

Chatham News + Record

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CHATHAM'S 2019-20 BUDGET

County spending plan reveals needs, tax rate increase

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

A property tax rate increase is something almost no county, city or town manager wants, and many elected municipal officials don't like them either.

But Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne's proposed county budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 proposes one — a 6.67 percent jump, or 4.19 cents per \$100 valuation, from 62.18 cents to 67 cents. That means owners of property valued at

\$100,000 would pay \$670 instead of \$621.80, in annual ad valorem taxes, a jump of \$48.20. The owner of a \$250,000 home would see an increase of about \$120.

In a written statement about the budget, LaMontagne said that "absolutely no one wanted to end up recommending a property tax increase," but "a perfect storm of new growth-related expenses hitting at the same time" necessitated the jump.

It marks the county's first tax increase in three years.

While presenting the proposed budget

to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners May 6, and in the budget package itself, LaMontagne outlined several needs the county's current and projected funds couldn't meet without an increase, and they span the county's age groups, services and needs.

Why a rate increase?

Municipalities can control their prop-

See **BUDGET**, page A12

How does the opioid problem get stopped?

Officials, activists say awareness, laws key in fight

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

(Editor's note: this is the fourth of a five-part series about Chatham County's response to the opioid crisis.)

In a way, the Chatham County Library is partly responsible for kickstarting the recent public conversation on the opioid epidemic.

Rita Van Duinen, the branch manager of the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro, had a daughter who graduated from Northwood High School and was classmates with Boone Cummins, who died from an overdose that involved benzodiazepines, which experts say are often paired with opioids when consumed. Van Duinen had watched a documentary called "Kids," produced by Northwood alum and her daughter's classmate Zoe Willard.

"After seeing Zoe's documentary and sharing it, I thought, 'We've got to have a conversation about this,'" Van Duinen told the News + Record in February.

Now, the library has hosted two events — one in Pittsboro on February 16 and one in Goldston on April 4 — with plans for a similar event in Siler City in the near future. It's part of what community leaders are pushing primarily to help combat the opioid epidemic: awareness and education.

Can't 'arrest our way' out of it

In 2016, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and county Public Health Director Layton Long began discussing possible plans of attack to opioid use in Chatham.

"(These are) drugs they cannot physically stop taking," Roberson said at the April 4 event in Goldston. "We are not going to be able to arrest our way out of this problem, and we're not going to be able to afford to treat our way out of this problem."

Roberson and his department initiated a working group of law enforcement officials and community leaders to raise awareness of the opioid issue. They put up billboards on U.S. 421, created public service announcements and even held an opioid epidemic summit two years ago. Law enforcement agencies got Narcan, an opioid-reversing drug, free through the health department.

Most important of those efforts, Roberson says, is

See **OPIOID**, page A6

Teacher and activist Barbara Lorie dies, age 93

Family, friends say good-bye to 'Duchess of Chatham County'

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A long procession of friends, neighbors and family followed Barbara Beye Lorie — her body cradled in a lavishly-decorated cardboard casket, carried to her grave site by wagon — along a shaded gravel path through woods to a quiet corner of her Blue Heron Farm, where the well-known and beloved Chatham County activist, mother, grandmother and teacher was laid to rest last Thursday.

Musicians on horns and drums played "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" as the procession of mourners walked to the site where many shared memories of the "Duchess of Chatham County," as several friends remembered her with royal flourish, before her body was lowered into the ground and covered with earth.

"Into the dance of the stars and planets, we let you go," said the Rev. Gary Phillips, eulogizing Lorie, who died Monday morning, May 6, at the age of 93.

Recalling Lorie's "enthusiasm for life and justice," Chatham County commissioner Diana Hales spoke fondly of her friend of 25 years.

"She really, really, really was imbued with a ferocity to make things right," Hales said. "One of the things that really stood out for me was Barbara's willingness to engage and speak publicly on a multitude of issues. I admire that. And she loved to laugh."

Lorie was born, on March 7, 1926, in Iowa City to Dr. Howard and Ruth Beye and later lived in New York City and Palm Beach, Florida, where she married Douglas Lorie. The couple later divorced and Barbara



Staff photo by Randall Riggsbee

A long procession of friends celebrated the life of Barbara Lorie at her funeral last Thursday.

moved, in 1958, with her sons Tony and Doug to Chapel Hill, where she taught high school English.

Lorie retired to Chatham County, where she was a founder of the Blue Heron Farm Intentional community

in rural countryside north of Pittsboro and lent her energy to many political and community issues.

In July 1998, Lorie was a Nancy Susan Reynolds Award winner for her work towards establishing greater racial

equality, a flame which had been ignited and energized by a civil rights march. She was one of the first public school teachers to bring African-American literature and

See **LORIE**, page A3



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Showers, then flowers

Recent rains and warmer temperatures have helped gardens continue to bloom — including this Goldflame Honeysuckle flower, which CN+R Photographer Kim Hawks captured in northern Chatham County.

Pittsboro reaches deal in permit dispute, but town's wastewater capacity still in peril

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After 11 months of meetings and negotiations, the Town of Pittsboro has agreed to a deal with Chatham Park Investors and the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality that will settle a legal dispute about permitting for the town's proposed force main and sewer line to Sanford.

The settlement was announced by town attorney Paul Messick

at Monday's Pittsboro Board of Commissioners meeting and came after an update at the meeting from town engineer Elizabeth Goodson conveying that the town's wastewater capacity is nearing its threshold for its permit for the state.

Commissioners approved the construction of a force main — a pipeline that will carry wastewater from Pittsboro to Sanford's Big

See **WASTEWATER**, page A3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ON THE AGENDA

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular session at 7 p.m. on May 20 at Siler City Town Hall Courtroom located at 311 N Second Avenue in Siler City.

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will hold two public hearings on the FY 2019-2020 budget — 6 p.m. on May 20 at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro and 6 p.m. on May 21 in the Siler City Town Hall Courtroom in Siler City.

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** has a work session scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 23 at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center located at 1192 US-64 Business in Pittsboro.

SATURDAY

• **The Eight Annual Milo Holt Western Festival** will be held Saturday, May 17. The downtown Siler City event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and includes a host of Old West re-enactors bringing with them authentic props, including a chuck wagon, and loads of expertise and knowledge about life on the open range and the skills required to live it. They'll demonstrate roping and how to saddle a horse. They'll discuss and demonstrate old-timey soap-making. Also on hand, there will be a recreation of an Old West Town complete with a jail, a saloon and a Pony Express Office that will almost certainly set the scene for a hold-up and a shoot-out or two. Other featured attractions include Steve Silverheels, son of the late actor Jay Silverheels, who portrayed Tonto on the popular television show "The Lone Ranger" in the 50s; country/western singer Duane Deemer, from Nashville; Aspen Black & Alice, a mother and daughter singing duo from Virginia; Cindy Smith, the "Singing Cowgirl" from Georgia; and much more. On Friday night, May 17, there will be a movie screening at the Oasis in downtown Siler City of one of festival namesake Milo Holt's favorites, "The War Wagon," starring John Wayne and Kirk

Douglas.

• **North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department** will have an open house at all our Stations on Saturday, May 18, in celebration of our 50-year anniversary. It will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at all the stations. We will offer child safety seat inspections and tours of the stations, trucks, and fire safety materials. At Station 1 there will be popcorn and snow cones.

• **Chatham Community Library** will host an author event with writer Marion O'Malley on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room. **Shopping with Mama: Write 'Til the End** is O'Malley's humorous and poignant memoir of time spent caring for her mother during her later years. Marion and her mother Mena Webb both were writers and women of the South, but that's where the similarities ended. The more traditional Mena often clashed with her unconventional, peace-educator daughter who dedicated every Thursday to her mother, taking her shopping, out to lunch, then increasingly to doctors' appointments and funerals. **Shopping With Mama** is a beautifully rendered and often hilarious account of the challenges of caring for an elder that celebrates the love and respect the two shared for each other and their common passion — writing. This event is free and open to the public.

• **The Bynum Ruritan Club** invites you to join them for spaghetti with marinara sauce, salad, garlic bread, and a beverage for \$8, from 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 18. This is a fundraiser to help the club support the community by providing funds to future college students, community members in need and free events for the community. Come out to support the club and eat delicious, Italian food! We are located at 28 Charlie Fields Road in Bynum, just off 15/501.

• **The New Hope Valley Railway**, the Triangle's Train will host a Brew "n" Choo ride event of Saturday, May 18 from 3 to 8 p.m. at its rail yard in Bonsal, located off Old US1 South on the Wake-Chatham County Line. Rides are scheduled at 4, 5, 6, and 7 p.m. traveling eight miles round-trip, lasting about

an hour. Before or after the ride, visitors can tour the North Carolina Railway Museum, with tours planned 45 minutes before each departure time. Train tickets cost \$7 to \$10 and price varies for adults, seniors age 60+, and children 2 to 12. Children under two are free if sitting in the lap of a ticket holder. Food and drink will be available for purchase, but it is not included in the train ticket price. Future Brew & Choo ride events are planned for Saturdays, June 29, July 27, August 31 and September 28. NHVR's complete 2019 ride schedule can be viewed at: TriangleTrain.com/schedule.

SUNDAY

• **Biologist and genealogist Ginger Smith** will speak at 2 p.m. on May 19. Smith will discuss the types of DNA tests that are commercially available, how to choose a test based on what your goals and expectations are, and how the various tests can satisfy your genealogical needs. The program, **"Using DNA to Break Down Genealogical Brick Walls,"** is sponsored by the Chatham County Historical Association, and will be held in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse. The program is free and open to the public.

• **Enjoy a down-home picnic with Potter Ben Owen III** benefiting the nonprofit North Carolina Pottery Center. The mission of the Center is "Sharing North Carolina's Clay Stories, Past & Present!" The picnic takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 19 at 105 Ben's Place, Seagrove NC 27341. Join Ben and his wonderful wife LoriAnn as they open their home and shop for a down-home, fun-filled afternoon of great food from The Smoke Pit, (beer/wine 21+) and camaraderie. See Ben's gallery and workshop, their family museum, and new state of the art laser engraver, as well as a demonstration by Ben and activities for kids or kids at heart! There'll even be four door prizes, including pieces by Ben and his grandfather. Only 150 tickets are available for this event. They'll go fast, so get yours soon. Tickets are \$125 per adult. Kids under 18 with paying adult, \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ncpotterycenter.org, at the NC Pottery

Center, by phone (336-873-8430), or by sending a check to the North Carolina Pottery Center, PO Box 531, Seagrove, NC 27341.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Randolph Health Cancer Center** will host a free skin cancer screening on Thursday, May 23. If you have a mole or discoloration that you are concerned about, come have it checked between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Randolph Health and Cancer Center located at 373 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro. Screening is available to anyone who has not had a skin cancer screening in the last two years and who have an unusual mole or discoloration. Participants must preregister for this event by calling 336-633-7788.

• **Mammal Skulls and Skins** - 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 23, at the Bynum Store. What are some of the mammals living in the Lower Haw? Join The Friends for the Lower Haw for a hands-on program that will introduce you to species commonly found in North Carolina through their skins and skulls. Beyond identification, skins and skulls can reveal insights into animal behavior - what it eats, if it is a predator or prey, its habitat, and how it camouflages. Patricia Thomas-Lae-mont, professor at Elon University with a background in behavioral ecology and mammals, will share some of the fascinating secrets about mammals that are revealed in their bones.

• **Chatham Community Library** is pleased to have Colonel Sion Harrington present **"Ships Named North Carolina"** at 6:30 p.m. on May 23 in the Holmes Meeting Room. The program will cover the five warships that have borne the State's name: Ship-of-the-Line (1823), the Confederate Ram (1863), the Armored Cruiser (ACR-12), the Battleship (1941), and currently, the nuclear submarine SSN777. Harrington, United States Army (Retired), spent nearly four decades in the military, which included duty with the 82nd Airborne Division; XVIII Airborne Corps; 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne); the United States Army Civil

Affairs and Psychological Operations Command; as well as, hostile fire area deployments to Grenada and Bosnia. Colonel Harrington dedicated his final working years to the collection and preservation of North Carolina military history as the Military Collection Archivist for the State Archives of North Carolina, retiring in 2011. His presentation honors the men and women of North Carolina who have served in the military in defense of their state and nation. This event is free and open to the public.

• In honor of Memorial Day, the Chatham Community Library will host a screening of the film **Taking Chance** on Thursday, May 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room. This is the true story of one soldier's death in battle, another soldier's journey of discovery and a nation's reverence and gratitude toward its war dead. Lance Corporal Chance Phelps (USMC) was only nineteen years old when he was killed during active duty. Now, as Lance Corporal Phelps is prepared for his final journey back home, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Strobl (Kevin Bacon), a volunteer military escort officer, makes it his personal mission to ensure that his fallen brother is laid to rest with the proper respect. This event is free and open to the public.

• **Pittsboro High School, Class of 1969** will hold their 50th year reunion at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, on Saturday, June 1. For more information, call Brenda Bland White at 919-545-1004.

• **Randolph Health Cancer Center** will hold a **free oral cancer screening** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 at 373 North Fayetteville Street in Asheboro. Participants' gums, mouth, salivary glands, tongue, and lips for signs of various cancers. People experiencing sores or lesions in the mouth, thickening of the cheeks or white/red patches in the mouth, should register for this screening. Space is limited and appointments are required. Call 336-633-7788 to reserve a spot. Learn more about the event at: www.randolphhealth.org.

• **Jordan-Matthews High**

School, Class of 1979 will hold their 40th year reunion from 6 p.m. until... on Saturday, June 8 at the Siler City Country Club. \$30 per person, RSVP to Nell Smith at 336-214-2832.

ALSO HAPPENING

• **Descendants of a Horton High School** alumnus or attendee are eligible to apply for the Horton High School Alumni Association Scholarship for 2019-2020. High school graduates, college students, and graduate students are encouraged to apply. Apply on HHSAA website: www.hortonhighalumni.com.

• **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.

• **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 her at: ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu.

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Farm Bureau presents scholarships

Chatham County Farm Bureau recently distributed scholarship funds to two local high school students. Pictured (left to right) are Phil Gowins, Farm Bureau board member; Jaime Wilson, Chatham Central High School student and recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship to attend Wake Forest University; Tamesha Young, Northwood High School student and recipient of a \$200 scholarship to attend North Carolina A&T University; and Herbert Gaines, Farm Bureau board member and, with Gowins, a member of the Farm Bureau scholarship committee.

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LORIE: Former student says she was 'inspirational and nurturing'

Continued from page A1

history into the classroom.

"We're all members of the human race," Lorie said at the time of the Reynolds award, "just different colors."

Her son Tony wrote in a Facebook post that "so many students loved her and thought she was the best teacher they ever had."

Lorie taught at Chapel Hill High School in the late 1960s and 70s, said Tony, and was the first teacher to introduce Black History Month at the school. "She was an activist and civil rights

leader in every way," Tony wrote. "I loved and adored my mother, who has left a legacy of kindness and unbelievable altruism felt by thousands. She will be missed."

One of her former students, speaking at the funeral, remembered Lorie as inspirational and nurturing in the classroom. "She was the lighthouse on a rocky shore," she said.

Lorie was also a world traveler, home builder, cook, gardener, storyteller and avid reader.

"To me, Barbara is life," said Efrain

Ramirez, of Pittsboro, one of many who spoke about Lorie at her graveside service. "She is love, and she had so much love to give. She was a grande dame, and she will always be the Duchess of Chatham."

Tami Schwerin, executive director of Pittsboro-based Abundance NC and Lorie's friend for many years, said that while Lorie is gone, she continues to do the things for which she was so well-loved.

"Her determination," said Schwerin, "her passion, her vulnerability, her magic, her intellect, her beauty gives all of us

"Her determination, her passion, her vulnerability, her magic, her intellect, her beauty gives all of us inspiration and energy to go forward and make this place even better and create community with each other at the deepest level."

TAMI SCHWERIN, executive director, Abundance NC

inspiration and energy to go forward and make this place even better and create community with each other at the deepest level."

As those who loved her gently tossed rose petals on her grave, Lorie's body was lowered in the ground in one final act of activ-

ism: a "green" funeral on the property she nurtured, her body in a biodegradable cardboard casket liberally decorated with loving words and colorful designs, including a bright, yellow sun.

Randall Rigsbee may be reached at rigsbee@chathamnr.com.



Submitted photo

Community activist Barbara Lorie died May 6 at age 93.

WASTEWATER: Several other projects on Monday's agenda

Continued from page A1

Buffalo Wastewater Treatment Plant — in 2015.

The project, which would nearly triple Pittsboro's wastewater capacity from 750,000 gallons a day (.75 MGD) to 2.75 million gallons a day, is estimated to cost about \$19,790,000.

In a letter last year dated May 3 from DEQ to the town of Pittsboro, then-interim director Linda Culpepper noted that "it has recently come to the Division of Water Resource's attention that commitments and mitigation strategies included in the Environmental Impact Statement [which was filed in 2010] are not being implemented and enforced within the Pittsboro service area." The letter did not include any specific areas or ways that the town was not adhering to the statement and when asked last month by the News + Record, DEQ representatives stated it would not comment further due to ongoing litigation. The letter triggered petitions for a hearing from both the town and Chatham Park Investors with the

N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings.

Messick announced the settlement agreement noting that both DEQ and Chatham Park Investors had approved the settlement deal, but it still required a vote by the board in order to complete the settlement. Chatham Park Investors agreed to track stormwater control measures and design evaluation scores on a website accessible to both the town and the state. The control measures and design evaluations scores were already required by the Chatham Park Stormwater Additional Element which was passed by the town last year.

Chatham Park Investors also agreed in the settlement to introduce several text amendments increasing riparian buffers as listed in the Chatham Park Open Space Element, which also passed last year. Because changes to town ordinances require several processes by law including public hearings, the town was only required to consider the amendments at a future date in the settlement. In exchange, the state agreed to not re-

quire any additional mitigation strategies as the current measures require at least as much control and buffer as required by state law and to rescind its May 2018 letter.

The settlement seemed timely since earlier in the evening, Goodson, the town's engineer, announced that the town's wastewater capacity was near its limits and required the board to consider options for future allocations. Goodson noted that daily flow at the town's wastewater treatment plant was estimated to have increased by 100,000 gallons to about 503,000. The town has already permitted another 113,040 gallons that have not yet begun sending flow to the plant with another 118,094 gallons that have been allocated but not permitted. This means the town's remaining capacity is just 15,924 gallons.

As such, Goodson requested the board consider options such as allocating to 110 percent of capacity, noting that allocations can take several years before they actually begin to flow to the plant. With the settlement which

would allow both the force main project to Sanford and Chatham Park's reclamation plant to proceed, the town may be able to see increased capacity over time increase as projects come online. The force main project, Messick noted, is likely two years away from completion while Chatham Park's reclamation plant is anticipated to be open later this year or early next year. However, Goodson also noted that future allocation recipients would need to be informed of the fact that they were being allocated beyond capacity and that if wastewater projects were delayed, their allocations may not be available.

Several projects requesting allocations were also on the agenda on Monday for retail sites in Pittsboro. One request, an allocation by Mosaic for 24,000 gallons per day, was rescinded by the developer, Kirk Bradley, in consideration of the time the project will take to complete, in order to allow for other smaller allocations to proceed. (Bradley is a part-owner of the News + Record.)

The board provided guidance to Goodson to create updated wastewater allocation guidelines which included approval up to 110 percent capacity, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The board also directed Goodson to create a significant communication strategy to ensure all applicants were aware of the situation. The revised guidelines will return to the board for their review and consideration within the next few weeks.

Even with the town's wastewater capacity in peril and expansion projects in jeopardy, several commissioners were hesitant to consider the settlement document with DEQ at the meeting. Messick noted that it would be in the town's best interest to agree to the settlement on Monday at the board meeting though offered little reason as to why. However, questions regarding the permitting process and the status of the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality's Water Infrastructure Division's for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program that was approved for the town to use to secure a

low-interest loan for the forcemain project may indicate the reason for the urgency.

Commissioner John Bonitz noted he had "questions and concerns" that he wanted addressed. He expressed concerns that the settlement agreed to measures that were less restrictive than ordinances that were already in place in the town. On several occasions, both Messick and Goodson assured Bonitz that the settlement agreement did not have any effect on current ordinances and their enforcement as any change to an ordinance requires a process outlined by statute. The settlement agreement guidelines were merely what the state agreed to accept as mitigation measures. Even with these assurances, Bonitz voted against the settlement along with Commissioner Bett Wilson Foley. Commissioners Jay Farrell, Michael Fiocco and Pam Baldwin all voted for the settlement which passed with a 3-2 vote.

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**Sat May 18 / 8pm -
Too Much Sylvia (\$15)**

Mon May 20 / 7pm -

Triangle Jazz Orchestra (\$10)

Thurs May 23 / 6pm - Game Night

Fri May 24 / 8pm - Disco Night

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VIEWPOINTS

The lamentation of being late

Hurry up and read this column, please, because I'm late.



BILL HORNER III
From The Publisher's Desk

Actually, if what I heard many years ago about being late is true — and I believe it to be — then you've gotten this far, to this sentence, I'm not late after all. Here's why: about 30 years ago, I was sitting in a conference room with a group of probably 20 people on day two of a pretty intense series of meetings in Greensboro. Our 9 a.m. session had begun 10 minutes prior. A tardy participant stumbled in, breathless, mumbling apologies about arriving past the appointed hour. "You're not late until you arrive," our wise facilitator said forgivingly. "And then you're only late for a minute. Once you're here, you're here." I've held on to that sentiment

since: if you're late, you're only late for a minute. Too often, though, I only apply that to myself because I'm not a perfect practitioner of the art of punctuality. Sure, I like it, but I'm in that netherworld that probably most of us live when it comes to being late. Among my list of peeves, phobias and obsessions, punctuality occupies a unique place. I love getting there early, but I don't subscribe to the "five minutes early is 10 minutes late" mindset. And while I agree with the man who said that "the problem with being punctual is there's nobody there to appreciate it," I can be sorely impatient when others run tardy. We have friends (names withheld to protect our relationship) whom we love dearly and revel spending time with. When it comes to group gatherings (OK, family gatherings — a bit of a giveaway there?), though, they're always an hour late. And they make no apologies. It's just the way things are. We all know that if the event starts at 1 p.m., we have to tell them

it starts at noon. They'll roll in around 1:10 without fail. It used to drive me crazy, but anyone who's raised three children with the help of a wife who owns 1) hair and 2) a curling iron is forced to learn about patience. There was a time I'd sit in the car in the driveway by myself (and maybe one of the kids), all revved up and ready to go, steaming over the fact that, yet again, we were going to be late. (I'm not an idiot: it finally dawned on me that if I did more to help the kids get ready, and we'd be on time more often. Happy wife = happy life.) Today, my kids have grown up mostly punctual and the days of steaming are over — now I just sit in the car and text Lee Ann every 17 seconds, asking: "Are you close?" OK, not true, but I still have a lot to learn. Maybe most of us do. I'd venture to guess that we each view punctuality from the lens of our experience with it and our concept of time. A Wall Street Journal story I read pointed out the fact that "the planning fallacy," which makes people routinely misjudge how

long it takes to do certain tasks, is partly to blame for tardiness. The chronically tardy, one study showed, act as if "just a minute" were 77 seconds. Sure, 17 extra seconds may not seem like a lot, but if you're running late, that 28 percent adds up. People who are fine with being late, I think, just lack the emotional imprinting that being late can have. My life-changing "late" experience came one summer during my high school years. We lived in Kansas but my sister Belinda and I were spending the summer in North Carolina. Belinda was flying to New York to begin a trip to Italy (my grandfather either took or sent each of us grandkids on a trip out of the country when we were young), and dad had us halfway to the airport when Belinda realized she'd grabbed her Kansas airline tickets, not her New York tickets. In an instant, we went from being ahead of schedule to way behind, and now there was a chance she'd miss her connecting flight to Italy. (Remember, this is back in the day before electronic boarding

passes.) Dad gassed it back home and frantically called the travel agent while Belinda found the right tickets, and we sped back to the airport. We made it with about three minutes to spare. I'll never forget the lone Highway Patrolman we passed — he shook his finger at dad as we sped by, but he didn't stop us. He probably knew. We drove home at about 40 mph. We got away with it, but maybe there's some kind of weird karma when it comes to time and punctuality and cheating time. Belinda had a great trip, but after we picked her up at the airport the night of her arrival back in the USA, the bizarre happened: we rolled into Sanford and dad was driving the speed limit downtown and got stopped. And ticketed. The crime? Driving with his "brights" on in the city limits. So I'm occasionally, but not often, late. But I promise one thing: if we're going somewhere requiring tickets, I'll ask you a dozen times if you have them before we get in the car.

A life or death struggle in our front yard

We build and inhabit homes that safeguard us from the elements, from pests, from predators. Our air-conditioned environments, barring unusual events, serve us well. I, for example, fall asleep night after night free of worry that a snake or some other unwelcome critter will crawl into the bed beside me, or a sudden rain shower will from above will soak me, or I'll freeze. But our carefully controlled and built-for-comfort homes can't prevent life, in all its free-form beauty and danger, from going on around us outside the walls and roofs we erect for our well-being.

And so it was a few early evenings past, my wife and I reclined comfortably on our living room sofa, binge-watching "Dead to Me" on Netflix — it was one of those recent cool nights, so we had our screened windows open for fresh air — when a sudden commotion outside, near our front steps, aroused our attention.

We paused the television, stood from our comfortable seating, and rushed to the front door to determine the source of the alarm. Just on the other side of our storm door, five feet or so from where we stood inside our house, an intense, confused life or death drama was in progress, two factions of birds loudly clashing. For a moment, we watched the action as the four or five birds involved noisily squawked, fluttered their wings, and flung themselves at one another in a power struggle we couldn't yet comprehend. Opening the storm door and stepping onto the porch for a wider parameter, we became aware of another player in this wild drama; in fact, the primary player: a large crow that, from a point unseen by us above our roof line above, launched himself on a calm, winged flight towards freedom from the fuss.

We realized what the drama was about as we observed the crow, clutching in his beak a small baby bird as the other birds, fighting on the ground moments earlier, began flying upwards towards the crow in a final attempt to thwart him. But at this, they failed. The crow was victorious, his meal securely in his grasp as his wings smoothly propelled him towards freedom and a quiet place to eat. We watched him disappear into the woods behind the house immediately across the street.

For the next several moments, there was a spattering of more noise as the birds regained their composure following the confusion and, a few minutes later — except for the two human witnesses expressing their shock and amazement at the scene they just observed — there was quiet.

Two days earlier, the yard that had been the setting of the chaos just described, had seemed an entirely different scene, a textbook example of welcome springtime and emerging new life.

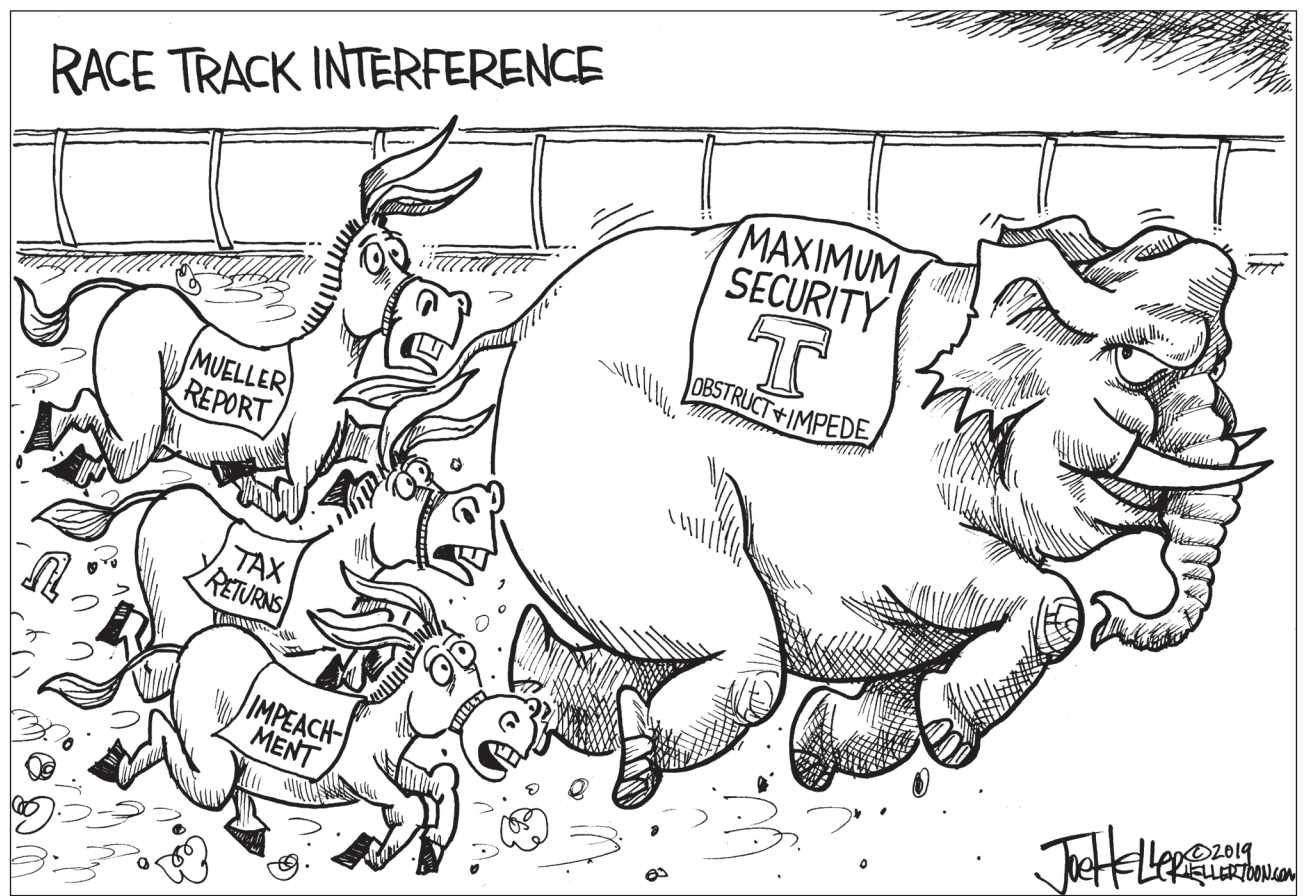
I'd come home the Friday afternoon before and opened our homes' blinds and windows to let in the cool outdoor air and the welcome sight of verdant growth. With the windows open, we'd been slightly annoyed by an intermittent whining noise, which mimicked exactly the sound our mutt Bella makes when she's needy of attention or a treat. In fact, my wife and I had both mildly scolded Bella, mistakenly thinking it was the dog making the noise, and only later realizing, after some detective work, that the real source of the noise was located in a bush near our front porch. Fledgling birds nestled in a bird's nest there were whining to let their mama know they were hungry.

They had carried on like this through the weekend, whining at mealtimes. From a safe distance, we'd taken a look at the babies and we were charmed by them, but still weren't loving their noisiness.

A couple of days later, courtesy of the predatory crow, came the quiet we'd wanted, but not the way we would have wanted it.

We would have preferred those babies get plenty to eat, grow, learn to fly, leave their nests and become productive members of bird society. Instead, they were attacked and became a meal themselves, and there was nothing we could do about it.

Through our human will and ingenuity, we control a lot about the spaces we inhabit, but we can't control it all.



Joe, java, mud...it's all good

Ann Landers used to tell her readers to "wake up and smell the coffee." Through the years I have taken that advice literally.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

Today I've gotten so good at it I can smell the coffee before I wake up...I think. Coffee, I'm pretty sure, is one of the basic food groups. It is especially good when the weather is cold... or hot...or sunny or cloudy or windy or...well, pretty much anytime.

Except it isn't good when it's cold...the coffee, that is.

My first introduction to coffee was from my folks. They drank an instant version called Sanka. I'm not sure it's even made any more. I haven't seen it on the grocery shelves but I haven't looked for it, either, having found something I like better. I didn't consume large quantities of the coffee my folks drank, having been deemed "too young" at the time to drink coffee.

Later in my young life, having convinced my better half she would have a life full of excitement if she changed her status from being merely an acquaintance to being my better half, I dabbled a bit with coffee once again. We didn't have a coffee pot at our little home at that time but

Dan McCrimmon had a really big one at his drug store on the busy main street of bustling downtown Pittsboro.

In those glory days I had a full-time job on the local weekly newspaper (the very one you're reading now) and Dan's was a mecca for all sorts of things. There you could get information on all sorts of topics and issues — local news, politics, religion, sports, the price of eggs in China. It didn't matter; it was all there.

And coffee — the brewed kind. Actually I had gotten acquainted with Dan's coffee when I was a teenage soda jerk there. We made coffee; I just don't remember drinking it since chocolate milkshakes were also on the menu.

In those 20-something days of my life, I'd belly up to the counter, ask for a cup to go, and proceed to dump half a cow and eight shovels of sugar into my order. No doubt, the introduction of large quantities of the sugar has helped make me the fine physical specimen I am today.

Later I learned to cut back on half the sugar, eventually coming to the conclusion in my mind that just as real men don't eat quiche (which is a bad thing...not the quiche, the not eating it) they also don't monkey up their coffee with sugar.

Pretty soon, for whatever reason, I was cutting back on the moo-juice as well. Guess it just seemed like a good idea, just like

smoking three packs of cigarettes seemed like a good idea when I was doing that. Then one day came the glorious day when I just skipped the cream or milk or powder version entirely.

I was drinking coffee. Only coffee. Since then, I'm pretty sure that if all the money I have spent on coffee in various forms and places were gathered in one place we could balance the federal budget and still have a few cents left over for a cup, even if it no longer goes for a dime.

Some years ago when I labored in a full-time status at the newspaper, I would make several pots of coffee daily. Even at 9 at night on our late nights. It was very rare any was left over to be poured out down the drain.

The came the glorious day I got one of those one-cup gizmos. Best thing about them was the wide assortment of varieties that could be conjured up on a moment's notice. The flavors ranged from breakfast blend to morning eye-opener to high test to all the caffeine with a double shot of espresso thrown in.

Fortunately for me, even though I don't drink as much as I once did — now down to four or five cups a day instead of 18 — I can still toss down eight ounces at 10:27 p.m. as I write a column — as I'm doing now.

Thank goodness for some things not changing. Bottoms up.

Chatham News + Record

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VIEWPOINTS

A new N.C. book about black people, not white racism

Elizabeth City native De'Shawn Charles Winslow's debut novel, "In West Mills," might be the blackest novel set in North Carolina this year — maybe ever.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

This book is all about African Americans living and struggling in eastern North Carolina from about 1940 to 1987. There are no major white characters and no focus on racism and Jim Crow. There is almost nothing about racial conflict or the civil rights struggle. Putting these themes aside, Winslow shows his characters dealing with universal challenges that people of all races confront as they deal with the human situation.

West Mills is a fictional small

town in eastern North Carolina, somewhere between Elizabeth City, where the author grew up, and Ahoskie, where the main character of the novel was born and reared.

That main character, Azalea Centre — or Knot, as she is called by everyone — has moved to West Mills from Ahoskie, where her father is a dentist and a bulwark of the local church. Knot, however, wants to get away from her family and make her own way.

She finds a teaching job in West Mills. Knot loves 19th century English literature. That sounds good for a teacher, but she also loves cheap moonshine and bedding a variety of men. One of them, Pratt Shephard, wants to marry her. But after a session of enthusiastic lovemaking, she tosses him out of her life. He signs up to fight in the looming World War II.

Soon after Pratt leaves, Knot learns she is pregnant. She does not want to end the pregnancy, but wants nothing to do with the child after its birth. To the rescue comes a dear friend, Otis Lee Loving, and his wife, Penelope or "Pep." They find a local couple to adopt Knot's daughter. All this is done in secret and only a few people in the community know that Frances, daughter of Phillip and Lady Waters, is really Knot's birth child.

Shortly after she recovers from the first delivery, Knot becomes pregnant again. Otis Lee comes to the rescue once more. He finds a place for the new baby with local storeowners, Brock and Ayra Manning. They name the baby Eunice.

When they grow up, Frances and Eunice, not knowing about their common origin, come to despise each other and fight for the attention of

the same man.

On this situation, Winslow builds a series of confrontations and complications that challenge the comfortable order of the West Mills community.

Meanwhile, as time passes, the community seems immune to the racial conflicts in other parts of the state. In one of the book's few mentions of racial conflict, Otis Lee hears stories in 1960 about "the young colored people in Greensboro who had organized a sit-in a couple of months earlier" and pronounced it a terrible thing. Winslow writes, "Greensboro hadn't come to them yet. And Otis Lee hoped things would get better so that it wouldn't have to."

Otis Lee is not only Knot's loyal friend and rescuer. He becomes a major character. In a flashback to prohibition days he travels to New York City to rescue an older sister who is try-

ing to pass for white. That effort fails, but his relationship with that woman provides a poignant thread that carries the book to one of its surprising endings.

"In West Mills" will not be released until June 4, but it is gathering early praise that indicates it could be a blockbuster. Adah Fitzgerald of Main Street Books in Davidson writes, "Winslow's characters are rich and deeply developed. His dialogue feels like part of the landscape."

Colin Sneed of Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill says, "Winslow loves and respects and understands his characters and it comes through on every page."

I agree with them.

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

Freedom can fuel faster growth

RALEIGH — North Carolina's economy is doing well. With a headline unemployment rate of 4 percent and a healthy 2.8 percent jump in inflation-adjusted median household income last year, North Carolinians are better off economically than they have been in many years.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Our state does not have the top-performing economy in the country, however. Does that mean North Carolina's rightward turn on economic policy was a mistake?

No. State economies prosper or falter primarily for reasons that have little to do with politics. They reflect changes in market conditions, technology, consumer preferences, trade patterns and demographics. And although the Information Age has broadened our horizons, linking households and businesses alike to others around the world, we still live and work within metropolitan areas that exhibit distinct patterns, and are more closely tied to nearby metros and states than to faraway ones.

All of which is to say that, economically, North Carolina acts more like South Carolina than like South Dakota. Policy variables matter, especially in the long run. Market structure and proximity matter more.

Over the past five years, for example, the 10 states with the biggest gains in gross domestic product (GDP) were Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada. What do these states have in common?

Not politics. Five voted for Hillary Clinton. Five voted for Donald Trump. During most of the period, most had either Republican governors or legislatures or both. But California, Washington, and Oregon are deep blue.

With regard to public policy, while seven of the 10 states rank relatively high in economic freedom according to ratings by the Frasier Institute and the Cato Institute, those same three blue states do not.

I'll cut to the chase — the common denominator is geography. Broadly speaking, America's population is shifting westward and southward. Investment and job creation are, too. From 2013 to 2018, the regions with the fastest GDP growth were the Far West (3.7 percent), Rocky Mountains (3.1 percent), Southwest (2.5 percent), and Southeast (2.1 percent). And in that latter case, there was a significant difference between the fast-growing states on the South Atlantic coast, including North Carolina, and slower-growing states on the Gulf or inland.

Across a range of statistics and time periods, the fastest-growing economies in the Southeast are Florida and Georgia. North Carolina is typically third or fourth, sometimes fifth — higher than the regional average, to be sure, but not as high as Florida and Georgia.

Since 2013, North Carolina lawmakers have enacted a series of major tax cuts and regulatory reforms. Understandably, progressives dislike these decisions. They think our state would be better off, economically and otherwise, if the legislature had kept taxes and regulations higher and spent more taxpayer dollars on education, health care, and other programs.

They can't hold up Florida or Georgia as examples of their preferred policy mix, however, because these top-performing states don't exhibit it. Florida has no personal income tax. Georgia's overall tax burden is lower than North Carolina's, although the structure of our tax system has become more pro-growth than theirs in recent years.

Where Georgia really shows us up is regulation. Although North Carolina has made significant progress in this area, it's still easier to create and operate businesses in Georgia than in our state. Overall, Florida ranks 1st and Georgia ranks 7th in economic freedom, according to both the Frasier and Cato methodologies. North Carolina is in the teens or worse, depending on the measure.

Most academic studies find that, everything else being equal, economic freedom is better for growth than the high-tax, high-expenditure, high-regulation model progressives advocate. California is an outlier, not an exemplar. Its location, resources, capital stock, and importance to the burgeoning trade of the Pacific Rim are so valuable that even foolish policy choices haven't run its economy aground — yet.

North Carolina should aspire to top the Southeast in economic performance. We should also aspire to be first in freedom in the Southeast. The two goals aren't just consistent. They're related.

John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) 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 p.m. Sundays at 12:30 p.m. on UNC-TV.

Has a key economic rule been broken?

In many aspects of life there are rules we follow.



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

work, but they do give us some guidelines.

For example, one of my father's rules was about education. As a high-school dropout and someone who worked outside in both the heat and the cold all his life, he was adamant that his children did well in school. So two of his rules were, first, come home from school and do your homework before anything else — including even dinner. Second, get to bed by 9 p.m. and arise at 5 a.m. so his children could have breakfast with him before he left for work.

I followed my Dad's rules and thank his memory almost every day for them.

When I went to college I found most fields of study, like economics, had their own rules. However, these rules were different. They weren't about personal behavior, but instead they were about how aspects of the discipline functioned. Importantly, the rules allowed users to make significant forecasts about how the economy operated.

I took my first economics course 50 years ago. One of

the rules I learned in that course concerned the relationship between unemployment and inflation. The rule stated there was an inverse relationship between the unemployment rate and the inflation rate. This means that as the unemployment rate goes down the inflation rate rises, and vice-versa.

The rule is based on the idea that lower unemployment generates faster rising wages for workers. Since labor is a key ingredient in making most products, if labor is more expensive, so too will be the cost of things we buy.

Of course, most of us would like to have a low-low situation, that is, both low unemployment and low inflation. So the rule is significant because it suggests an economy can't have both — indeed, the economy has to pick one and endure the other.

The rule about unemployment and inflation has dominated the economics profession for decades. It has also been a key factor for economic policymakers, particularly at the Federal Reserve (the "Fed"). This is because the Fed is mandated to watch both unemployment and inflation and use its influence to prevent either one from getting out of control.

The unemployment/inflation rule can go a long way in explaining the recent actions of the Fed. During the years of the Great Recession (2007-2009) and immediately afterward, unemployment was high and inflation was virtually non-existent. Indeed, in 2009, average prices actually fell.

This situation allowed the Fed to focus on stimulating the economy and thereby lowering unemployment. The Fed did this by keeping interest rates low (in fact, at 0 percent) and pumping credit into banks.

Then by 2015, with the national unemployment cut in half to 5 percent and forecasted to go lower, the Fed began to raise interest rates in an effort to slow economic growth and contain inflation. By early this year, the Fed had raised its key interest rate from 0 percent to 2.4 percent.

But then a funny thing happened. Economists and others began to notice the inflation rate was not accelerating. Instead, it was staying in a range of between two percent and 2.5 percent (note: this measure includes average price changes for all consumer products and services).

One explanation is the Fed's policy was working. Higher interest rates were slowing the economy and preventing the inflation rate from rising. There's just one thing wrong with this reasoning, however. The pace of economic growth actually *accelerated* between 2015 and 2019.

This turn of events has led some economists to question the traditional unemployment/inflation rule. If the rule is broken, the big question is, why?

There are two possible answers: automation and global trade. Automation in the workplace using machinery and technology is rapidly replacing workers in many

industries. Look at manufacturing. Although there has been a slight rebound since the Great Recession, manufacturing employment is down 35 percent from its peak in the 1970s, even while manufacturing output is up 42 percent since just 1997. Automation means fewer workers are needed to make more output, thereby shrinking the impact higher wages would have on general inflation.

The same is the case for global trade. Buying more products from foreign countries allows U.S. consumers to access bigger pools of labor, most of whom are paid lower wages than their U.S. counterparts. So a tight U.S. labor market can be avoided by companies using workers in other parts of the world.

If the unemployment/inflation rule no longer holds, there are both good and bad results. The good result is that we can finally have the best of both — low unemployment and low inflation — at the same time. The bad result is the end of the rule has largely occurred because there are now substitutes for US workers, in the form of automation and foreign trade.

You decide if this trade of the "good" for the "bad" has been worthwhile!

P.S. In a recent column I said the North Carolina state portion of the gas tax was 18.0 cents per gallon. It is actually 36.2 cents per gallon. My mistake. I also said the rate has risen faster than general inflation since 2010. This is still accurate.

LETTERS

Statues and memorials are just that - don't hide them

TO THE EDITOR:

Philosophers, writers and world leaders have warned us for millennia of the importance of history. From Plato to Santayana to George Bernard Shaw to Churchill, they all suggest we need to learn from history. Edmund Burke said it best when he stated, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it."

We may be enhancing this prophecy by continuing to destroy, censor, or in whatever fashion hide the records of our past from future generations. This includes not only statues and memorials but writings in whatever form along with recordings of songs, movies, and newsreels. These historical materials and memorials relate to who we are and from whence we have come. Unfortunately some in the population are offended by what such articles represent and they demand the truth be hidden, denied, or destroyed.

Consider: Figures as varied as Christopher Columbus and Kate Smith are viewed pariahs; the holiday song "Baby It's Cold Outside" is deemed sexist by me-too'ers; some push to ban such classics as Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" or Joseph Heller's "Catch-22." There's seemingly no end and for what purpose other than to hide or avoid painful, uncomfortable subject matter.

I wonder what would happen to our descendants' understanding of who they are and how history has unfolded to impact their lives if the:

- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was closed to hide shameful treatment of the Cherokee by the United States
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial was torn down because it depicts an extremely divisive time in the U.S.
- 10 U.S. Japanese Internment Camps built in WWII were buried to hide their ugly meaning

Statues and memorials are just that - don't hide them

TO THE EDITOR:

- Jefferson Memorial was destroyed due to President Jefferson's dicey personal life
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was closed due to shameful American apathy shown Jews in WWII
- Lincoln Memorial was torn down because Lincoln commanded a war that claimed almost as many dead (620,000) as all foreign wars together (644,000); a waste of American treasure by an American President

This hide-the-bad-stuff mentality gets to be ridiculous and more importantly dangerous. Statues and other forms of memorials are just that...memorials. We all need to remember. Our descendants need to be taught so they will understand and remember. We need to leave our memorials intact and in-place.

I hope Chatham Commissioners choose to permanently table the issue of the Confederate Hero statue. Leave this Hero where he stands and add a plaque stating, "Chatham citizens hold firm as one in respecting their past including its regrettable elements."

Philip H. Johnson
Siler City

History is complicated, but there to preserve stories

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, certain people and groups have sought to remove the Pittsboro veterans memorial on the grounds that the display is "racist." They say that the memorial was erected during the Jim Crow era in order to intimidate African-Americans, but I disagree.

You see, Confederate Veterans and their fraternal organizations were very active between 1896 and 1939. This is the same time period in which most memorials were built. As the population of veterans dwindled, there was a drive to commemorate and preserve their stories so that future generations would not forget

their struggle for independence. Thus, statues and plaques were placed at prominent locations throughout the South. Logically, they were often situated on government property where everybody could see them.

These memorials represent all Confederate soldiers from that conflict: black, white and Native American. Most of them were volunteers, many of them lost everything. There are people who will read this article who have already made up their minds; they will not be persuaded by my reasoning, and I will gain no ground with them. However, I know that there are many open-minded people of Chatham County who understand that history is complicated, truth is often obscured by politics, and that the history books are written by the victors. If you agree with me on this issue, write me a letter and tell the Chatham County commissioners.

Ethan Holland
Cary

Hood's roads column skirts real issue

TO THE EDITOR:

In his May 9 column ("State must face reality on roads"), John Hood once again skirts the real issue.

His antipathy to raising taxes for any purpose forced him to dance around the need for better roads to accommodate our area's rapidly increasing population. Taxpayers may not want to pay for more roads, but they certainly will object to the kind of gridlock that is beginning to appear. One option would be increased public transportation, but that would cost even more. Anti-tax people inevitably dig themselves into a hole, and we taxpayers have to accept the fact that if we want adequate infrastructure — from good roads to airports that aren't Third World quality — we will have to pay for it.

Michael Cotter
Chapel Hill

OPIOIDS: Parents spread awareness of Good Samaritan laws

Continued from page A1

the education. Simply arresting dealers and users of illegal drugs is not enough.

“The community has to fix this problem,” he said. “We know that education and prevention has to be where our money is spent. It is going too big and the wave will be too large to say, ‘Arrest them and treat them.’”

One place that education has been fixed is in the county school system. Tracy Fowler, the district’s director of student support services, said the district follows standards set up by the state to educate students on the dangers of drugs, called the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study. The district has also implemented programs like Too Good for Drugs, a risk-mitigation program for eighth graders designed to help students develop skills to make healthy choices and resist peer pressure. Additionally, students from kindergarten through second grade go through Second Step, which utilizes social-emotional learning designed to decrease problem behaviors.

“If we have kids in a good place socially and emotionally, they tend to have better foundation to deal with life,” Fowler said. “Just starting with age-appropriate conversation with things that are harmful to your body to the point that you talk about things like drugs as you get older.”

She added that the district takes the 17 percent of Chatham high school students misusing prescription pain medicine as a “concern,” and CCS “want(s) to be part of the solution.”

Being a good Samaritan

In the written histories of Jesus Christ in the Christian Bible, Jesus tells a parable about a man who was robbed, beaten and left for dead. Both a priest and a Levite, a religious man



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Chatham Recovery Program Director Anna Stanley, right, chats with front desk administrator Christy Wells on a recent morning at the organization’s clinic in Siler City.

in Jewish culture, passed the man by, but a Samaritan, an outsider in Jewish culture, picked the man up and took care of him on his own dime.

In Chatham County, two parents have spent the last couple of years spreading awareness and fighting for improvements to a law nicknamed after that Good Samaritan.

Bridget O’Donnell’s son Sean died on June 4, 2017, after a pill overdose. His friends made a bet with to drink vodka and when Sean passed out, scared of potential repercussions, they left him, he died.

“After Sean died, I just started asking what can we do to prevent this going forward — and that’s when I learned about the Good Samaritan Law,” O’Donnell said. “We have a law in North Carolina that can help so many people. It’s such a simple law that can help save lives, but it’s our mission to make sure that everyone is aware of the law and to make improvements to it.”

First passed in 2013, the law provides limited immunity for people who seek medical assistance for those experiencing a drug-related overdose. Found in N.C. General Statute 90-96.2, the language exempts those reporting the overdoses and those experienc-

ing the overdoses from prosecution for certain amounts of drug possession if evidence for the possession was obtained during medical response to the overdose.

O’Donnell and Julie Cummins, Bonne Cummins’ mother, and their daughters have spent a lot of time over the last couple years pushing for awareness of the Good Samaritan Law and positive changes. A bill currently in the legislature would clarify and extend immunity to the overdoser, and there is other legislation being pushed for as well.

Fowler said the school district has added education about the Good Samaritan Law to its health and PE curriculums, and Roberson briefly discussed the law at the April 4 event.

“It says if you do the right thing to save someone’s life, we’re not going to charge with you a little bit of drugs,” the sheriff said. “Don’t let that stop you from stopping someone from dying.”

Down on the MAT

Another attempt to help the opioid crisis is pointing individuals to treatment, particularly medication-assisted treatment, or MAT.

In his book “Heroin

North Carolina's Good Samaritan Laws

A person seeking medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose cannot be prosecuted for small amounts of various illegal drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia or underage drinking, or considered in violation of parole/probation, if evidence for such charges was accrued as a result of the person seeking help. The victim is protected from those charges as well.

Enacted by N.C. General Assembly in 2013, 2105

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

Death: How to Stop the Opioid Crisis,” Chatham County resident Dr. Joe Mancini argues for the use of medicine like buprenorphine. First available in 2013, the drug is designed to have minimal to no withdrawal symptoms and provide pain relief 30 times stronger than morphine, Dr. Mancini writes. Buprenorphine is an opioid, which concerns some doctors. But Dr. Mancini argues it may be a key to stopping the crisis.

“It cannot cause an accidental overdose, except in very unusual circumstances when it is combined with another depressant in a very high dose and injected intravenously,” he wrote. “If taken in a chronic pain situation, it is also less likely to cause increased neuropathic pain.”

Anna Stanley, the program director for Chatham Recovery, an opioid treatment clinic in Siler City, spoke at the April 4 event in Goldston. The clinic’s program offers daily doses of buprenorphine and methadone — another opioid

The community has to fix this problem. We know that education and prevention has to be where our money is spent. It is going too big and the wave will be too large to say, ‘Arrest them and treat them.’

MIKE ROBERSON, Chatham County Sheriff

that “calms down” receptor sites and ends cravings, Stanley said — as well as individual and group counseling sessions. Stanley argued that pursuing medication actually raises the likelihood that addicts will attend counseling.

“It’s very challenging when someone is in such bad withdrawal,” she said. “We’ve got to get them stable on that medication so that we can engage with them in behavior changes.”

The National Institute on Drug Abuse states that medicines like buprenorphine, also called Suboxone, and methadone “are effective for the treatment of opioid use disorders,” and that they should “be combined with behavioral

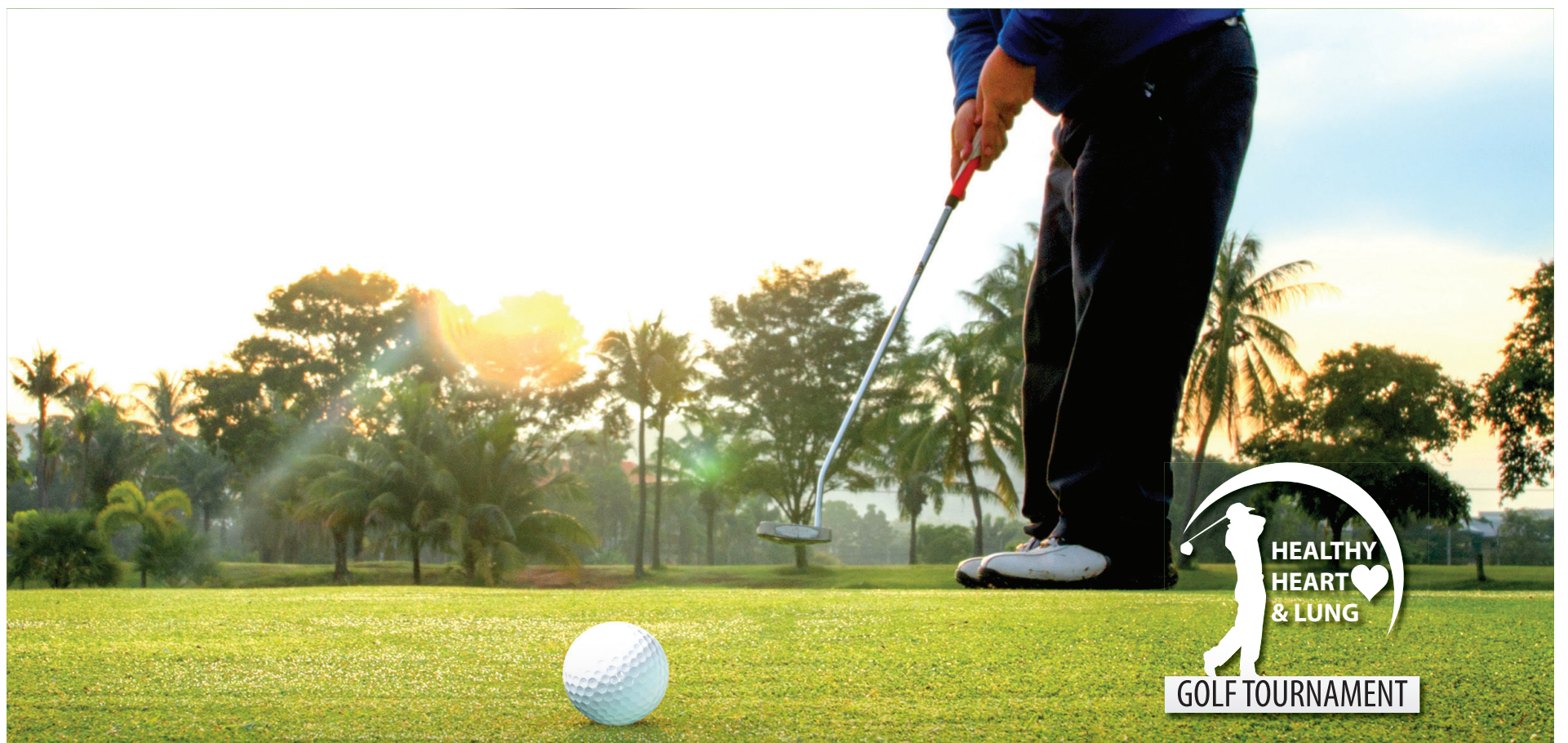
counseling for a ‘whole patient’ approach.”

Because the medicines offered are opioids as well, Stanley said, some people are worried that they might be “trading one addiction in for another,” but she refutes that.

“Clinics are not licensed drug dealers,” she said. “We have a lot of regulatory bodies that come in and inspect our clinic regularly.”

In the final part of our opioids series coming May 23, read about a Chatham resident’s personal story with addiction, and more about what you can do to help fight back.

Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.



JOIN *the* FUN.

Chatham Hospital is proud to host the 10th Annual Healthy Heart & Lung Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 8, 2019

1:30 Shotgun Start

Siler City Country Club

150 Country Club Drive, Siler City, NC 27334

4 Person Captain’s Choice

Entry Fee - \$65 per player

Entry fee includes:

Green fees • Cart rental • Lunch • Refreshments

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to benefit Chatham Hospital’s Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab programs and patients.

For more information or to register, please contact Debbie Scotten at (919) 799-4652 or at debbiescotten@chathamhospital.org



TO LEARN MORE *visit* CHATHAMHOSPITAL.ORG

OBITUARIES

CECIL THOMAS WEAVER

Cecil Thomas Weaver, 76, of 422 Pine Lake Drive, Siler City, passed away Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro, NC after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born July 23, 1942, in Asheboro, NC, he was the son of the late Cecil C. and Rosa Collins Weaver. He was preceded in death by his wife, Diana Angel Weaver.

Tommy was a member of First Baptist Church. He grew up in Siler City where he played football and graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in 1960. He attended Wake Forest College and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Banking was Tommy's first career, and he later became a sales representative for 29 years with Bostik, Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts. He won many awards for salesmanship. Tommy enjoyed golf, fishing and watching westerns and sports on television, especially Wake Forest games.

Survivors are daughters, Donna Weaver of Siler City, Krista Miller (Jeff) of Lugoff, SC; grandchildren, Michael Thorpe, Mackenzie Miller, Maeve Miller and Joseph Lozada; sister, Judy Morris of Stafford, VA; nephew, the Reverend Jay Morris and his daughter, Elizabeth of Stafford, VA; sister-in-law, Robin Simpson (Tim) of Mayodan, NC and family; cousins, Diane Whitehead, Pat Perry (Pete), Ronnie Collins (Lana), Randy Collins (Kathy) and their families.

Visitation was held at the First Baptist Church, 314 North Second Avenue, Friday, May 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. At other times, the family was at 422 Pine Lake Drive, Siler City.

Funeral service was held Friday, May 10, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church. The Reverend Jay Morris officiated. Burial will follow at Loves Creek Cemetery, 1745 East Eleventh Street, Siler City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Capital Fund, 314 North Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344.

The family would like to thank the staff of Laurels of Chatham and especially, all of his caregivers for their compassionate care.

A very special thank you to Greg Evans and the Ladies of the Deli of Piggly Wiggly for all their exceptional attention to Tommy and adding so much joy to his life!

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

PEGGY ROGERS WILLETT

Peggy Rogers Willett, 81, of Siler City, passed on to her Heavenly Father on May 8, 2019 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. She was surrounded by her family who loved and cherished her.

Peggy was born in Elkin, NC, on February 7, 1938, the daughter of Elmer and Beulah Settle Rogers. She began working as a teenager at United Telephone as a telephone operator in Siler City and continued working there for over 20 years. She also worked in supervisory positions

at Heins Telephone in Sanford, Wesley Long/Cone Hospital and Cone Mills in Greensboro. She was the property manager at Braxton Manor Apartments in Siler City for ten years before retiring. She loved music, crocheting and sewing, lunch dates with special friends, ice cream, iced coffee and spoiling her little dog, Ginger. She especially loved spending time with all her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Jimmy Rogers, and her daughter-in-law, Rita Willett. She is survived by her son, Tommy Willett of Siler City; daughter, Teresa Phillips and husband William of Siler City; grandson, Blake Phillips and wife Melinda, of Kansas City, Mo., and granddaughter, Rachael Phillips of Siler City; beloved sister, Frances Rogers of Siler City; sister-in-law, Faye Rogers of Winston-Salem; nephews, Chris Rogers of Winston-Salem and Tim Rogers of Clemmons.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held Sunday, May 19, 2019, at Brookdale Baptist Church, 1133 West Third Street, Siler City at 3 p.m. with family visitation following the service in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to be made to Hospice of Randolph County, P.O. Box 9, Asheboro, NC 27204 to ensure that future families benefit from the patient care and family support they provide; or to Almost Home Dachshund Rescue, P.O. Box 9671, Greensboro, NC 27408.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

MITZI WEST BROOKS

Mitzi West Brooks, 50, of Ronald Scott Road, Bear Creek died Saturday, May 11, 2019.

Mrs. Brooks was born in Forsyth County on May 8, 1969 the daughter of Larry and Wanda (Barker) West. Mitzi was a graduate of East Wilkes High School and Appalachian State University. She taught in Chatham County at Bennett, Bonlee and Moncure Elementary Schools and in Moore County at Robbins Elementary School and was the School Administrator in Randolph County at Neighbor's Grove Academy.

Mitzi had attended Tyson's Creek Baptist Church and served as a Sunday School Teacher, VBS Teacher and Christian Summer Camp Director at other churches. She was a member of Beulah Baptist Church and was a talented musician, traveling the Southeast singing Southern Gospel in churches and concerts, touching many hearts and lives. She was a business owner and active in Relay for Life in many counties. Teaching was her passion and she considered her students as a part of her family. She had a gift of sharing knowledge and making children eager to learn. Her children gave her life anew each day. She was a loving wife, mother, and daughter and her family was so very important to her.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Eric C. Brooks; son, Corey C. Brooks; daughter, Brittany M. Brooks; parents, Larry and Wanda (Barker) West of Elkin; father and mother-in-law, Les and Dianne Brooks of Bear Creek; sister-in-law, Gloria Cheek and husband, Paul; niece, Kristen Cheek, all of Asheboro and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family received friends Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City, and Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Beulah Baptist Church, 8454 Howard Mills Road, Bennett. The funeral will be Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at Beulah Baptist Church with Dr. Walter Yoho, Rev. Robert Wachs, and Dr. Neal Jackson officiating. Burial was in Tyson's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Bear Creek.

A memorial college fund for her children will be setup with Wells Fargo.

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

BARBARA BEYE LORIE

March 7, 1926 - May 6, 2019



Pittsboro - Barbara Beye Lorie passed away on May 6, 2019 at her home at Blue Heron Farm in Chatham County, surrounded by loved ones.

Barbara lived a life of adventure and activism, with a strong belief in justice and community. She is survived by her beloved sons, Douglas Beye Lorie and his wife, Yvonne Trostli, and Anthony Beye Lorie. Barbara was born in Iowa City to Dr. Howard and Ruth Beye. She later lived in NYC and Palm Beach, and moved to Chapel Hill, NC in 1958 with her sons. She taught English in high schools in Chapel Hill, Southern Pines and Westchester, NY, where she inspired a generation of students. She retired to Chatham County in the early 1980's and became a leading voice in political, environmental and community issues. She was part of the county task force to create recycling centers in Chatham County; took part in many battles against development, and for greater water protection. She clearly stated the issues, and was not afraid to be unpopular.

A life-long lover of books, she served for many years with Pittsboro Friends of the Library, arranging for speakers and artists to give presentations. She opposed a big industrial hog farm planned for Chatham, alerting others to the dangers and organizing others. She lobbied successfully for bike lanes to be built when Hwy 15-501 was expanded, and for recycling of Christmas trees by the county. She was a member for several years of the Alston Chapel Church and a life long advocate for civil rights, never forgetting the segregation and Jim Crow laws she saw in her youth. Her anti-racism work was recognized with the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award. She was a world traveler, home-builder, great cook and gardener. She was a founder of the Blue Heron Farm Intentional community, where she lived until the end of her life.

Condolences can be sent to the family at 393 East Road, Pittsboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Alston Chapel Church, 1832 Alston Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or the Haw River Assembly, P.O. Box 187, Bynum, NC 27228, www.hawriver.org.

WALTER LYNN "BUCK" PETTY

Walter Lynn "Buck" Petty, 83, of Bonlee-Bennett Road, Siler City died Saturday, May 11, 2019.

Mr. Petty was born in Chatham County on January 12, 1936, the son of Murphy Linwood and Edith (White) Petty. Buck attended Sandy Branch Baptist Church and Brookdale Baptist Church where he had served as a Deacon and taught Sunday School. Buck was the owner/operator of Bradshaw Supply, was a land developer for home construction, had owned and operated Petty Lodge,

a Bed and Breakfast in Wilkesboro.

Buck enjoyed riding a bulldozer, dump truck and tractor. He also enjoyed fishing, camping and trips to the beach. He wanted memories of him to reflect his love for his family, ministering to others of Jesus and His love, and helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Frances P. Denise; grandson, Jonathan Petty; and his first wife, Betty Burke Petty.

Buck is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elaine (Jacobs) Petty; three daughters, Debbie P. Roberts and husband, Dr. Rob Roberts of Asheboro, NC, Athena P. Tillman and husband, David of Siler City, and Jessica Austin and husband, Robert of Charlotte, NC; four sons, Walter L. Petty and wife, Abby of Siler City, Mike Petty and wife, Debby, of Siler City, Brian Webster and wife, Sarah of Wilkesboro, NC and Landon Webster and wife, Rhonda of Locust Grove, GA.; two brothers, Robert W. "Bob" Petty and wife, Betty of Siler City, and James E. "Jim" Petty and wife, Jane of Siler City; 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Sandy Branch Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 715 Sandy Branch Church Road, Bear Creek, NC. A graveside service will follow Thursday at 3 p.m. at Sandy Branch Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Don Potter, and Dr. Rob Roberts officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Fruit Ministries in Wilmington, Liberty Home Care and Hospice, 401 East Third Street, Siler City, NC 27344 or Chatham County Council On Aging, PO Box 715, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

RODNEY A. MOORE

Rodney A. Moore went Home to be with His Heavenly Father Saturday, May 11, 2019, following a short sickness with cancer.

His life will be celebrated at 1 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019 at Hanes-Lineberry N. Elm Chapel, Greensboro with Reverend Ken Klein and Dr. E. Keith Carroll officiating. Interment with military honors will follow at Lakeview Memorial Park. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:30 a.m., prior to the service, at Hanes

Lineberry, N. Elm Chapel. He was the son of Aster McManus and Daisy Robena Johnson Moore. He graduated from Chatham Central High School. Rodney was an Electrical Estimator/Designer. He was involved in such projects as Reynolds large machinery working with filters. When he was 72 he was awarded a 1.4 million dollar bid for a school electrical design. At 52 years of age he attended ECPI and graduated with honors.

Rodney was a long time member of Christ Wesleyan Church and was involved in various activities including building the Christmas floats for the Greensboro Christmas Parade for which the church won 1st prize every year they entered. He was the sound technician for the church plays including the Easter Sunrise Plays. Rodney and his wife Fran were the owners of MEI FONE TEK which made prepaid phone cards for some of the NASCAR drivers.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents and his youngest brother, Ray Moore. In June of this year he would have celebrated 58 years of marriage with Frances Alexander Moore. He is also survived by two brothers and their wives, Danny and Anne Moore of Bear Creek and Eugene and Ruby Moore of Siler City; four sisters, Brenda (Jerry) Williamson of Southport, Faith Moore of Siler City, DeLora Moore of Bear Creek, and Sharon (Dave) DeBrel of Southport; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Hospice of the Piedmont.

Hanes-Lineberry, N. Elm Chapel is assisting the Moore family. Online condolences may be offered at: www.haneslineberryfuneralhomes.com.

SANDRA IRENE MEANOR JOHNSON

Mrs. Sandra Irene Meanor Johnson, age 65, of Siler City, passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Alamance Regional Medical Center.

Born in Rock Island, IL, she was the daughter of the late Samuel Meanor and the late Irene Ingle Meanor. She was the long time manager of Shady Lawn Apartments and attended Community Baptist Church.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by her husband of 44 years, John Paul Johnson of the home; children, Tonya Cooley, Jamey Johnson, Justin Johnson; step-children, Jerald Johnson, Denise Smith, Michelle Pennell; seven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, one great-grandson; five step-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Vi Finkenbinder.

The family received friends on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Community Baptist Church.

You may sign the online register book at: www.lowefuneralhome.com.

ALVIN DEVON MCKOY

Alvin Devon McKoy, 66, of Burlington, passed on Friday, May 3, 2019 at the Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2019 at Knotts Funeral Chapel in Sanford. Interment followed in Lee Memory Garden.

MILDRED LUCINDA WOOTEN SEAGROVES

Mildred Lucinda Wooten Seagroves, 86, of Vass, passed away Sunday, May 12, 2019 at FirstHealth Hospice House.

The funeral service was held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church with Pastor Ray Campbell officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Visitation with the family followed the services.

Mrs. Seagroves was born in Hoke County on July 2, 1932 to the late Archie D. Wooten and Mazie Viola Simpson. She was preceded in death by her husband, James W. "Jim" Seagroves, daughter, Charlotte Seagroves Winkler, brothers, Archie Wooten, Gray Wooten, Leon Wooten, and sister, Ruth McMahon. Mildred was a member of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church.

She is survived by her son, James W. "Buck" Seagroves, Jr. of Vass; daughters, Judy Bosworth of West End, Sue Collins of Vass, Barbara Joyce of Lewisville, Beverly Seagroves Marler of Greensboro; sister, Mary McCleney of Sanford; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to FirstHealth Hospice House, 251 Campground Road, West End, NC 27376 and/or Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, 4460 Lobelia Road, Vass, NC 28394.

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

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Inc.

JOSEPH ARMISTEAD NEFF

Joseph Armistead Neff, 92, of Durham, died on May 2, 2019.

The funeral service will be held Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the National Cemetery in Beaufort, SC with Masonic Rites to follow.

Joseph was born February 5, 1927 in Dayton, OH, to the late Marquis D. Neff and Mattie P. Dunn. He was a veteran of WWII and proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps. After the war, he became a pressman for the Washington Post and later he was instrumental in publishing the USA Today daily newspaper.

Joseph was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 60 years, Geraldine Ott Neff. Survivors are daughters, Susan McGregor, Shelley Neff and Sharon Brown; and six grandchildren along with eight great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the SPCA.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Neff family.

EDNA LOUISE MINTOR COVINGTON

Mrs. Edna Louise Mintor Covington, 86, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, May 09, 2019 at her home.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

SAMUEL MUGGLIN

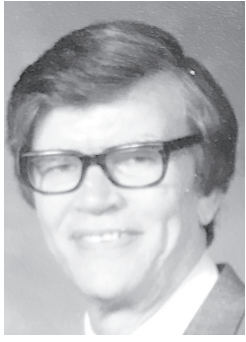
Samuel Mugglin, 78, of Vass passed on Friday, May 10, 2019 at his residence.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 7A

WILLIAM HORACE PETTY SR.



William Horace Petty Sr., 90, passed away peacefully to be with his Lord Jesus on May 14, 2019.

Horace was born the son of Edward Hale Petty and Inez White Petty on July 11, 1928. He leaves behind his wife, Frances Gee Petty, his son Billy Petty (Von), daughter Gail Gibson (Charlie), son Bert Petty (Marilyn); grandchildren, Kelly Hall (Chris), Kristen Rundell (Ethan), Jonathan Petty (Nicole), great-grands, Katie Hall, Caleb Hall, John Anders Rundell, and Thomas Petty; special nephew, Dale Bryant and niece, Phyllis Hancock.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, four sisters and three brothers. He and Frances were married for almost 68 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Siler City; and he was also a member of Hanks Chapel Church in Pittsboro before he and Frances moved to Siler City. He served faithfully in both churches in different ministries. He worked for Chatham Mills in Pittsboro, for 45 years, retiring as the Assistant Superintendent. Horace served for eight years as Town Councilman in Pittsboro. He was an avid sports fan; his favorite team being the Carolina Tarheels. He was loved and well-respected by all family members and friends.

The visitation will be on Saturday 2 to 3 p.m. and the funeral at 3 p.m. at Hanks Chapel Church in Pittsboro, NC.

BEVERLY SMITH JORDAN

Beverly Smith Jordan, 89, of Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City died Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Mrs. Jordan was born in Washington, DC on February 2, 1930 the daughter of George B. and Sarah Roseannah (Darcey) Smith. She had worked in nursing but became a farmer's wife working along side her husband on their dairy farm.

Beverly is survived by her husband of 67 years, Norman Jordan, Sr.; two daughters, Sheila A. Jordan and husband, Jerry Washington of Sunset Beach and Penny Wofford and husband, William of Greensboro; one son, Norman Jordan and wife, Karen of Siler City; granddaughters, Rebekah Wolford, Kristi Haas and husband, Bryn; grandson, Robert Washington; great-grandchildren, Olivia and Delia Haas.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 17, 2019 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City. The funeral will follow Friday at 2 p.m. at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church with Dr. Patrick Fuller officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Building Fund, 175 Moon's Chapel Road, or Silk Hope Junior Dairy Show, c/o Ashley Robbins, 531 Wrenn Smith Road, Siler City, NC 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

FLORENCE INEZ JOHNSON

Florence Inez Johnson, age 83, passed away in her home at Galloway Ridge at Fearington, Pittsboro, North Carolina, on April 30, 2019.

She was known in the community for her watercolor paintings of barns and the Outer Banks. She always loved to draw but it wasn't until retirement that painting became a large part of her life.

Florence had a 31 year career in education. After graduation from the University of Illinois and later a Master's degree from Concordia University, she taught elementary grades K-6. From teaching she went to the principalship and ended her career as Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Elmhurst, Illinois Community Unit School District 205.

Volunteer work included the United Way board, Elmhurst Hospital Advisory Committee, UNC Hospital neonatal unit and various committees at her home community, Galloway Ridge.

Florence and spouse Cliff (Earl Clifford Johnson, Jr.) had a collaborative and caring relationship for over 60 years. It was based on mutual support and a deep love for each other.

She is survived by two sons, Mark Robert Johnson of Chicago, Illinois, and Garrett Paul Johnson, retired US Army colonel, of Greenville, South Carolina. Dear to her is Rebecca Johnson, spouse of Garrett.

A memorial will be held at a later date. Remembrances may be sent to the ovarian cancer unit of the University of North Carolina Linenberg Cancer Hospital.

OBIE HOOKER

Obie Sullivan Hooker, 62, of Angier passed on Friday, May 10, 2019 at Central Harnett Hospital.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

MARY FRANCES SMITH

Mary Frances Smith, 66, of Sanford passed on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at Central Carolina Hospital.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DON LEE HOLDER SR.



Don Lee Holder Sr., 76, of Liberty passed away on May 13, 2019 at his home.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who enjoyed wood-working and cabinet making.

The family will receive friends on Thursday evening from 6 until 8 p.m. at Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty. A funeral service will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 2 p.m. at The Loflin Funeral Home Chapel with Franklin Bowman officiating; burial will follow in Dr. Clyde M. Gilmore Memorial Park.

Don was the son of the late Bennie Lawrence and Annie Nelma Murry Holder and was also preceded in death by one sister, Beverly Godfrey and two brothers, Robert Holder and Lawrence Holder.

Surviving is his wife, Mary Hellon Holder; daughters, Lori Ann Holder Johnson (Steve), Donna Gay Patterson (Daniel), Robin Garrett (Christopher), Christina Bowman (Franklin); sons, David Holder, Steven Andrews, and Donnie Holder, Jr. (Charlie); sisters, Nancy Holder and Barbara Holder; brothers and spouses, Wade Holder, Lennie Holder, Gaylon Holder, Frankie Holder and William Holder; grandchildren, Courtney Lee, Addison Johnson, Sydney Patterson, Jordan Brown, Remington Brown, Calum Jones, Colton Bean, Paislee Holder, Steven Andrews, Daniel Andrews, Autumn Andrews, Hailey Holder, Ivy Holder, Aeron Sheffield and Isaac Holder; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at: www.LoflinFH.com.

Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty is honored to serve the Holder family.

GERI DENISE (MOORE) COLLINS

Geri Denise (Moore) Collins, of Graham, a longtime resident of Chapel Hill, died of natural causes on May 7, 2019 at age 62.

Denise was born March 7, 1957 in Statesville, NC to the late Jerald Allen Moore and Janie Mae (Ellis) Moore. She grew up and attended school in Chapel Hill, where she became employed at the UNC bookstores in accounting. In retirement, Denise enjoyed painting, arts and crafts, and keeping with the youngsters in her extended family. Denise was known for loving animals, riding motorcycles, her rambunctious Easter egg hunts and helping those less fortunate in her community.

Denise was preceded in death by her son Raymond Le-Vonne Collins II, her sister Teresa (Moore) Kimball, and her stepfather Willie Ambrose. She is remembered with love by her son Allen L. Collins of Pittsboro; her daughter, Brandi N. Collins of Chapel Hill; her grandson, Dustin Collins; her granddaughter, Isabella Collins; her nieces, Tammy M. Davis of Graham, NC and Staci R. Kimball of Boulder, Colorado; sisters, Dianne Taylor Moore of Waterford, Vermont, Beverly (Moore) Irons of Longmont, Colorado; and her brother, Michael Moore of Durham, NC.

The family wishes to thank the doctors and staff at Duke University's Liver Transplant Program for the treatment and excellent care Denise received since her transplant surgery at Duke in May, 2002. Without them and her organ donor, Denise's life would have been much too brief. Her family encourages prayerful consideration of registering as an organ donor.

The family received friends Sunday, May 12, 2019 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation.

The funeral service was held Monday, May 13, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation Griffin Chapel with Hospice Chaplain Ann Ritter presiding. Burial followed at Lystra Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in her memory to a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Collins family.

BETTY ANNE WHITAKER LANE

Betty Lane, 89, of Pittsboro, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

Visitation will be held at Bynum United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2 p.m. The funeral service will immediately follow at 3 p.m. The family will have a private graveside service, as well.

Betty was born July 6, 1929 to the late Grady Polk Whitaker and Clara Norris Straughn Whitaker. Succeeding retirement, Betty took care of numerous family members and enjoyed reading and crocheting in her spare time. She was also a Sunday school teacher at Bynum United Methodist Church for a number of years. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, James (J.C.) Lane and her oldest son James (Jimmy) Lane, II.

Survivors include daughter, Susan Lane of Sanford; son, Douglas Lane of Pittsboro; six grandchildren, Kimberly Kitchings of Cary, Anne Sessoms of Pittsboro, Lane Farrell of Sanford, Jay Lane of Pittsboro, Stephanie Lane of Asheboro, Stephen Lane of Philadelphia and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bynum United Methodist Church or Cambridge Hills Assisted Living of Pittsboro.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pittsboro requests changes to Chatham Park Tree Element

The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners requested several additional small changes to the Chatham Park Tree Element on Monday, again delaying a vote on the document.

The requests for changes resulted from an hour-long work session that continued into the board's regular session on Monday where board members reviewed aspects of the tree element again. The changes include increasing the height of canopy trees in tree protection areas from a minimum of 30 feet to a minimum of 40 feet as well as increasing the minimum height of under-story trees to 15 feet. The board also requested that all under-story trees have a required caliper, a measurement used in landscaping terminology that refers to the diameter of a tree's trunk, of 1 1/4 inches, an increase from the initial 1-inch caliper.

The board also requested that the tree element include language similar to the Chatham Park Landscaping Element which notes a preference for using local growers for purchasing of trees as well as a listing of native trees from the N.C. Forestry Service to use as a reference. Chatham Park was also asked to edit the definition for tree coverage planning area, the development area that is used to calculate the required tree protection area to ensure clarity.

There is some contention as to one item the board requested. The board wanted Chatham Park or the eventual owner of any property developed in Chatham Park to be responsible for replacing trees in tree protection areas that may die due to natural causes or an act of God in perpetuity. Chatham Park had already agreed to replace trees in tree protection areas if losses occurred during construction and noted the difficulty in ensuring and enforcing that item decades from now.

The revised element will likely return to the board at either its May 28 or June 10 meeting.

Chatham Community Library to host author Marion O'Malley

PITTSBORO — "Shopping with Mama: Write 'Til the End" is Marion O'Malley's humorous and and poignant memoir of time spent caring for her mother during her later years, and O'Malley will share thoughts about the book at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Holmes Meeting Room of the Chatham Community Library.

O'Malley and her mother Mena Webb both were writers and women of the South, but that's where the similarities ended. The more traditional Mena often clashed with her unconventional, peace-educator daughter who dedicated every Thursday to her mother, taking her shopping, out to lunch, then increasingly to doctors' appointments and funerals. "Shopping With Mama" is a beautifully rendered and often hilarious account of the challenges of caring for an elder that celebrates the love and respect the two shared for each other and their common passion — writing.

This event is free and open to the public.

— CN+R Staff Reports



Submitted photo

Sustainable agriculture

Fresh crops at the Central Carolina Community College farm are part of the sustainable agriculture program at the school in Pittsboro. Best College Reviews noted that Central Carolina Community College is a pioneer in the teaching of sustainable agriculture among community colleges.



Submitted photo

Growing season

The Central Carolina Community College Student Farm is in the midst of growing season, with strawberries and more, waiting for the student farmers in Pittsboro to harvest them. The Sustainable Farming Program at Central Carolina Community College grew out of a desire to address the needs of the farm community in Chatham County and the surrounding Piedmont region of NC. It was initiated by local growers in 1996.

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CHATHAM CH@T | MELANIE GIRARD, CHATHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

COA's nutrition programs help elderly live independently

Nutrition is always important, but even more important as we age. That's the message from Chatham County's Council on Aging. This week, we speak with Melanie Girard, the COA's Development & Communications Director, about the COA's nutritional programs and other related activities. Girard has been with the council since 2016. She's a 1991 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Media and Journalism and has been a Realtor since 1999, owning and operating Grapevine Realty Services since 2011. She and her husband, Carl "Chip" Anderson, have two children and three cats. Girard also performs in the band "Whatsherface" with Beth Turner.

Why is good nutrition so important for seniors, and why does the Chatham COA work so hard on that?

As a non-profit, the council's mission is to promote independent living and physical and mental wellness among Chatham's older population. Our nutrition program is a large piece of that puzzle. The council helps older adults at risk of malnutrition and social isolation to eat a nutritious meal and enjoy the company of others through Meals on Wheels, congregate/senior center meals, and frozen and shelf-stable meals. From nutrition surveys we learn that all (100 percent) of Meals on Wheels recipients report that the program has helped them and they would recommend it to friends. Nearly all say it is helping them remain at home and feel that their health has improved due to their participation. Good nutrition also improves or maintains their strength and helps them with such activities of daily living as bathing, getting dressed, toileting, and transferring. All of these benefits delay or avoid a senior being placed in a facility.

Many local restaurants participated in the COA's local Dine Out-Give Back program. How did that turn out?

We sincerely thank the restaurants and their patrons for making Dine Out Give Back a success. They raised \$3,500 toward our goal and we look forward to including other businesses next year. The 17th annual March for Meals was a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meals on Wheels and our senior neighbors who rely on the vital service to remain health and independent at home. In awareness of senior hunger, more than 20 area restaurants participated in the Dine Out Give Back fundraiser by donating a portion of their sales during a day in March to the Council's

Meals on Wheels program.

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 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.

Locally, participating restaurants included Mediterranean Deli, Papa Johns, Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, Compadres of Siler City and Pittsboro, Root Cellar of Pittsboro, Bojangles of Siler City, Brownie Lu's, Subway of Powell Place, Pickle Jar Cafe, Al's Diner, Mama Dips, The Mod, Highway 55 Burgers-Pittsboro, Pittsboro Roadhouse, Subway of Cole Park Plaza, House of Hops, Angelina's Kitchen, Greek Kouzina and Oasis Market.

Next year we plan to expand the Dine Out-Give Back awareness campaign to include retail establishments along with the restaurants. Chatham residents can help by eating at the participating restaurants in March or donating at participating retail stores.

Can you talk about recreational activities you help provide at your centers in Pittsboro and Siler City?

Our senior centers have many activities, clubs, and opportunities for socialization and recreation. Through our Health Promotion and Wellness Program, we offer such evidence-based activities like A Matter of Balance, Arthritis Foundation Exercise and Aquatic Exercise, Tai Chi, and Living Healthy with Chronic Disease Self Management classes. Both centers offer daily exercise opportunities and each center has a fitness room. Currently we are near the end of this year's Senior Games & SilverArts with more than 250 participants enjoying more than 17 sports activities and multiple art categories. Practice for these games extends year-round. We have hiking, photography, book club and art groups. In addition, we offer line dance, lunch bunch, trips to the farmer's market, travelers club, wood carving, and 3Gs men's group that meets at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays in Pittsboro with coffee, breakfast snack, corn hole and socializing.



Submitted photo

Melanie Girard is Development & Communications Director with the Chatham County Council.

Our council no longer charges any fees for many of these activities in order to encourage active participation and promote good health, but we certainly invite donations to help sustain and expand these activities.

Let's switch gears to education — what education opportunities does the COA provide?

We partner with outside groups that come to the centers for education on health, nutrition, Medicare, financial fraud and much more. N.C. Cooperative Extension of Chatham, Legal Aid, Sheriff's Office, and Chatham Health Department are just a few to present.

On November 14, the Council, in partnership with Extension Service, will host the 3rd Senior Education Conference at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, which is a day-long event with 15 educational break-out sessions, a plenary speaker and lunch. The plenary speaker will be Dr. David Casarett, professor of Medicine at Duke University, the Chief of Palliative Care in Duke Health, and the Director of the Duke Center for Palliative Care. He will present on medical marijuana and CBD oil. Stay tuned for more information on our website; it will surely be thought-provoking.

On May 30 at the Western Center, we will host "Fighting Back against Fraud"

in honor of Elder Abuse Awareness which runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. The public is welcome to join us to hear from N.C. Dept. of Justice, N.C. Dept. of Insurance and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office about types of scams and fraud that target seniors. Topics will include internet, sweepstakes, lottery, home repairs, phone and telemarketing scams, reverse mortgages and Medicare fraud. The event is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

What upcoming fundraisers are you having and why do you have to have them?

The Council on Aging has been an independent, non-profit since 1974, and in July we will begin celebrating 45 years as Chatham County's main portal of entry to senior services. While the council receives funding from the county, state and federal governments, we are not a county department, therefore we must still raise a portion of our funding from private grants, donations, sponsorships and fundraising events. These non-governmental funds are especially important to our general operations. About 85 percent of our funds go directly to services, a higher percentage than many non-profits.

Coming up this summer, we'll have a raffle; prizes include a time-share for a week in Myrtle Beach at the Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Anderson Beach Club and cash prizes, too.

For the month of September, we will hold an on-line auction and are currently looking for donations like trips, time shares, tickets, services, gift baskets, Air B&B or art.

We can process one-time and recurring donations on our website at www.chathamcoa.org. We are also grateful for receiving memorial donations and donations made through people's wills. It's extremely important for our community to contribute to the council so we can provide as many services and programs as possible for the rapidly growing, aging population in Chatham. Please contact me at 919-542-4512 or Melanie.girard@chathamcoa.org for more information or to serve as a fundraising volunteer.

For a complete list of activities, go to www.chathamcoa.org and click on the calendar or come to our centers. Our locations: Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro. Phone: 919-542-4512. Western Chatham Senior Center, 112 Village Lake Rd., Siler City. Phone: 919-742-3975.

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Senior Spotlight: Chatham Charter School

Alston, Griffin reflect on years as a Knight

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Miranda Griffin was finished with exams, and A.J. Alston had just one remaining.

This was nine days before they ended their high school careers by graduating from Chatham Charter School, and they both already have plans: college.

Griffin is planning to attend UNC-Charlotte and take the biology/pre-med track to start her journey toward becoming a physician's assistant, and Alston is headed to Johnson & Wales University, also in Charlotte, to major in sports & event management, inspired by his fandom of the Carolina Panthers.

The pair sat down with the News + Record ahead of graduation, slated for Saturday, May 18, to talk about their high school careers and what they learned.

How does it feel to be

graduating from high school?

MG: It's exciting. I'm actually ready for it, just to start four years somewhere new. I think the school has prepared me very well for college. With all the resources here, they prepared me as well as possible to go off to college.

AA: I've been going here my whole school career, since kindergarten. So it's exciting to get another chance to go out into the world on my own.

Why are you pursuing the college/career paths that you've chosen?

MG: My dad works in the medical field, so I've gotten to talk to a bunch of different people that he works with and shadow, just to see where my interest lies. I'm very hands-on, I'm a people person, I love talking to people and meet different people. Something that has to do with that, taking care of people — I don't know exactly what, but I'm thinking PA right now.

AA: We had a class called "Sports/Entertainment Marketing" and that's what put me on to it. Once I took that class, I was like, "This is what I want to do."

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

MG: I wouldn't pinpoint one exact thing, but between different sports and clubs and getting involved or different activities we did as a class, it just makes up the high school experience. The friends that I've made through basketball, I'll still stay in touch with them. It's not like I'm going to ignore them when I go off.

AA: Definitely sports for me. We went to the playoffs this year, were the first team to win in the playoffs for basketball. So that was exciting. I don't think I'll ever forget that kind of stuff. It sticks with you.

Did you have a favorite class or teacher that you enjoyed?

AA: Mr. (Tim) Tally teaches math, that was my first two years. He's a great teacher. I really enjoyed that class.

MG: For me, it's Ms. (Kara) Root, just because I love math. Ms. Root's been there for me for a couple years. She's the person I go to for anything I need help with.

What's been the most important life lesson you've learned?

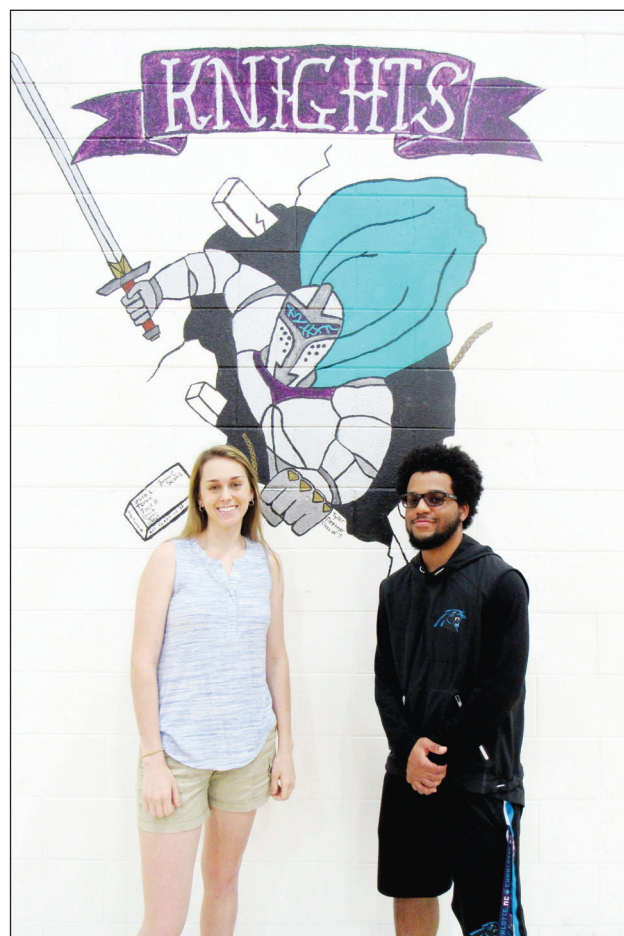
AA: For me, it's been making the most out of the opportunities. This school gives you a lot of opportunities to be ready for college, so you've just got to take advantage of them and execute.

MG: I think the biggest opportunity here is being able to take the CCP [N.C. Career & College Promise] pathway. You are emerged in college classes, but you're able to take that year of college classes that's knocked off when you go to a university. For me, that's been the biggest benefit. I feel like that's probably prepared me the best.

If you could go talk to yourself as a rising ninth-grader, what would you tell him/her?

MG: Don't rush the high school years. Take your time. Four years have actually flown by. That, and just be involved in as many sports as you can, as many clubs, meet as many people as you can. And make connections, especially with the staff, because you're going to need it at some point.

AA: Just enjoy the moment. There were times when I would be ready to be done with school. Now



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Chatham Charter School seniors Miranda Griffin, left, and A.J. Alston will join their classmates Saturday in graduating from the school.

I'm looking back and it's almost over.

Zachary Horner can be

reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.

Despite controversy around statue, tradition continues at local Confederate memorial

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Every spring, since its placement atop a pedestal at the Chatham County

Courthouse in 1907, the statue of a Confederate soldier has been adorned with a wreath at its base in honor of Confederate Memorial Day.

Despite attention drawn in recent months

to the local statue, whose future as a Pittsboro centerpiece is being debated publicly and awaits a pending decision by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, this year

was no different.

Last Thursday morning, a day before the May 10 observance in North Carolina of Confederate Memorial Day, Barbara Pugh, president of the local Winnie Davis Chap-

ter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, accompanied by two other members of the small group, placed a wreath of flowers and greenery at the monument.

Pugh acknowledges this year's observance — conducted quietly, and without controversy — could be the last, at least at the statue's present location.

"We've done this for so many years, and we've heard no serious objection," said Pugh.

Of the ongoing polarization of opinion around the "Our Confederate Heroes" monument, Pugh has some thoughts.

"I don't know what the answer is," she said.

But she hopes it isn't removed.

"I would like to see it stay there," she said of the 7-foot-tall copper soldier, "because it represents history. It's a historical monument. That's all it is. I don't think removing the statue will do anything to change anybody's opinion."

Now numbering membership less than 20, the local Winnie Davis chapter was organized in October 1898. The statue, for which the group raised funds, was unveiled in Pittsboro on Aug. 23, 1907. Pugh said the organization ("we're not a high-profile group," she said, though they are distinct in being, she claims, the oldest women's group in Chatham County) historically raised funds for a

variety of uses, including pensions for Confederate veterans, homes for old soldiers and their widows and, in modern times, money for the Veterans Administration in Durham, among other things.

Once, there was fanfare around their annual placement of a wreath.

Members of the local Winnie Davis Chapter, many years ago, would meet at Hall-London House on Hillsboro Street and, in procession, walk to the statue to place their wreath. Today, the observance is less ostentatious.

"There's no fanfare or procession going up the street now," said Pugh. "We're not that noticeable."

But they have been consistent in their annual honoring of Chatham County's Confederate veterans, even placing a wreath on the monument after the historic county courthouse was gutted by fire in March 2010.

"We put it up that year, too," said Pugh, who, like others, now awaits a decision — expected when the Chatham County Board of Commissioners meets on May 20 — on the statue's future.

The wreath is expected to remain in place — as it traditionally has — through the wider-encompassing Memorial Day, observed on May 27.

Randall Rigsbee may be reached at rigsbee@chathamnr.com.

"I would like to see it stay there because it represents history. It's a historical monument. That's all it is. I don't think removing the statue will do anything to change anybody's opinion."

BARBARA PUGH, president of Winnie Davis Chapter #259, United Daughters of the Confederacy



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jane Hinnant, secretary of the Winnie Davis chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Pittsboro, watches as the annual wreath is laid onto the Confederate Memorial statue last Thursday by Historian June Price, and President Barbara Pugh.

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BUDGET: Capital projects, senior services increase included

Continued from page A1

erty tax rates without a public vote, according to state law. Chatham County last upped its tax rate in 2016 from 62.19 cents to 63.38 cents. The rate dropped by 0.51 cents a year later.

In his budget message, LaMontagne wrote that planning for the next fiscal year was “a bit like navigating through the fog; eventually the fog will lift but, until it does, caution is necessary to ensure safety.” He wrote that economists are “uncertain” about how long the “second longest economic expansion since 1854” will slow down, or a recession will come. The budget proposal was written with that in mind, he said, with hopes that conservative estimation of revenues would “help ensure the county can weather an economic downturn.”

But a growing population, bad weather and other factors, LaMontagne wrote, have contributed to a need for more revenues.

“Another year of severe weather coupled with the passage of several bills currently under discussion in the General Assembly could impact our revenue at a time when we are faced with increased expense from capital projects, support for schools and state funding cuts to critically needed services,” he said. “The budget presented here is the result of all county departments working together toward the common goal of being wise stewards of public funds while continuing to provide needed services.”

Hurricanes Florence and Michael struck in the fall of 2018, and rain has continued to fall since then. According to the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Water Information System, Jordan Lake has seen nearly 40 inches of rain since Sept. 1, 2018, and as a result, LaMontagne wrote, revenues from permits and fees have fallen. Revenue from residential permits is projected to remain flat, and the building inspection fee estimate for this fiscal year is \$1.3 million short of numbers for last year. Register of Deeds fees are also projected to be slightly lower than fiscal year 2018-2019.

Add that to major capital projects that need to get done — more on those below — and cuts from state and federal grants, and the funds had to be picked up somewhere else. There are many areas that have budgeted funding increases, but three are notable for the range of people they serve and amount of money requested — education, senior services and public safety.

Chatham County Schools

There are nearly 9,000 students in Chatham County’s public schools, and the district employs 1,654 people. It’s an entity that affects thousands of Chatham residents beyond those who step foot in a classroom, and the county’s view of the district’s importance can be seen in its share of the budget: just more than 35.8 percent of the General Fund, or \$44,817,437.

The proposed budget fully funds the Chatham County Board of Education’s request of an additional \$1.5 million. The funds are split into two categories: \$715,000 for general allocation and \$825,000 for the county’s teacher supplement. Schools officials have said the supplement is vital for retaining teachers, something Superintendent Derrick Jordan hinted at in a statement to the News + Record on the county budget.

“The current level of state and federal funding simply does not allow us to do all that we believe is necessary to ensure a well-rounded education for our students,” Jordan said. “That’s why we are so appreciative of the support we receive from our county leaders. They have consistently worked alongside us to fill

gaps, like supplementing teacher salaries and not only making sure that our infrastructure meets our needs in terms of both quality and space but also that those school buildings are safe for everyone who enters.”

The budget also sets aside \$1.4 million for opening Chatham Grove Elementary School in fall 2020. Add in the additional \$1.5 million requested, and that accounts for 2.8 cents on the tax rate.

Also in the works is the start of construction on a new Central Services building for the district. The project will locate all of CCS’ administrative personnel in one location and accommodate any expansion. The current building on West Street in Pittsboro is “not big enough now,” district COO Chris Blice told the News + Record in January. The project is slated to cost \$11,142,065 of additional debt that will need to be paid off.

Education spending in general also includes \$200,000 for the first year of the Chatham Promise, a program designed to give free Central Carolina Community College tuition to qualified graduates of Chatham County high schools (public, private and homeschooled), and \$245,000 to open CCC’s Health Sciences Facility in northern Chatham.

Public Safety

Chatham’s projected population growth has a lot of side effects, but something that might be missed is how public safety, including 9-1-1 communications and Emergency Management, has to respond. One response included in the budget proposal is a \$10 million expansion of the county’s Emergency Operations Center.

“As the community has grown all emergency service disciplines must find ways to meet increased demand,” said Steve Newton, the county’s emergency management director. “In the case of the EOC expansion, we are in a position where there is no more capacity for growth as we prepare to meet that demand.”

There’s currently no room for expansion in the 9-1-1 Communications Center, Newton said, so new personnel have been placed in the EOC. But if those population estimates are met, they’re going to run out of space. Additionally, the center has “aging mechanical systems” and needs work to “meet modern grounding requirements and standards for public safety telecommunications systems,” Newton said.

Part of meeting standards for telecommunications systems will come with an \$18,909,295 investment in a new radio system. Mike Reitz, Chatham’s emergency communications director, said the current 30-year-old system has “reached the end-of-life regarding hardware, infrastructure and overall design,” and the upgraded system will “ensure” public safety agencies to communicate “effectively and reliably.”

Reitz also spoke about the necessity to upgrade to establish clean communications with areas surrounding Chatham, that the new system will be able to connect better with surrounding municipalities.

“We are currently on a VHF/UHF radio system and most others around us are on an 800 MHz system,” he said. “These are disparate radio systems. From daily operations to major incidents or events, our county experiences challenges communicating with surrounding counties.”

Doing the radio system upgrade and EOC expansion simultaneously, LaMontagne wrote in his budget message, will “maximize the capacity for borrowing and... provide efficiency between the two related projects.”

Senior Services

Contributions to the

Chatham Council on Aging only account for \$1,300,506 of a nine-figure budget, but the county is upping its funding of senior services by 30 percent.

In his budget message, LaMontagne said the COA has received “two significant cuts in state funding” that require the county to step in, without which COA Director Dennis Streets said the agency would be “less able to help seniors remain safe at home, less able to support family caregivers and less able to offer opportunities for wellness and engagement.”

The county is providing an additional \$177,140 for transportation services. The COA contracts with the nonprofit Chatham Transit to run eight routes bringing seniors to the Pittsboro and Siler City senior centers for lunch and activities Monday through Friday. Streets said the services has 89 total riders right now, 12 of them new since January. Chatham Transit will also bring seniors to medical appointments.

The COA has been getting federal funds to help pay for those services, but Streets said those grants will be cut “by more than half” starting July 1. He added that not getting those funds from the county would cut back on transportation and have a “ripple effect on other service needs.” For example, several riders are homebound and may not receive meals if they don’t get rides.

The budget proposal allocates \$91,020 to in-home aide personal care services. The COA contracts with state-licensed home care agencies to help seniors that need assistance with “activities of daily living,” such as bathing, dressing, meal preparations and some light housekeeping. Streets said the program has been supported by the county and North Carolina’s Home and Community Care Block Grant, but funds from the block grant will “likely be cut by about \$31,000 unless the General Assembly takes action to increase overall funding in North Carolina.” Chatham’s program, which also provides respite for caregivers, served 89 residents last year and has seven on a waitlist and another eight for caregiver respite.

LaMontagne said in the budget message that additional funds would also be used to provide a higher wage for aides “to address aide shortage.”

Finally, the county will contribute \$30,362 for general purposes. Like the schools and emergency operations, senior services will soon begin to feel the effects of growth in Chatham. Almost a third of the county’s population is 60 and older, and according to the 2018-2023 Aging Plan, Chatham will be the 4th oldest county in the state in terms of proportion of older adults by 2030.

“The aging of Chatham’s population is clear and compelling,” LaMontagne wrote. “The County’s general allocation to the Council is vital to providing the required match for other public and private grants and gives the Council the flexibility to meet the growing needs of seniors and their families who view the Council as the primary source of access to information and service.”

Not a unique situation

Several of the county’s budget categories are seeing increases from last year: an 8 percent jump in administration, 7 percent in human services, 3 percent in public safety and 12 percent in culture/education/recreation. The budget also says debt expenditures are expected to jump 36 percent from fiscal year 2018-2019.

But Chatham is not alone among its neighbors in considering a tax rate increase. Wake County is debating a 6.36-cent increase, to go

from 65.44 to 71.8 cents. In total, 76 percent of the increase will be directed toward education purposes.

Alamance County’s proposed budget for the next fiscal year has an 8-cent increase, with the rate jumping from 59 to 67 cents. Eighty-eight percent of that jump will go towards bonds and pay-as-you-go projects for the public school system and Alamance Community College.

Short-term, LaMontagne wrote in the budget message, growth in the county’s property tax base and local sales tax collections has been good, and there’s optimism that residential and commercial construction projects currently in the pipeline will “turn...around” the recent dip.

“We’re making wise investments in our schools, our capital projects and our employees to ensure that we are well-positioned for growth,” he wrote. “While our two new schools and new health sciences building at CCC will help us deal with the expected growth, these investments are substantial and additional capital projects are on the horizon. We will have to be cautious about how we invest our resources to ensure our continued wise financial stewardship.”

The full budget proposal is available online at chathamnc.org/annualbudgets, and copies are also available at the three county library branches. The public can give its input on the budget at public hearings May 20 (6 p.m., Chatham County Historic Courthouse, Pittsboro) and May 21 (6 p.m., Siler City Town Hall Courtroom, Siler City), and the commissioners will hold work sessions May 23 and 30, if needed. The coun-

FY 2019-2020 MAJOR NEW EXPENSES

\$825,000

CCS TEACHER SUPPLEMENT

\$1.4 mil.

OPENING COST FOR CHATHAM GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\$296,400

ADDITIONAL SENIOR SERVICES FUNDING (30% INCREASE)

\$3.973 mil.

ADDITIONAL DEBT PAYMENTS

\$310,344

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY OPS AND COMMS FUNDING (19% INCREASE)

SOURCE: CHATHAM COUNTY GOV'T

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

ty’s goal is to have the budget finalized and approved on June 17.

Reporter Zachary

Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnc.org or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.

“Another year of severe weather coupled with the passage of several bills currently under discussion in the General Assembly could impact our revenue at a time when we are faced with increased expense from capital projects, support for schools and state funding cuts to critically needed services. The budget presented here is the result of all county departments working together toward the common goal of being wise stewards of public funds while continuing to provide needed services.”

DAN LAMONTAGNE, *Chatham County Manager*

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Chatham News + Record SPORTS

MAY 16-22, 2019 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Northwood girls advance to third round with 2-1 triumph over Hunt

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

WILSON — On paper, Wilson Hunt, the No. 3 seed in the East Region, was supposed to handle No. 19-seeded Northwood pretty handily in second round NCHSAA 3A State Playoff soccer action Friday evening.

Think again. Northwood again proved that the Big Eight Conference is the premiere 3A girls soccer conference in the state by doubling the shot totals on Hunt en route to a 2-1 victory.

With the win, Northwood (16-6-1) advances to play fellow conference foe and reigning division champion East Chapel Hill (16-2-2). Northwood dealt the Wildcats their lone league loss with a 2-1 win in Pittsboro on April 3, before ECH won the rematch 2-0 over in Orange County.

East Chapel Hill topped Southern Alamance 2-0 in the opening round before surviving Eastern Alamance in PK's 4-3 on Friday night.

Hunt closes the season at 14-3, recording 10 shutouts and

having allowed just 12 games coming into Friday night.

In Wilson, what else can you say about the Lady Chargers? They were simply on a mission to advance.

"We needed our seniors to step up tonight and they did," said Northwood coach David Holub. "To have them come here (Wilson Hunt), step up and extend the season for the team is a priceless memory. They didn't want their last game to be tonight."

The Chargers actually fell behind in the 19th minute of the contest on a Kirsten Amrstrong run which allowed the Warrior sophomore star to attack Northwood goalie Ella Strayer one-on-one. Strayer made a decisive charge at the approaching Armstrong, but the Hunt striker lifted the ball over the NW goalie and into the net for a 1-0 lead for the Warriors.

But Northwood never wavered, and continued to attack the entire 80 minutes, including out-shooting Hunt 11-2 in the opening half.

Jules Hubbard provided the

equalizer in the 34th minute of the first half on a slick give and go play with Katie Fuller.

With the game knotted at 1-1 at the intermission, the strategy was simple for the Chargers in the second half, remain aggressive.

Just 12 minutes in, it paid off for Northwood when Helena Hysong hauled in a pass from Hubbard and found the net in what would be the game-winner.

Hunt was out-shot 8-4 in the second half by the Chargers, and never really threatened outside a corner kick with 16:05 left, which was kicked around before bounding just outside the right post.

Strayer, who had six saves, would keep the Warriors off the board to preserve the victory while picking up the win in goal after working all 80 minutes.

Holub had plenty of praise for his Chargers.

"Hubbard and Hysong have been playing hurt all season and Hubbard really was terrific in her 50 minutes of play, patiently waiting for the oppor-



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Olivia Marsh keeps pace with teammate Angel Vue as they run for the goal in recent high school action.

tunities to unfold and then attacking the space was her mode for the night," Holub pointed out. "We had six players that played all 80 minutes, including Madeline Conte who roamed and controlled the midfield."

Hallie and Sydney Arnott,

Taylor Pollard all played 80 minutes along with Conte, Katie and Korrine Fuller, while MacKenzie Kremer played 77 strong minutes and Angel Vue 68 more.

Rachel Cox took the loss in the net for Wilson Hunt.

Woods Charter girls fall in second round

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

WAKE FOREST — A strong season for the Woods Charter girls soccer team came to a close on Friday in second round action of the NCHSAA 1A State Playoffs in a 5-0 loss to powerful Franklin Academy.

Woods Charter (11-7) could do little against Franklin Academy (20-0) which broke open a tight 1-0 game at the half with four goals in the final 40 minutes to cap the victory.

The balance of the host Patriots was impressive as five different players scored including a goal apiece by Niamh Stephan, Merytt Haney, Kennedy Capps, Ashlynn Stephan, and Shae Wells.

Capps added an assist as did Emma Bailey, Lindsey Diehl, and Kate Sollom.

Woods Charter fared much better three days earlier when the Wolves played host to Holmes High School the first round of the state playoffs.

In what was a tight struggle throughout, a goal by Danielle Vaughn off a nice feed from Eloise Maclean was the difference in the contest, and the only score in the entire 80 minutes.

Vaughn's goal provided Woods Charter with just enough offense as Alex Christian collected the shutout in goal.

Christian, Moses, and Maggie Johnston played their final game for what is a young Woods Charter team.

Jordan-Matthews girls overwhelm Bunn 7-0

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews' Ashley Ruiz dribbles the ball down the sideline in recent high school action.

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews was notably nervous in its state playoff opener versus Spring Creek last Tuesday.

Three nights later that wasn't the case as the J-M girl's soccer team overwhelmed Bunn 7-0 on Friday evening in Siler City in second round action of the NCHSAA 2A State Playoffs.

"We were so happy to host a Friday night game, and the J-M and Siler City community really came out and supported us," said J-M coach Chip Millard. "The Jets felt the home field advantage all night."

Millard said practice time was key in preparing for a dangerous Bunn attack.

"We saw that Bunn's team was fronted by three forwards that were lighting fast, and could really slice through a defense to shoot, and score often," continued Millard. "We worked in practice with our already strong defense to recognize their sprint to the goal, then rush to contain them. We worked hard in practice to play as a complete team, and communicate as a team during the match, something we had not done with consistency throughout the season."

That practice and preparation paid off as Jordan-Matthews put forth its most complete team effort all season in dominating the contest for all 80 minutes in taking the 7-0 victory.

"Playing as a team, and communicating as a team, allowed us to control the game the entire 80 minutes," added Millard.

Yasmin Rivera scored two goals in the first half, including tapping in a ball off of a cross from the right side of the field by Diana Mendoza halfway through the first half. Two minutes later, in a scramble in front of the goal on a corner kick, Rivera was able to get her foot on the ball and crash into goal to send the Lady Jets up 2-0.

In the second half the Lady Jets relentlessly kept attacking, which led to 5 goals in the final 40 minutes of action.

See **GIRLS**, page B2

Uwharrie Charter ousts Chatham Central from 1A state playoffs

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Uwharrie Charter erupted for three runs in the top of the first to seize the early momentum and behind a complete-game pitching effort from Hunter Hill cruised to a 6-0 triumph over Chatham Central in second-round play of the 2019 NCHSAA 1A West Region state baseball playoffs Thursday night on Ronald Scott Field.

Improving to 6-0 all-time against the Bears, the 10th-seed Eagles climbed to 20-5 overall and advanced to the third round of post-season competition for the fourth straight year, as they will now travel to New London to meet



Staff photo by David Bradley

Uwharrie Charter's catcher Colyn Grissom holds up the ball for umpire Doug Greene to make the call. Grissom tagged Chatham Central's base runner Lofton Dodson at the plate for the out.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Rock in to the plate

Chatham Charter's Sydney Bowman lets one fly in the recent tournament game with Swain County. Allyson Bare, on third base, is ready to make the play.

See **OUSTS**, page B4

Soccer success and a hit here or there can make all the difference



DON BEANE
Sports Editor

Kudos to the Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Woods Charter girls soccer teams last week.

The three Chatham County squads went 5-1 on the week and the Lady Jets and Lady Chargers advanced into the

third round.

In Siler City, Jordan-Matthews two a pair of huge steps as a program under coach Chip Millard with a pair of home wins after winning the 2A PAC 7 Conference.

The Jets down Spring Creek in the opener 4-2 after trailing 2-0 in the second half. To say the least, the local bunch showed some real resolve in the face of adversity.

Jordan-Matthews then rode that momentum to a 7-0 thrashing of Bunn. The Jets will have their hands full with powerful Croatan in the third round down on the NC coast, but regardless of the outcome, it's been a huge success this spring for the local bunch.

Northwood, meanwhile, just

wow! The same can be said for coach David Holub's club which plays in the toughest 3A conference in the state in the Big Eight.

The Lady Chargers closed in third place, and have proceeded to take down Cleveland and Wilson Hunt, both on the road. The grit and determination of the Northwood squad which has a roster mixed with both veteran and young players, was on full display.

Northwood now takes on a strong East Chapel Hill squad in the third round of the states, but it's important to remember that the Chargers deal the league champion Wildcats their lone Big Eight loss of the season. Whether or not this team can move on, it certainly shows how the NW program is ready to take steps to reach the new heights in the future.

As for Woods Charter, the Lady Wolves pulled off a great win over Holmes High, a very good program, in the first round off a great goal from Danielle Vaughn. Woods fell to top-seeded Franklin who's 20-0 in the second round, but the young Wolves played tough for a half and have a lot to build upon in the future.

It was an agonizing week for area teams in the opening rounds of the state playoffs in baseball and softball last week.

All told, the Chatham County teams went 0-7 on the diamond, but easily could have won half of those games.

The Northwood baseball team was pure and simple, better than Jacksonville despite what the seeds said entering the contest. The Chargers left nine men on base in the last four innings, and simply could not get a key hit in the 3-2 loss.

And that is often the difference in these close games, especially in the state playoffs.

The Chatham Central girls softball team also could not get the timely hit in a 3-2 loss to West Montgomery, and the same was true for the Chatham Charter girls softball team who fell 8-7 to Swain County.

Despite the agonizing losses, the local squads gave great efforts and it's always great to see how talented our kids are, and it annually shows with their efforts against other teams across the state of North Carolina.



Submitted photo

Female Athlete of the Year!

Tamaya Walden was selected as the 2018-2019 Female Athlete of the Year on Friday evening at the Chatham Charter Middle School Athletic Banquet.

Northwood drops tough 3-2 decision to Jacksonville in opening round of 3A state playoffs

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

JACKSONVILLE — Josh Grosz's solo home run to left in the bottom of the sixth inning here on Tuesday night provided the host Cardinals with a 3-2 victory over Northwood in the opening round of the NCHSAA 3A State Playoffs.

Northwood played well

enough to win but could not get the key hit to put the locals over the top in closing the season at 16-10 overall.

Jacksonville (21-5) advanced to the second round to host Western Harnett.

It didn't take the Chargers long on Tuesday evening to take a 1-0 advantage when Michael Posse teed off on a Grosz

pitch and drove it over the wall in left field.

The Cardinals responded with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first highlighted aided by a NW error which allowed two runs to come across after singles by Cooper Ferguson and Brody Meyer.

Northwood tied the game at 2-all in the top of the third when Tyler Johnson and Deuce Powell

walked, and Zizzy Newll slapped a two-out single to left to plate Johnson.

Unfortunately, the Chargers would strand nine runners over the next four innings, including the bases loaded in the top of the sixth, allowing the Grosz homer to be the difference in the contest.

Northwood outhit Jacksonville 9-4 in the contest to make the outcome even

more of a heartbreaker.

Posse was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI to lead the Chargers offensively while Newall was 2-for-4 with an RBI, and Landon Johnson and Quin Powell both 2-for-4 with Powell adding a double.

Tyler Johnson, who was 1-for-3 at the plate, hurled 6 innings in taking the loss and allowed four hits, three runs (two

earned), walked none and fanned four.

Picking up the win in relief for the Cardinals was Cade Anderson who worked the final 1.2 innings and yielded two hits and two walks while striking out three.

Grosz went 5.1 innings for the victors and allowed seven hits, two runs, three walks and struck out eight.

West Montgomery edges Bears in second-round heartbreaker

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — A terrific 2019 season officially came to an end for the Chatham Central softball team Thursday evening in Bear Creek as West Montgomery edged Chatham Central 3-2 in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A State Playoffs.

Chatham Central closes the season at 14-4 overall after receiving an opening round bye following regular season and tournament titles out of the Central Tar Heel Conference.

West Montgomery (17-4), meanwhile, will move on to the third round where the Warriors will travel to Robbinsville (21-3) up in the Smokey Mountains in a game that was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

The two teams, which met last year in the state playoffs in a game won 1-0 by the Bears, have seen the outcome of the last four games between the two former league foes decided by one run each time.

Chatham Central outhit West Montgomery 8-7 in the contest but simply could not get a timely hit when needed outside of two solo home runs by Mary Grace Murchison.

After squandering a Bailey Barker single in the first and a Lauren Oldham base hit in the second, Murchison stared at a 1-2 count with two outs

in the home half of the third before driving a Ivey Black fastball over the fence in centerfield to give the Bears a 1-0 advantage.

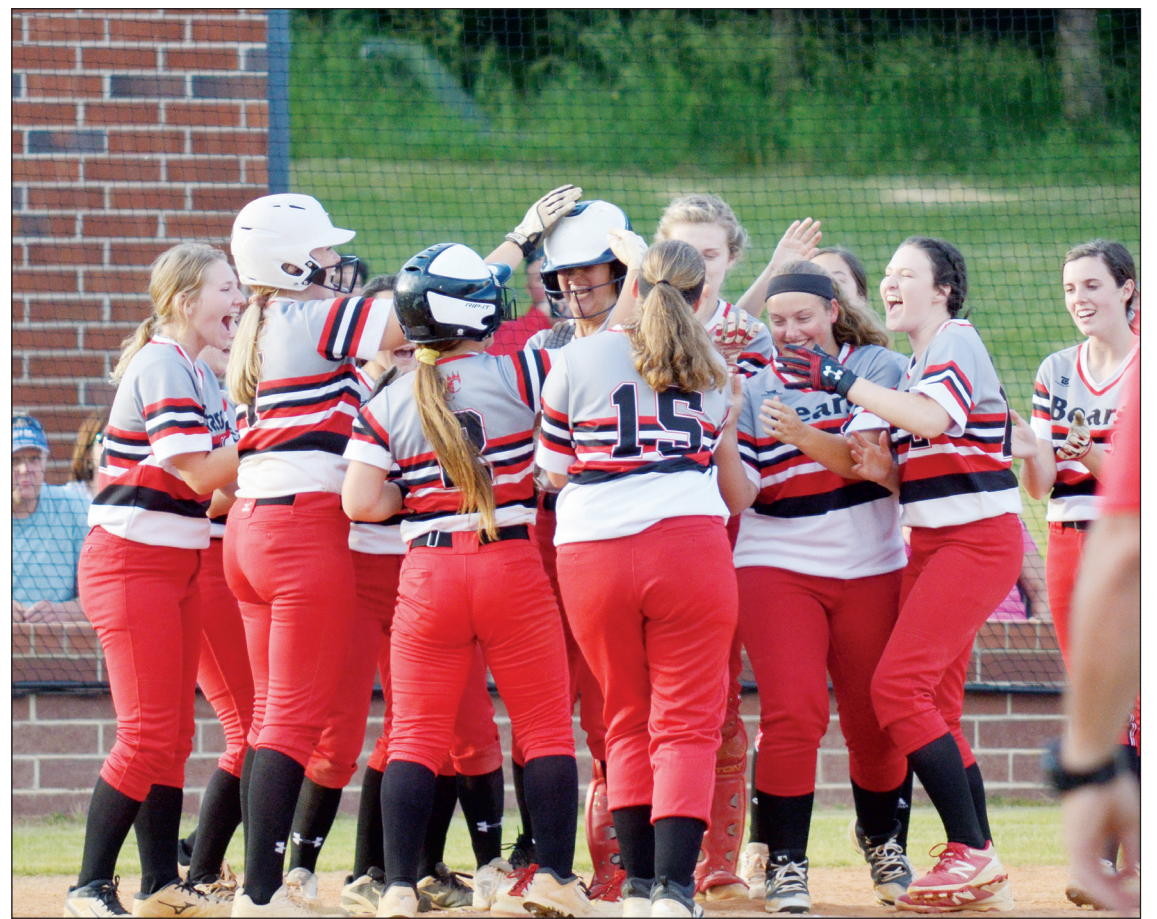
The Warriors responded with a run in the top of the fourth when Abbey Alderman and Abby Yarboro walked to lead things off, both stole bases, and Alderman scored on a fly out by Madison Burris to Barker in centerfield. Barker made a heads up play by throwing to Oldham at third to cut down Yarboro, who would have scored moments later on a single by Kerstin Davenport if it weren't for the heroics of Barker.

Oldham and Lauren Collins both singled in the bottom of the fourth, but the Bears could not plate a run.

That changed in the fifth, however, when Murchison was at it again, this time launching a one-out, first pitch from Blake over the fence in left field for her second homer of the contest.

While Chatham Central struggled to string hits together to push runs across outside of Murchison's two round trippers, subsequently leading to seven runners stranded, West Montgomery did come through in the clutch, especially in its final two at-bats.

Alderman doubled to center, moved to third one out later on



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central celebrates the first of two homers by Mary Grace Murchison on Thursday, May 9 down in Bear Creek against West Montgomery. The Bears lost the second round contest 3-2 to the Warriors.

a passed ball, and then scored on an RBI-single to center by Burris to tie the game at 2-2.

Chatham Central would squander singles by Gracie Gaines and Oldham in the bottom of the sixth to send the contest into the final inning at a stalemate.

And once again, West Montgomery came up with a clutch hit, this time in the form of an RBI-single from Destiny Brown on a bloop to right field, which plated Kendall Davenport who had singled to left, and moved to second on a ground out to first by Grace

Schulte Austim.

Blake would retire the Bears top of the lineup in order in the home half of the seventh to seal the victory for the Warriors.

Murchison led Chatham Central offensively with a 2-for-4 effort with two runs, two RBI and two homers while Oldham closed her final game as a Bear 3-for-3 at the plate.

Collins and Gaines were each 1-for-3 in the loss for the Bears while Barker was 1-for-4.

Redington suffered the loss on the mound after working all seven innings, throwing 101 pitches (61 percent for strikes),

allowing seven hits, three runs (one earned), two balls and striking out three.

West Montgomery was paced offensively by Burris who was 1-for-2 with two RBI and a sacrifice fly while Alderman was 1-for-3 with two runs, a walk and a stolen base, Kendall Davenport 2-for-3 with a run, and Kerstin Davenport and Blake each 1-for-3.

Blake notched the win on the mound for the Warriors by going seven innings, throwing 69 pitches (75% for strikes), allowing eight hits, no walks, two runs and fanning two.

GIRLS

Continued from page B1

The first two were scored by our right forward Diana Mendoza, the first a rebound that had bounced off of the goal, and the second goal was of the spectacular kind as Diana collected the ball in midfield, began to dribble toward goal, saw that no one from Bunn was stepping up to defend her. Mendoza proceeded to barge forward and put it in the goal, past Bunn goalkeeper Delylah Jackson.

Jennifer Parroquin, the Jets leading scorer,

then went to work and the sophomore twice worked to dribble through defenders to get the open shot and found the net on two occasions to up the Jordan-Matthews advantage to a commanding 6-0.

The last goal of the evening, with 10 minutes remaining, came from another cross in from Mendoza who connected with Brisa Romero for the tap in to goal for the 7-0 triumph.

"Even with all the offensive effort, the star of the night on the Jets team was senior goalkeeper Hannah Jones," noted Millard. "She had 15 saves in the contest, including three

that forced her in the air for diving saves. The most spectacular of the night had her making a save on a hard shot from a Bunn attacker and Hannah could get her hand on the ball, but not contain it, so the ball pushed back out. The same attacker kicked another shot on goal, but Hannah reacted in time to make a second save!"

Jones collected the win in the shutout for the Jets who improved to 14-7 while Jackson suffered the loss for 9-6 Bunn.

"We were really surprised after the game that we had fared so well against Bunn, who had an excellent regular season,

and scored in every contest," closed Millard. "But our complete team effort was just hard to beat - it was as if everything we had worked on in practice all season came to fruition in the playoff game."

Jordan-Matthews now faced a monumental road contest on Wednesday evening in the third round of the state playoffs when the Lady Jets travel to No. 1 Seed in the East, Croatan High School. Croatan is 20-3 on the season and fresh off back to back 9-0 playoff wins over Wilson Beddingfield and South Lenoir.

Millard feels his Jets can go on give the pow-

erful Cougars a match if they continue to communicate and play as a team.

"We understand how strong of a team they are, but feel if we can replicate our effort and communication we offered in the Bunn game, we can compete with a team of Croatan's level," pointed out Millard.

Regardless of the outcome, Millard is proud of his team for all they have accomplished thus far this season.

"We are also so happy with our season so far, and at the first of the season, as a team, we set a goal of finishing first in conference, and we did," Millard said. "Then we

started looking to playoffs, and setting goals of advancing in the playoffs (last year we lost in the first round to a strong Richlands team), and have now advanced to the third round! We are happy with the success, but want to keep pushing forward for two reasons. One to see how far we can go in the playoffs, bringing recognition to the Lady Jets Soccer program, and the second is that the players have formed a strong bond of team spirit this season, and they want to keep playing together! Especially for the 9 seniors on the team that have led us all the way."



Submitted photo

Male Athlete of the Year!

Jackson Brown was chosen as the 2018-2019 Male Athlete of the Year on Friday night at the Chatham Charter Middle School Athlete Banquet.

3A STATE PLAYOFFS

Chargers run into buzz saw, get no-hit by Cleveland

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

CLAYTON — The Northwood softball team ran into the proverbial buzz saw May 7 in Clayton as Anna Kate Gilchrist hurled a no-hitter and Cleveland pounded out 13 hits in a 12-0 rout of the Chargers in five innings in opening round action of the NCHSAA 3A State Playoffs.

Northwood, the No. 27 seed in the East, closed the season at 15-8 overall while Cleveland, the No. 6 seed in the East, advance on to the second round contest versus Grays Creek with a 15-5 mark. Gilchrist was sharp the entire night as the senior hurler faced just 18 batters, threw 83 pitches, and allowed three walks while striking out nine.

Meanwhile, Cleveland was busy at the plate providing Gilchrist with more than enough run support with three runs in the first before adding one in the second, three in the third, and five in the fourth. Caris Allen led the Rams attack with a 2-for-3 effort with an RBI, two runs, a double and a walk while Paige Smith was

2-for-2 with a run and an RBI, and Gilchrist 2-for-3 with a double. Nikki Piatek tripled and Kayla Womack homered for Cleveland in the win. The loss for what is a young Northwood team closed out great careers for seniors Mayci Springle, Hannah Weigle, Allison Coker and Morgan Crutchfield.

Deep River Muddogs offering private workouts for high schoolers

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

RAMSEUR — The Deep River Muddogs recently announced they will be conducting private workouts for high school-aged players interested in improving all aspects of their game.

Actual games are played on college campuses, players can work out at the team's hitting and training facility, teams have paid coaches and practices with college coaches are scheduled to be held once a month. Please call/text 336-465-6694 to set up a workout, or for more information go to www.muddogsbaseball-club.com.

Providence Grove marches past Jets in 2A state playoff opener

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

LINEBERRY — Providence Grove's Jordan Hodges limited Jordan-Matthews to five hits and fanned at least one batter every inning in going the distance on the mound while the Patriots tallied four runs in the bottom of the second to take control early en route to whitewashing the Jets 8-0 in opening-round action of the 2019 NCHSAA 2A East Region state baseball playoffs Tuesday night on the winners' field. Improving to 14-4 lifetime against J-M while defeating the visitors from Siler City for the sixth time in their last seven meetings, eighth-seed Providence Grove raised its season record to 16-8 and will next host ninth-seed N.C. School of Science & Math (14-1) Friday evening in a second-round contest, whereas 25th-seed Jordan-Matthews finished the year with an overall mark of 12-11. Hurling his fourth complete game and third shutout of the season, Hodges issued one walk and struck out eight in lowering his earned run

average to a glistening 0.81. The senior right-hander threw a total of 89 pitches, including 60 (67%) for strikes. Meanwhile, Jackson Jones and Ben Campbell collected two hits apiece to pace the Patriots' eight-hit attack and combined to drive in five runs off a pair of Jets' pitchers. "Jordan has been our most consistent pitcher all year, and his eighth win tonight ties the single-season school record," said Providence Grove coach Jerry Kidd, who earned his 159th victory in his 11th and final year guiding the Patriots, during which time he has led them to nine state playoff appearances. "Not only did we take advantage of walks and misplays this evening, but we managed to get some big hits with guys in scoring position," added Kidd. "We also played the glove well on defense with no errors, while the outfield did a good job keeping fly balls in front of them." Junior right-hander Samuel Murchison started on the hill for J-M and suffered the loss after yielding four hits and five earned runs in addition to walking three and whiffing six over four innings of work. Senior southpaw Kevin Cano tossed the last two frames for Jordan-Matthews, surrendering four

"Their pitcher threw well, and we never could generate any offense except for the one inning we collected four hits and still couldn't score. While I'm disappointed with tonight's loss, we have a good nucleus of players coming back and I fully expect us to be in the mix again next year."

JOHN WILL HEADEN, *Jets' coach*

hits and three unearned runs while striking out two. Referring to the fact three of his team's four errors led directly to Providence Grove runs, Jets' coach John Will Headen commented you can't be kicking the ball around in the playoffs against a good ball club. "It would have been nice to have our 'A-game' this evening, but instead I would grade us with a 'D' performance," noted Headen. "Their pitcher threw well, and we never could generate any offense except for the one inning we collected four hits and still couldn't score," Headen said. "While I'm disappointed with tonight's loss, we have a good nucleus of players coming back and I fully expect us to be in the mix again next year."

The Patriots paraded eight batters to the plate in the bottom of the second to forge a 4-0 advantage as Hodges drew a leadoff walk on four pitches and one out later Campbell stroked a double up the alley in left-center to send courtesy runner Nathan Humble to third before the latter continued home when the ball was misplayed in the outfield. Following a full-count free pass issued to Travis Boone, Parker Robb notched a two-out base hit up the gap in right-center to score Campbell prior to Jones belting an opposite-field double up the alley in left-center to drive in Boone and Robb.

Providence Grove added a solo run in the home third to extend its lead to 5-0 as leadoff batter Drew Needham blooped a double to shallow right field, advanced to third on a one-out wild pitch and came in to score on Campbell's groundout. Jordan-Matthews mounted its only serious threat in the top of the fourth when Camden Fuquay and Chris Rios rapped back-to-back singles up the middle with one away. After Hodges and shortstop Jackson Jones teamed up to pick Fuquay off second, Murchison scratched an infield hit before Huston Causey lined a single up the middle to load the bases, but Hodges got out of the jam by striking out Seth Moore on a 2-2 offering to end the inning. While Hodges only allowed two other base runners the rest of the way, the Patriots closed out the scoring by plating three runs in the bottom of the fifth. Leadoff batter Luke Thomas reached on an infield hit and one out later moved to third when Hodges raced all the way to second on an infield error. Levi Adams then reached on a fielder's choice and ended up on second as Thomas dashed home on a throwing error that advanced courtesy runner Nathan Humble to third, and Campbell followed with a base hit to left to drive in both Humble and Adams to account for the final margin.

North Stoke conquers Knights

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the second year in a row North Stokes paid a visit to Siler City and knocked Chatham Charter out of the NCHSAA 1A State Playoffs in baseball. Chatham Charter (8-8) fell behind early 3-0 and never could recover in falling 9-5 in opening round action. The Vikings jumped in front 1-0 after one inning, added two more in the second to go up 3-0, and then blew the game open with five runs in the fourth and one more in the fifth to go up 9-2. Chatham Charter would continue to battle and plated three runs in the sixth to go down swinging. Connor Murphy led the Knights at the plate with a 2-for-3 effort that included a run and a walk while Trevor Golden was 1-for-4 with a two-run single, Cameron Kennedy 1-for-3 with an RBI and a walk, and Jacob Brannon 1-for-3 with

an RBI. Tanner Kidd also walked three times and scored two runs while Landon Hussey also walked twice for Chatham Charter. North Stokes (12-12) was led by Joey Bullins who went 1-for-3 with a double, a sacrifice fly and four RBI while Jake Craddock was 1-for-3 with two runs and a double, and Zach Chesnet 1-for-3 with a double. Golden took the loss on the mound for the Knights after working five innings and yielding nine hits, nine runs (seven earned), five walks and striking out four. Connor Murphy hurled two innings of perfect ball while fanning four. Picking up the win on the mound for the Vikings was Bullins who went 5.1 innings and allowed five hits, three runs (two earned), six walks and whiffed seven. Isaiah East notched the save after going 1.2 innings and allowing one hit, a walk and fanning three.



Staff photo by David Bradley

North Stoke's catcher Noah Smith blocks the play as Chatham Charter's Connor Murphy slides for the out at home plate in the bottom of the third inning. Charter made a minor comeback in the sixth before losing the game in Tuesday's tournament play, 9-5.

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Holly Coleman, MS, RS, Health Director
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Northwood girls bounce Cleveland 4-1 in state playoff opener

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

CLAYTON — It didn't take long for No. 14 East seed Cleveland to find out the Northwood girls soccer team meant business May 7. Senior Kenzie Kremer intercepted a slow back pass by the Ram defenders and slid a ball past Cleveland goalie Cara Davis to give the Chargers an early advantage they would never relinquish in capturing a 4-1 victory in the opening round of the NCHSAA 3A State Playoffs. The No. 19-seeded Chargers improved to 15-6-1 with the win while the Rams close the season at 12-7. According to Northwood head coach David Holub, it was a total team effort started by junior Katie

Fuller who had two goals, an assist and controlled the game in the midfield. "Katie Fuller played as good a game as you will see in a high school game," said Holub. "She controlled the game in the midfield, distributing the ball and managing the game speed." Fuller scored just three minutes into the second half with a laser from 20 yards out that evaded a leaping Davis and tucked neatly into the top left hand corner of the net for a 2-0 Lady Chargers lone goal. Cleveland would score its lone goal of the evening eight minutes later on a PK by Cara Davis to cut the deficit to 2-1. It would be all Northwood from that point forward, however, as the

locals dominated the action resulting in the Chargers making run after run down the sides resulting in nine corners, two by Kremer, and two goals, one on a header by Fuller and the other on a score from Helena Hysong to make the final 4-1. "Our ability to control the midfield and exploit the wins really led to the three goals in the second half," closed Holub. "We beat a really good team and second seed from the Greater Neuse Conference tonight." Ella Strayer took the win in goal with four saves for the Chargers in 80 minutes of action. Northwood moved on to tangle with Hunt High out of Wilson in second round state action.

OUSTS

Continued from page B1

second-seed North Stanly (22-2) next Tuesday evening, while seventh-seed Chatham Central suffered its first shutout of the season and had its seven-game winning streak snapped to end the year with a record of 15-8.

Making his first career start, Hill proved to be a dominant force on the mound, allowing just five hits and issuing no walks, going to a three-ball count on only two batters, while fanning 11. The sophomore right-hander threw a total of 104 pitches, including 75 (72 percent) for strikes.

"Hunter had great control this evening and threw strikes while doing a good job getting ahead of batters," said Uwharrie Charter coach Van Hurley Jr.

"Jumping out to a 3-0 lead our first turn at bat was big as it kind of took the wind out of Chatham Central's sails, and although we were able to take advantage of aggressive base running to add some insurance runs later on, we need to do a better job of not leaving people in scoring position."

Senior southpaw Caleb Staley opened on the mound for the Bears and went four innings while absorbing the loss, giving up four hits and five runs (three earned) in addition to issuing four free passes and whiffing four.

Sophomore right-hander Michael Moore hurled three innings in relief, yielding a pair of hits and one earned run besides walking two and striking out four.

"Uwharrie Charter threw a good pitcher who stayed ahead of batters all night, and we could never get anything going offensively while only managing three clean hits," said Chatham Central coach Brett Walden. "We gave ourselves a few opportunities to put runs on the board but couldn't produce timely hits with guys in scoring position. Despite the defeat we never stopped working hard and battled for all seven innings, and I'm proud of everything this team accomplished this year."

The Eagles gave Hill a three-run working margin their initial trip to the plate as Tyler Campbell lined a one-out single to center and scored when Colyn Grissom smashed a double to the left field fence.

Courtesy runner Logan Sawyer then dashed home when Spencer Lanier's fly ball to right-center was dropped, allowing Lanier to race all the way to third before tallying on Bryson Hamlet's sacrifice fly to right.

The Bears threatened in the bottom of the first as leadoff batter Lofton Dodson reached on an infield error and went to second on a two-out groundout prior to being thrown out on a close call at home plate when he attempted to score on Staley's base hit to center.

Uwharrie Charter increased its advantage to 5-0 in the visitors' fourth as Colt Wilkins poked a single to center with one away, stole second and came in to score when Colby Hammer rapped a base hit to right and continued on to second on the throw-in from the outfield.

Hammer then stole third before sprinting home on a wild pitch.

After standing a pair of runners in scoring position with one away in the home second, Chatham Central mounted its last serious threat in the bottom of the fifth when the Bears loaded the bases with one out on Jackson Gray's base hit up the middle, Dodson's single to left and Michael Moore's infield hit.

But Hill then bore down and struck out Tyson Measamer and Staley in succession to snuff out a potential Chatham Central rally as he retired the last eight batters he faced in order, including five on strikeouts, to wrap up the victory.

Granados hat trick ignites Jets' rally in win over Spring Creek in state opener

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Jordan-Matthews girls soccer team was admittedly a bit nervous last Tuesday night in Siler City.

The Lady Jets were hosting Spring Creek in the opening round of the NCHSAA 2A State Playoffs at Phil E. Senter Stadium.

But when the local bunch settled down, the No. 8 seeded Jets rallied for a 4-2 victory.

"Our nerves got the best of them in the first half, and our midfielders and forwards could combine for shots of goal, but nothing was going in," said J-M coach Chip Millard. "In the defensive end of the field we tried to contain Spring Creek's fastest striker (Taylor Smith), but she dribbled her way into a 1-on-1 with our goalkeeper and got the first goal."

Jordan-Matthews would trail

Spring Creek 1-0 at the intermission before the visitors from Seven Springs and No. 25 seeded Gators poked in a second goal early in the second half by Mirna Santiago to make the score 2-0.

"We have practiced all season to keep attacking, even when it seems nothing is working," Millard continued. "If we can keep working to get to goal, and outwork the opponent, at some point the tide will turn."

And it did for the Lady Jets when, at the mid-mark of the second half, midfielder Iris Granados rocketed into the goal on a free kick to close the deficit to 2-1, and give J-M some much needed momentum.

Two minutes later a pair of Jordan-Matthews forwards connected a few passes to put Granados into free space near goal, and she shot for her second goal of the night to tie the game at 2-all.

Granados wasn't done, however, and moments later a foul by Spring

Creek awarded the Jets another free kick within range of the goal, and again, Granados put it in to complete a hat trick for the Jordan-Matthews junior.

The three goals turned the tide in the game and the Lady Jets continued attacking, which Spring Creek desperately fought to contain.

It was to no avail for the Gators, however, as a great dribble up the left side of the field by midfielder Dani Guerrero Jaimes put herself in range and fired a shot onto the right side of the goal. Spring Creek goalkeeper Yericka Garcia put a hand on it to stop the goal, but the ball bounced free which allowed J-M right forward Litzzy Flores Martinez to smash the ball in for the fourth and final goal of the evening.

The four goal onslaught came in a seven minute span in shocking fashion as the Lady Jets advanced to play Bunn in Siler City on Friday night in second round action.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Tournament battles begin!

Two quality teams battled it out in the warm evening air at Southwest Community Park Thursday as Swain County's Mazie Helpman goes for the out at first while Chatham Charter's Rebecca Jordan jumps back to beat the tag. The Knights kept up a constant offensive strategy but ultimately lost the tournament game by one run.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Right time, right place

Chatham Central's Bailey Barker snags the outfield play during Thursday's tournament matchup with West Montgomery in Bear Creek. Chatham Central led in the 5th inning, but lost after giving up two runs in the last two innings.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jonathan Davidson, 22, of Durham, was charged May 7 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with an unknown court date in Durham.

Jeremy Lohry, 24, was taken into custody May 7 on a fugitive warrant for possession of more than 1 gram of methamphetamine or cocaine, possession of a controlled substance and obstructing justice. He was held under a \$50,000 bond with a May 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Katina McCutchen, 46, of Pittsboro, was charged May 8 with failure to pay monies owed. She was held under a \$630 bond with a May 23 court date in Sanford.

Franklin Birchett, 51, of Pittsboro, was charged May 10 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was placed under a mandatory DV hold with a May 15 court date in Pittsboro.

Christoffel Verwoerd, 62, of Pittsboro, was charged May 8 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a May 29 court date in Pittsboro.

Montana Lopossay, 21, of Bear Creek, was charged May 10 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$200 bond with a May 21 court date in Chatham County.

Alexander Walker, 30, of Siler City, was charged May 10 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$200 bond with a June 5 court date in Pittsboro.

Jackie Green Jr., 29, of Siler City, was charged May 10 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$200 bond with a June 5 court date in Pittsboro.

Taylor Powell, 21, of Siler City, was charged May 10 with probation violation. He was held under a \$5,000 bond with a May 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Zachary Lincoln, 25, of Siler

City, was charged May 11 with fleeing to elude arrest, resisting a public officer, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, reckless driving to endangerment, speeding, failure to heed a light of siren, failure to maintain lane control and failure to stop a stop sign. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a May 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Karen Carson, 45, was charged May 11 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$500 bond with a June 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Jordan Scott, 22, of Maxton, was charged May 11 with assault on a female and failure to appear. He was held under no bond with a May 29 court date in Pittsboro.

Steven Thibault, 51, of Fuquay-Varina, was charged May 11 for domestic criminal trespassing. He was held under an \$8,000 bond with a June 17 court date in Raleigh.

Brittany Bryant, 21, of Maxton, was charged May 11 with simple assault and held under no bond with a May 29 court date in Pittsboro. On May 12, Bryant was charged with possession of a controlled substance on jail/prison premises and held under a \$500 bond with a May 13 court date in Pittsboro on that charge.

Christopher Mashburn, 39, of Burlington, was charged May 13 with failure to appear/child support. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a June 6 court date in Troy.

Arlene Denny, 32, of Durham, was charged May 13 with communicating threats. She was released under a written promise with a May 29 court date in Pittsboro.

Luis Flores, 28, of Asheboro, was taken into custody May 13 for an out of state fugitive warrant/probation violation. He was held under a \$100,000 bond with a May 22 court date in Pittsboro.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Erica Almon, 27, of Asheboro, was charged May 10 with felony removing, destroying or deactivating a control device and concealment of merchandise. She was held under a \$1,000 bond with a May 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Autumn Leach, 30, of Asheboro, was charged May 10 with felony removing, destroying or deactivating a control device and concealment of merchandise. She was held under a \$1,000 bond with a May 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Dakota Cordaro, 26, of Siler City, was charged May 12 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a June 5 court date in Asheboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Carolyn DeGraffenreidt of Goldston was cited May 7 for failure to yield violation on U.S. Highway 421 in Goldston.

School board narrows Chatham Grove rezoning to two options

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Several months later, they're down to two.

The Chatham County Board of Education officially eliminated four of six possibilities for the new attendance zones for elementary schools on the eastern side of the county, leaving two scenarios with one difference.

The only difference between Scenarios D and E, the two remaining, is the inclusion of the entire upper half of Chatham Park in the Perry Harrison School attendance zone in Scenario D. In E, the Perry Harrison zone is cut off along U.S. Hwy. 64, with slight overlap to Hanks Chapel Road in Pittsboro.

Chatham County Schools Chief Operating Officer Chris Blice brought multiple new documents before the board

Monday night, including Scenarios E and F. He also presented a Scenario Benefits Matrix, developed in conjunction with N.C. State University's Operations Research and Education Laboratory, which he said measured the presented scenarios with board priorities and other keys. The six-point matrix included:

- Optimal utilization of all schools
- Preventing overcrowding at Chatham Grove by the fifth year
- Allowing room for growth at all elementary schools in the region
- Allowing students on Mt. Gilead Road to attend a closer elementary school
- Having all Chatham Park students going to the same school
- Having all Briar Chapel students going to the same school

Blice particularly stressed what he termed

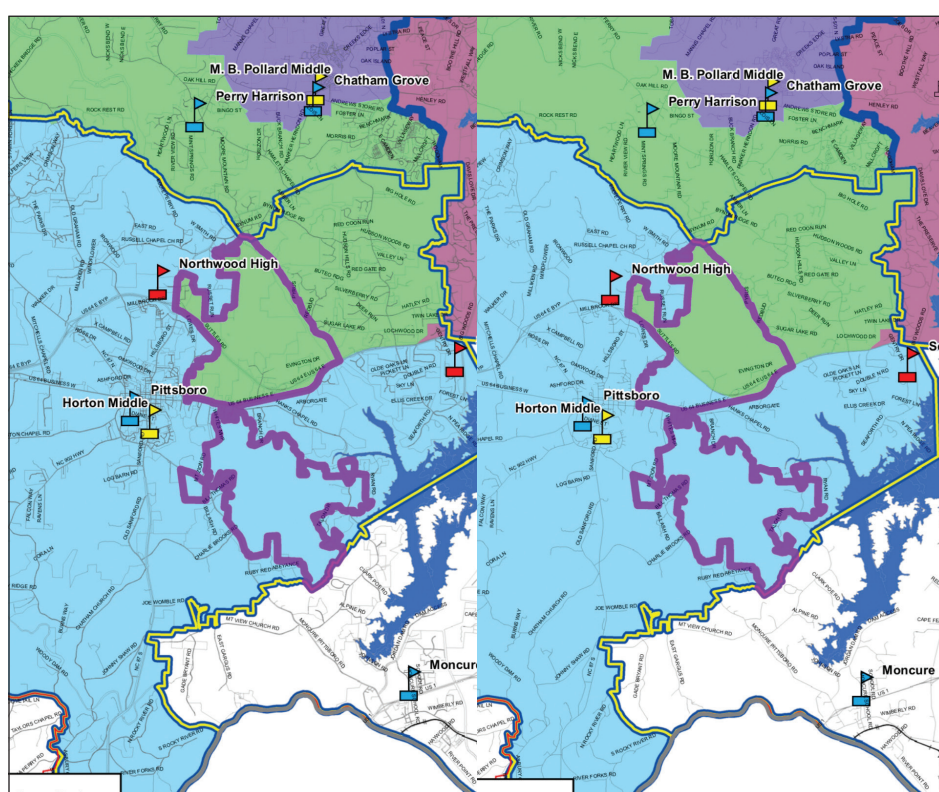
“unanticipated growth,” any new developments or housing that come in response to Chatham Park.

“As Chatham Park develops, there will be other things that pop up,” Blice said. “So we tried to look at how each of the scenarios respond to that.”

On the matrix, Scenario D checked all six listed boxes and was the only one that “allows room for growth at all elementary schools in the region,” while E hit four.

Scenarios A, C and F only checked three, while B only succeeded in two categories. That led the board to unanimously vote to remove A, B, C and F “given (they did) not meet the school board’s objectives and the strategic approach for redistricting Chatham Grove,” according to board member Melissa Hlavac’s motion.

The board delayed making a final decision on the zoning to consider the two remaining options and allow Blice to do some



Images courtesy of Chatham County Schools

The only difference between Scenarios D, on the left, and E is the inclusion of the entire upper half of Chatham Park, outlined in purple, in the Perry Harrison School attendance zone, shown in green, in Scenario D. In E, the Perry Harrison zone is cut off along U.S. Highway 64, with slight overlap to Hanks Chapel Road.

driving comparisons between D and E. A decision could be made at the June or July meetings, something in which the board expressed interest.

Superintendent Derrick Jordan repeated

an oft-stated mantra throughout this process, that “there absolutely won’t be a scenario that will satisfy everybody.”

“We are about one year out, and you’re at a point now where you could

potentially make some decisions now about the boundaries,” he said, “and I think that is huge, as opposed to making the decision next June, which happens in some school districts.”

Household Hazardous Waste Events 2019

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Chatham County's Erosion Control Program receives top state award for 2019

PITTSBORO — The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality has announced that Chatham County's Erosion Control Program earned the 2019 Outstanding Small Local Program Award. The annual award recognizes one large and one small local government most effectively ensuring compliance with the state's Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.

“This is the third time that Chatham County has won this award since 2008, an amazing accomplishment,” said Chatham County Manager Dan

NEWS BRIEFS

Seminar raises awareness about scams targeting seniors

Each year North Carolina recognizes Elder Abuse Awareness Month from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Increasing awareness of one of the most vulnerable populations is now more important than ever. The Adult Services Division of Chatham County Social Services, Cooperative Extension and the Council on Aging and NC Cooperative Extension jointly host a free event on the dangers of scams to bring awareness of elder abuse to you and your loved ones.

The seminar will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 30 at the Council on Aging-Western Senior Center at 112 Village Lake Road in Siler City.

The program will include such topics as internet and fraudulent schemes through the internet, sweepstakes, lotteries, home repairs, phone and telemarketing scams, reverse mortgages and Medicare fraud. Presenters include Hugh Harris with N.C. Dept. of Justice and Stephanie Bias with N.C. Dept. of Insurance.

LaMontagne. “With just four employees involved, they manage to consistently excel at their work. I could not be prouder of this great team. Our

board of commissioners also has made erosion control and protection of water resources a top priority.”

Chatham's Watershed Protection Department, led by Rachael Thorn, oversees the enforcement of erosion control for both the county and the Town of Pittsboro through an inter-local agreement.

“This is particularly important in the coming years, because the entire Chatham Park development is within the planning area of the Town of Pittsboro,” LaMontagne said.

Besides department director Thorn, the department includes three watershed specialists: Morgan DeWit Sr., Drew Blake and Justin Hasenfus.

The DEQ award presentation cited the Chatham County's unique challenges in dealing with difficult soil types and topography. They lauded staff's ability to adapt to the increased volume of required inspections,

effective enforcement initiatives, and webpages that are easy-to-navigate, understandable, and thorough.

The presenter of the award noted that Chatham's erosion control staff manage to respond to every complaint within 24-48 hours to instill public confidence that construction impacts are investigated.

Chatham County continues to be the eighth fastest growing county in the state and sometimes is in the top five. The county requires erosion and sedimentation control plans when land disturbances reach 25,000 square feet or more for residential construction and 20,000 square feet for commercial construction.

All erosion control projects typically must be inspected every 14 days. The plan checklist includes requirements for N.C. Dept. of Transportation permits and N.C. general construction site permits.

— CN+R Staff Reports

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Latinx Youth Group provides empowerment, trust for Chatham's Latinx teens

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY—For about a year and a half, Latinx students from Jordan-Matthews have been meeting, growing, and learning about their culture and how to play active roles in their community. The group, called Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP), was the idea of Selina Lopez, Youth Leadership Program Manager for the Hispanic Liaison. Orgullo is the Spanish word for pride.

"At first it didn't have a name," Lopez said. "I thought it was important that the group named themselves because this was their group and that was an important piece of the program."

Lopez notes that growing up in a small town in Warren County, she understands the challenges of Latinx youth in small towns. She says that when she was able to go to the School of Science and Math in Durham it was a true blessing that helped prepare her for UNC-Chapel Hill, where she graduated with degrees in Psychology and Hispanic Literature and Culture. During her time at UNC-Chapel Hill, she discovered mentoring, starting several programs that are still in existence on the campus today. These groups showed her the importance of "making sure the next generation has the skills for the future."

The students meet for homework sessions, college readiness, community service projects, and field trips to prepare them for their futures. More than simply supplying information, the group provides a safe space for Latinx youth to explore and find their voices in society. A few of the students who participate in the group, presented their stories to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners last month and then again to the Siler City Board of Commissioners last week.

Grecia, a sophomore at Jordan-Matthews, noted the impact OLP has had on his academic experience, making him a better student.

"My freshmen year was very tough for me but this year I have become more responsible with my education and have improved my grades thanks to the homework hour we have in OLP," Grecia said. "I have also learned how to take school more seriously thanks to OLP and my peers."

Oscar, a junior who will be the first in his family to attend college, continued on the vein of the group's effect academics.

"Being the first-generation college student in my family, I do not have anyone to talk to about the college process because my parents did not have the same opportunity as I have," Oscar said. "Being in OLP I am exposed to people who have been through the college process so I'm able to ask questions to my mentors about colleges in general. Just having that extra support really benefits me to being prepared when it's time to apply college."

For some students, participating in OLP is an opportunity to learn how to engage with their peers.

"OLP has really pushed me outside of my comfort zone," Carlos, a freshman said. "I was, and still am shy, but OLP has really pushed me to work on my public speaking skills. Before I joined, I would have never raised my hand to answer a question in school or talk to people that I have maybe seen, but never talked to before."

"I used to be socially awkward and making new friends was difficult for me," Berenice said. "From the moment I placed that black pen over the sign-up sheet, I knew I made the greatest decision in my life. I soon made brand new friends who have the power to boost my self-esteem. They made me have the confidence to be more open towards others and push me to share my thoughts and ideas of the world. OLP has shaped



Submitted photo

Group picture starting from the left to right of first row: Grecia, Oscar, Kevin (presenting on behalf of Esmar and Carlos), Berenice, Ervin, Jackie, Jocelyn. Second row: Me (Selina), Lenore, Noemi, Cesia, Lizbeth.

me into who I am today."

Ervin, a freshman, noted that the group's efforts in community service and volunteering have bolstered not only his confidence, but a desire to give back to the community. The group has volunteered with the Hispanic Liaison's Fiesta, a community dinner, the Jordan Lake Clean-up, and the Siler City Litter Sweep last month to clean up N. Chatham Avenue.

"This program really puts a lot of effort in our community and in us as youth because it gives us opportunities to give back to our home," Ervin said. "This program pushes me outside my comfort zone because it forces me to practice my communication skills with people. That at first, made me a little nervous because meeting new people for the first time is pretty nerve wracking for me because I struggle with what to say sometimes. Through volunteering, I have gained better communication skills and have been able to interact with different people."

The group has taken several scholastic field trips to learn more about higher education and the processes to get into college. OLP has visited both the UNC-Greensboro and N.C. State campuses.

"OLP is very important to me and as for someone who loves going to new places, having the opportunity to be able to go on field trips is so amazing and helpful," Jackie, a junior said. "It allows me to see other places and cultures, and experience things I would've never had the chance of doing."

Beyond academics and peer engagement, many of the group members spoke about how learning and exploring their culture brought a level of empowerment and the strength to share their experiences with the community around them.

"Culture gives people a chance to learn from other people and see the world through their eyes," Jocelyn, a fresh-

man said. "It is important to be proud of your culture no matter where you come from. But there are some people in the world and in this town who refuse to accept our differences. OLP gives us a chance to express ourselves, it's a safe spot where we can speak our minds and how we feel about the world around us. OLP lets out and embraces our creativity. Learning more about my culture has inspired me to accept my culture and do more cultural paintings."

"By Selina encouraging us to embrace our story and what we have gone through and how we have overcome it has helped me realize that I am powerful and there is power in my story," Cesia, a senior said. "That being said I now have a different mindset. I now know that my opinion matters and that I have a voice. OLP has made me realize that change is not something to be afraid of and as I now transition from highschool to college I feel like I will thrive, I am confident about my speaking skills and my ability to express my opinions and ideas."

Some of the students shared their experiences as a Latinx youth, in an effort to raise their voices and tell their stories.

"Today there are many people afraid of ICE because they are scared that they will show up at their door," Esmar said. "I am one of those people. I am one of those people who doesn't have the same privileges as my U.S. born peers who can get permission to drive a car and have their own licenses. They don't have to be afraid when the police stops them on the road because they have licenses or permits. I don't have that privilege. I am a Dreamer who's path will be a lot harder to attend a 4-year university because of my status. OLP has created a space for me to not be afraid and to feel hopeful about my future."

"Immigration can mean many different things to different people," Lizbeth



Submitted photo

Lenore and Noemi presenting to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners last month.



Submitted photo

Jocelyn exhibiting her artwork. First painting is her mom and grandfather's hometown in Mexico. Second painting is a calavera (skull) with Mexican flowers inspired by Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, and third painting is Frida Kahlo.

said. "We don't all have the same meaning of immigration. For some, it's the act of coming to live in a foreign country. For others, the privileged, it does not mean anything, but for me, it means a lot. Just hearing the word gives me the chills. When I hear the word immigration I think of my parents and the possibility that I may never be able to see and live with my parents. I think of coming home to find out my parents have been taken away and not knowing where they are."

"As a daughter of immigrant parents and as a Latinx individual I started to hear the word immigrant and immigration since I can remember," she continued. "I remember my parents telling me and explaining to me the protocol if something ever did happen as if I was getting trained. Before OLP I would have never dared to stand here talking about this topic as it may be a scary topic for some people."

"[OLP] has pushed us to stand up for our community and try to make a change as the young leaders that we are," she said. "We need to create a supportive, safe, and welcoming community where we feel like we are heard. I hope that as representatives of our county, you express your support and

solidarity with me and help protect your constituents and lessen the fear within us."

"Through all of the support that I have been given at OLP I feel like I have become empowered to use my own voice to spread awareness, and to defend others who are too afraid to use their voice or are simply unable to," Noemi said. "Through OLP I feel like I have been allowed to find the power inside of myself and learn how to use it for bettering my community, and I have learned to not be afraid of using my voice to speak against the horrible things that my community is put through. One of my biggest dreams is to go to college, and to be able to come back to aid my community."

Lenore, who lives in a shelter run by her godparents because her parents are in Mexico, describes not only the help the organization has provided her, but the inspiration for her future it provided.

"Our youth group has supported me on my journey of discovering who I am and what shapes me," Lenor said. "OLP has led me to notice my strengths and weaknesses. I have also been given the opportunity to engage civically. I have discovered that I am very passionate about ac-

tivism and social justice. I have decided that I want to attend college and eventually Law School. My goal is to become an immigration or civil rights attorney. OLP has inspired me to serve Latinx people."

"It gets very lonely very quickly when there is no guarantee that your loved ones will be home when you arrive, when the authorities don't seem supportive, and when we are pushed into a position in which assimilation into American culture seems like the best survival strategy," she said. "Latinx youth suffer things we would wish upon no one and yet we perform as successfully as our peers who are not attacked by society every day. OLP gives us a place where our voices are heard and where we can be our true selves. OLP is vital in Siler City and Chatham County for Latinx Youth and our families."

OLP, an organization funded by the Hispanic Liaison is currently operating at Jordan-Matthews students, but is hoping to serve Hispanic students throughout the county. If you're interested in joining Orgullo Latinx Pride youth group, please call Selina Lopez at 919-742-1448

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com



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Run for the Wall to stop in Siler City

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Run for the Wall, a cross-country motorcycle event in honor of Vietnam prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action, will stop in Siler City on May 22.

Each year since 1989, motorcyclists have been making a 10-day journey from Ontario, California, to Washington, D.C., coinciding with the Memorial Day weekend.

This year, hundreds of motorcyclists will travel three different routes across the United States. As they have done for the past five years, the Midway route includes a stop in Siler City.

The riders will leave Asheville on the morning of May 22 and head east through Statesville, arriving in Siler City around 11:30 a.m. The group will

fuel up, and then make its way to the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Siler City for a reception and lunch. Residents are welcome to come and meet the riders at the church and any veterans who attend will be able to share in the meal.

Following the break, the riders will take a course that will lead them onto Chatham Avenue and take them through the center of Siler City. Organizers are encouraging all downtown business owners and residents who are available to come and welcome the riders as they parade through town. The riders will also make an additional stop at Chatham Middle School as they did last year for a 45-minute program the school puts on for the students and the riders.

The riders will then

leave Siler City and make their way to their final destination of the day in Fayetteville. The next two days, the riders will continue into Virginia, ending Arlington on May 24.

Along the 10-day ride, the participants stop at memorials, veterans hospitals and schools along the route. Some host towns hold parades or receptions and even provide escorts for the motorcycle caravan.

In the end, all three routes converge in Washington on Memorial Day weekend, meeting at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Then all the participants walk to the Vietnam Memorial to complete their mission.

The bikers are then invited to participate in another event, the Rolling Thunder Parade, on Sunday in Washington. That event includes hundreds of thousands



File Photo

Run for the Wall, an annual pilgrimage of motorcycle riders from California to the Vietnam Memorial, will again convene in Siler City on their journey. They will stop and have lunch at the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

of bikers leaving from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

For more information, visit the Run for the Wall website at.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

What is Chatham County doing to stop silt pollution from construction near Fearrington?

BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN
Our Chatham

In a previous article published back in November, Our Chatham spoke with Chatham resident Dianne Birch about her concerns with water quality near her home in Fearrington Village. She showed a reporter how erosion had deteriorated the quality of the water in nearby Creekwood creek and Beechmast pond.

Almost six months later, Birch still grieves the state of her neighborhood's stream and pond. Increased turbidity issues in Creekwood Creek poses no health risk to people, but it could negatively affect organisms within the stream.

"The people who are living in Fearrington who are witnessing these conditions are not making something up," Chatham County's Watershed Protection Director Rachael Thorn said. "The water does run cloudy; the stream has, or at least from my gathering, anyway, experienced physical changes. It's not much ado about nothing."

A Briar Chapel construction project lies

adjacent to that waterway, and environmental officials say it's fair to say the construction is contributing to increased turbidity in the stream.

But according to Thorn, the "Briar Chapel SD East" construction site is following all state and county protocol to limit sediment runoff into those waterways. It has been fully compliant in following the county's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance, and has received zero out of more than 40 Notice of Violations her department issued in 2018.

"Those turbid flows that people are witnessing can theoretically be coming from a site that is completely in compliance with my regulations," she said. "And that is the case here."

Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton has walked the stream with a Fearrington resident and with an enforcement officer from Chatham County Sediment and Erosion Control. She says that the quantity of water flowing into the stream is the issue.

"The volume of water is what's sloughing off the banks," she said. "And when you walk back

there, that creek pretty quickly becomes a canyon because there's just so much erosion."

In a recent statement, the Briar Chapel development calls itself "one of the largest green communities in the Triangle outside of Chapel Hill." The community uses stormwater retention ponds and silt fences during construction. And the development reports that it is preventing the emission of over 78 million pounds of greenhouse gas pollution and making up 39 percent of "green-built homes" statewide.

"We pride ourselves on being good stewards and doing all the right things," said Mike Scisciani, vice president of operations for Newland. "Obviously, our company is known for sustainability and green practices."

The Briar Chapel development, which is owned by Newland Real Estate Group, is zoned using a Compact Community Ordinance (CCO) that officials say took five years to develop. The CCO is designed to support water quality and environmental sustainability.

From a reporting standpoint, the commu-

nication on the water quality issue seemed confused and disjointed. It wasn't a clear which municipal group would run point for water quality issues in local streams, but eventually officials from the Chatham County Public Health Department and the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation each pointed to Rachael Thorn, the watershed protection director in Chatham County.

She told me that Chatham County's Watershed Protection Department holds direct oversight for Briar Chapel's compliance to erosion control regulations. With a few exceptions, the role of that department is to "permit and inspect all land-disturbing activity in the County."

But the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) oversees post-construction stormwater issues because, at the time of Briar Chapel's inception, Chatham County did not have a stormwater program. Thorn acknowledged the complexity of the issue.

And another Fearrington resident, Mary Ann Woehrel, seemed unsure about local regu-

lations and construction permitting.

"I don't know what the regulations are in North Carolina," she said. "I don't know how that is affected by the EPA. And I think all of these standards are under a tremendous amount of pressure."

I asked Woehrel if she thought transparency issues had been at play, but she didn't think that was the case.

"I think it's a problem of expertise at lower levels," Woehrel said. "And a lot of people just don't know where to go. I think they're frustrated with it, but they don't know that much about it."

Sutton says the stream's turbidity poses a threat to the aquatic ecosystem.

"The whole reason that this matters is that, with the turbidity, with all that sediment going downstream, it smotherers all of those macroinvertebrates," Sutton said. "It drowns their habitats ... if you don't have those macroinvertebrates that provide all of those essential eco-services, then you don't have a healthy stream."

According to a guide Thorn provided, "Sediment restricts the amount

of sunlight reaching aquatic plants, reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen in our waters. Sediment degrades the beauty of our waters by increasing the cloudiness of the water."

Thorn says the current regulations are not "good enough" to apply to the actual conditions in Creekwood Creek.

"Briar Chapel SD East is in compliance with erosion control," she said. "And yet, the stream flowing to Fearrington is turbid. That's what's going on. And Chatham County is aware of it. The state's aware of it. And the problem is real, but there is no answer to it, and it's not a satisfying situation to the people that live there."

"But," Thorn added, "we have gone above and beyond the limits of what we can do to try to correct for it, address it and enforce everything that we're capable of enforcing."

Adrienne Cleven is a rising senior at UNC-Chapel Hill from Moncure. Our Chatham is a project of the Reese News Lab at the UNC School of Media and Journalism in Chapel Hill and a strategic partner of the News + Record.



PUBLIC MEETING FOR PROPOSED U.S. 421 INTERCHANGE, ACCESS ROAD, AND U.S. 64 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS CHATHAM COUNTY

A public meeting will be held in coordination with the N.C. Department of Transportation regarding the proposed project to construct a new interchange on U.S. 421, approximately six miles west of Siler City, with a new 1.1-mile four-lane access road to the future Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site ("CAM") and modify the driveway from U.S. 64 to the CAM Site.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 23** from **5 to 7 p.m.** at **First Wesleyan Church** located at **608 North 3rd Avenue, Siler City**. The public may drop in at any time during the meeting hours. Please note that no formal presentation will be made.

Project team representatives will be available to answer questions and listen to comments regarding the project. The opportunity to submit comments will also be provided at the meeting or by phone, email, or mail by **June 7, 2019**. Comments received will be taken into consideration as the project develops.

For additional information, contact Teresa Gresham, P.E., Consultant Project Manager, at 421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 600, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-677-2194, or Teresa.Gresham@kimley-horn.com.

Auxiliary aids and services will be provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Teresa Gresham at 919-677-2194 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

TOWN OF PITTSBORO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

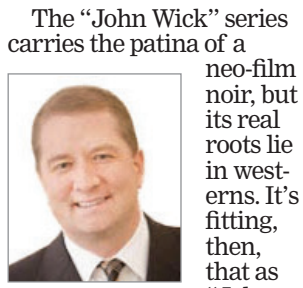
The Town of Pittsboro is applying to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Economic Development Building Reuse. The application will request \$300,000 in CDBG-ED funds to assist in the renovation of a 40,000 square foot vacant building at 158 Credle Street in Pittsboro. The project will enable EGGILERO, a medical and drug delivery device contract design, development and manufacturing company, to expand its current business. Once completed, the company's investment will total approximately \$4.5 million for acquisition, machinery and equipment and construction. Other funds will come from the Town of Pittsboro (\$25,500) for planning and grant administration and the Chatham Economic Development Corporation (\$2,500) for an environmental review of the property. In the first two years of operation, the company will create 19 new jobs with at least 60% benefitting persons of low and moderate income. The average annual salary of the new jobs will be \$52,026.

The Town of Pittsboro will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Pittsboro Town Hall at 635 East Street in Pittsboro. The purpose of the Hearing is to obtain citizens input into the identification of economic needs and desired economic development activities. The input from the Hearing will be incorporated into the Town's consideration and submission of a CDBG application to the Department of Commerce. Written comments should be addressed to Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager, 635 East Street, Pittsboro NC 27312. Comments received by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the Hearing will be considered.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Alice Lloyd at 919-542-4621 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Póngase en contacto con Alice Lloyd at 919-542-4621 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Splendid simplicity of bloody 'Wick' redundant, but still works



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

The "John Wick" series carries the patina of a neo-film noir, but its real roots lie in westerns. It's fitting, then, that as "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Par

bellum" allows the violent revenge triumvirate to reach the same duration as Sergio Leone's "Man With No Name" trilogy, director Chad Stahelski tosses in some overt western homage. Early on, the taciturn Wick (the taciturn Keanu Reeves) pieces together a makeshift six-shooter just in time to gun down a band of baddies as they burst into the room. Wick commandeers a NYPD horse, galloping down the middle of Manhattan as he takes out a posse pursuing him on motorbikes. The film concludes with an against-all-odds last stand in the spirit of Howard Hawks' "Rio Bravo" and Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai."

In between, "John Wick

John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum

GRADE: B

DIRECTOR: Chad Stahelski

STARRING: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Halle Berry, Laurence Fishburne, Mark Dacascos, Asia Kate Dillon, Lance Reddick, and Anjelica Huston

MPAA RATING: R

RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 11 min.

3" continues the splendid simplicity that made the original a surprise hit five years ago, when the retired Wick was pulled back into the assassin's life after some Russian ruffians stole his car and killed his dog. "Parabellum" opens immediately on the heels of "Chapter 2," with Wick on the run after being declared excommunicado by the assassin's Illuminati-like leadership, called the High Table, for breaking the hitman's code and doing bloody business on the neutral turf of The Continental Hotel.

The choreographed chaos remains the star of the series as Wick fights his

way through a worldwide sea of assassins aiming to cash in the \$14 million bounty on his head. Wick literally takes a lot of knives to one gunfight. He takes on a lumbering hitman (NBA player Boban Marjanovic) with a library book. He dispatches a cadre of cannon-fodder using a stable of bucking equines. He and an old friend (Halle Berry) lay waste with the aid of two armor-clad battle dogs. Of course, there are also plenty of firearms and fisticuffs along the way. Overall, it's a bloody, Buster Keaton-esque ballet married to the exquisite brutality of Sam Peckinpah.



Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

Keanu Reeves stars in 'John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum.'

Meanwhile, a High Table Adjudicator (Asia Kate Dillon) and her squad of Asian henchmen are sent to exact retribution against those who rendered any aid to the wanted Wick, including the Continental's wizened manager Winston (Ian McShane), a pigeon-owning Bowery strongman (Laurence Fishburne), and a Belarussian ballet director (Anjelica Huston) who helps

shepherd Wick to Morocco. This background narrative is serviceable enough until it intersects with Wick's survival quest, when the plot becomes lurching and contradictory and even the fight scenes start to feel redundant.

The ending of "John Wick 3" is left wide open for a fourth installment, and in comparison to its blah action flick contemporaries, there's plenty of

room in the cineplex left to revisit Wick's world. That said, there's not enough made of the side characters (new and returning) in "Chapter 3," and even the sumptuous, inventive "Wick"-verse is starting to show its seams. Stahelski and Reeves have a winning formula, but like Keanu's last action trilogy, "The Matrix," all good things must come to an end sometime.

CCCC's spring graduation features four ceremonies

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2019 as the school observed its 56th Commencement Exercises Monday at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford.

The graduating students entered the main hall to the skirl of a bagpipe, a CCCC tradition.

"Graduation represents the culmination of the efforts of all divisions of the College along with those of our graduating students, which truly makes it the most joyful day on the academic calendar for everyone," said CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman, presiding over her first graduation ceremony. "The administration, staff, faculty, and I want to say a hearty congratulations to each and every one of you for your hard work and achievement. It has been my good fortune to return to the college as president after a five-year absence, and I am honored to be with you today and celebrate your achievements.

"As you go out in the community, you will see how beloved CCCC is in the three-county service area and the surrounding region," she said. "This admiration for the college should make our graduates feel proud of our institution and good about their decision to enroll at CCCC for their higher education experience. And as longstanding members of the community, my family and I will be consumers of many of the services you have been trained to perform, and we are blessed to know that you have received an outstanding education to provide these services in a truly exemplary manner. With several new programs and new facilities just now coming online, it is indeed a highly exciting time in the history of the College and we are so pleased and

proud that our graduates today were a part of the College at this time."

The Class of 2019 has approximately 950 students — including those expected to graduate after attending summer classes, who are expected to receive 1,075 credentials (associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates).

Four commencement exercises — at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. — were held to accommodate the number of graduates. That also allowed those who will complete their studies during the summer to walk in a graduation ceremony.

Ginger Harris Bartholomew, CCCC Faculty Member of the Year, was Chief Marshal and Mace Bearer.

Students presented the Commencement Address at each graduation.

Alexander Blanco (Dental Hygiene graduate) spoke at the 9 a.m. graduation. Blanco was chosen by his peers as class president of the Dental Hygiene program. A first-generation college student, he was chosen to speak before Gov. Roy Cooper during a visit to the college and told of his educational story.

Jason Kinkaid (Early Childhood program graduate), spoke at the 11:30 a.m. graduation. Kinkaid, a retired military veteran, joined the Toastmasters International organization. He is now in the process of pursuing his Master's in Education at the graduate level.

Olivia Shaw (Associate of Science graduate) spoke at the 2 p.m. graduation. Shaw will follow her family's longstanding legacy of attending N.C. State University. She was a finalist for the prestigious STEM-based Goodnight Scholarship.

Jessup Overton (Welding graduate) spoke at the 4 p.m. graduation. Overton, from Harnett County, learned about the College's Career and College Promise program and joined the welding apprenticeship program.

A Skills USA participant, he was chosen to speak before a committee at the N.C. General Assembly about the crucial nature and importance of trades' education.

Presenting the graduates were Lisa Godfrey, Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services Programs, at the 9 a.m. graduation; Scott Byington, Dean of Arts, Sciences and Advising, at the 11:30 a.m. graduation; Jairo McMican, Dean of Student Learning, at the 2 p.m. graduation; and Drew Goodson, Dean of Career & Technical Education, at the 4 p.m. graduation.

Conferring of Diplomas was by Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Julian Philpott.

The Invocation and Benediction were by Reverend Ricky Frazier, AME Zion Sanford District, Presiding Elder, at the 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. ceremonies, and Father Bruce Heyvaert, Rector, of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, at the 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. ceremonies.

The Lee County High School JROTC Color Guard had the Presentation of Colors. Miriam Bryant, Vocalist, and David Watson, Guitarist, performed The National Anthem.

Ken Hoyle Jr., Vice President of Student Services, presented special awards.

At the 11:30 a.m. graduation, Hoyle recognized retiring instructor Lori Rainforth of the Veterinary Medical Technology program. She came to CCCC in 1991.

During the graduation exercises, students with the highest grade point averages in their divisions were recognized. At 9 a.m. — Amanda Danielle Carr, Rachel Aleen Hatfield, Stacey Willis Hinman, Tammy Alexander. At 11:30 a.m., Diana Jersey Mattson, Maritral Shonta Spencer, Rebecca Jennifer Dillon, Rachel Angelina Stern. At 2 p.m., Darci Noelle Benchley,

Michelle Anna Purkey, Olivia Grace Shaw. At 4 p.m., Frederick Cruz Bunao Jr., Elisabeth Lea Finch, Zachary Carlton Rollick, Emma Rebecca Stapleton, Kateyln Rencee Taylor, Wayne T. Cole, Daniel James Collins.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society graduates were also recognized at each commencement. At 9 a.m., Alexander Blanco, Tiffany Nicole Bohon, Amanda Danielle Carr, Rosemary Schuh Hilliard, Stacey Willis Hinman, Kaitlyn Rackley Kelly, Breanna Nicole Potter, Andreniki Nicole Ray,

Taylor Lee Ridall, Aki Takemoto, Sabrina Annette Tillman, and Payton Hayley Winchell. At 11:30 a.m., Taylor Anne Baile, Carolyn Nicole Broedel, Madison Grace Cottrell, Rebecca Jennifer Dillon, Paula Lizeth Funes, Jamilyn Hamilton Gardner, Seth Womble Hoyle, Julie Anne Johnston, Kelsey Brianna Lyall, Diana Jersey Mattson, Kenzie Jayde Oldham, Justin Joseph Pedley, Dania Abigail Rosales Santos, Lisa Anne Ryan, and Carmen Gray Schoolcraft. At 2 p.m., Adrian Alexander Alcantara, Evan

Harrison Aldridge, Nancy Almanza-Quiroz, Allison Nicole Armstrong, Darci Noelle Benchley, Madison Elaine Bullard, Rebecca Crabtree, Benjamin Job Falero, Victoria Leticia Malagon, Daniel Mushayamunda Matangira Jr., Tina Rochelle Riley, Taylor Alexis Schwab, Olivia Grace Shaw, Joshua Holland Smith, Emily Vilchis Moreno, and Crystal M. Williams. At 4 p.m., Jessup Colton Overton, George Alberto Perez, Hunter Avery Watson, Deborah Hannah Wilkerson, and Kilvet Augusto Zalavarría Cabrera.



CCCC photo by Neil McGowan

The Class of 2019 has approximately 950 students — including those expected to graduate after attending summer classes, who are expected to receive 1075 credentials (associate degrees, diplomas and certificates).



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ESCAPING THE BITE AND THE BURN

Avoid the sting of mosquitoes this summer

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

Though they do play a role in our ecosystem as a food source for birds, bats and some aquatic life, mosquitoes — the buzzing and biting insects — are hard to like, and with good reason.

Even the name (“mosquito” is Spanish for “little fly”) sounds pesky.

They can leave their human targets with an itchy, bothersome welt after the blood-sucking insects have pierced human skin.

But worse, they frequently act as carriers for diseases. West Nile Virus and Zika are two of the better-known.

Worldwide, and particularly in developing countries, mosquitoes are responsible for the deaths of more than a million people annually through the spread of illnesses including malaria, yellow fever and dengue fever.

In North Carolina, there are at least 60 types of mosquitoes and, according to information on N.C. Cooperative Extension’s website, “our state’s worst” is the Asian tiger mosquito.

Extension agent Charlotte Glen, in an article on the Extension website, says the Asian tiger, easily identified by its distinct white and black striped legs and body, “is of particular concern because it can spread diseases to humans and animals, including West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, as well as heartworms to dogs and cats.”

And it is found just about everywhere, in backyards, on farms, and in urban areas.

The most common North Carolina mosquito-borne illnesses are West Nile Virus (WNV), La Crosse Encephalitis (LACV), and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), said Anne Lowery, Environmental Health Director with the Chatham County Public Health Department, though they “are rarely reported” in Chatham County.

“EEE is more common in the eastern part of the state and LACV is more common in the western part of the state,” Lowery said. “However, our residents and visitors are still potentially at risk for contracting these illnesses in the county.”

There are, Lowery said, measures we can take to mitigate our exposure to them and to reduce their presence.

“The best way to prevent mosquito-borne illness,” said Lowery, “is to protect yourself from biting mosquitoes and to reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home.”

This means controlling water sources where mosquitoes breed. State health officials say the insects are prone to breed in all kinds of

water, from small containers such as tree-holes and tin cans to large bodies of water like lakes or marshes. The breeding water may be fresh water or salty, polluted or clean, standing or slow-moving.

To reduce mosquito breeding areas around your home, the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services offers a few tips: Remove containers that can hold water — especially old tires — where mosquitoes may lay eggs; keep gutters clean and in good repair; fix leaky outdoor faucets and change the water in bird baths and pet bowls at least twice a week; use screened windows and doors and make sure screens fit tightly and are not torn to keep mosquitoes from entering households; and keep tight-fitting screens or lids on rain barrels.

The state public health agency also offers simple tips for protecting yourself from the biting insects: Reduce time spent outdoors, particularly during early morning and early evening hours when mosquitoes are most active; wear light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts; and apply EPA-approved mosquito repellents (public health officials recommend products containing DEET, 30 percent or less for adults and 10 percent or less for children, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Eucalyptus, and Para-Menthane-Diol) to exposed skin areas, following the product’s guidelines.

“Luckily, most people infected with EEE and WNV have no symptoms at all,” Lowery said, “however mild symptoms can range from fever, nausea, and rash to more severe symptoms including convulsions and other neurological effects. La Crosse Encephalitis symptoms include fever, headache, nausea and other neurological effects, especially in children under age 16, but LACV is rarely fatal. If someone experiences any of these symptoms after being around mosquitoes, they should consult with their medical provider as soon as possible.”

While Chatham County residents face fewer concerns about mosquitoes than in other parts of the state, and world, Lowery advises local residents to take responsible measures to protect themselves. And for those planning to travel, be aware of potential mosquito threats that may await, she said.

“It is very important,” said Lowery, “for residents to research mosquito borne illnesses and prevention when they travel to areas that have other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes including Zika virus, Dengue, and Chikungunya.”

Randall Riggsbee can be reached at riggsbee@chathamnr.com.

Summer’s red devil: Sunburn

Tips and tricks for handling the sun’s sting

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

A lot of Americans this year will likely face serious problems with their skin.

According to a report from the U.S. Surgeon General in 2014, nearly five million people in the United States are treated for various forms of skin cancer at cost of \$8.1 billion each year. Melanoma, one of the major forms, leads to nearly 9,000 deaths a year and is one of the most common types of cancer among adolescents and young adults.

As much as 90 percent of the melanoma diagnoses are estimated to be caused by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, most commonly absorbed by humans from the sun. The summer is a hot time for the sun, and as a result, thousands and millions of Americans will get sunburn on their trips to the beach, the golf course or the park.

“UV exposure, whether from the sun or from tanning devices, is the No. 1 cause of skin cancer,” says Shannon Kincaide Godbout, social research associate with the Chatham County Public Health Department. “It is also important to note that anyone can get skin cancer, so everyone should make an effort to protect their skin from the sun.”

To help prepare you for the summer, here’s some information about summer’s red devil and how to prevent it and deal with it, provided by The Mayo Clinic, the American Academy of Dermatology and the Chatham County Public Health Department.

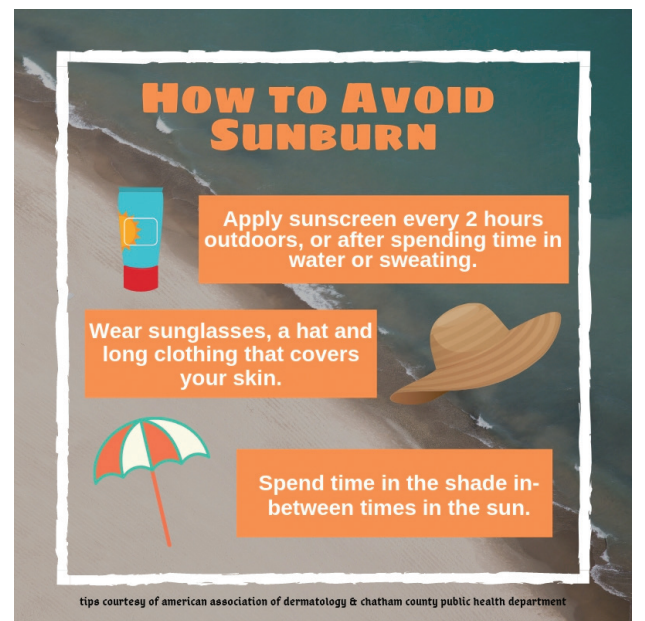
What is sunburn?

Sunburn is “red, painful skin that feels hot to the touch,” according to the Mayo Clinic. It usually begins to appear a few hours after “too much exposure to ultraviolet light from sunshine or artificial sources, such as sunlamps.” Most instances of sunburn simply remain on the skin level and can be treated by home remedies — more on that later.

But there are some occasions of sunburn that can cause blistering, wrinkled skin, high fever, extreme pain, headache, confusion, nausea or chills. It can also cause infections, evidenced by increasing pain and tenderness, increasing swelling, yellow drainage from an open blister and red streaks leading away from an open blister. If any of those things happen, seek medical care.

How does sunburn occur?

When there is “too much” exposure to UV



tips courtesy of american association of dermatology & chatham county public health department

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

“UV exposure, whether from the sun or from tanning devices, is the number one cause of skin cancer. It is also important to note that anyone can get skin cancer, so everyone should make an effort to protect their skin from the sun.”

SHANNON KINCAIDE GODBOUT, social research associate, Chatham County Public Health Department

lights. What we see as suntan is really the body accelerating the production of melanin, the chemical which gives our skin its color, to prevent sunburn.

But according to the Mayo Clinic, “the amount of melanin you produce is determined genetically. Many people simply don’t produce enough melanin to protect the skin well.”

Sunburn can occur during just about any weather. As much as 80 percent of UV rays can pass through clouds, and rays can reflect off of snow, sand, water and other surfaces.

Certain individuals can be more prone to sunburn. Factors include having light skin, blue eyes and red or blond hair; working outdoors; mixing outdoor recreation and drinking alcohol, regularly exposing yourself unprotected to UV light; or living or vacationing somewhere sunny, warm or at high altitude.

Will sunscreen help me?

Yes. The American Academy of Dermatology says that “everyone” needs sunscreen that provides broad-spectrum protection, SPF [sun protection factor] 30 or higher and is water-resistant.

The AAD adds that most people apply just 25-50 percent of the recommended amount. Most adults need about an ounce, the size of an average shot glass, to fully cover their body. The organization also advises applying a lip balm or lipstick with SPF 30 or higher sunscreen to prevent skin cancer on the lips, and applying sunscreen to dry skin 15 minutes before going outdoors.

What kind of sunscreen should I use?

Dermatologists recommend a sunscreen at least SPF 30, which blocks 97

percent of the sun’s UVB rays, the type that cause sunburn. Higher-number SPF’s block more, but no sunscreen blocks all the rays.

The AAD stresses that high-number SPF sunblocks last the same amount of time as lower-number ones. Sunscreens should be re-applied every two hours when outside, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating, depending on the substance’s water-resistance.

How do I prevent sunburn?

“Skin damage can occur in as little as 15 minutes of sun exposure,” Godbout says, “so it is very important to take measures to protect your skin from the sun.”

Using and reapplying sunscreen is vital, she said, along with wearing sunglasses, a hat and long clothing that covers your skin, as well as seeking shade as often as possible.

How do I heal sunburn?

As previously stated, most cases of sunburn can be healed with various home remedies. Godbout said to start with avoiding additional sun exposure. Take cool showers and use moisturizer to help heal the pain, along with drinking plenty of water and wearing loose clothing.

The AAD says applying moisturizer right after a shower or bath, with a little water left on the skin, can help ease discomfort that comes from dryness. Aspirin or ibuprofen can reduce swelling, redness and discomfort. Sunburn draws fluid to the skin’s surface and away from other parts of your body, so drinking more water than normal can help prevent dehydration.

Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Mosquitos can lay their eggs in any type of standing water, such as swimming pools. Hundreds can hatch from a puddle in just three days.



Submitted photo

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Sculptor Syd Ginsberg to show work in Siler City

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Syd Ginsberg, a sculptor with a 77-year career, will be hosted by the N.C. Arts Incubator on May 17. Her work will be shown at the Person to Person Gallery from 6-8 p.m.

Ginsberg has had her unique cast bronze sculptures as well as her drawings shown at many galleries in New York City including the Hudson River Museum, the Art Gallery of Sarah Lawrence College, and the Greenwich Art Barn. Ginsberg lived for 30 years in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where her work was shown at Instituto Allende, Galleria Libertad and Galeria Ateña, among others. She now lives in Siler City.

"I started doing sculpture at 13 so I've been doing this all my life," Ginsberg said. "I get an idea and I start working on it. It's a conversation I have with the material I'm working with. Everything is a kind of give and take. Often the piece doesn't end up looking like what I thought it would."

Ginsberg notes that she's always been creating things. As a child of the depression, born in Brooklyn, she was always making things because her family was poor. Whether it was sewing curtains or making her own paper dolls, Ginsberg has always needed to create.

"I don't remember a time when I didn't make things," Ginsberg said. "It's part of who I am."

Ginsberg's parents emigrated from Europe. Her father deserted from the Russian army, walking across Europe to board a boat to Ellis Island. After a few days there, other family members who had emigrated early were able to help him be released because he didn't have the \$25 required to leave Ellis Island. As he walked to his family's apartment for the first time, he caught sight of a woman, noting



Syd Ginsberg celebrated her 90th birthday last year at The Celebrity Dairy, marking her move to Siler City.

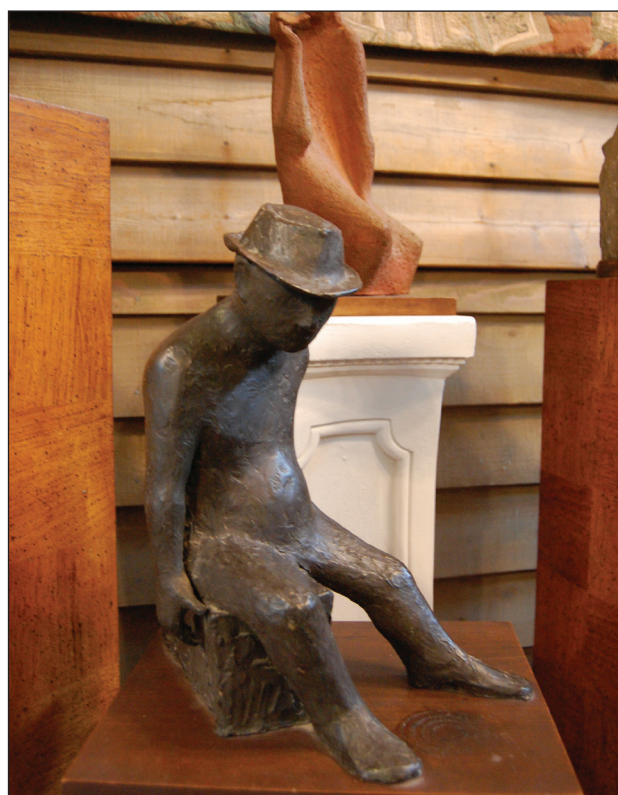
to his family that she would be the woman he would marry. That was Ginsberg's mother. The couple was married for 58 years, both passing within months of each other.

"That's a true love story," Ginsberg said.

As a youth, Ginsberg wanted to get into art school, but her family couldn't afford any art training. She was eventually able to attend the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art where her WWII veteran classmates assisted in her creative expression and growth. She would work during the days selling clothes or making window displays and in the evenings and the weekends would study sculpture.

"It was a fabulous place to go to school," Ginsberg said, "with instructors who were beyond belief. They were professional artists."

Ginsberg found ways to support her art, usually by creating something unique. For example, she noted that she was having a difficult time securing



Syd Ginsberg creates sculptures using a variety of mediums. This bronze sculpture was first carved from wax before being cast in a foundry.

English carving tools. So she and a friend decided to begin making

their own. That is when she started "playing" with metal. Not only did she use the tools herself, she was able to make and sell the wooden and stone carving tools.

"Nobody was doing it so we did it," she said. "I wish I could show you but they were all stolen."

She describes her time in New York as a marvelous experience, meeting her late husband Dwight, and convening with other creatives in New York's Greenwich Village. Later, she moved to Mexico where she spent 30 years, noting the rich, creative culture she experienced 6,000 feet up on a mountain. Unfortunately, as Ginsberg's health declined, her family urged her to move closer to them. Ginsberg moved to Siler City about one year ago. She notes that the welcome she has received here is what has made the move less discouraging.

"Siler City is turning out to be a very nice place with very creative people," she said. "I've made a lot of friends. And a level of excitement [about her show], not from me, but from other people that I've never gotten before even in New York."

"You do it because you do it," Ginsberg said of her art. "You get up in the morning and you have 15 million ideas about what you are going to do and you just pick one and do it. I've always made art. My whole life has been this."

Syd Ginsberg's art, which includes cast bronze sculptures, drawings, and paintings, will be on display from 6-8 p.m. on May 17 at the Person to Person Gallery located at 210 N Chatham Ave in Siler City. There will also be live music by Daniel Ayers.

In addition, Chatham County High School Art students will have work on display as entries in the Annual Mary Helen Moody Art Scholarship at that same time in the Arts Incubator PAF Gallery, 223 N. Chatham Avenue in Siler City, administered by N.C. Arts Incubator.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.



Photo by Lee Moody

A longtime promoter of the arts in Siler City, Mary Helen Moody has a scholarship for young artists named for her. Work by high school students seeking the scholarship this year will be on display at the PAF Gallery, 223 N. Chatham Ave. in Siler City, on May 17.

Scholarship in Moody's name helping keep local art alive

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When Mary Helen Moody got married and left her hometown of Raleigh to start a new chapter of her life in Siler City, the local arts scene then wasn't what it is today.

The year was 1965 and downtown Siler City's N.C. Arts Incubator and its many ancillary ties — murals adorning the sides of numerous buildings, public phones re-purposed as pieces of art, metal sculptures here and there, galleries and shops displaying and selling the works of local talent — were decades in the future.

She couldn't have known it then, but Moody — a graduate of N.C. State and newly-married to Jack A. Moody, an attorney who would go on to serve in the North Carolina Legislature — would herself play a significant role in her new community's arts-centric development.

"There wasn't an arts scene," Moody recalled of her initial experience here, 53 years ago. "It wasn't that the region was bereft of talented people, she said. "There were individuals who were very interested in the arts," Moody said. "But nothing was established."

As an oil painter, Moody gravitated towards others who shared her interest in artistic expression, signing up to take the only local art class offered at the time, a drawing course.

"I was the only girl in the class," she said. "We had to draw a bottle."

She met other like-minded folks, people like Helen Buckner and the late Peggy Almond Fullington, with whom she shared a love for the arts.

It was in the 1990s that an effort to organize the region's burgeoning arts scene really got underway, and Moody was there for it.

"It really started with Leon Tongret," said Moody. "He was director of the small business department at Central Carolina Community College. Leon had a dream."

Beginning in the late 1990s, Tongret saw an opportunity in Chatham County, which was home to many artists, and began working with CCCC and the Town of Siler City to establish an incubator to help the arts scene grow and to promote arts-based economic development.

The N.C. Arts Incubator was born of this effort, with Tongret overseeing the renovation of three downtown buildings for the purpose. Tongret, who later moved on to other pursuits, got the operation up and running and by 2002 the new endeavor was going strong, providing space and help for artists working in a wide variety of media: paint, pottery, clay, metal. One of the incubator's initial tenants, world-renowned guitar-maker Terry McInturff, is still operat-

ing from the downtown space.

Moody was also among the first artists to establish a studio in the new incubator.

In 2008, she was involved in the establishment of the Incubator's PAF Gallery, named in honor of her friend, Peggy Almond Fullington.

"As a volunteer, I was in charge of finding artists to bring their shows there," Moody said. "I didn't do it by myself. I had help. I had good volunteers."

These days, with the local art scene far more evolved than it was 53 years ago, Moody sees the continuing benefits to the community — economic and culturally — of the work she and other art pioneers have done.

"I see a lot of growth here. In the last two years, three art shops have opened, in addition to the Oasis downtown," she said. "And I see a lot more potential."

Though she's scaled back her involvement in the incubator in recent years, she's still very much immersed in local arts.

A mother of three sons and a grandmother to four granddaughters, Moody, on any given day, is more likely to be found in her kitchen with her grandchildren, conjuring up an interesting culinary creation like a peanut butter and pimento cheese sandwich, than wielding a paintbrush.

But her impact on local arts is still present. The most high-profile example is the annual Mary Helen Moody Art Scholarship, given to local graduating high school seniors planning to study art at a 2- or 4-year college after a panel of judges determines a recipient.

The scholarship was established by some of Moody's artist friends. The first scholarship given in her name — in the amount of \$500 — was awarded in the fall of 2012.

"We've been able to give one every year," she said. This year, Incubator artist Jake Brower will receive the \$1,000 Mary Helen Moody scholarship to take a course this summer at the Penland School of Craft in the Blue Ridge Mountains. A second scholarship will also be awarded to a high school artist who has not yet been named. There are many talented young artists worthy of the award, Moody said.

"There are some really good artists in our schools," she said. "Sometimes it's hard to decide." As to the value of art in general, Moody said "it just opens up your eyes. Art can take us to a different world, to see things differently."

Entries from local high school artists for this year's Mary Helen Moody Art Scholarship will be on display in the Arts Incubator's PAF Gallery, 223 N. Chatham Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. May 17, when the Incubator debuts a show by local sculptor Syd Ginsberg.

Randall Rigsbee can be reached at rigsbee@chathamnr.com.

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