Hall at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 204 West Salisbury St., Pittsboro. Families bring your children. Suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$10 for families will be accepted at the door.

Last year's Palms will be burned by Fr. Wilber Mundia to prepare ashes for the Ash Wednesday service at noon on March 6 in the sanctuary. This will mark the beginning of the penitential season of Lent.

ROCKY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

We will host a gospel bluegrass singing at 6 p.m. on March 3 in the Fellowship Building at Rocky River Baptist Church at 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Road, Siler City.

Local musicians Albert Vestal and Jerry Stuart will be joined by Dewey Brown, Stan Brown, John Fogelman and Derrick Allred. Everyone is welcome! Bring your instruments for a bluegrass jam following the concert.

UNITY POWERHOUSE

At 3 p.m. on March 3, we will honor Unity Powerhouse's Associate Minister, Joann Eubanks. The speaker for the service will be Elder Derek Murray of Rescue Temple #2 in Greensboro.

All are welcome to join us for this special program.

MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH

An appreciation service honoring Missionary Haze Marsh will be held at Mt. Calvary Holy Church at 2 p.m. on March 3 at 578 Stockyard Road, Siler City.

The guest speaker will

be Elder Pearline McMillian, pastor of St. Luke Holy Church, Siler City. Please help us celebrate. We would love for you to attend.

PINEY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Piney Grove United Methodist Church invites everyone to our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on March 6.

The church is located at 2343 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City with the Rev. Jim Folks, Pastor.

FIRECHOSEN MINISTRIES

You are invited to fellowship in our "March Madness" worship encounter series being held at 11 a.m. each Sunday in March. Our guest preachers will be Pastor Sabrina Ivey (3/3), Rev. Samantha Johnson (3/10), Evangelist Chariss Jones (3/17), Prophetess Angela Keitt (3/24) and Elder Julius Richmond (3/31).

Meet us for "March Madness" at 190 Sanford Road, Pittsboro.

PITTSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

You are invited to join us for Ash Wednesday events on March 6! A pancake supper will be held at 5:30 p.m. with Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

Pittsboro UMC is located at 71 West Street, Pittsboro. - pittsboroumc@gmail.com/919-542-2330.

LYSTRA BAPTIST CHURCH

Take and Wear Clothes Closet located at Lystra Baptist Church will be open from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on March 9. Anyone needing clothes is welcome to come and shop. Everything is free!

There is no advantage in arriving before 8:45 a.m. The church is located at 686 Lystra Road, off 15-501, past Chatham Downs.

The guest speaker will

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Monday, March 4

BREAKFAST: Cinnamon Cereal Breakfast Bar, Fruit Cocktail (**Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

LUNCH: Big Daddy's Buffalo Chix Pizza, Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread, PB&J w/ Smoothie Combo, Seasoned Green Beans, Seasoned Black-Eyed Peas, Chilled Mandarin Oranges (** Add Fresh Fruit)

Tuesday, MARCH 5

BREAKFAST: Scrambled Eggs & Toast, Mandarin Oranges, Hashbrowns (**Cinnamon Cereal Breakfast Bar, Fresh Fruit)

LUNCH: Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage Biscuit, Mini Pancakes w/Cheese Stick, Southwest Chicken Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, SunBelievable 100% Juice Box, Chilled Peaches, Fresh Fruit (**Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage Biscuit w/Eggs, Fr Tst Stx w/Egg & Sausage, Ham & Cheese Combo, Southwest Chicken Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Sunbelievable 100% Juice Box, Chilled Peaches, Fresh Fruit)

Wednesday, MARCH 6

BREAKFAST: Sausage Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (**Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

LUNCH: Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza, Chicken Fajita Rice Bowl, Ham & Cheese Combo, Ranchero Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Birthday Treat (**Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza, Chicken Fajita Rice Bowl, Chicken Tender Wrap Combo, Ranchero Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Chilled Pears, Fresh Fruit, Birthday Treat)

Thursday, MARCH 7

BREAKFAST: Chocolate Cereal Breakfast Bar, Peachies (**Chocolate Cereal Breakfast Bar, Fresh Fruit)

LUNCH: Sweet Thai Chili Chicken w/Roll, Corn Dog Nuggets, Deli Ham Chef Salad, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Broccoli, Fresh Fruit (**Sweet Thai Chili Chicken w/Roll, Corn Dog Nuggets, Deli Club Wrap Combo, Deli Ham Chef Salad, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Broccoli, Chilled Applesauce, Fresh Fruit)

Friday, March 8

BREAKFAST: Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (**Sausage Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

LUNCH: Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Vegetable Blend, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Blueberry Crisp (**Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Chicken Nuggets w/Roll, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Vegetable Blend, Marinated Tomatoes, Blueberry Crisp, Fresh Fruit)

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Harold "Boots" Atkins would like to express our thanks for all the acts of kindness and friendship shown to us during our recent loss of Daddy. Your prayers, phone calls, texts, food and goodies were very much appreciated. Most

importantly, the many visits to the hospital and rehab facility brought sunshine to some very long days.

Thanks again to everyone for the support given to our family.

Mike, Karen, Kathy and Families

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

The following area students who are undergraduates at the University of Kansas earned the honor roll distinction for the fall 2018 semester: Apex: Haley Bishop, School of Business; Cary: Claire Doyle, College of

STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Liberal Arts & Sciences; Franklinville: Brandon Rodriguez, School of Engineering; and Pittsboro: Hannah-Gail Shepard, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled,

some establish a minimum grade-point average, and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

NEWS BRIEFS**Chatham Community Library hosting film series, author**

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library is celebrating Women's History Month with a three-part film series beginning on March 7. The films will be viewed from 6-8 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro.

Films in the series include:

- March 7: RBG (2018). At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But the unique personal journey of her rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans

— until now, RBG explores Ginsburg's life and career.

Directed by Julie Cohen and Betsy West, RBG was a nominee for the 2019 Academy Award's Best Documentary Feature category.

• March 14: Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed (2004). This outstanding documentary chronicles Brooklyn-based Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's 1972 presidential bid.

Chisholm '72 was a nominee for Best Documentary at the 2006 Black Reel Awards. Directed by Shola Lynch.

• March 21: The Legend: The Bessie Coleman Story (2018). This feature documentary details the life and career of Bessie Coleman, the first woman of African-American descent and the first of Native American descent, to hold a pilot license.

Coleman staged the first public flight by an African American woman in America on Labor Day, September 3, 1922. She became a popular flier at aerial shows, though she refused to perform before segregated audiences in the South. Speaking at schools and churches, she encouraged blacks' interest in aviation.

Written and directed by Gardner Doolittle.

These events are free and open to the public.

For additional information please call the Library at 919-545-8084.

In addition, the library will host an author event with Iris Yang beginning at 2 p.m. on March 16 in the Holmes Meeting Room.

Iris Yang, Ph.D. (Qing Yang) was born and raised in China. She has loved reading and writing since she was a child, but in China creative writing was a dangerous career.

As famous writers and translators, her grandmother and her aunt were wrongfully accused as counter-revolutionary Rightists, so Iris had to choose a safer path — studying science.

After graduating from Wuhan University and passing a series of exams, she was accepted by the prestigious CUSBEA (China-United States Biochemistry Examination and Application program).

At age 23, with poor English, little knowledge of the country, and 500 borrowed dollars, she came to the United States as a graduate student at the University of Rochester.

Later, she received a Ph.D. in molecular biology, trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and worked at the University of North Carolina.

Although she has published a number of scientific papers, she has a passion for creative writing, and her short stories have won contests and have been published in anthologies.

Her debut novel, *Wings of a Flying Tiger*, was published in June, 2018, and its sequel, *Will of a Tiger*, was published in January, 2019.

Currently, Iris is working on a story based

Volunteers needed to support Chatham's domestic violence and advocacy services

PITTSBORO — Chatham County's domestic violence support and advocacy program, Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services, seeks volunteers to provide specific support services for survivors of domestic violence.

Director of Court Programs Renita Foxx is working with Kit Stanley, manager of Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services, to recruit volunteers who can assist with the following:

- Crisis Line Advocates provide telephone crisis assistance and resources to victims and survivors;

- Sexual Assault Response Advocates will respond to and provide advocacy for survivors of sexual assault at our local hospitals.

- Court Companions/Navigators to offer support and assistance to victims during court hearings; and

- DV/SA Educators will work within the community to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Volunteers must complete an application form, agree to a background check and complete training before being enrolled in the program.

Foxx said that the number of service hours for volunteers will vary depending on each person's availability.

Anyone interested in this volunteer opportunity should call 919-542-1792 or send email to cfvps@chathamnc.org.

es. Terms and conditions apply and are available at RedCrossBlood.org/HBOGameofThrones.*

Additionally, those who come to donate March 7-12 will also receive exclusive Game of Thrones swag including a T-shirt, stickers to unlock a unique Snapchat filter and other items, while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Feb. 25-March 31:

Bear Creek: 12:30 p.m. on March 6 at Chatham Central High School at 14950 NC Highway 902 West

Pittsboro: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 12 at Galloway Ridge Hugh Chapin Auditorium at 3000 Galloway Ridge

Siler City: noon until 4:30 p.m. on March 15 at Chatham County Hospital at 475 Progress Blvd.; 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on March 27 at Jordan Matthews High School at 910 E Cardinal St.

— CN+R Staff reports

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2 BIG NIGHTS

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Friday Night, March 15th, featuring LeFevre Quartet along with The Harvesters Quartet and Ivan Parker

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Artist Circle Seating - Each Night

Adult - \$18.00

POLICE REPORTS

Pittsboro woman suspected of embezzling from elder

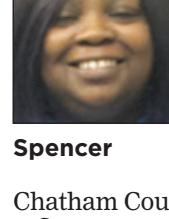
A Pittsboro woman faces multiple felony charges on accusations that she used her power of attorney to obtain and spend thousands of dollars that belonged to someone in her care.

Deborah Bowes, 64, of 120 X Campbell Road, Pittsboro, has been charged with felony embezzlement and felony abuse of trust of an elder/disabled family member, according to a press release from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. Bowes was arrested Feb. 21 in connection with a fraud investigation and is believed to have embezzled more than \$143,000 that belonged to a victim in her care. She was released under a written promise and is scheduled to appear in court on March 4 in Pittsboro.

Sanford woman accused of posing as daughter in court

A 44-year-old woman from Sanford is in police custody after trying to pass as her daughter in Chatham County court.

Uganda Spencer faces multiple felony charges after she was arrested Feb. 22 for posing as her daughter Gabrielle, according to a press release from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. Spencer appeared at the Chatham County Justice Center in Pittsboro and was placed under arrest on a warrant for Gabrielle Spencer. After being transported to the Chatham County Detention Center, Spencer's true identity was revealed, along with three outstanding warrants and a criminal summons under her own name. Spencer faces three felony counts



Bowes

of identity theft, as well as charges of common law forgery, resisting a public officer and felony financial card theft. She was held under a \$10,000 bond with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Trio charged in Bear Creek break-in

Three men are facing charges from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in relation to a December 2018 break-in in Bear Creek.

Justin Stovall, 33, of Siler City, Robbie Knight, 43, of Sanford, and John Moore, 44, of Gulf, are each facing multiple felony counts and have been taken into custody over the last three weeks, Stovall by the Cary Police Department, on suspicion of participation in a Dec. 28 breaking and entering off of Bill Lambert Road in Bear Creek. The charges were reported in a press release by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

Stovall was charged with felony breaking and entering and felony larceny on Feb. 7 and was held under a \$10,000 bond. Knight was charged with felony breaking and entering and felony larceny after breaking and entering on Feb. 19 and was held under a \$5,000 bond. Moore was charged with felony breaking and entering, felony aiding and abetting a larceny and felony conspiracy to break/enter on Feb. 12 and was held under a \$2,000 bond.

All three men are due to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 4.

— CN+R Staff reports



Stovall



Knight



Moore

Stovall was charged with felony breaking and entering and felony larceny on Feb. 7 and was held under a \$10,000 bond. Knight was charged with felony breaking and entering and felony larceny after breaking and entering on Feb. 19 and was held under a \$5,000 bond. Moore was charged with felony breaking and entering, felony aiding and abetting a larceny and felony conspiracy to break/enter on Feb. 12 and was held under a \$2,000 bond.

All three men are due to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 4.

— CN+R Staff reports

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Seth Cox, 21, of Pittsboro, was charged Feb. 15 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$5,000 bond with a March 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Sara Gray, 22, of Bear Creek, was charged Feb. 15 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$10,000 bond with a March 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Christian Cameron, 22, of Siler City, was charged Feb. 17 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$16,000 bond with a March 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Joseph Rogers, 33, of Siler City, was charged Feb. 18 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a March 14 court date in Sanford.

Africa Mason, 22, of Pittsboro, was charged Feb. 18 with failure to appear. She was released under a written promise with a March 6 court date in Asheboro.

Robbie Knight, 43, of Sanford, was charged Feb. 19 with breaking and entering. He was held under a \$5,000 bond with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Anjelica Mata, 19, of Siler City, was charged Feb. 19 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$350 bond with a March 14 court date in Graham.

Castro Victor-Alfonso, 34, of Pittsboro, was charged Feb. 20 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$600 bond with a March 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Jonathan Goins, 30, of Siler City, was charged Feb. 20 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,500 bond with an April 23 court date in Graham.

Deborah Ann Bowes, 65, of Pittsboro, was charged Feb. 21 with embezzlement and abuse of trust of an elder/disabled adult. She was released under a written promise with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

William Snead, 20, of Pittsboro, was charged Feb. 21 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$300 bond with an April 3 court date in Pittsboro.

Tsenia Kelley, 29, of Pitts-

boro, was charged Feb. 21 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$1,000 bond with an April 23 court date in Raleigh.

Uganda Spencer, 44, of Sanford, was charged Feb. 22 with identity theft, common law forgery, resisting a public officer, financial card theft, failing to return rental property, driving while license revoked, having an expired registration card/tag, speeding and larceny by employee. She was held under a \$10,000 bond with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Morgan Butler of Sanford was cited Feb. 23 for a safe movement violation.

stolen goods/property, operating a vehicle with no insurance and displaying a registration number plate knowing it to be fictitious.

Brittany Comer, 21, of Siler City, was charged Feb. 19 for simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance and possession of marijuana paraphernalia.

Morgan Butler of Sanford was cited Feb. 23 for a safe movement violation.

HIGHWAY PATROL

Lynda Partin of Bear Creek was cited Feb. 18 for failure to yield during a left turn. Partin was driving north on Progress Boulevard in Siler City and failed to yield while making a left onto U.S. 64 West, leading to a collision with another vehicle.

Hannah Yule of Pittsboro was cited Feb. 18 for failure to yield during a left turn. Yule was driving on Bynum Ridge Road in Pittsboro and making a left turn onto North Pea Ridge Road, failing to yield for an oncoming car, leading to a collision.

Jasmine Liburd of Fayetteville was cited Feb. 19 for exceeding a safe speed. Liburd was driving south on U.S. 15 in Pittsboro and exceeded a safe speed for a wet road, running off the road to the right, striking a ditch and overturning.

Maria Gomez Flores of Siler City was cited Feb. 19 for exceeding a safe speed for the conditions. Gomez Flores was driving west on U.S. 64 in Pittsboro and traveled off the road to the left and struck the median wire.

Hardy Lewis IV of Chapel Hill was cited Feb. 20 for exceeding a safe speed. Lewis was driving southeast on Jack Bennett Road in Siler City and exceeded a safe speed for the wet curve. The vehicle ran off the road to the right, struck a guardrail and overturned.

Charles White of Newton was cited Feb. 20 for a lane control violation. White was driving north on U.S. 421 in Siler City and ran off the right side of the road, striking a shoulder guard rail. The trailer he was driving became stuck on top of the guardrail.

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You have trusted us with you and your family's prescriptions since 2005 and it's been our privilege to help so many patients throughout the years. We have entrusted Walgreens to continue the personal care we were recognized providing and they are committed to provide you with the same level of excellence.

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CHATHAM@WORK | ALEXANDER MAYFIELD

ABOUT: Alex Mayfield is the Senior Youth Director with the Chatham YMCA in Pittsboro. A native of Louisiana, he attended Olympia High School in Orlando and Appalachian State University. He lives in Durham. "My dad, J Robert Mayfield, has worked in education all of his life and my mom," Mayfield says. "My mom, Bootsie Mayfield, is a professional flutist. I have no children of my own, but I have a wonderful pitbull named Rufio. At Chatham's YMCA, Mayfield helps support Summer Day Camps, Afterschool, Y-Learning literacy programs and Youth Sports. He's worked for the Y since 2009.

What's unique about what you do for a living?

I get to actively create environments that allow kids and adults to be the best versions of themselves, every single day. Our programs allow us to create safe spaces where people can grow and belong, and that is something that is incredibly special.

What was your first paying job, and what did it teach you?

I worked as a golf attendant at driving range in Florida. I was the one every tried to hit when picking up golf balls on the range. There was once a moment when my boss commanded me to mow the range during a thunderstorm, I quit

on the spot. You have to constantly have the well-being of others in the forefront of what you do. The people around us are deeply important and we have to care about their physical and emotional safety.

What's the most difficult job you've ever had?

I was once a lifeguard at a waterpark in Orlando. I absolutely loved it but I was working 55 hours a week as an 18 year old, constantly staying vigilant to the safety of others. We performed rescues pretty regularly and it was mentally and physically exhausting.

What advice would you give someone considering doing the same line of work as you?

For anyone that is working with people, I think you have to lead with empathy. We have to lean into the stories of others and learn from their experience. If you can do that, you are better prepared to be supportive of others and their needs.

Your standard order at a coffee shop?

Black coffee with a shot of espresso.

Your ultimate "happy place"?

The Waterfront at Camp Kanata

Favorite character from a Disney movie:

Tarzan. Ultimate-

ly underrated movie with arguably the best soundtrack.

Life on other planets? Yes or no?

Absolutely.

On a snow day, you'd stay home and binge-watch:

Avatar: The Last Airbender

Dogs or cats?

Both are great but I prefer dogs.

What celebrity would you most like to hang out with for a day?

It would be pretty cool to spend a day with Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Who was the best teacher (in school or at work) you ever had, and why?

Mrs. Walker (fourth-grade teacher). She cared so much about others and it showed in everything she did.

The book you're currently reading:

Dare to Lead by Brene Brown.

If someone made a movie about your life, the actor to portray you is:

Jack Black or Jason Segel

The credo or motto you like to try to live by:

"Be Well and Do Good"

What are five most frequently-played songs on your iPod playlist?

• "Julia" by Mewith-

outyou

- "Midnight Lorry" by Dispatch
- "Abandon Ship or Abandon All Hope" by Four Year Strong
- "Sputnik" by O'Brother
- "Orchestra" by All Get Out

What's the worst injury you've ever had?

I tore my meniscus while leading training in front of 1,000 employees because I was dancing in a penguin suit.

Do you have a tattoo?

I have several; my favorite one being a penguin wearing a flannel, screaming into a microphone.

Did you have a childhood nickname?

Sunshine

Favorite season?

Baseball season

What's your favorite condiment?

Chick-fil-A sauce

How do you define success?

The more people you can positively impact, the more successful I believe that you are.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Fitting in and belonging are two separate things. Try to find places that allow you to do the latter.

What's the most im-

Staff photo by Zachary Horner

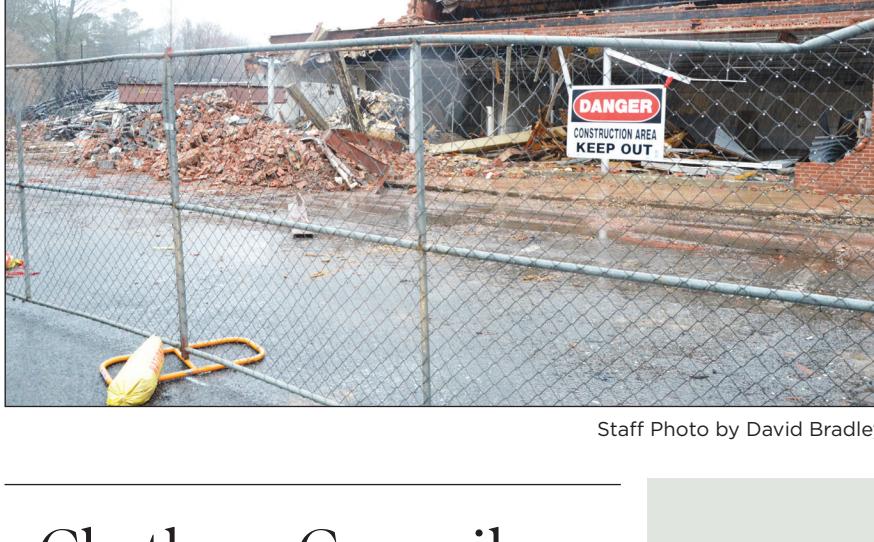
Alex Mayfield, senior youth director of the Chatham County YMCA.

portant thing your job has taught you?

The older I get, the

more I don't know, so always continue to learn and always be humble.

READ IT ONLINE



Staff Photo by David Bradley

Demolition has a rain delay

The old Piggly Wiggly building on West Salisbury Street sits quietly in the rain after partial demolition began last week. A new four-story Pittsboro Town Hall will rise on the site, with 130 parking spaces, a 200-seat commissioners meeting room, and ADA-accessible entranceways.



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Chatham Council on Aging joins month-long March for Meals

CN+R Staff report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Council on Aging will participate in the 17th annual March for Meals — a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meals on Wheels, the service providing food to seniors and allowing them to remain healthy and independent at home, and the many volunteers who help make the program possible.

The celebration will include restaurant "Dine Out-Give Back" nights and "Community Champions Week," where elected officials and other community leaders will deliver meals or serve lunch at the senior centers.

"Our nutrition program and other services we provide are a lifeline for seniors in Chatham County and the need is rapidly increasing," said Dennis W. Streets, Executive Director for the Council. "Together, we can keep our senior neighbors well-nourished and feeling safer and more connected to our community as they age."

The council currently has 12 hot Meals on Wheels routes across Chatham and many others receive frozen meals.

"We especially need volunteer drivers in Siler City, Bear Creek and Bennett," said Volunteer Coordinator Allison Andrews. "The success of the Meals on Wheels program is dependent on the generosity of community volunteers to deliver these meals and provide a friendly check-in with our home-bound elders."

In addition, volunteers help with the luncheon program at both of the Council's centers, in Pittsboro and Siler City. Some help serve the meals and others offer music, crafts, March 28

educational and recreational activities.

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. Since 2002, community-based Meals on Wheels programs from across the country have joined forces for the annual awareness campaign to celebrate this successful public-private partnership and garner the support needed to fill the gap between the seniors served and those still in need.

For more information on how you can volunteer visit www.chathamco.org or contact Allison Andrews at 919-542-4512.

Participating restaurants include Compadres Tequila in Pittsboro and Siler City (March 4), Al's Diner (March 5), The Modern Life Deli & Drinks (March 6), Subway Chapel Hill (Cole Park) (March 8), Subway Pittsboro (Cruizers) (March 11), Oasis Market (March 12), Subway Pittsboro (Cruizers) (March 12), Elizabeth's Pizza (March 13), Pittsboro Roadhouse (March 14), Brownie Lu's (March 15), Highway 55 (March 18), BoJangles #635 (Siler City) (8-10 a.m. March 18), Greek Kouzina (4-9 p.m. March 18), Angelina's Kitchen (March 19), Med Deli (March 19), Pickle Jar Café (March 20), Dry Dock Siler City (March 21), Papa John's (Pittsboro, Governors Drive) (March 22), House of Hops (March 27), The Root Cellar (March 27), and Subway (Pittsboro Food Lion) (4-9 p.m. March 28)

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CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE RENT

RENTAL - COMMERCIAL/Office Bldg./Church, 900+ sq ft, 6 rooms including kitchen, Handicap ramp and parking, \$650/mo., Siler City, 919-663-3137. F28,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Approximately 2000 sq ft reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650, J15,tfnc

MOBILE HOME RENTALS

FOR SALE OR LEASE/PURCHASE, 3 Bed 2 Bath single wide in Siler City, 1200 sq ft, Good condition! Comes with kitchen appliances, 919-742-1250. F7,tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$460/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. J3,tfnc

POWELL SPRINGS APTS - Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible. O4,tfnc

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SERVICES

HENDRICK SERVICE, LAWN Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, Drive way pipe, Cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, J10,tfnc

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of Charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. J3,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! M8,tfnc

CARPENTRY WORK - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

LAZAR INDUSTRIES - Furniture manufacturer is currently seeking for a position in the Finishing Department. Full benefits included. Applications are available in the front office between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday thru Friday. Lazar Industries, 3025 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, NC 27344. F28,1tc

TAKING APPLICATIONS for Siler City Country Club Maintenance - one full-time position and one part-time for summer season. Applications at clubhouse. 919-742-3721, F21,28,2tp

LOCAL CDL "A" DRIVERS needed, part-time and full-time, home every day, Work M-F 12 hours; No more than 3 points on record, must be able to pass DOT physical and drug screening; must have 2 years experience. Paid vacations, Periodic bonus, Paid holidays. 50/50 Medical Insurance paid for full-time employees. Phone: 919-770-7385, 8 am to 11 pm. F21,28,2tp

AUTOMOTIVE Technician/mechanic needed, must be dependable. General statement of duties: oil changes, brake repair, car maintenance, etc. Apply/contact WES Automotive, 131 Loves Creek Church Rd, Siler City, 919-742-3161, F21,28,2tc

FIRST CHOICE HOME CARE, in need of phenominal NC certified CNAs to cover Moncure, Pittsboro, Apex, Goldston, Bennett and Siler City areas. Majority of cases, part time, morning shifts -- great opportunity to supplement your income. Call Siler City office located at 1754 East 11th Street, Phone: 919-663-1188, F14,tfnc

HOME CARE SEEKING, now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive Weekly Pay, CNA's start at \$10/hr and up for extra care cases. - Total LifeCare, Call 919-704-8862 for more info or to apply. F7,14,21,28,4tp

CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST. Buckhorn U.M.C., Moncure, Salary Range, 8 to \$10,000 annually! Contact Linda at 919-454-6297. F7,14,21,28,4tp

B&B FARM ANIMAL SER-VICE - Driver needed, NO CDL required. Call 919-742-5564 for more information. F7,14,21,28,4tp

CNAs - PITTSBORO Christian Village is accepting applications for CNAs, all shifts. Apply in person 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East Street in Pittsboro. M22,tfnc

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY - CNAs needed for CAP cases in Siler City and also Pittsboro. If you need work, please contact us at 919-545-2027, F22,tfnc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Diane Miles Kudla Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Diane Miles Kudla, late of 356 Carolina Meadows Villa 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 May 8, 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 is the 7th day of February, 2019.

Ronald Mamert Kudla, Adminis-trator

of the Estate of Diane Miles Kudla

Dori J. Dixon

Schell Bray PLLC

Attorney for the Estate

100 Europa Drive, Suite 271

Chapel Hill, North Carolina,

27517

F7,14,F21,F28,4tc

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

F7,14,F21,F28,4tp

501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

F7,14,F21,F28,4tc

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F7,14,F21,F28,4tp

Chapel Hill,

(919) 842-3937
F14,F21,F28,3tc**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of WILLIAM KENDRICK SCHWAB, JR., Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 14th day of May, 2019, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of February, 2019.

JANE S. BYSTRZYCKI, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF WILLIAM KENDRICK SCHWAB, JR.
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle,
PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
F14,F21,F28,M7,4tc

Sanford, NC 27330
F14,F21,F28,M7,4tc**NORTH CAROLINA****CHATHAM COUNTY**
IN THE GENERAL
COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
18 CVD 817
Charles Jason Elon Pace
Plaintiff
vs.Hillary Kaye Rahe Pace
Defendant**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**

TO: Hillary Kaye Rahe Pace
748 Martha's Chapel Road
Apex, NC 27523
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: **AN ABSOLUTE DIVORCE.** You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than the 16th day of March, 2019, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 14th day of February, 2019.
Charles Jason Elon Pace,
Plaintiff
150 J. Roy Dr
Apex, NC 27523
F14,F21,F28,3tp

the undersigned on or before May 22, 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 21st day of February, 2019.
Donald Moore, Executor
890 Sandy Branch Ch Rd
Bear Creek, NC 27207
F21,F28,M7,M14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

19 E 35

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of WILLIAM GORDON LYNA 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 May 22, 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 28th day of February, 2019.
Matthew Bynum, Administrator
370 Jordan Grove Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

19 E 87

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of FAYE BYNUM 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 May 29, 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 28th day of February, 2019.
Pauline R. Lyra, Executor
712 Arbor Brook Drive
Cary, NC 27519
F21,F28,M7,M14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

19 E 103

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of HAROLD ATKINS 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 May 22, 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 21st day of February, 2019.
Charles Jason Elon Pace,
Plaintiff
150 J. Roy Dr
Apex, NC 27523
F14,F21,F28,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

19 E 103

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of HAROLD ATKINS 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 May 22, 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 28th day of February, 2019.
Karen Atkins, Executor
361 Windsong Drive
Pittsboro, NC 27312
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

19 E 105

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of FRANK CLEMENTE 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 May 29, 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 28th day of February, 2019.
Cindy Council Martin, Executrix
c/o Lewis & Anderson, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 4825
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-1825
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND
DEBTORS OF GILBERT C.
BROWN**

19 E 105

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against GILBERT C. BROWN, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before the 29th day of May, 2019 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All debtors of the estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This is the 20th day of February, 2019.
Cindy Council Martin, Executrix
c/o Lewis & Anderson, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 4825
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-1825
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

18 E 265

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of VERSIE J BRAY 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 May 29, 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 28th day of February, 2019.
Joseph Clemente, Executor
5871 NC Hwy 56E
Castalia, NC 27816-9410
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

18 E 265

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of VERSIE J BRAY 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 May 29, 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 25th day of February, 2019.
Gerald Steven Brown, Executor
c/o Samantha Reichle, Atty.
TrustCounsel
205 Providence Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

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F14,F21,F28,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of WILLIAM KENDRICK SCHWAB, JR., Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 14th day of May, 2019, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of February, 2019.

JANE S. BYSTRZYCKI, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF WILLIAM KENDRICK SCHWAB, JR.
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle,
PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
F14,F21,F28,M7,4tc

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 28th day of February, 2019.

Jane Crump aka Jane Carroll Hoover

2400 Community Park Rd
Matthews, NC 28104
c/o Lewis Fadely, Atty.
119 N Fir Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
F28,M7,M14,M21,4tp

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NEWS BRIEFS

North Carolina to eliminate duplicate driving records

RALEIGH—The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles will start using new technology to protect people from identity fraud by making sure people have a driver license in only one state at a time.

Beginning Feb. 25, NCDMV will start using the State-to-State Verification Service to confirm a person's identity and driving history from other states. The service, which is outlined in the federal REAL ID Act, requires a person to have only one driver license or ID card in one state at a time.

With State-to-State, NCDMV can determine if applicants already hold a driver license or ID card in another state and verify important driving information such as suspended licenses. After a North Carolina driver license or ID card is issued, any out-of-state issuances will be canceled. If an applicant does not want to cancel the out-of-state issuance, they will not be issued a North Carolina driver license or ID card.

All existing North Carolina driver license

This Week at NCDOT: new bridge technology, driver awareness

RALEIGH—The following are highlights from this week at the N.C. Dept. of Transportation. The stories below are also featured in NCDOT Now, the department's weekly newscast.

New Bridge Technology

With more than 13,500 bridges statewide to maintain, NCDOT is always looking for new solutions to improve the safety and mobility of travelers.

The department has teamed up with North Carolina State University to develop new technology that will improve the longevity of bridges. NCDOT provided research students with beams from two bridges for testing. They're working to design and test a system to retrofit deteriorating concrete beams. Another goal is to develop a solution that will allow a crew to install the retrofit in one a day and improve the strength of the bridge.

While this isn't a permanent fix, it could potentially add years to the lifespan of the structure, allowing it to stay open until a permanent replacement can be finished. The research will continue for another year.

Driver Awareness

and ID card issuances will be checked for duplicate issuances in the 21 states already participating in the program. More states are expected to join the program through 2022. NCDMV estimates more than 210,000 North Carolina customers have duplicate issuances in other states.

NCDMV will reconcile duplicate issuances with each state using the service to determine which issuance will be canceled. The state with the most recent issuance will hold the valid license or ID card.

To update the NCDMV system for State-to-State implementation, all driver license offices will

be closed on Saturday. Online driver services will be unavailable 7 a.m. Saturday until 3 p.m. Sunday.

State-to-State is administered by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. For more information on State-to-State, visit the AAMVA website.

With more people moving to North Carolina every day, it's important that drivers watch for pedestrians and bicyclists. Safety is a shared responsibility. The department is reminding drivers to stay alert and look for people crossing or bicycling in the road.

Slow down and give them the right-of-way. When at an intersection, prepare to yield to pedestrians and never pass another vehicle that's stopped to let them cross.

It's also critical that drivers check to make sure the road is clear of any pedestrians or bicyclists before making a turn. And be sure to slow down in areas where you are likely to find pedestrians, such as near bus stops, shopping centers and schools.

Lastly, don't forget to give a bicyclist at least four feet of space when passing or you can completely enter the opposite lane if it's safe to do so. Together, we can work to help keep every one of our roads safe.

For more information about NCDOT Now, contact the NCDOT Communications Office at (919) 707-2660. Additional news stories from throughout the week can be found on NCDOT.gov.

Free well water testing available in Chatham County

UNC-Chapel Hill and Virginia Tech are offering free well water testing to any resident or business using a private well for indoor and outdoor use in Chatham County or nearby areas. The

samples will be analyzed for metals such as lead, arsenic, and chromium. Confidential water quality results will be mailed to residents' homes. Study results will help develop a better understanding of private well water quality in your community.

Test kits will be distributed at locations and dates specified below. Any resident or business using a private well is eligible to participate. There are a limited number of kits, so they will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Detailed sampling instructions will be provided.

If you have questions about participating, please contact Andrew George at andrewg@unc.edu or 919-966-7839 or Kelsey Pieper at kpieper@vt.edu or 518-928-0177.

Wesley Samuels Annex

Next to Liberty Chapel Church, 1915 Old US 1 Hwy, Moncure. Pick up sampling kits from 3:30-8:30 p.m. on March 5; drop off sampling kits from 6-9 a.m. on March 6.

Central Carolina Community College

Conference Room 2 (Building 42), 764 West Street, Pittsboro. Pick up sampling kits from 3:30-8:30 p.m. on March 5; drop off sampling kits from 6-9 a.m. on March 6.

—CN+R Staff reports

CORA's Empty Bowls event raises funds for hunger

Chatham OutReach Alliance's annual Empty Bowls charitable fundraiser, held Saturday at Galloway Ridge at Fearrington, featured an array of beautiful handmade bowls donated by 40 different local artists and food from 14 local restaurants for participants to sample — raising more than \$20,000 in the process. CORA board members reminded participants that each bowl "serves as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty and that we need to continue our efforts to end hunger in our community." More than 300

attending enjoyed gourmet food and listened to the Popcorn Blue Band and the Bolin Creek String Band play a delightful range of music. The Empty Bowls Fundraiser is not Chatham County specific — cities all over the world have their own version of the event to raise money for their respective food pantry. The one common, and most important, factor in all of these events is the fight against community hunger. To donate and find out more about CORA, visit www.corafoodpantry.org.



Staff photo by Aidan Bradley

Volunteer Jackie Durham mans the 'Premier Pottery Bowls' booth for those with a premium ticket at CORA's Empty Bowls event.



Staff photo by Aidan Bradley

Attendee Audrey Joy shows off her different soup samplings from local restaurants.



Staff photo by Aidan Bradley

Winning chef John Tate shows off his famous tomato bisque soup at CORA's 9th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Procession of the Trees

Staff photo by Adrienne Cleven
Megan Lynch, who has lived in Chatham County since the 80s, attends the Procession of Trees protest. 'I remember how green and lush (Chatham County) was,' she said. 'And I am an environmentalist, so I know the importance of trees to our everyday life.'



Staff photo by Adrienne Cleven
Nancy Martin protests at the 'Procession of the Trees' Friday at the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro. The Haw River Assembly organized the event after Chatham Park released a recent proposal for tree protection to the Pittsboro Town Board. 'A lot of areas in Research Triangle Park do have good tree coverage and we're just worried, especially seeing Chatham Park's proposed business plan,' Martin said. '... 10 percent tree coverage isn't enough.'

Local students take prizes in second-annual 'Sing and Play'

CN+R STAFF REPORT

SILER CITY — Several local students took top prizes at "Sing and Play '19" during a spirit-ed musical competition Feb. 21 at Jordan-Matthews High School.

The 2nd annual showcase was a benefit concert for JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation.

Audience members voted Jack and Jillian Dixon of Silk Hope School as best performance in the elementary division on the strength of their performance of the bluegrass favorite "Old Rattler."

Buck and Maggie Thornton of Chatham Middle School received the most votes among middle schoolers for their rendition of "When Will I Be Loved," a song written by Phil Everly and recorded by The Everly Brothers.

And in the high school competition, Jennifer Trejo Benitez of Jordan-Matthews High School came out on top thanks to her vocal performance of "Consequences," made popular by recording

artist Camila Cabello.

In all, 17 students competed for prizes with the winner of each age-based competition receiving a \$50 award.

"It's so wonderful to see these students honing their performance skills in front of a live audience," said Greg Burriss, who directed the competition. "And we love the enthusiastic support our community is giving to arts education at Jordan-Matthews."

"Sing and Play '19" was hosted by Sydney Suits, a senior arts student at Jordan-Matthews. It was her first-ever gig as an emcee, though the talented visual artist has appeared on stage many times with the Jordan-Matthews chorus and in musicals — most recently as Flounder in the school's fall production of "Disney's The Little Mermaid."

Rose Pate, president of JMArts, said plenty of people came together to bring this second-annual musical competition to life. "I couldn't be prouder of how our school community has worked together to make this

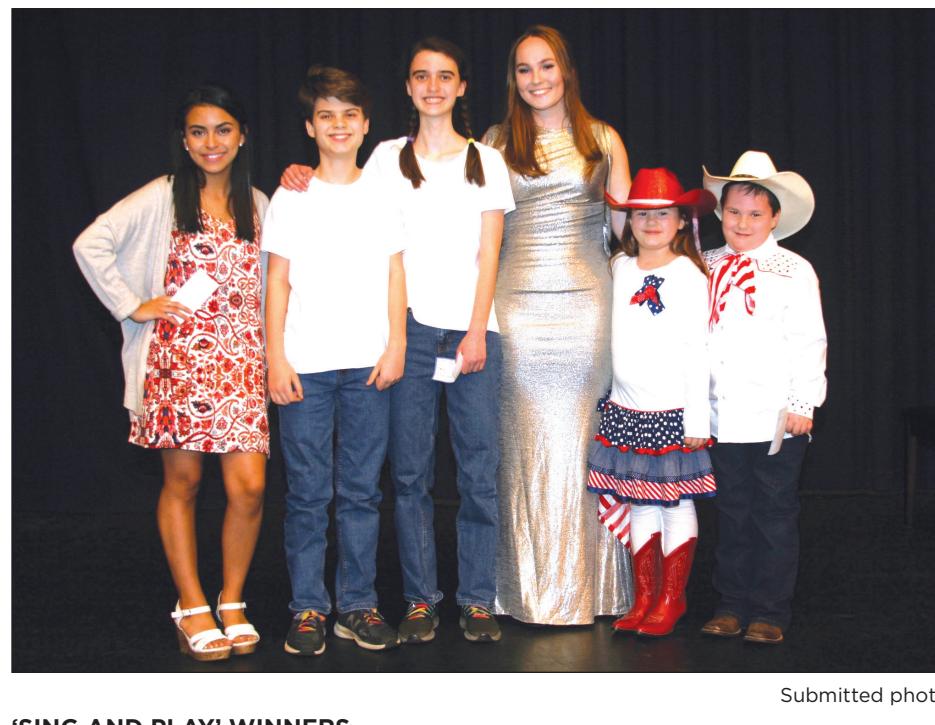
event a success," she said. "We've had parents, staff, community volunteers and especially our students pitching in for a great evening for a great cause."

"Sing and Play" was organized as a benefit for JMArts. All money raised by the competition will be used by JMArts to provide opportunities for high school artists, including its second-annual New York Arts Adventure. That trip scheduled over spring break gives upperclass musicians, actors and visual artists an opportunity to explore one of the world's great cities, experience the very best in the arts, and gain new perspectives and experiences that will influence their lives and work.

Pate expects "Sing and Play" to return next year with registration for auditions opening sometime around December 1. JMArts is already looking at possible dates for next year's competition, which is likely to be held once again in mid- to late-February.

Submitted photo

'Sing and Play' high school winner Jennifer Trejo Benitez of Jordan-Matthews High School.



Submitted photo

'SING AND PLAY' WINNERS

Winners of the annual 'Sing and Play' competition were, from left, Jennifer Trejo Benitez of Jordan-Matthews High School, Buck and Maggie Thornton of Chatham Middle School, emcee Sydney Suits and Jillian and Jack Dixon of Silk Hope School.



Submitted photo

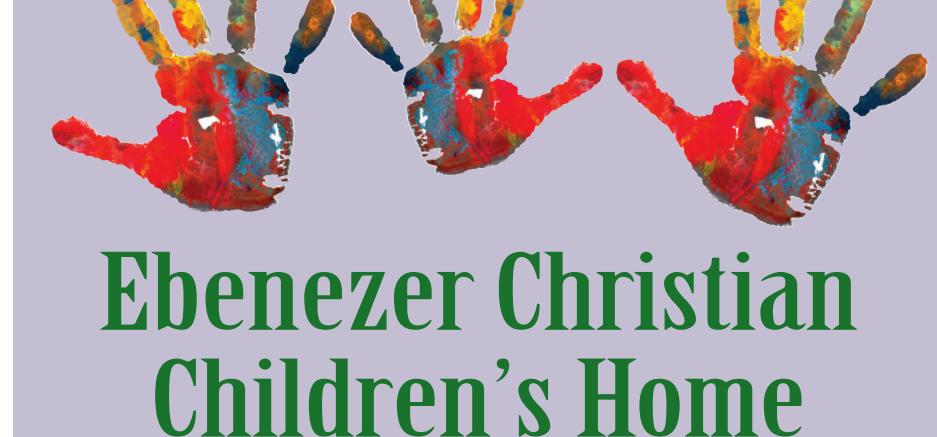
Middle School 'Sing and Play' winners Buck and Maggie Thornton of Chatham Middle School.



Submitted photo
'Sing and Play' elementary school winners Jack and Jillian Dixon of Silk Hope School.



'Sing and Play' high school winner Jennifer Trejo Benitez of Jordan-Matthews High School.



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Does Siler City Elementary need more ESL teachers?

BY BROOKLYNN COOPER

Our Chatham

Tucked away in the hills of rural North Carolina is Siler City Elementary, a dual-language school in which students spend half of their day learning in Spanish and the other half learning in English. And yet, the school only has seven ESL teachers. Out of 673 total students in the school, 418 are Latino, and 268 are ESL students. The ESL teacher-to-student ratio is 1-to-38.

ESL Teacher Angelica Binkowsky instructs all fourth-grade students in the program. In addition, she works with multiple grade levels for SCE's intervention program, which involves dividing classrooms into small groups in order to provide a personalized learning experience.

"This year, my schedule is going to be crazy," Binkowsky said. "In order to serve [all of the students]—because it's the law that you have to give them services—my schedule is just crazy because I have interventions, I have planning, I have lunchtime and I have ESL services."

ESL Teacher Michael Palmer said that the ESL teachers are stretched thin because they're also used for dual language classes, which is not part of their official job description. His colleague strategizes by grouping students together by academic needs when she works with her grade level.

"Sometimes it doesn't work," Binkowsky said of her strategy to optimize

time and space. "But you make it work."

In the 1990s, several chicken processing plants opened in Siler City that were severely understaffed. The plants began recruiting in Mexico, which led to a large migration of Mexicans and workers from other parts of Latin America to Siler City.

In the early 2000s, these plants shut down, but the immigrants remained in the area, resulting in a high Latino population.

Gary Leonard, chairman of Chatham County's Board of Education, said the board has difficulties keeping up with the population growth of the area.

"Driving to Siler City is difficult, you know," Leonard said. "Greensboro, you're looking at 30 minutes. Chapel Hill, you're probably looking at 45."

The board has implemented a monetary incentive program to make Chatham County an appealing location for teachers searching for jobs. County commissioners granted the board funds to add supplements to teacher salaries.

"For example, if you were a fifth-year teacher, you might get \$2,500. That's in addition to your state salary," Leonard said. North Carolina teacher monthly teacher salaries can range anywhere from \$3,500 to about \$6,000, depending on years of experience and education level.

Although the distribution of teachers creates academic concern at SCE, another problem is the lack of ethnic representation for Latino students

in the school. Of the 28 classroom teachers, 11 speak Spanish fluently.

ESL Teacher Alirio Estevez said that few Latino teachers are part of the school's PTA. He, along with members of the school's Community Outreach Committee, started a Latino Parents School in October of 2018.

"We realized that our Latino parents needed a lot of support in order to better help the kids," Estevez said. "The parents want to support their children, but sometimes they don't know how to do it. We decided we should start a program...to teach them how to help their children and empower them."

Binkowsky, who identifies as Latina, acknowledged the lack of Latino representation in the school and said that she prioritizes developing relationships with her students because of it.

"For me," she said, "rather than academic, on top...goes the relationship that you can have with the student. If you don't have good rapport with the student, you can try everything, it's not gonna work."

Brooklynn Cooper is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill from Durham, majoring in Journalism and Hispanic Linguistics. After graduation, she will head to The Charlotte Observer as a metro reporter for the summer.

If you have questions that you would like Our Chatham to answer, send them to chatham@reese-news.org. Reese News Lab is a strategic partner of the News + Record.

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