

INSIDE: Images from Chatham Christmas parades, annual Studio Tour

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | DECEMBER 12-18, 2019 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## Growing, selling Christmas trees a 'full-time hobby' for local couple



Staff photo by David Bradley

Liz Psaltis and her daughter, Violet, select a Christmas tree from Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm's selection of live and pre-cut trees. They visited the local agribusiness on Friday after school, aiming to avoid the weekend rush.

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

APEX — A quarter of a century ago, Byron and Diana May — still a few years away from parenthood and looking to make a move from their home in Durham to a place in the country — zeroed in on an attractive property off Martha's Chapel Road, just east of Jordan Lake.

"There was an old 1860 farmhouse," Byron said. "It was a nice piece of property."

And — though they weren't in the market for one — the Chatham County property included a working tree farm.

"The previous owners had started it," Byron said, "and it had been going for a few years."

Though it was really only land on which to build a home they sought, the farm held appeal.

"We said, 'You know, maybe it would be easier to buy an old house and fix it up,'" said Byron. "And it's got the tree farm. Something new. We didn't know anything about tree growing."

They bought the 24-acre property.

Fast forward 25 years and the Mays — now parents of a 19-year-old daughter, Khoury — know a lot about farming and trees and growing them. With help from previous owners Mike and Jane Harrell during the May's inaugural farming season in 1994, Byron and Diana kept Jordan Lake Tree Farm



Staff photo by David Bradley

At Jordan Lake Christmas Tree farm, trees are tagged for easy location after they've been purchased. Each tag shows the tree's serial number, its height, and price. The red ribbon means the tree has already been sold.

running their first year and have since. And Khoury, away now for college, grew up on the farm.

"It's really become a family affair for us," Byron said.

"The first year was easy and fun and we were learning," Byron said. "Now it's our 25th year, yeah. We're excited about celebrating that anniversary."

But any parties marking the occasion will have to wait.

For the moment — it's, of course,

peak season for the Christmas tree farm — there's a lot of work to tend to.

Though maintaining the farm is a year-round endeavor — "between planting and weed control, disease management, pest control, trimming, shaping," Byron said — the brief window between Thanksgiving and Christmas is, certainly, the busiest time of year for the Mays

See TREES, page A3

## CARE PACKAGES FOR COPS



Submitted photo

Chatham Charter 8th-grader Mackenzie Crossman, 14, second from right, delivers care packages to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, represented by, from left, Chief Deputy Charles Gardner, Sheriff Mike Roberson and Lt. Sara Pack.

## Chatham Charter student packs bags of essentials for law enforcement

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Mackenzie Crossman admitted she was nervous talking to a reporter about something she was involved in, and in many ways responsible for.

But apart from the spotlight of a tape recorder, she had no reason to be embarrassed.

For the last eight months, Crossman, 14, has led an effort at both her school, Chatham Charter School in Siler City, and church,

See PACKAGES, page A6

## Town of Siler City working on Bray Park overhaul

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Keel is hoping the development and implementation of a master plan for Bray Park will be a game-changer for Siler City and its residents.

The park, located on Alston Bridge Road, already houses several athletic fields. But it also has about 50 acres of undeveloped land attached to it. Keel is working with WithersRavenel, a civil and environmental engineering firm, in conjunction with extensive

public input sessions, to develop the master plan at a cost of \$39,700.

Keel hopes to have the plan ready to present to Siler City town commissioners for consideration next March.

Though WithersRavenel has created two conceptual drawings thus far, initial designs may change with public input. Two public input hearings have already been held with another slated for Feb. 3 at the Fitts Community Center. Initial drawings show new and improved baseball fields, soccer fields,

See FIELDS, page A6

## History-making former commissioner Holland dies, age 88

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

APEX — Uva Holland, a former Chatham County commissioner who cemented a place in local political history as the first African-American woman elected to the county board, has died.

Holland passed away on December 4. She was 88.

In 1992, Holland — a Democrat — won a seat on the county's board of commissioners, defeating Republican challenger Patrick Miller (in the spring

primary, she'd ousted Democrat Earl Thompson, who'd served as a commissioner for 20 years) by nearly 1,500 votes and becoming the first African-American woman elected to the county board. She was also the first African-American woman to serve as the board's chairman.

Voters in 1996 returned Holland to her post for a second four-year term, but in 2000, seeking a third term, Holland lost her District 1 seat in that year's Democratic primary election to challenger Bob Atwater. Returning briefly to politics in 2004, Holland waged an unsuccessful campaign to

See HOLLAND, page A6

## 5 things to know about Season 1 of 'The Chatcast'

News + Record/  
Our Chatham joint production available for free Dec. 13

### CN+R STAFF REPORTS

It's here. The first season of "The Chatcast," a joint podcast production by the News + Record and Our Chatham project from UNC-Chapel Hill, will be available for free in many places on Friday. The 10-episode production, "The Age of Anxiety," will focus on teen mental health in Chatham County.

Before you start listening, here's a few things you need to know.

The CHATCAST  
Listen on Apple Podcasts  
Spotify STITCHER  
AVAILABLE 12/13 ON:  
buzzsprout TUNE IN

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

### Where to get it

"The Chatcast" is available for free download or streaming and you have several options to find it. Just search "The Chatcast" on Apple

Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn or Buzzsprout — either on the smartphone apps or online — or visit chathamnewsrecord.com/

See CHATCAST, page A3

## IN THE KNOW

Chatham County severs ties with UDO consultant; will start anew. **PAGE A7**

'Heartspace' author Edwards talks new book, Death & Cupcakes. **PAGE A8**

BOE names Dr. Larry savage as Chatham Grove's first principal. **PAGE A12**

Northwood boys roll past rival Jordan-Matthews in hoops action. **PAGE B1**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ON THE AGENDA

• **The Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District** will meet Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Dry Dock in Siler City. This is an open meeting. To confirm the meeting or for additional information, call the office at 919-542-8240 or 919-55-8440, ask for Brenda.

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16 at the Town Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. Second Ave. in Siler City.

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** is scheduled to have a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, in the courtroom of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro.

### WEDNESDAY

• **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is seeking groups – corporate, school, neighborhood, etc. – to volunteer on their Siler City build sites. Build days are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. For more information, visit [chathamhabitat.org/volunteer](http://chathamhabitat.org/volunteer), or email [rachelh@chathamhabitat.org](mailto:rachelh@chathamhabitat.org).

### THURSDAY

• **Creating Connections Through Fellowship and Food - The Community Lunch** serves a free hot meal to our walk-in guests from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday in the parish hall of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Our mission is simple: to provide a healthy, appetizing meal at no cost to all who come to us hungry. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. We welcome all, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

• **Chatham Community Library** – Volunteer genealogists are available to assist with family history research, whether your ancestors lived in Chatham County, the 50 states, or overseas. A genealogy volunteer is on site in the library most Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and other days and times by appointment. Call 919-545-8086 to make an appointment.

• **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** is now open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We have adult clothing, shoes and accessories in all sizes for your winter weather needs. All proceeds support domestic violence services and

education in collaboration with Chatham County. The shop is located on the Courthouse Circle in Pittsboro.

• **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with available items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. They are located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.

### FRIDAY

• **Free Friday Music Jam** at the Oasis Open Air Market in Siler City from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30-7 every Friday. Get together with the acoustic community of Siler City to play, and sing while enjoying Open Blue Grass, Old-time and County music. If you want to join, show up or email John Eichorn, [johnnichorn72@gmail.com](mailto:johnnichorn72@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY

• **The Christmas Round-Up Celebration** (in memory of Milo Holt) will be held beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Charlie's Music Barn, Hillside Road, Siler City. There will be music, western movies, comedy, prizes, and food, and yes, even Santa Claus. Bring a western related gag gift to place under the tree. A collection will be taken to cover expenses.

• **The Staley Christmas Parade** will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. There will be a best float contest with top three prizes. (No horses will be allowed in the parade, and no Santa on floats except the one sponsored by The Staley Town Council.) If interested in entering the contest, you must get a judging number from a member of the Town Council during the parade line-up. The Staley Town Council strives to make this a fun and safe event. Please support this event.

• Join the gathering for the **Bluegrass Jam Circle** at Bynum Front Porch Pickin' and make music every 2nd and 4th Saturday throughout the year, at 950 Bynum Rd. The circle forms around 10 a.m. until 12ish. Singers, new pickers, (spoons, washboards) and audience members are all welcome! This is an open circle type jam for all skill levels and ages. If you pick, bring your instrument (Acoustic instruments only). If you sing, bring your voice. Come to enjoy great music at the historic Bynum General Store. As always, the Circle Jam is free and open to the public!

• **Mark Hewitt Pottery's Holiday Kiln Opening** will continue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, and noon until 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. The event

will feature wood-fired, salt-glazed dinnerware, vases, and Mark's signature big pots from the 102nd firing! His facilities are located at 424 Johnny Burke Rd., Pittsboro, just 3 miles east of downtown.

• **"Miracle on Hillsboro Street"** will be presented at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. Enjoy audience participation, local actors and the real Kris Kringle! Have your child bring a letter to Santa telling him what they love about him! It might even be picked to be read at the show. Admission is \$7 with proceeds benefitting the Chatham Arts Council. Seating is limited - tickets are available through [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Link: <https://tinyurl.com/s7ehe8u>. Event will be produced by the Phoenix Theater Group and hosted by the Pittsboro Business Assn.

### MONDAY

• Welcome to **Writing Toward Resilience**, a weekly opportunity for all those who are grieving or current caregivers. We meet Mondays at noon at SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC. Come and enjoy a respite from the demands of your day – to reflect and write. No writing experience necessary. Facilitated by Carol Henderson, a professional writer and workshop leader who has facilitated workshops all over the U.S. and in Europe. No registration needed. The UNC Hospice Home is at 100 Roundtree Circle, behind Bojangles in Pittsboro, 919-984-2675. For further information email [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu).

• **Circle City Squares** is a square dance group in Pittsboro that usually dances from 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday afternoons, but verify the exact time and place. The usual meeting space is the Old Agriculture Building Auditorium, 65 East Chatham Street, located downstairs in downtown Pittsboro. Cost is \$5 per person each week. For more information or to verify the time/place, email: [gunhds@embarqmail.com](mailto:gunhds@embarqmail.com).

• **Big Band swing and jazz sounds** from 2 to 5 p.m., every Monday at the Pittsboro Roadhouse and General Store. The dance floor is open and bands rotate. For more information, see our website: [www.pittsbororoadhouse.com](http://www.pittsbororoadhouse.com).

### UPCOMING

• **A Bird Walk with the NHAS** is scheduled for 8 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill. For

questions, contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrshnk@yahoo.com). - Walk at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, meeting at the same place. For questions, contact Vern Bothwell at [Vernb217@gmail.com](mailto:Vernb217@gmail.com). Walk at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, meeting at the same place, questions, Contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrshnk@yahoo.com). A Walk at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 29, meeting at the same place. Contact Kent Fiala at [kent.fiala@gmail.com](mailto:kent.fiala@gmail.com). Heavy rains will result in cancellation of individual walks. All walks, wear long pants and closed toe shoes with socks. Bring snacks and water if you like.

• **Sharing Our Stories**, a 8-week grief support group sponsored by UNC Hospice, is scheduled for Jan. 8 through Feb. 26 at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC in Pittsboro. This will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for eight consecutive Wednesdays in the sunroom of our facility. The group supplies educational resources and mutual support to help participants explore their grief in a non-pressured environment. This is open to hospice families and to the community. There is no fee but registration is required. Contact Annie Ritter at 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu) for further information. All who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome.

• **The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet at 7 p.m. on the third

Thursday of each month at the Seymore Center on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. Beginners, experts, and all stringed instruments welcome. For more information and/or directions, contact Shirley Ray at [ShirleyRay@aol.com](mailto:ShirleyRay@aol.com) or 919-929-5359.

• **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open from 11 am until 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Adult and kid friendly, there is no admission fee. Our special exhibit for Dec. - Jan is Chatham's Deep River Coal History. There are lots of interesting artifacts to see, as well as our permanent exhibits on all aspects of Chatham's history. Bring your holiday visitors and enjoy Chatham's unique history. Please note that the Museum will be closed on Christmas Day.

• **Caregiver Support Group** sponsored by UNC Hospice - This group offers support for those currently providing care to a loved one. Hear information about effective caregiving and share experiences in comfortable surroundings. No registration necessary. Just Come! 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays in the Sunroom at SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, 984-215-2675. For more information, contact Annie Ritter: 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu). Group meet the third Monday of every month.

• **The Circle of Support** for those who have lost a

loved one to death meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the second Monday of each month at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro. Come to one or come every month to give and gain support from others who have lost a loved one. Volunteers will facilitate the circle of support. Participants can bring pictures and stories of their loved one as well as questions and concerns. No need to register! Just come! If you'd like further information, contact Ann Ritter, 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu). If you need directions, call the Hospice Home at 984-215-2675.

### ALSO HAPPENING

• **WGU North Carolina**, an affiliate of the competency-based nonprofit Western Governors University, has announced the availability of new **Salute to the Armed Forces Scholarships**, worth up to \$3,000 toward a bachelor's or master's degree in IT, business, healthcare, or K-12 education. Applications are now being accepted through December 31. Open to U.S. military veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, and military family members newly enrolling in a WGU degree program, scholarships will be awarded at the rate of \$750 per six-month term, for up to two years. To learn more or to apply, visit [www.wgu.edu/salute](http://www.wgu.edu/salute). For more information about WGU North Carolina, visit [www.wgu.edu/north-carolina.html](http://www.wgu.edu/north-carolina.html).

# Poultry Feed

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## Holidays bring changes in deadlines and delivery schedule for some editions of the CN+R

The holiday season will bring some changes in deadlines and other schedules for the News + Record.

CHRISTMAS is on Wednesday, Dec. 25. Advertising deadlines for the News + Record's Dec. 26-Jan. 1 edition won't change, but the deadline for obituaries and news is at noon on Monday, Dec. 23. Distribution and mailing will be done on Thursday, Dec. 26, meaning subscribers and readers will get that week's edition one day later than normal.

The News + Record's offices will close for Christmas at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and re-open on Thursday,

Dec. 26.

NEW YEAR'S DAY is on Wednesday, Jan. 1. As with the week prior, advertising deadlines won't change, but obituary and news deadlines will be at noon on Monday, Dec. 30. As with Christmas week, distribution and mailing will be done on Thursday, Jan. 2, meaning subscribers and readers will get that week's edition one day later than normal.

The News + Record's offices will close for the New Year's holiday at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and re-open on Thursday, Jan. 2.

## Chatham News + Record

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

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NEWS BRIEFS

**NCDOT seeking new partners for 2020 Watch for Me NC Program**

RALEIGH — North Carolina communities interested in participating in the 2020 Watch for Me NC safety program may now submit applications to the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

The nationally-recognized program focuses on bicycle and pedestrian safety, education and enforcement. The 2020 campaign is supported by the Governor's Highway Safety Program and the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation.

"Watch for Me NC provides valuable, hands-on training to law enforcement while educating the public," said Ed Johnson, Watch for Me NC program manager. "Everyone must be engaged and informed as we work together to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety."

Communities selected to participate will receive free law enforcement training, technical assistance and safety tools provided by NCDOT and the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. In 2020, communities will receive support that is individually customized, helping them plan outreach, share opportunities and troubleshoot challenges.

Watch for Me NC partners will also receive materials with pedestrian and bicycle safety messages to aid in engagement at public events. Communities may also be eligible to receive advertising such as radio and transit ads. Local government applicants should be able to demonstrate support from local law enforcement agencies and, if applicable, campus police, plus the capacity to participate fully in the program.

Interested communities are encouraged to register for NCDOT's webinar at 11 a.m. on Dec. 16 when more information about the program requirements and application process will be provided. Applications are due Jan. 31

and can be submitted online via the Watch for Me NC website.

**Grad student seeks interviews in Siler City**

Anya Russian of Greensboro, who is currently pursuing a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba (Canada), is seeking interviews with Siler City residents for a class project this semester.

"I would like to learn more about how residents of Siler City experience being part of a community with a significant Latino population," Russian said.

For the project, Russian is seeking three people (age 18+) who would be interested in being interviewed. These individuals must have lived or worked in Siler City for a minimum of five years between the period of 1990 to the present date. Each interview will be conducted individually by Skype or in person at a mutually agreed upon time and location. The interview will last approximately one hour. Your name or other identifying information will not be shared publicly and will not be used in any written reports.

The interviews will take place between now and Jan. 5.

If you are interested in taking part in this study or if you would like to learn more about it, contact: Russian, Master's Candidate, Peace and Conflict Studies Program, University of Manitoba, russiana@myumanitoba.ca

This study has been approved by the Joint-Faculty Research Ethics Board at the University of Manitoba. If you have any concerns or complaints about this project you may contact any of the above-named persons or contact the Human Ethics Coordinator at 204-474-7122 or humanethics@umanitoba.ca

— CN+R staff reports

**TREES: 'A nicer ambiance in your home'**



Lyndsey Black shops with her children Bodie, Naia, and Carmen (left to right) at the gift shop at Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm last Friday. The store offers tree ornaments and other Christmas-related items.

Staff photo by David Bradley

Continued from page A1

and their farm.

But there's a reward. Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm is an annual destination for their returning customers and the many new ones the business attracts year after year as folks shop for the perfect tree for their holiday decorating.

When it comes to Christmas trees, there is, after all, no substitute for the real thing.

"It's the smell," allowed Laura Dejesus of Durham, who with her husband, Rafael, was browsing the farm's selection of pre-cut Fraser firs last Thursday afternoon.

"It creates a nicer ambiance in your home than you get with an artificial tree," she said. "And you get the experience of going to a place like this. The fact that this is a working farm kind of adds to it."

In addition to the popular Fraser firs — since Fraser firs don't grow well in this part of North Carolina, but prosper in the state's mountains, the Mays purchase their supply from a grower in Allegheny County with whom they've done business for years — the Mays also offer customers a "choose and cut" option of their own Chatham County-grown trees, varieties including Virginia Pine, Leyland Cypress, Carolina Sapphire, Blue Ice. About half of the 24 acres of their farm is used for growing trees.

"We decided after the first year to keep it going and see how it goes," said Byron. "One thing led to another and it just kept growing."

They've unofficially tracked the growth of their agribusiness through the physical changes in their sales shop — it's filled with



Staff photo by David Bradley

Mitchell Morgan (left), an employee of Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm, and owner Byron May load a tree for a customer.

Christmas and Christmas tree-related items for sale — which originally was an old barn.

"It was kind of a disaster," Byron said of the original building. "It was about to fall down. I think it was after the first year or two we realized if we were going to keep doing this, we'd have to expand. Now we've added on to this building four times."

They also employ several people to help, some of their seasonal helpers returning year after year, some "maybe close to 20 years; they're really part of our family," Byron said, "our seasonal family."

He calls the business a "full-time hobby."

And he's not exaggerating. For Byron and Diana, both of whom continue to work their "real jobs" as pharmacists (Byron also teaches at Campbell University's School of Pharmacy) Jordan Lake Tree Farm — though requiring their care and attention year-round — remains a part-time pursuit.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Candi Wood and Andrew Fussell pick out a pre-cut Fraser fir from a range of sizes. Wood said that this was their second year visiting Jordan Lake Christmas Tree Farm for their tree shopping and that they enjoy 'support(ing) local farms instead of going to Home Depot.'

"It's a great respite from our other jobs," he said. "And we're fortunate that our real jobs allow us some flexibility to take time off in December, otherwise I don't think we could manage the farm and do the other stuff."

For the next couple of weeks, the Mays will continue to be busy as the Christmas holiday draws near.

"During the season, we suffer a little from lack of sleep," Byron said good-naturedly. "But when it's over, you look back and hopefully people enjoyed the experience. They've gotten a good tree and we've been part of somebody's holiday tradition."

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

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**CHATCAST: Able to binge it right away**

Continued from page A1

chatcast. You'll be able to stream and/or download the podcast from all of those venues for no cost.

**What you're getting**

"The Age of Anxiety" features 10 episodes, averaging around 30 minutes each. Issues covered range from academics and social media to coping mechanisms and public policy. Unlike most similar podcast series, all the episodes of "The Age of Anxiety" will be released at once, so you'll be able to binge it right away. And again, it's free.

**Who you'll hear from**

Along with creators and producers Zachary Horner and Adrienne Clevon, you'll be hearing from some notable names in and out of Chatham County. County Commissioner Karen Howard and Chatham County Schools Superintendent Derrick Jordan provided some thoughts for the podcast, as well as state Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham) and Chatham Drug-Free coordinator Gregger Greger-Holt. Two UNC professors — Clinical Psychology instructor Mitch Prinstein and eating disorders expert Christine Peat — will also provide insight.

But the real stars of the series are the teenagers themselves, whom we featured in a preview

story two weeks ago: Abigail Holmes, Kevin Manzanarez, Chloe Rayno, Quinn Hennessey and Elijah Roebuck. Their stories are the backbone of "The Age of Anxiety."

**Where to learn more**

In addition to the podcast's release, the next One Chatham event will be a forum on teen mental health. Originally announced for this month, the event was rescheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro. More details on the event, including panelist announcements, will be made in the coming weeks, but go ahead and mark the date on your calendar.

**Why you should listen**

We'll let the creators and production team tell you why.

**Adrienne Clevon, producer and creator:** "If you've never tried a podcast before, I encourage you to check out Spotify or Apple Podcasts and start listening the next time you're driving or walking from point A to point B. And, even though I'm usually an unbiased journalist, I think you should start your podcast-listen-

ing adventure with The Chatcast. You may learn something that will one day help a friend, colleague, family member, or even yourself."

**Zachary Horner, producer and creator:** "We really hope 'The Age of Anxiety' is not only an informative podcast but an engaging one. We hope Chatham residents try it out because we've put a lot of time into it and it's incredibly relevant in today's world. Also, we as the News + Record are trying new ways to reach you with the news, and 'The Chatcast' is a wholly unique opportunity for Chatham residents to consume news. And it's free, so what do you have to lose?"

**Bill Horner III, executive producer:** "This podcast is a natural offshoot of the work we've done with our 'One Chatham' events to spotlight community-wide issues and create public dialogue. Our coverage of teen mental health issues certainly made it clear that more attention was needed on this subject. Zach and Adrienne have worked extremely hard to put this project together, and we think it will go a long way toward creating awareness and bringing about ideas for solutions to the problems of teen mental illness."

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# VIEWPOINTS

## You can go home again ... it'll just be different



**BILL HORNER III**  
From The  
Publisher's Desk

It was actually journalist Ella Winter — not native North Carolina son Thomas Wolfe — who said we can't go home again. Wolfe, it has been written, was so enamored with Winter's turn of the phrase in a conversation the two had that he asked Winter, a British-Australian author and activist, for permission to use it as the title of a book he was writing. "You Can't Go Home Again," that book, was published posthumously in 1940, nearly two years after Wolfe died from tuberculosis and after heavy editing by Wolfe's editor from a longer, unpublished manuscript. I've not read it, but like me, if you've lived in more than one place, you're probably familiar with the words and likely explored what Wolfe may have meant when he wrote them. That was on my mind during a quick two-night visit to Kansas this past weekend. My wife

Lee Ann and I flew to spend time with Darrell Spain, one of my best friends, and go to a concert (Riders in the Sky, performing with the Quebe Sisters in a beautifully-restored old theater in downtown Salina) with him and visit other friends in Darrell's hometown of Waterville and my old hometown of Blue Rapids, four miles down the road, in north-east Kansas. By my count, this was my eighth trip back to Kansas in the last 40 months. I'm no stranger to "going home." Each visit, though, there are the curious simultaneous sensations of the old and the unfamiliar. It really is like déjà vu all over again — driving past the vacant lot where the mobile home in which we lived once stood, the old house we subsequently moved into, my high school, the golf course where I learned the game I came to love, my first girlfriend's house, our unusual round "town square," the mill, the abandoned "Daisy Cream" burger joint where entertainer Red Skelton once ate, and more. The best word I can think of to describe the feeling of being "back home" is surreal. And even *surreal* doesn't come close

to capturing it. My life is delineated by two major events: first, my parents' divorce and our (my mom, my older sister Belinda and me) subsequent move from Sanford to Kansas when I was an 8-year-old in 1972; and second, my graduation from college in Kansas and my move back to Sanford when I was 21. It was during those 13 in-between years in Kansas that I grew up, and since I remember curiously little about my life before that first move, the memories from those days in the Sunflower State are at the same time brilliantly intense and foggily dreamlike — like scenes from a movie I saw a long time ago, and liked, but not real life. Ultimately, when I go, I always ask myself: Did I really live here, in this tiny farming community where there's just a single stoplight within a 30-mile radius? Did those thousand vivid recollections really happen, or did I imagine it all? The flood of memories isn't so overwhelming, nor are the emotions. What's so palpable is the weird nostalgia and the disbelief, the odd connection/disconnection that tugs unsatisfyingly on my psyche when

I'm there. There's the elation of being back home and a strange sadness that emanates from a source I can't quite pinpoint. Ours was a whirlwind trip, about 50 "feet on the ground" hours in total. And in those hours, I had only about 30 minutes to myself. On Friday afternoon, we'd returned to our dear friends Terre and Bev Carter's house, where we always stay in Blue Rapids (they live across the street from the elementary school I attended for three years) from short visits in two nearby towns. While Lee Ann was napping, I drove our rental car out to Irving, a ghost town whose 101-year history came to a close with a forced government relocation of its inhabitants back in 1960. It's famous — and I've written here about it before — for being struck by two tornadoes hours apart on May 30, 1879. There's not much there now except a large stone marker on a small grassy lot with "IRVING" emblazoned on it and a mailbox with a spiral notebook inside where tornado chasers, the curious and other visitors come to scrawl their names and impressions. A six-mile drive down a gravel road got me

there. It was sunny and gorgeous out, and after arriving I stood there, just listening. Six miles out in the country, under a yawning blue sky in rural post-harvest Kansas, there's a deeper level of quiet than you can imagine. You have to not hear it to believe it. For a minute or two, I drank in the beauty and the solitude. Earlier in our visit, Darrell had kidded me about my yearly summer trips from Kansas to North Carolina back in those days, visits which allowed me to see my dad, work at The Sanford Herald and, in Darrell's words, "recharge your Southern accent." Now I stood in old Irving and got another kind of charge, a refilling of crisp Kansas air mixed with familiar melancholy. Suddenly, in the midst of my existential processing, my cellphone rang. It was my daughter, Karis, calling just to chat. We talked all the way back to town, her call reminding me where my heart is. Dorothy, who was whisked from Kansas to Oz by a tornado, said it: There's no place like home. Some of us are lucky enough to have two of them.

## New appliances trigger long list of chores

We might've picked a better month than December — the whirlwind Christmas season — to take on so many household projects.



**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

But part of our timing for undertaking so many household projects was, ironically, the Christmas season. We snagged good Black Friday deals on a few new appliances and those purchases set in motion a domino-like list of related household chores. For example, before we could bring in our new washer and dryer, we had to remove the old washer and dryer (naturally) but also repaint the small utility room where we keep the appliances and build new shelving around them. But before we could build the shelves, we had to cut and sand the wood for the shelves, stain them, go purchase brackets to mount ... It seemed every simple task (install new washer and dryer) required a bevy of not-so-simple tasks before the simple task could be executed. In other words: one job was actually four or five jobs.

So for the past couple of weekends we've been working overtime.

I'm not complaining, of course. I don't like lug-ging heavy appliances, but I like building things like shelves and we're enjoying the improvements. And we've liked them so much we're planning a few more, including repainting our kitchen and living room, removing carpet from the couple of the last remaining rooms that still have carpet, yada yada and the list goes on. Such activities may see us through winter.

So with so much to do indoors, it seems almost quixotic that on Saturday, I'd turn my attention to the yard.

Specially, taming the leaves in the yard. It's a task — and a territory — I'm intimately familiar with. Over the years, I've taken every conceivable approach to annual leaf duties.

I've raked them to the curb for city pick-up. I've mulched them in place with a lawn mower. I've set them on fire after stuffing them in old ink barrels.

I've stockpiled them for composting throughout the year.

One fall, I did nothing, leaving the mass of leaves where they fell and blew, determined to allow my backyard paradise to exist in a completely nature state (until spring, when I caved and eventually raked them anyway).

My years of experimentation with leaf gathering and disposal has confirmed one truth: I don't enjoy working with leaves.

This year was no different. The raking wasn't so bad and reminded me, as a kind of ancillary benefit, of several muscles I'd forgotten I had. But the disposal part proved the bigger challenge.

I opted for the simple solution: put them out at the street.

But that's not the kind of work you accomplish with a blink and a bewitching wrinkling of the tip of your nose. If only.

Using a tarp, I hauled, from back yard to front, all 30-something piles of leaves I'd raked. It took several hours and lots of trips from front to back yard dragging a leaf-loaded tarp behind me over the two-day weekend.

When I was finished — the ton of leaves triple stacked at the curb my reward — I felt like I'd really done something. Beaming with positivity for a job well done, I mentioned an article I'd seen somewhere recently urging folks to simply not rake. Better for the environment, the article said. "So why do you rake them?" my wife countered.

There are lots of reasons, but the only one that really mattered — and it was the reason I'd turned my attention to the outdoors even though we had/have so much to do indoors — was that I couldn't focus on improving the indoors when our outdoor space looked so unkempt.

Raking and hauling leaves was, I suppose, the ultimate of the many pre-jobs generated by the purchase of some new appliances.

I offer this simply as a warning: When purchasing new appliances, make sure you have all the tools you'll need for a proper install. And don't forget the rake.



## Change is the only constant in life

Funny, isn't it, how things change as we move through life.



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

When I was a little guy, I was pretty sure my mother was out to torture me if we sat down to the supper table and she didn't have corn or mashed potatoes or French fries to go along with the fried chicken or roast beef or the hot

dogs we were having. It was, I was sure, either the end of the world or grounds for a Social Services investigation into child abuse, if I had known what that was, if our meal consisted of cabbage and turnip greens and black-eyed peas and cucumbers and onions in vinegar and no meat. I would beg and plead with her to let me have at least a peanut butter sandwich and some milk with molasses mixed in. Sometimes I would also plead for a couple of my almost-famous (to me) bologna and peanut butter and cheese and mayonnaise and catsup sandwiches.

Today, while I still like corn and potatoes, I rejoice when Better Half puts the cabbage and greens on the table. Shoot, I've even been known to order them on purpose when we go out to eat.

I'm not sure when the transition occurred. I just sort of realized one day I liked that stuff. I just remem-

ber Mama telling me that she was pretty sure one day I would when I got old enough to appreciate them. I'm there.

Same thing with other things, as well. Coffee, for instance. For a long time I wouldn't touch the stuff. Then I tried some of the instant brand my folks used. Didn't do much for me except that I thought I was being really cool by drinking coffee. If I put enough milk and sugar in it, I could get it down.

In time, I started hitting the coffee bar at Dan McCrimmon's drug store in Pittsboro, years after I had retired from being a high school soda jerk there. Again, the cream and sugar made it go down really well. Then I discovered I was being affected by 20 cups of sugar a day, as in my pants were getting smaller in the waist. So then I stopped with the sugar and learned to make do with just the milk.

Eventually, I think it was because they were out of milk, I drank a cup straight up. Wasn't bad. So finally, I just started asking for it black. Then I discovered the various flavors available today with my one-cup maker and today there's no such thing as coffee that's too strong. If, for some reason I can't get it all down, then it can go into my truck crankcase in place of the 10W30.

I say all that to say that it truly is amazing how some things do change and how our perspective changes with that. When I was a youngster I lived and died by UNC athletics, as

well as the Brooklyn Dodgers before eventually morphing over to the St. Louis Cardinals. I knew everybody's vital statistics from minutes played to ERA. When my boys went down to defeat, I was down in the dumps for at least the next week.

Just like the change for cabbage and turnip greens, however, one day I realized those guys didn't know me from Adam's housecat, if he had one, and it was foolish for me to let my world go up and down on whether Michael Jordan made a free throw.

Today, I still holler at the television but something's different. From time to time I watch my Heels play something on television, although it's getting harder as I see more and more that they play around with integrity and so forth. Still, I watch and listen, usually watching the television while listening to the game on the radio. I will listen and watch and fume and fuss until the last whistle blows. Then I get up, go out to cut wood or feed the heater or rake leaves or something similar, take a shower, go out to overeat and come home and sleep like a baby.

I won't lie to you...I still like it when my boys win. But like the little poster that once graced the wall in the basement of my growing-up house that I turned into my own little world said, "We get too soon old and too late smart," I hope I can remember what's really important. It certainly took long enough.

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# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

## Waiting, and then living, into hope

French author Alexandre Dumas made a provocative claim when he said, "All human wisdom is contained in these two words: 'Wait' and 'Hope.'"

Wisdom is rooted in reality, including painful truths, and waiting is a part of the human experience. Try as they might, children cannot make the days before Christmas pass more quickly. Neither can anyone part a traffic jam like Moses before the Red Sea. We must wait in the ER and in the airport terminal.

We must wait because we are not in control.

So, we must wait for admission letters and biopsy reports; we must wait for summer vacation to arrive and for a soldier to return; we must wait for a

child to be born and a loved one to die. All we can do is wait...

Yet Dumas' point is that we can control how we wait.

As the Buddha taught, the bright moon does not leave the night sky because dark clouds obscure it. Neither does our best self disappear when concealed behind thoughts that are unwanted or anxiety-producing. When the storms of life arrive, we can be patient, trusting that this, too, shall pass.

Especially in Advent, Christianity teaches to wait with hope — apocalyptic hope. "Apocalyptic" does not mean "doomsday" but rather refers to what is "to be revealed." Like the moon behind the clouds, we are waiting for great beauty

to be uncovered. We are not in control of time, but we can control our attention and focus. We can wait with hope, then live into that hope.

Apocalyptic hope is often misunderstood as a call for escapism, as if the point was to fly to the moon! Hope does not give us an excuse to withdraw from the world, but rather inspires us to engage in positive, moral behaviors. Perhaps, then, we should look for inspiration to hope much closer than the moon.

As poet Wendell Berry wrote in "A Poem on Hope" — find your hope on the ground under your feet. This is a call for hopeful action. With the apocalyptic predictions about the cataclysmic effects of climate change,

it can be hard to find hope. True, there is much beyond our control...

Yet, if we control our thoughts and focus our attention, we will find reasons for hope.

I find hope in solar panels and wind turbines, in compost buckets and beehives, in electric cars and every living tree. I find hope in teenagers protesting human-made climate change. Especially this time of year, I think about the abiding wisdom of an ancient prophecy that a little child shall lead them.

With childlike faith, may you find your hope on the ground under your feet. Don't be discouraged. Be determined to

work for positive change. Maybe you don't agree with Dumas' contention that "wait" and "hope" summarize all human wisdom. But it is wise to claim that the time is always right to live into hope.

My daughter turned 2 years old the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I was reminded that, for all of my impatience, time actually moves quite fast. I hope she will come of age in a safer, cleaner, and kinder world. Let's come together to fulfill this hope for future generations.

*Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the poet pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and the author of the book Gently Between the Words.*

## The face of health care is changing

RALEIGH — While the health care debate has usually focused on questions of insurance coverage and finance, the composition and delivery of medical services have been changing significantly. Some of these changes are worrisome. Others are promising.



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

A good example of the promising kind of change, to my way of thinking, is the emergence of physician assistants and nurse practitioners as frontline providers of primary care. While not receiving the breadth and depth of medical

training that physicians receive, PAs and NPs can deliver many basic services at least as well as doctors at a fraction of the cost.

Consider these findings from a recent study by Julie Spero and Evan Galloway of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They looked at counts of physicians, PAs, and NPs in our state and how they have changed since 2000.

All three groups of medical professionals have expanded — faster, even, than the state's overall population. In 2017, there were 24,432 physicians, 6,027 physician assistants, and 6,644 nurse practitioners. In other words, the combined number of PAs and NPs was about half that of doctors. In 2000, their combined total was only 22 percent that of doctors.

The disproportionate growth of physician assistants and nurse practitioners was especially pronounced in rural areas, where proximity to medical providers is of greatest concern. The ratio of doctors to population in counties outside of North Carolina's metropolitan areas has gone up only modestly so far this century. But the ratio of PAs to rural residents has more than doubled. The ratio of NPs to rural residents has nearly tripled.

When it comes to primary care, doctors continue to play a key role, of course. Still, most physicians (and physician assistants) practice in fields other than primary care. Most nurse practitioners, however, are mainly in the business of providing primary care. When it comes to preserving and extending such medical services in rural North Carolina, NPs have become indispensable.

To the extent government stands in the way, North Carolina policymakers should take action. A series of good first steps can be found in a bill filed by a bipartisan group of legislators earlier this year. Known as the SAVE Act — for Safe, Accessible, Value-directed and Excellent health care — it would have updated state regulations on advanced-practice registered nurses.

For example, these nurses are currently required to do their work under a "collaborative practice" with doctors. While supposedly a form of physician supervision, in practice the system often consists merely of perfunctory, twice-yearly check-ins with faraway physicians at the expense of a percentage of the nurse practitioner's receipts.

Most states don't impose these kinds of restrictions. Their residents benefit as a result. According to a study by Duke University researcher Chris Conover, alleviating the regulatory burden on advanced-practice nurses would save North Carolina patients hundreds of millions of dollars a year and even increase the overall size of our economy as more nurses move in from elsewhere to set up practice in our state.

Reforming the delivery of health care is always going to be about striking a balance. Some medical practices will continue to employ a range of professionals under the supervision of physicians. Others will deploy PAs, NPs, and other providers in a variety of innovative ways, such as small practices within drug stores and other retailers, mobile clinics, telehealth enterprises, and home visitation services.

State regulators should focus their attention on ensuring that providers are fully transparent about their training and capabilities, that patients can make informed decisions, and that procedures and charges are clearly explained ahead of time. Regulators should not attempt to devise and enforce central plans about how all of this is going to work. They'll get it wrong more often than not. And their decisions will be unduly influenced by special-interest groups, regardless of their good intentions.

The face of health care in North Carolina is changing — for the better, in this case.

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

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## Last minute shoppers: North Carolina books to the rescue

Are there new North Carolina books that would be good holiday presents for hard-to-give-to people on my list?



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

ideas:

First, consider two books that are battling each other for the top position on The New York Times best-selling fiction list: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens and "The Guardians" by John Grisham. Owens set her book in North Carolina, and although Grisham lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, he spends lots of time here "doing the grandfather thing" with family in Raleigh and Chapel Hill. Because both Owens and Grisham are great storytellers, their books would be good choices for almost any reader.

If the prospective gift recipient is a Grisham fan but has already read "The Guardians," consider "The Substitution Order" by Martin Clark, who has been called "the thinking man's John Grisham." His complicated literary thriller is built on a multi-million-dollar insurance scam and the broken life of a once highly-respected lawyer. Best-selling author Clark lives just across the North Carolina line in Patrick County, Virginia.

Don't forget our state's master literary fiction authors, Ron Rash and Charles Frazier. Rash's "The Risen" and Frazier's "Varina" gained widespread praise throughout this year

for their beautiful language and rich storytelling.

For readers who miss the late Pat Conroy's booming fiction, consider Cassandra King Conroy's "Tell Me a Story: My Life with Pat Conroy."

Two debut authors gained my admiration this year: "A Woman Is No Man" by Etaf Rum and "In West Mills" by De'Shawn Charles Winslow. Rum lives in Rocky Mount, but writes about the Palestinian-American community in Brooklyn, N.Y. Winslow grew up near Elizabeth City and writes about people in a nearby fictional African American community.

For speculative fiction fans, "The Crossing" by Columbus County native Jason Mott takes readers to a future troubled America and the travels of teenaged twins, a sister who remembers everything, and her brother who remembers almost nothing.

There is also a wealth of non-fiction related to North Carolina.

"The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke" by Andrew Lawler, is a comprehensive and entertaining review of our state's founding myth and the 350-year-old search for clues about what happened to those lost colonists.

"A Delicious Country: Rediscovering the Carolinas along the Route of John Lawson's 1700 Expedition" by Scott Huler and "The Tuscarora War: Indians, Settlers, and the Fight for the Carolina Colonies" by David La Vere take readers back to the struggles between the early colonists and the natives they displaced. Huler enhances the tale by a modern-day report on his travels along Lawson's route through the Carolinas.

**Don't forget our state's master literary fiction authors, Ron Rash and Charles Frazier. Rash's "The Risen" and Frazier's "Varina" gained widespread praise throughout this year for their beautiful language and rich storytelling.**

For a worried supporter of the UNC System, "Fire and Stone: The Making of the University of North Carolina under Presidents Edward Kidder Graham and Harry Woodburn Chase" by Howard Covington shows how UNC struggled to gain support from state government in the early days of the last century.

Other new books that help explain the North Carolina experience are "The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys" by Rob Christensen, who tells the story of the family of Governors Kerr and Robert Scott; "The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle" by Malinda Maynor Lowery; "That's Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life" by Rufus Edmisten; and "Tar Heel Lightnin': How Secret Stills and Fast Cars Made North Carolina the Moonshine Capital of the World" by Daniel Pierce.

Finally, a surefire gift for North Carolinians who love their mothers, "Mothers and Strangers: Essays on Motherhood from the New South" edited by Lee Smith and Samia Serageldin.

Note: If you would like to know more, I will send you a draft essay that describes these books in more detail. Email me at nceateries@yahoo.com

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Staff photo by David Bradley

Two of Bray Park's ballfields stand ready for warmer weather and fans in the December cold. The Town of Siler City has been developing a master plan for an expanded Bray Park.

## FIELDS: 'Central hub for Siler City'

Continued from page A1

a fishing pier and a recreation center.

"I'm excited about the Recreation Center," Keel said. "It would be the central hub for Siler City Parks and Recreation. The department would also be able to offer full day summer camps, exercise classes and other neat programs in the three multipurpose rooms."

The plan also proposes synthetic turf soccer fields, which Keel notes would "be a great draw for soccer tournaments and allow us to begin offering a soccer league in Siler City." Keel also said that the baseball complex would allow the town to be the "central baseball hub of Chatham County and bring in

tournaments from teams around the state and up and down the east coast."

"Siler City will have an economic boom once this facility is built," Keel said. "Sport tourism is a \$15 billion industry that Siler City wants to be a part of."

Keel hopes that if the town approves the Bray Park Master Plan in March, at which time a preliminary estimate of costs would have been calculated. Keel believes implementation could begin in January 2021, once funding is secure. Keel is planning on applying for a \$500,000 PARTF grant for the first phase of the project with a second phase occurring once additional funding is secured.

Since being hired as

the Parks and Recreation director, Keel has worked on numerous improvements to Bray Park including the completion of the Aquatic Center, improvements to t-ball fields and working to improve lighting and amenities. The park often hosts baseball tournaments and Keel hopes that, once complete, the town will be able to reap the rewards of a new source of revenue while providing additional recreation services for Siler City residents.

For more information or to provide input on the Bray Park Master Plan, contact Keel at 919-742-2699.

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



Submitted photo

One of two potential designs created by WithersRavenel for the Siler City Bray Park Master Plan.



Submitted photo

A second potential design created by WithersRavenel for the Siler City Bray Park Master Plan.

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Submitted photo

Chatham Charter eighth-grader Mackenzie Crossman, third from right, delivers care packages to members of the Siler City Police Department. Crossman has given packages to more than 200 law enforcement members in Chatham County since April.

## PACKAGES: 'See how far it goes'

Continued from page A1

Pittsboro United Methodist Church, to put together care packages for every member of law enforcement in Chatham County.

That's 214 bags filled with various practical items, including tissues, hand sanitizer, baby powder, gum, hard candy and a notebook, along with a handwritten note of encouragement.

"I knew that when they got these packages, it would make them really happy," Crossman said, "and it's basic stuff they would use in work."

The project began in April as part of Chatham Charter's 7th-graders participating in the G.R.E.A.T. program. The acronym stands for Gang Resistance Education and Training and, according to a sheriff's office press release from 2017, is designed as "immunization against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership before they become at-risk." A sheriff's deputy teaches the class, which is currently given at schools across Chatham County.

Participating students, according to Chatham Charter administrator Beth McCullough, have the opportunity to do a service project at the end, and Crossman chose supporting first responders, starting with police officers.

Crossman said she has family and family friends in law enforcement, so it was a natural fit. She added that the project has only deepened her appreciation for the profession and brought her joy to help them.

"I've always been close to the police officers, so I think it helped me get a little bit closer," Crossman said. "I knew from experience how it would touch people, and just knowing that I've touched people, it made me really happy."

McCullough said Chatham Charter has put a special emphasis in the last couple of years on service and volunteerism, and Crossman's work is a good example.

"I remember as a 7th grader talking to her about it then and how passionate she was even then," McCullough said. "To watch that continue this year into

a club, and at her church where she still wants to do that, I think that's really exciting. And as educators, that's something you always want to see, is students take something and own it and it become real to them."

The school has established a campus-wide club, Knights in Service, that focused on service. Knights in Service assisted Crossman with putting together some of the care packages in October and held a reception for military veterans in November.

And neither Crossman nor the Knights in Service are done. This month, the club will make holiday crafts and cards for local nursing home residents. And Crossman is looking to expand her care packages to more recipients.

"I plan to try to get all of Chatham County's first responders with the bags," she said. "Firefighters and then EMS and we'll see how far it goes."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorn-er@chathamnc.com or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-erCNR.

## HOLLAND: 'She was a good lady'

Continued from page A1

return to the county board.

Hearing news of Holland's passing last week, former colleagues remembered the retired church administrator-turned county commissioner as a dedicated public servant.

"She really loved Chatham County," said Betty Wilson, elected as a county commissioner in the 1990s and serving alongside Holland. "She was very congenial and a very pleasant person to work with. She always stayed very calm; never got rattled by controversy."

"She was a fine lady," said Charlie Horne, now-retired former county manager, who remembered Holland also as "a strong advocate for education and sound economic development."

Campaigning for re-election in 1996, Holland promoted a platform of working for expanded county infrastructure — particularly county water and sewer — to help lure new businesses and industries to Chatham, with an aim towards alleviating residential tax burdens and strengthening local coffers for education.

"I appreciated her candor and outreach to the citizens of Chatham County," Horne said. "Chatham County has lost one of its true advocates."

Siler City Mayor John Grimes, a county commissioner in the late 1990s, served on the county board alongside Holland. The first Republican elected to the county board since reconstruction following the Civil War, Grimes recalled that he and Holland, though from different political parties, worked well together.

"She was a good lady," Grimes said, "and we got along very well. I always found Uva to be non-political in her decision-making, and an ethically strong commissioner. I think she did a lot of good for a lot of people in her service on the county board."

Before holding elected office, Holland had served on the Chatham County Board of Elections and as first vice chair of the Chatham County Democratic Party.

In the private sector, Holland, a wife and mother of three children, enjoyed a career as director of the Northeast Corridor of the United Church a Christ. In that capacity, she worked towards the development of some 300 churches in East Coast states, from Florida to Maine.

Her funeral service was held Tuesday, December 10, at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church in Apex. She was buried in the church cemetery.

## Celebrate Pussmas at the Goathouse Refuge!

December 7-8 & 14-15, 11am - 4pm

T-shirts, gift baskets, pottery, crafts for sale. Siglinda's teapots and sculptures 50% off, plates 25% off!

Rustic Italian food, coffee, and apple cider will be served.

Raffle winners to be announced.  
 First Prize: \$10,000 Second Prize: \$5,000 Third Prize: \$1,000

Sunday, December 15th at 3pm

A Live eBay Auction will run from Dec. 6 - Dec.15 at 3pm, for a one-of-a-kind 10 day stay at **Hale Uluwehi Villa** on the island of Kauai, Hawaii! 2200sq ft, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, pool, spa, rock waterfall, lanai, and nearby beach! You could win the vacation of a lifetime! The auction link will post Dec. 6 on our website and Facebook page.

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 501(c)(3) nonprofit, no-kill cat sanctuary

UDO CONSULTANT SACKED

# Chatham seeks new firm for planning tool

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

Chatham County has decided to end its contract with CodeWright Planners LLC, the company it engaged to facilitate the long process to re-write the county's unified development ordinance, the document which contains all of Chatham's zoning and development regulations.

According to terms of the contract, which was signed in June, the agreement was expected to last until 2023. County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record that after CodeWright began extending deadlines and not fulfilling expectations in the scope of work outlined in the contract, he and county staff felt it would be best to end the relationship and find a new consultant.

The total value of the contract was approximately \$388,000, but to date, the county has only paid out \$7,000 and is expecting one last invoice for the work completed thus far. LaMontagne noted that county staff liked CodeWright and tried to work with them, but felt that with the extensive nature of the UDO development process and the delays that had been experienced thus far, it was best to move in a different direction.

"I really wish we could have worked it out," LaMontagne said. "But

we couldn't risk a four-year engagement when the first year already had schedule issues."

County staff determined that before they "lost the confidence of stakeholders" it was prudent to begin the search for a new consultant.

"The county is committed to completing a Unified Development Ordinance," LaMontagne said. "We are really appreciative for the valuable input already received from boards, committees, and development community about our current land use related regulations at the point of introduction and look forward building off this input in the future."

"In the perspective of the overall project, this termination of contract is only a minor setback at this point," he said. "Though a few things may change about the process of how we will arrive at the final document, the outcome still remains the same; that the county would draft and adopt a Unified Development Ordinance with commonly accepted modern planning practices and contemporary zoning tools; compliant with North Carolina state statutes."

According to LaMontagne, staff is already working on an updated request for proposals for the work and will likely be able to reissue it as soon as the end of

January. He noted it will likely be different than the original one as staff has "learned some things" from the process thus far including the "need to outline clearer expectations in the contract."

At the same time, LaMontagne notes the goals of the project remain the same, for the county to "develop clear procedures and guidelines that are simple, flexible, and easily administered by staff and that the UDO would be a user friendly document for residents, elected officials, appointed boards, and the development community, with a streamlined development review process tailored uniquely to Chatham County."

"We also look forward to drafting a UDO that incorporates and implements recommendations of the County's Comprehensive Plan adopted in November 2017," LaMontagne said. "The final UDO document should encourage development and redevelopment of designated centers, support sound economic development, support preservation of agricultural areas, integrate multimodal transportation where it is appropriate, and provide a platform to support sustainable infrastructure investment and affordable housing."

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

# Nass era begins on Pittsboro town board

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners on Monday had a full meeting with its newly elected mayor and commissioners.

## Handing over the gavel

The first act was to swear in the town's new mayor, Jim Nass, who was unopposed in the November election. Commissioners John Bonitz (incumbent), Jay Farrell (incumbent) and Kyle Shipp were all sworn in immediately after by Town Clerk Alice F. Lloyd. The new board then unanimously approved and presented resolutions in appreciation for outgoing Mayor Cindy Perry and Commissioner Bett Wilson Foley. The board also unanimously voted to re-appoint Commissioner Pam Baldwin to the Mayor Pro-Tem position.

## The agenda

The board considered two requests involving sewer allocations — one for Mosaic's first phase, which is located on Russet Run across from Northwood High School, for nearly 48,000 gallons per day, and the other for Thales Academy, a private K-12 school located off Thompson Street. The Thales Academy request also included a significant change to its site plan, a change that required board approval. Representatives for the construction of Thales Academy noted that the new design would no longer include a soccer field, but would include 40 additional parking spaces. The group only requested 5,000 gallons per day of the total 15,000 needed for the entire project.

Thales will be constructing the school in two phases, the first of which will be for the elementary school, parking areas and two entrances alone. The board ap-



Staff photo by Casey Mann

**Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass was sworn in on Monday by Town Clerk Alice F. Lloyd prior to taking over the gavel for the board of commissioner regular meeting.**

proved all the requests unanimously. The sewer allocation approvals means that the "paper" capacity of the town's wastewater treatment plant is about 75,000 gallons per day until it reaches a 110 percent threshold.

The board also unanimously approved a request by Lyle Estill, co-owner of The Plant on Lorax Lane in Pittsboro, to allow Bed and Breakfasts on property zoned M-2, Heavy Industrial. The Plant, which includes several businesses including Fair Game Beverage, Chatham Cider Works, Starlight Mead, Oak City Hemp and Copeland Farms Restaurant, is hoping to include overnight accommodations for visitors at the facility. Town staff had originally recommended not approving the measure stating that it "did not find that residential uses are appropriate," but the town's planning board disagreed with a unanimous vote to approve the measure on Dec. 2. With the planning board's recommendation and the additional knowledge that there were no citizen objections during the Nov. 25 public hearing, the town board voted to approve the measure. In a 3-2 decision, with

Commissioners Bonitz and Baldwin casting the dissenting votes, the board also approved a new communications tower to be constructed on the corner of Mitchells Chapel Road and Alston Horton Service Road. The tower will be located in the center of a 23-acre parcel and will include fencing, screening and landscaping as prescribed by ordinance. In several evidentiary hearings held throughout the year, several residents and adjacent landowners have voiced their concerns over the construction of the tower including health concerns and loss of property values. A representative for a competitor, SBA, which owns a nearby tower, has also spoken several times in opposition to the tower. Due to advertising errors, the board held evidentiary hearings in both April and in October. The same people spoke at both hearings. Though both Bonitz and Baldwin spoke of the concerns of the residents, the board ultimately approved the permit.

## Town audit

The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners also heard a presentation from Jay Sharpe of Rives and Associates, LLP, who contracted with the town to perform its annual audit on finances. Sharpe noted that the town's audit was "clean" with an "unmodified opinion" which is the best possible opinion an organization can receive. The town had no significant accounting changes in the previous year and the group found no disagreements with management or the staff.

The town has enjoyed seven straight years where revenues exceed expenditures in its general fund, the account where all financial activity outside of water and wastewater accounts occur. The town's fund balance, a sort of savings account for the town decreased last year as the town transferred approximately \$1.9 million for the new town hall project. Even with the transfer, Sharpe noted that the town's unassigned fund balance is still 58 percent of the town total expenditures, which far exceeds the 8 percent mark which is recommended by the Local Government Commission.

The audit also noted that tax revenues for the town have increased annually since 2012 despite the fact that there has been no tax rate increase since 2015. A majority of the town's finances are spent on (1) public safety, (2) general government, (3) transportation and (4) environmental protection.

The town's water and sewer funds suffered a loss in terms of expenditures versus revenues. Sharpe noted this was due to salaries, benefits and contracts for the system. At the same time the ratio adequacy of resources in those funds are about three times what is recommended so the loss was not of a concern to the auditor.

"The town is in very good shape," Sharpe said.

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

# READ IT ONLINE

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THE NEWS + RECORD Q&A

# ‘Heartspace’ author Edwards talks new book, Death & Cupcakes event

*Editor’s note: “Death and Cupcakes: Coffee, Cake, and Conversation,” a discussion-focused program surrounding death, dying, sorrow and grief, will be held in the Holmes Meeting Room at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. It’ll be facilitated by Cathy ‘Brooksie’ Edwards, the clinical director of the nonprofit heart2heart, and will feature open-ended conversation about the topic of death. Edwards has just released a new book on the subject — called “Heartspace: Real Life Stories on Death and Dying.” This week, we talk with Edwards about the book and the upcoming Death and Cupcakes event.*



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Let’s start with your new book. It looks very intimately at death, but the stories contained inside are also a reflection on the joyousness of life. Can you talk about how the book came to be?**

My relationship with death began very early for me — at the age of 14 — with the suicide of my father. From there — death continued to accompany me through life with the loss of many friends and my first husband. Death seemed the natural way out, however the grief that I carried inside was more deadly than death. Even though I had spent a lifetime digesting these death experiences, it wasn’t until I landed in someone’s dying time four years ago that I started to understand my true relationship with death and grief. Through that dying time journey, and a few more to follow, I started to weave together the deeper understanding and calling of my own life path. The book just happened. I heard a whisper that it was time to tell my own story and to provide a place for others to tell theirs. After that, the project had a life of its own.

**I know the book is just released...but what’s been the reception so far?**

It seems that everyone is ready to do the deeper work of talking about death. I had the soft opening at the Death Faire and it was standing room only. Here are a few quotes from people: “With a gentle hand on our shoulder, Edwards brings us to the necessary places for a whole-hearted life - the deathbed and the grave. In this collection of stories of last moments

**Author Cathy ‘Brooksie’ Edwards at this year’s Death Faire in Pittsboro, where her new book was featured.**

and the landslide that accompanies loss, we gain a glimpse of how it is and could be, before it is our turn. By the last story, there is a richly textured blanket around your shoulders, to accompany Edward’s gentle hand.” — Katherine Savage, Death Midwife

“If you have suffered a profound loss, this collection will serve as a meditation, calling you to attend to a new vocabulary of grief or to the broken but healing hearts of not just these writers but of almost everyone on the planet.” — Anne Weston, founder of Green Burial Project

“Joy and grief, understanding and bewilderment, community and loneliness, love and bereavement, all are wretched and braided into prayerful companionship in this heartfelt, tender, compassionate and loving testimony to the great song that is life and death.” — Mac Macartney, International speaker and writer

**What’s your goal for the book?**

I didn’t start out with a goal because it wasn’t about that for me. Now that it is done and I see the impact it is having, my wish is that these stories will bring about healing, in some form, of every person that reads one or more of these stories.

**There are wonderful contributed stories from people both local and from around**

**the country. How did you go about deciding who you’d consider asking to write about their own experience with death?**

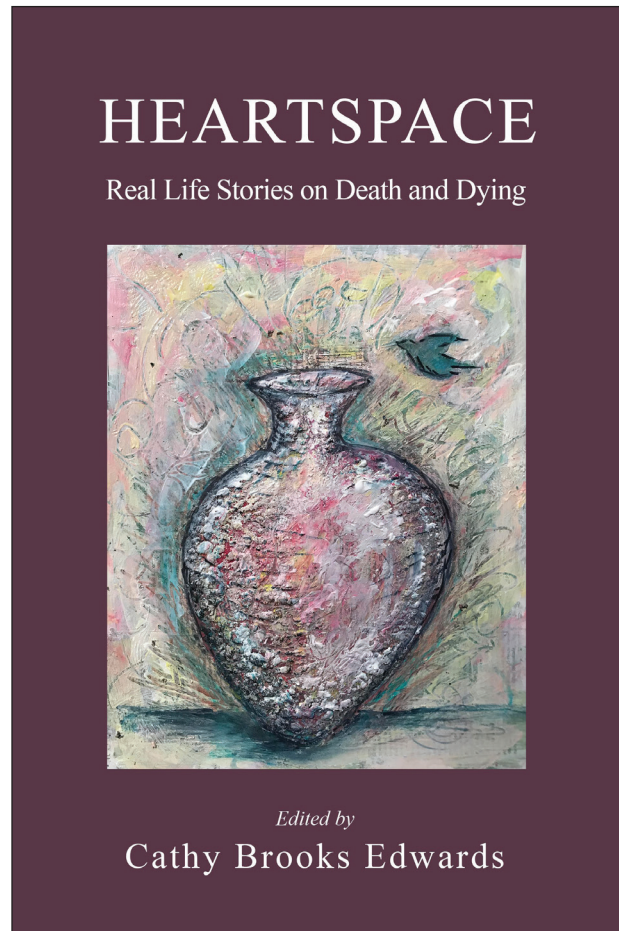
In the beginning I asked everyone that crossed my path. I wanted to have stories from some of my oldest friends and I wanted stories from my community here in Chatham County. There were some people that referred others to me because their stories needed to be told. There were many people who were not ready to tell their stories or felt this was not the venue for them. I included every story that was sent to me in this first anthology.

**One particularly emotional story is by Tami Schwerin of Pittsboro, which deals with the death of her son Zafer and the aftermath. You and Tami are close friends... what did her contribution mean to you and to the book?**

Both Tami and Lyle (Estill) were big supporters of the book project from the moment I spoke the words. Their support was foundational for me and Lyle had his story written within days of the asking.

**You’ve been a part of a group of people who have given Chathamites a chance to really reflect on life — and death — through Death Faire, Chatham’s green burial site and now Death & Cupcakes, which is coming up this weekend. What has that been so important to you?**

It is important to me that people trust me to



**‘Heartspace,’ which includes first-person stories about death and dying by writers from Chatham County and elsewhere, is a new book from Pittsboro’s Cathy ‘Brooksie’ Edwards.**

tend to their loved ones during their dying time as a death doula — through the rituals of burial as the director at The Sanctuary at the Burrow conservation green burial grounds, and through the recovery of personal grief at the community events, Death and Cupcakes and Tending to the Heart.

**Talk about Death & Cupcakes...how is it different from Death Faire, and what will attendees experience?**

Death and Cupcakes occurs every four months and is an event that was fashioned after The Death Cafe which is a world wide “social franchise” model developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Bardky Reid to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.”

Abundance NC started this group with the guidance of Sare Williams who runs the Death Cafe in Mebane. In the Abundance fashion, we wanted to be able to do things a little different so the name was changed to Death and Cupcakes. heart2heart took over the operations of Death and Cupcakes and now it is being sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. We

are also being sponsored by Phoenix Bakery with their delicious cupcakes, coffee by Aromatic Roasters and teas by The Chatham Marketplace.

Join us on Saturday, Dec. 14th, in the Holmes Meeting Room at the Chatham Community Library from 2:30-4 p.m. This is a safe space to share stories and ask questions of sorrow, grief and love around death, dying and beyond. Facilitated by clinical director, Cathy Brooksie Edwards, with soundscape and music by Sheila Fleming.

This event is free and open to the public.

**And what’s new with heart2heart?**

heart2heartnc has its community events scheduled for 2020.

Tending to the Heart is one of the community events that offers the opportunity to experience the importance of hands on healing and sound put together for healing the heartspace. This is offered at the beautiful studio The Joy of Movement in Pittsboro. Here we offer the opportunity to be with your own process in the extended space of community which is so important to the process of healing. Dates include: • Feb. 15; 7-8:30 p.m.

• June 6; 7-8:30 p.m.  
• Oct. 17; 7-8:30 p.m.  
Death and Cupcakes is a venue where people can come and share their stories or ask questions around death, dying and beyond. It is an opportunity to experience the power of music and healing, as well as the practice of how to sit and witness other people’s losses, griefs and curiosity around these sensitive topics. Dates include:  
• March 28; 2:30-4 p.m.  
• Aug. 29; 2:30-4 p.m.  
• Dec. 12; 2:30-4 p.m.  
Upcoming in 2020, heart2heart will be partnering with Sparkroot and The Sanctuary at the Burrow conservation green burial grounds for a practical course on green burial, home funerals and ancient ritual rites.

**You have a book signing soon at McIntyre’s in Fearrington Village. What can you share about that?**

The Jan. 25 event is an opportunity to celebrate the 19 storytellers who contributed to the anthology “Heartspace: Real Life Stories on Death and Dying.” Many of the authors will be there and each will read a short excerpt from their story in the Fearrington Barn from 11 a.m. to noon. Then there will be refreshments and book signing in McIntyres Book from noon until 1 p.m. You can pre-purchase your books at McIntyre’s Books or on Amazon.

This is a free event thanks to the generosity of our sponsors Abundance NC, Chatham Cider Works, Fair Game Beverage Company, Starlight Meadery, Angelina’s Kitchen, Carolina Cravings Company, The Chatham Marketplace and Blossom Artistry.

All book sale profits will go to support the great work of heart2heart.

**How can people support heart2heart?**

As a non-profit, heart2heartnc is supported by donations from individuals and grants from foundations. These donations support individuals, families and communities as they navigate the living path during the dying time, death and beyond.

Please consider giving a tax deductible donation this year. For further information please go to the website [www.heart2heartnc.com](http://www.heart2heartnc.com) or mail a check to heart2heart to Abundance NC at Box 5, 220 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

## Oops ... I forgot dessert!

This time of year, stuff falls through the cracks.



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

Heck, sometimes I feel like I’m spending the holidays deep inside one of those cracks.

You can reduce the chance of holiday-themed memory lapses. It sounds kind of counter-intuitive, but hear me out.

Drop everything, turn off your ringer, get some private time, and indulge yourself.

Get your nails done. Watch an old Western. Go shoe-shopping (for yourself). Have a beer in a bar where no one will call you “Mommy”. Cancel a non-essential appointment and take a nice long bath with a frivolous magazine and a glass of wine. Suit up, grab the dog, and spend an hour in the woods (my personal favorite).

But do something. Something for yourself. Is there something that you do far too seldom, and just thinking about makes you relax and breathe a little slower?

That’s the one — do that. And when you’re back in your life, and your to-do list is the length of a Russian novel, I promise you’ll approach it from a far less frantic place.

But realistically, we know



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

**A cream cheese tart, topped by pecans, that can serve as a tasty Christmas dessert.**

time is short, things get forgotten, and there’s lots of entertaining. So, this week I have two desserts for you, Gentle Reader, that are easy and quick.

The first one is a dead ringer for Dole Whip, the amazingly delicious pineapple sorbet that’s served in Disney parks, Menchie yogurt stores, and other enlightened venues. It’s crazy easy, done in mere seconds, and the flavor will blow you away. The recipe’s quick and simple, but the more powerful your blender is, the

easier it’ll go.

Currently, DisneyWorld is selling it as a spirituous beverage, with a shot or two of rum poured over it.

Just sayin’...

The second is a cream cheese tart. To make it quick and easy, the crust is refrigerated cookie dough. The topping’s canned blueberry. The acid in the lemon juice helps to set and gel the filling. I tossed a handful of toasted pecans on top for decoration only, they’re totally optional.

The pre-made elements are for

**Dole Whip-ish**

5 cups frozen pineapple chunks  
1-8 oz. tub cool whip, frozen  
Throw everything into blender and process until smooth and the consistency of soft-serve ice cream. Serve immediately.

**Quick Cream Cheese Cookie Tart**

**Crust**  
1-16.5 oz roll of sugar cookie dough  
Preheat oven to 350°. Press dough over bottom and up sides of 9 or 10-inch tart pan that’s been sprayed with cooking spray.  
Bake 17-22 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool completely.

**Filling**  
2-8 oz packages cream cheese, room temperature  
1-14 oz can sweetened condensed milk  
1/4 cup fresh lemon or lime juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
Using an electric mixer set at medium-high speed, beat the cream cheese in a large bowl until smooth. Beat in the condensed milk a little at a time, scraping the sides of the bowl, as necessary. Beat in the lemon juice, vanilla, and salt.  
Pour the filling into the crust; smooth the top with a rubber spatula. Cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate until firm, about 3 hours.

**Service**  
1- 21 oz can of blueberry pie filling  
Before serving spread blueberry filling on top, and sprinkle on a handful of toasted pecan pieces if you like.  
Serves 8-10.

convenience (not a dirty word — especially this time of year). But it’s still tasty and impressive.

You can change the flavors too — snickerdoodle with apple pie topping maybe, or chocolate chip

with a dulce de leche covering. Whatever’s easiest on you; make that your mantra for the holidays. Now put those feet up! Thanks for your time. Contact me at [dm@bullcity.mom](mailto:dm@bullcity.mom).



**NEWS BRIEF**

— CN+R staff reports

**Siler City government seeks members for town committees**

The Town of Siler City is seeking members for two of its boards. The Downtown Advisory Committee has a vacancy for one member with no residential requirements. The committee is for those who have a vested interest in the future of Downtown Siler City or who have particular knowledge, skills, or abilities that serve the interest and intent of the purpose of developing a viable framework to enhance further revitalization and development of downtown and utilizing existing and emerging strengths of this vital central commercial hub of the Siler City community. The Siler City Planning Board/Board of Adjustments has one vacancy for a resident within the city limits. The Planning Board, in conjunction with the Town Planner, makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on conditional use permit, rezoning, conditional use rezoning and text amendment applications. The Planning Board may also perform

comprehensive surveys and studies of existing conditions and probable future developments and prepares such plans for physical and economic growth. The Planning Board promotes the public health, safety, convenience or the general welfare as well as efficiency and economy in the development of the Town. The Planning Board also serves as the Board of Adjustment to review variances, consider appeals from the zoning administrator or building inspector and to issue special use and special exception permits. With the exception of the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment, all positions are advisory in nature and are unpaid. Persons interested should submit a letter of interest to: Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson, Town of Siler City, P.O. Box 769, Siler City, N.C., or 311 N. Second Avenue, or [jjohnson@silercity.org](mailto:jjohnson@silercity.org) no later than Jan. 4. The letter of interest should include: home address, phone number, email address, educational background, current employment, civic involvement, why you wish to serve, and any other information you feel pertinent.

— CN+R staff reports

**THE UNITED WAY OF CHATHAM COUNTY AGENCY PROFILE**



**CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance)**

**Focus Area:** Basic Needs (financial stability)

**Name of United Way Supported Program:** Cora Food Pantry and SNACK!

**How will CORA use United Way donor dollars?**

CORA utilizes donations from the United Way to purchase food for both the Pantry and SNACK! Program. Through the Pantry, CORA served 10,660 individuals more than 1 million nutritious meals last year. This is a 17 percent increase over the prior year. This summer, we served 218,143 meals to 1,500 children over the summer. This is more than a 50 percent increase in meal distribution over the prior year. With the donations we receive, we are able to meet the increasing need in Chatham County and make sure food insecure families have the nutritious food they desperately need.

**Why is this program essential to Chatham County?**

Approximately 14 percent of the population in Chatham County live at or below the poverty level (\$24,600/year for a family of four). However, CORA is meeting food insecurity needs for families making \$49,200/year for a family of four. These guidelines allow us to serve more people and better meet our mission. While we served nearly 11,000 individuals last year, we estimate there are over 8,500 additional neighbors in need who could use the services of the Pantry. In order to meet this gap in services and demand, we need to continue to build support in our community to ensure that CORA has the resources to guarantee that families don't go hungry. In addition, 50 percent of public school

children in Chatham County receive free or low-cost meals through the federal school lunch program because their family income is at or near the poverty level. More than 4,300 school children in Chatham County will likely not have adequate replacements for these meals during the summer. Through SNACK!, 10 weeks of nutritious meals are provided to kids who would have no way of receiving these meals during the months school is not in session. Every two weeks, food for every breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks are distributed to families in need.

CORA is determined to make sure we are moving the needle towards a community without hunger. It's critical that we work together to achieve this and take care of the most vulnerable in our community. Nearly 50 percent of those served by CORA are under 17 or over 65 years of age.

**How does the program make a difference in the community?**

CORA is a place of hope and comfort for many in our community, where there is always an empathetic ear, supportive smile, and shelves of food to help meet their needs. CORA envisions a community without hunger where nobody goes to bed hungry. We are open five days a week, Monday - Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families receive a week's worth of groceries at each visit, up to six times in a 12-month period. These weekly food allotments are selected to provide 21 nutritious meals for each family member. However, when additional assistance is needed beyond six visits, CORA makes sure each family gets the help they need. SNACK! helps our most vulnerable,

children, in Chatham County who face food insecurity. Studies show that children who participate in programs like SNACK! receive the nutrition they need and experience many benefits. In the short-term, the programs can help mitigate summer weight gain, cognitive decline, and summer learning loss for children from low-income families. In the longer-term, the lasting effects may help increase high school graduation rates and reduce susceptibility to chronic diseases, which are otherwise each accompanied by large potential costs to the children and their communities.

**Please share a story about a Chatham resident this program helped and the impact it made...**

Every day CORA affects the lives of Chatham County residents who are facing hunger. From the elderly couple who had to choose between medication or food that left the Pantry with a full grocery cart, or the single mother who needed to use her grocery money to pay the electric bill and was able to feed her two children in January, to the teacher who just needed a few things to get through the month before school started... However, the biggest success we see is when a family that has needed our services comes back to CORA to give back. Whether through volunteering, donating food, or money, they recognize the impact CORA had on their lives and want to pay it forward to their neighbors in need. Recently, a former client humbly walked into CORA and handed over \$1,000 to Melissa Driver Beard, CORA's Executive Director. She simply stated that we helped her in a time of crisis and wanted to give back and help others.



Submitted photo

**Learning about safety**

Cub Scouts Pack 924 visited the Siler City Fire Dept. on Nov. 26. The scouts enjoyed the visit, which was part of their advancement requirement, learning about safety and preparedness. Pack 924 meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at First United Methodist Church, 1101 W. Raleigh St., Siler City. New scouts, in grades K-5 for Cub Scouts, 6-11 for Boy Scouts, are welcome. For more information, contact Jason Burton (336-207-9968) or Annette Wiedner (919-742-5933).

*Worth knowing.*  
**Worth reading.**

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Submitted photo

**Reunited**

The Siler City High School Class of 1956 met and celebrated its class reunion recently at Best Foods Cafeteria. This was the last class to graduate from Siler City High School. Those attending enjoyed their time together. Pictured are (seated, from left) Jimmy Williams, Gaye Boren Thomas, Bobby Parks, Jean Lambert Baker, Phil Edwards; second row, Kenneth McPherson, Peggie Goode Dunn, Faye Andrews Riddle, Helen Gunter Clark, Joanne Johnson Fox, and back row: Wade Paschal, Jolene Baling Marshall, Shirley Wright Wilson, Shelby Gilliam Isley, Ed Spence, and Morris Blair.

**READ IT ONLINE**

# OBITUARIES

## LINDA JOHNSON SIPE



Linda Johnson Sipe, born April 23, 1939, passed away peacefully on December 6, 2019, at the age of 80, surrounded by loved ones.

Nana, as everyone called her, was a devoted wife and mother; she was a person full of joy, laughter, and was known to have a mean index finger if you've been around her long enough, you knew what that meant. She was a person full of energy and one who was always willing to help those in need. She touched many lives and was loved by all who knew her. Linda was a proud Nana who loved caring and watching kids for working parents - she was also good at straightening them out when they misbehaved. She was a hard worker, never complained, and kept herself busy all the time. Other joys in her life were spending it with Red Hat fellowship and watching the birds in front of her kitchen window feeding on the bird feeder. As an avid gardener, she enjoyed tending to her flowers during the early mornings; these were moments she cherished while she overlooked her lawn and shared a hot cup of coffee with her wonderful husband, Jack. She now has a beautiful garden to walk on and a place to admire the glorious beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ. She's in good hands up above and loved by those she left behind.

She joins her beloved family, Glen Johnson, Hugh J., Bruce J., Warren J., Herbert J., Doris Ellington, and Gary J., in heaven. She is survived by her husband Jack Sipe; son, Mike with wife Felisa; daughter, Annette with husband Miguel Cavas. Surviving siblings: brother Don with wife Ann, brother, Billy Howell with wife Connie, and best friend and sister Katherine Frazier, as well as her brother-in-law Herman Green; along with grandkids, Mary Lynne Moore with husband Chris, Spencer Shaw with wife Rachel, Evan Shaw with wife Michaela, Alexa Cavas, Austin Cavas, Drew Sipe, Trevor Sipe with wife Lauren, Crystal Haire, Caitlin Daniels, and Madison Davis; great-grandkids, Jake Moore, Jason Moore, Jayden Moore, Jaxon Moore, Brentley Shaw, Sailer Shaw, heavenly angel Bailey Shaw, Addison Shaw, Carsyn Shaw, Lylah Shaw, Colton Shaw, Peyton Sipe, Lilly Sipe, Liam Sipe, Landen Wilson, Libby Haire, Laylen Daniels, and Enslee Kerr.

The visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday evening, December 8, 2019, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Avenue, Siler City.

The funeral service took place at Sandy Branch Baptist Church, 715 Sandy Branch Church Road on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 3 p.m. with the Rev. Allen Overton, Rev. Marc Sanders and Rev. Jay Smoot, officiating.

## JOHN LEWIS LEONARD

John Lewis Leonard, 93, of Siler City died Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Mr. Leonard was born in Chatham County on July 7, 1926 the son of Edwin M. and Flossie (Brooks) Leonard. John was a graduate of Bonlee High School, a WWII Veteran of the US Navy and he was retired from the US Postal Service, Siler City as a rural carrier. John had been an active member of the First Baptist Church of Siler City and the Murray Andrew Sunday School Class, a former member of the Siler City Lions Club and the Civitan Club. He was also a coach for Little League baseball, a volunteer fireman and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. In addition to his volunteer work he enjoyed playing golf and working in his vegetable garden, and he delighted in sharing his tomato bounty with his friends and family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Phillips Leonard; his parents; sisters, Clarice Scotton, Kathleen Thagard, and Esper Jane O'Dell; brothers, Dr. Edgar M. Leonard and Ralph H. Leonard.

John is survived by one daughter, Sharon Leonard of Asheboro; one son, Phil Leonard and wife Ann of Siler City; granddaughters, Taylor Harris and husband Tim of Bear Creek, Laurin Deaton and husband Zach of Siler City, Mary Brooke Leonard and fiancé, Stuart Wright of Apex; great-grandsons, Bowman and Brooks Harris, and Luke and Jacob Deaton.

The family received friends Thursday, December 5, 2019 at Smith & Buckner Funeral from 6 to 8 p.m. and other times at the family home. A graveside service was held Friday, December 6, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Oakwood Cemetery, North Chatham Ave., Siler City with Pastor Josh Conrad officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 314 N. Second Ave., Siler City, NC 27344, The Chatham County Council on Aging, 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City or Liberty Home Care and Hospice, 401 East Third Street, Siler City.

The family would like to thank Pam White and her band of angels for the loving care they have given to our father and grandfather and for their support to us during our father's declining years.

Online condolences may be made at: [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## DORIS SLOAN NORRIS

Doris Sloan Norris, 86, of Broadway, passed away Friday, December 6, 2019 at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service was held Monday, December 9, 2019 at 3 p.m. at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church with Rev. Doug Houston officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Lee County on November 4, 1933 to the late Frank Creech Sloan and Mary Ann Patterson Sloan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, L. Glenn Norris and granddaughter, Brittany Jean Wilson. Doris was a longtime member of Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday School for over 53 years.

She is survived by her son, Gerald Norris of Sanford; daughter, Lora Norris Wilson of Broadway; brothers, Ralph Sloan and Bobby Sloan, both of Broadway; sisters, Eva Coleman of Sanford and Loraine Womack of Lillington; and one granddaughter.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## WILBUR TROY MOSES

Wilbur Troy Moses, 76, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at Four Oaks Cemetery with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

He was born in Durham County on September 9, 1943 to the late Willie E. Moses and Ruth Lassiter Moses. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Maybelline Harper Moses, a daughter, Carolyn Patterson, a son, Jeff Moses, and two grandchildren. Troy retired from the NC Division of Highways as a crew leader.

Troy is survived by daughters, Jessie Lucus of Four Oaks and Melinda Carlyle of Cameron; eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers and one sister who he connected with later in life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home to assist the family with funeral expenses.

Condolences may be made at: [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## CURTIS ECKERSON STEWART

Curtis Eckerson Stewart, 82, of Cameron, passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at his home.

The funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 8 at Cypress Springs Presbyterian Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Moore County, on December 21, 1936 to the late Lonnie Alvin Stewart and Myrtle Yow Stewart. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a son, Christopher Curtis Stewart. Curtis worked as a golf course mechanic and greens keeper.

He is survived by wife, Violet Brooks Stewart; daughter, Annette Stewart Gibson of Sanford; two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at: [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## THERESA LYNN WOTUS GARCIA

Theresa Lynn Wotus Garcia, 59, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, December 1, 2019.

A service to celebrate Theresa's life will be held at a later date in Pennsylvania.

Theresa was born in Corry, PA to the late Richard Henry Wotus Sr. and Bobbie Jean Williams Wotus. In addition to her parents, Theresa was preceded in death by her brother, Richard Wotus, Jr. She enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Alabama, The Philippines, Turkey and Germany.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick Moises Garcia; brothers, David Wotus of NC and Joseph Wotus of PA; sisters, Melissa Wotus, Holly Lishago, both of PA, Laurie Fladung of AL, and Libby Kasper of GA.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to Carolina Animal Rescue and Adoption (CARA) or consider helping out your local American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Condolences may be made at: [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## ERNEST "ET" HANNER

Mr. Ernest "ET" Hanner, 92, of Bear Creek, passed away, Sunday, December 08, 2019, at First Health Hospice House in Moore County, West End.

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

## JOSEPH R. MINTER

Mr. Joseph R. "Big Joe" Minter, 71 of Bear Creek passed on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. Monday, December 9, 2019 at Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where he was a member, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Joseph, son of the late James Hall and Annie Minter was born December 13, 1947 in New Hill. He graduated from J. S. Waters High School in Goldston, and had worked at GKN Automotive, Inc. Joe was preceded in death by siblings, George, Leon, Jasper, Leonard Minter, Nadine Degraffenreidt and Elizabeth Farrar Jones.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Patricia; daughters, Vicky Scott of Jacksonville, FL; Sherry Tabron of Raleigh, Tameka Minter of Sanford; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild; and sister, Joyce Edwards of Pittsboro.

## EDWARD N. BRADLEY

Mr. Edward N. Bradley, 79 of Cary, passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at The Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

## LAWRENCE T. SCANLAN

Lawrence T. Scanlan, 92, of Chapel Hill passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Arrangements by: Cremation Society of the Carolinas, Raleigh.

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

## CAROLYN RUSS CHRISCOE LAUGHLIN

Carolyn Russ Chriscoe Laughlin, 62, of Snow Camp, died Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell in Burlington.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 8, 2019, at Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church, with Pastor Mark Richardson, officiating. Burial followed at Grays Chapel United Methodist Church in Franklinville.

Carolyn was a native of Bladen County. She worked as a truck driver and a dispatcher. She was a member of Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church, where she was on the ministry staff. She was preceded in death by her father, Bud Russ, and mother, Ellen Robinson Russ Bennett.

Survivors include her husband, Timothy Allen Laughlin of the home; daughter, Lisa Chriscoe Melton of Randleman; son, Brian Kelly Chriscoe of Greensboro; sisters, Mary Wiechel of Snow Camp, Tammy Bennett of Franklinville; and five grandchildren.

Condolences may be made online at: [www.loffinfuneralservice.com](http://www.loffinfuneralservice.com).

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, 7027 Albert Pick Road, Suite 104, Greensboro, NC 27409.

## ADAN MARTINEZ CARDENAS

Mr. Aden Martinez Cardenas, 59, passed on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at UNC Hospice in Pittsboro.

Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

## HERBERT D. MATTHEWS

Herbert Matthews, 66, of Siler City, passed away Friday, December 06, 2019 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

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

# CCCC gets \$452K distance learning grant

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College has learned it will be awarded a \$452,335 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning Grant. The funds will be used to install and upgrade classroom equipment across Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties.

Equipment will include updated interactive smart room and video conferencing technology to allow instruction across multiple campuses or centers at one time, along with select high school sites. The new equipment will address specific areas that faculty shared were challenges in the existing rooms. Upgrades will include improved sound and larger displays of the remote sites. The project included a special focus to connect rural students to more synchronous STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses, as opposed to only having online options.

"The college is very

excited about this opportunity to upgrade technology in all three counties, improving the quality of the interactive distance learning resources connecting our campuses and K-12 partners," said CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman. "This will allow our faculty to more effectively engage with a larger number of students throughout the communities we serve."

The USDA is investing \$42.5 million in 133 distance learning and telemedicine projects in 37 states and two U.S. territories, according to the announced made by USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald "DJ" LaVoy.

"Distance learning and telemedicine make it easier for thousands of rural residents to take advantage of economic, health care and educational opportunities without having to travel long distances," LaVoy said in a USDA news release. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary

Perdue, USDA is committed to partnering with rural communities to help them improve their quality of life, because when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

The grant to CCCC was one of 12 that USDA will award to various North Carolina recipients.

"We are grateful to USDA for this opportunity to upgrade CCCC's video-conferencing equipment and smart technology," said Dr. Brian S. Merritt, CCCC Vice President, Learning & Workforce Development/Chief Academic Officer. "In a rural service area, where we know remoteness presents barriers, these upgrades will provide faculty with tools needed to connect students to more educational opportunities, specifically with our high school partners and with STEM-based credentials."

Central Carolina Community College offers a wide variety of programs at its three campus locations and multiple instructional locations throughout Chatham, Harnett, and Lee

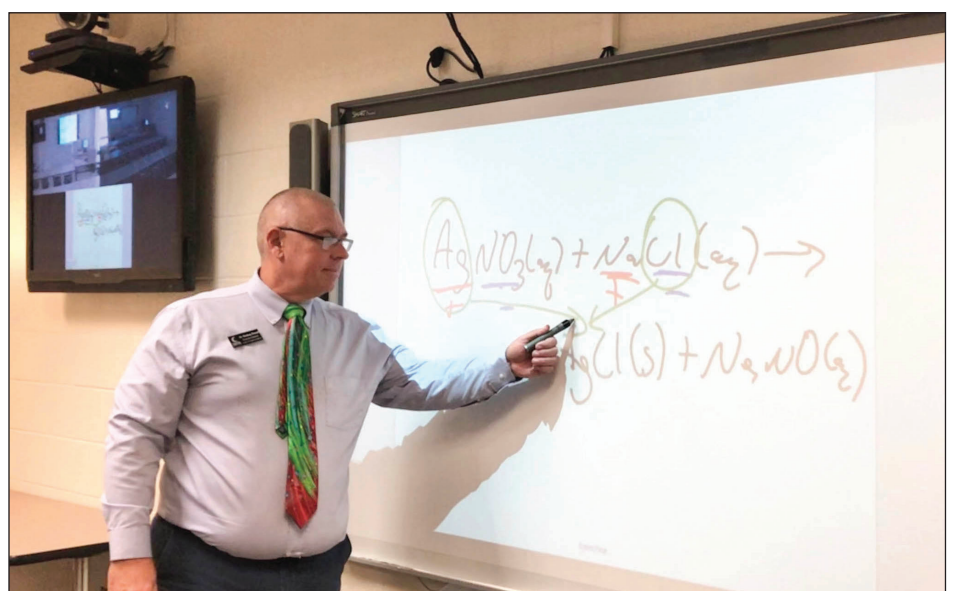


Photo courtesy of CCCC

CCCC has been awarded a \$452,335 USDA Distance Learning Grant. The funds will be used to improve access to science and math course offerings for students in rural communities. Here, Dr. Rodney Powell, CCCC executive director of Center for Academic Excellence, uses technology in teaching classes.

counties. Within these programs, students can earn associate degrees or college transfer credits, diplomas, or certificates. Some programs are offered entirely, or in part, via online distance

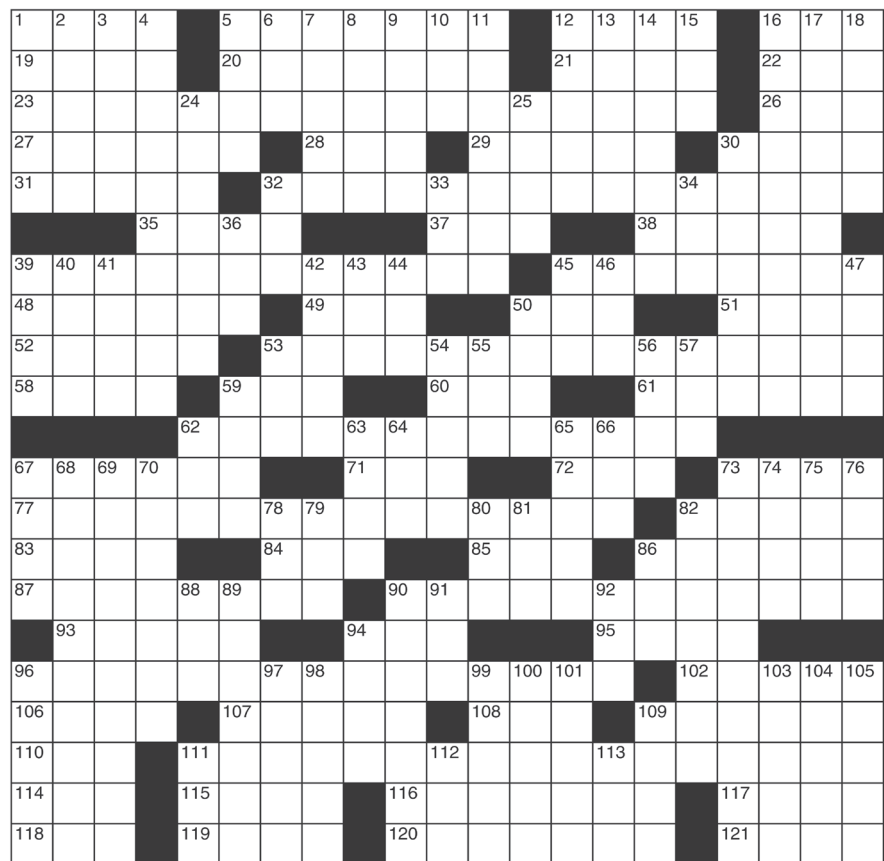
education. In addition, CCCC offers courses in such areas as short-term job training, college and career readiness, personal interests, business and industry, and emergency services training. CCCC

was recently ranked first in Niche's 2020 best community colleges in North Carolina rankings.

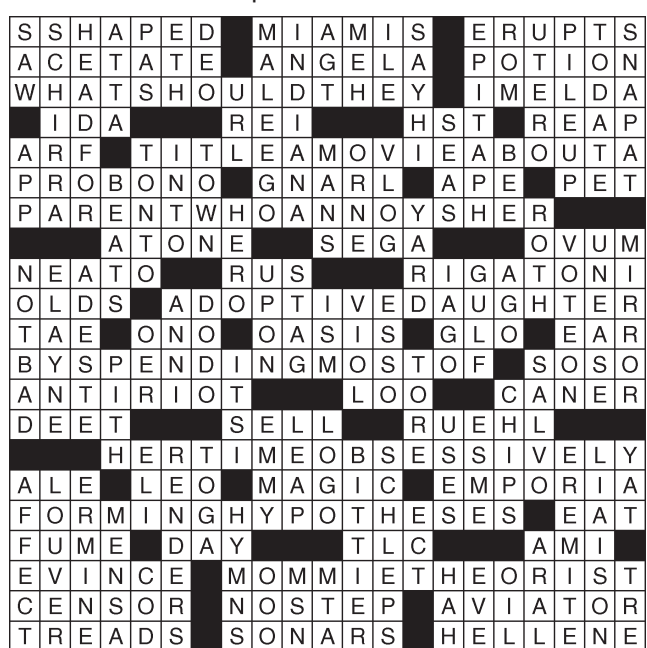
To learn more about Central Carolina Community College, visit [www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu).

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo **BEGINNING AT THE TOP**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Skipper's site
  - 5 Las Vegas attractions
  - 12 Part of WMD
  - 16 Dol. fractions
  - 19 Safe, at sea
  - 20 Venezuela's main river
  - 21 Brand of skin cream
  - 22 "— Abner"
  - 23 Limit for riding a roller coaster, often
  - 26 Oath reply
  - 27 In — by itself (unique)
  - 28 '60s muscle car
  - 29 Port-au-Prince locale
  - 30 Profound
  - 31 Spherical bacterium, for short
  - 32 Payoff of athletic training
  - 35 "Othello" foe
  - 37 Grammy category
  - 38 Rocker Patty of Scandal
  - 39 Animal that hunts, but isn't hunted
  - 45 Is remorseful
  - 48 Life's work
  - 49 Frazier foe
  - 50 Mauna —
  - 51 Peel, as fruit
  - 52 Preteen
  - 53 It has a "3D White" product line
  - 58 Reproachful clicks
  - 59 Fish in a garden pond
  - 60 Writer Levin
  - 61 Be fixated
  - 62 Company that owns Log Cabin, Viasic and Mrs. Paul's
  - 67 Decides to participate
  - 71 Sallie —
  - 72 Gp. backing arms
  - 73 Auntie played by Lucille Ball
  - 77 The Isle of Man, to Britain
  - 82 Sealed up, as a package
  - 83 Singer Basil
  - 84 About half of all adults
  - 85 Prevaricate
  - 86 Lubing
  - 87 Begins
  - 90 NCAA conference of the Midwest
  - 93 Barkin of film
  - 94 Sinking ship's call
  - 95 Hippie's "Got it"
  - 96 Source of wacky products in Road Runner cartoons
  - 102 Jab gently
  - 106 Dress shirt ornament
  - 107 Company shuffle, for short
  - 108 PC undo key
  - 109 Fetus' place for Alibi"
  - 110 Grafton's "— for Alibi"
  - 111 Onetime competitor of Magnavox
  - 114 — polloi
  - 115 Kitchen scraps
  - 116 Discard from the memory
  - 117 "Puppy Love" singer Paul
  - 118 Kin of Ltd.
  - 119 "To be," to Brutus
  - 120 "My friends," in France
  - 121 Vodka brand
- DOWN**
- 1 Good laughs
  - 2 Choose (to)
  - 3 1983 J.P. Donleavy novel
  - 4 Digital camera resolution units
  - 5 Foldup beds
  - 6 ETA part: Abbr.
  - 7 Long attack
  - 8 Photo-sharing app, for short
  - 9 Totally unacceptable
  - 10 Bar code-scanning gizmo: Abbr.
  - 11 "That's how it was told to me"
  - 12 Artistic theme
  - 13 Supreme Court's Samuel
  - 14 2015 and 2017 Best Actress nominee
  - 15 Similar-meaning wd.
  - 16 Set of regular customers
  - 17 Tables with data on daily ebbs and flows
  - 18 Sleepiness
  - 24 Like the Greek letter eta
  - 25 Type of fish that a
  - 30 Places to get body wraps
  - 32 "The Raven" writer
  - 33 Positive aspect
  - 34 Roman 2,050
  - 36 Cur's threat
  - 39 Bank stmt. ID
  - 40 Oom- — (tuba sounds)
  - 41 TV's Estrada
  - 42 Singer Bobby
  - 43 Bar order
  - 44 "— a pity"
  - 45 Egg — yung
  - 46 Scarf down
  - 47 Poor grades
  - 50 Bread buy
  - 53 33-Down's opposite
  - 54 Like mosaics
  - 55 Uno + due
  - 56 "Today" co-host Kotb
  - 57 "Nova" aier
  - 59 Variety
  - 62 ATM code
  - 63 "That's right!"
  - 64 Spam holder
  - 65 "— had a secret love ..."
  - 66 Suffix with contradict
  - 67 They precede Novs.
  - 68 Shelter
  - 69 Key-centered compositions
  - 70 Eddied
  - 73 Spanish dances like fandangos
  - 74 Happy as — in mud
  - 75 List of dishes
  - 76 Verge
  - 78 Aussie bird
  - 79 Verve
  - 80 Stately tree
  - 81 Takeaway game of strategy
  - 82 Link with
  - 86 Ancient
  - 88 Sleuth, slangily
  - 89 Noisy nappers
  - 90 Tropical cereal grass
  - 91 D.C.'s home
  - 92 Spam holder
  - 94 Variety
  - 96 Tokyo beer
  - 97 Sublets, e.g.
  - 98 Social grace
  - 99 Narrates
  - 100 "— bad moon rising"
  - 101 Philosopher with a "razor"
  - 103 Bar order
  - 104 Slimy
  - 105 Thin piece
  - 109 Footed vases
  - 111 Actress Saldana
  - 112 Detroit-to-Montreal dir.
  - 113 Hexa- halved



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



**CHATHAM COUNTY ELEMENTARY AND K-8 SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOL MENUS**

Served at Elementary and K-8 Schools

**\*\*Middle and High School Menus**

**Monday, December 2**  
**BREAKFAST:** Mini Waffles, Peaches (\*\*Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza, Chicken Alfredo w/Garlic Tst, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Broccoli, Maple Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Mandarin Oranges (\*\*+ Fresh Fruit)

**Tuesday, December 3**  
**BREAKFAST:** Scrambled Eggs, Bacon & Croissant, Mandarin Oranges (\*\*Scrambled Eggs Bacon & Croissant, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage Biscuit, Mini Waffles w/Cheese Stick, Southwest Chicken

Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Sunbelievable 100% Juice Cup, Chilled Pears (\*\*Breakfast for Lunch, Sausage Biscuit w/Eggs, French Tst Stx w/Egg & Sausage, Southwest Chicken Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Sunbelievable 100% Juice Box, Chilled Pears, Fresh Fruit)

**Wednesday, December 4**  
**BREAKFAST:** Chicken Biscuit, Applesauce (\*\*Bacon, Egg & Cheese Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Chicken Tenders w/Roll, Beef Volcano Sub, Build a Pizza Combo, Seasoned Corn, Ranchero Pinto Beans, Chilled Fruit

Cocktail, (\*\*Chicken Tenders w/Roll, Beef Volcano Sub, Mozzarella Sticks Combo, Seasoned Corn, Ranchero Pinto Beans, Chilled Fruit Cocktail, Fruit Choice)

**Thursday, December 5**  
**BREAKFAST:** Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Cocktail (\*\* Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Choice)

**LUNCH:** Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Christmas Feast: Baked Ham w/Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Apple Crunch (\*\*+ Fresh Fruit)

**Friday, December 6**  
**BREAKFAST:** Sausage Biscuit, Pears (\*\*Sausage Biscuit, Fruit Choice)

**LUNCH:** Zesty Garlic French Bread, Baby Carrots w/Dip, Baked Beans, Applesauce Cup (\*\*+Fruit Choice)

**CHURCH NEWS**

**PINEY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The choir of Piney Grove United Methodist Church will present their Christmas Cantata – "Silent Night! Holy Night!" at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. The Christmas play, "Fruitcake" and party will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Join us for these events. The church is located at 2343 Piney Grove Ch Rd., Siler City.

**BROWN'S CHAPEL U.M.C. & PLEASANT HILL U.M.C.**

The combined choirs of Pleasant Hill and Brown's Chapel United Methodist Churches will present a program of Advent and Christmas choral music at Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. The program is entitled, "The Light Has Come" and it will be followed by a reception. All are invited for this event.

The church is located at 557 Chicken Bridge Rd., Pittsboro.

**RIVES CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The public is invited when the Glor-yen are in concert in the 11 a.m. worship service, Sunday, Dec. 15 at Rives Chapel Baptist Church, located at 4338 Rives Chapel Church Rd., Siler City.

Join us if you can.

**CENTENNIAL AME ZION CHURCH**

The Holiday Bazaar is coming to Centennial AME Zion Church from noon until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15. There will be lots of vendors sharing their products, along with food, desserts and several musical performers. A DJ will be spinning the best in gospel. There is no admission charge but we ask that you bring new\unused toiletries to be donated to those affected by homelessness.

The church is located at 67 Milton Marsh Rd., Bear Creek. For more information, contact Jennifer at 919-673-5508

or Frances at 919-418-1867.

**FIRECHOSEN MINISTRIES**

Firechosen Ministries invites you

**MISS SPOON, MR. WARD EXCHANGE VOWS**

Rachel Victoria Spoon and Christopher Grey Ward, both of Pittsboro were united in marriage Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Pittsboro Presbyterian Church. Pastor Michael Moody, uncle of the bride, performed the evening ceremony with Mrs. Julie Bourque Williams as director.

Wedding music was provided by Mr. Tommy Edwards, guitarist. Mr. Edwards also did a solo for the couple.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ricky and Kay Spoon of Pittsboro and the granddaughter of Mrs. Thelma Spoon Brewer of Bennett, and the late Roy Brewer and the late Doris Moody Guthrie and Dwight Moody. Miss Spoon is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in both Hispanic Literature and Culture and Latin American Studies, and a minor in Business Administration from Kanan Flagler School of Business, UNC. She is currently pursuing a degree in nursing.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jon and Jen Ward also of Pittsboro and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. David Lasher of Clayton and the Reverend Dr. John F. Baggett III and Diane Baggett of Melbourne, Florida. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences with minors in Military Science and Agricultural Engineering. Chris is a 2nd Lieutenant Aviation Support Logistics Officer of the United States Army and is stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

The bride, escorted by her father, wore a sleeveless satin ball gown with an embroidered lace and illusion back and a cathedral-length veil trimmed in lace. The gown and veil were enhanced by a crystal belt and tiara.

Assisting the bride was her maid of honor, Ms. Kathy Nowak of Raleigh. Bridesmaids were Ms. Lili Lasher of Greenville and Ms. Erin Nowak of Winston-Salem. Junior bridesmaid was Ms. Megan Nowak of Pittsboro, who also welcomed guests to the ceremony. All attendants wore black satin, tea-length gowns and carried matching bouquets. Miss Sophia Moody and Mr. Parker Moody, children of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan and Allison Moody of Siler City were flower girl and ring bearer.

Best man was Conor Ward of Raleigh, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Colin Ward of Wilmington, also a broth-

er to worship with us for our "Survivor Sunday" being held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. The guest preacher will be Bishop James Thorpe.

All are welcome! The location for this event will be 190 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro.

**UNITY POWERHOUSE**

There will be a Christmas program at 5 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 15, at Unity Powerhouse Church.

All are welcome to come and fellowship with us.

**OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Christmas Cantata, "One Noel," will be presented at 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 15 at Oakley Baptist Church, located at 2300 Siler City-Glen-don Road, Siler City.

Come be part of our Christmas celebration.

**FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

The First Missionary Baptist Church, Junior Church Ministry will have their annual Christmas program at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15. The program will feature the Senior, Gospel, Junior Petite Choirs and the Male Chorus of our Church, as well as special talent and gifts by the children of First Missionary Baptist Church Junior Petite Ministry, directed by Mrs. Rosa Carter-Marsh. The public and neighboring churches are invited to attend.

All are invited to the formal homecoming ball from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 at the Chatham County Agriculture Center in Pittsboro, sponsored by the First Missionary Baptist Church of Siler City. You may purchase tickets in advance from a member of the homecoming committee, or at the door of the event.

**LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Loves Creek Baptist Church Choir and Drama Team will present a Christmas Cantata, "Joy! He shall Reign" at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. There will be no Sunday School that day.

Everyone is invited and will be welcome.



**Mrs. Rachel Victoria (nee Spoon) Ward**

er of the groom, and Garrett Lasher of Fuquay-Varina. All of the groom's party donned boutonnières set in brass rifle shells as a nod to the military.

The mother of the bride was escorted by her nephew, Jacob Moody, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Anna Moody of Siler City. She wore a crimson, floor-length satin gown with lace sleeves and neckline.

The mother of the groom wore a royal blue floor-length, fit and flare gown embellished with satin appliques and sequins.

Immediately following the ceremony, guests were welcomed to a cocktail hour and reception at The Pittsboro Roadhouse. The bridal cake was gifted to the couple by Mr. and Mrs. Wren and Helen Patterson of Cary, her uncle and aunt. The groom's cake was gifted by the groom's parents.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents at The Preserve at Jordan Lake.

An engagement celebration was hosted by the bride's parents at their home, last December. Additionally, the mother of the bride hosted a shower at The Perky Lady of Apex for the bride's attendants.

The couple will honeymoon in the Riviera Maya, Mexico, and make their home in El Paso, Texas near Fort Bliss.

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## Demolition paves way for cleaner Loves Creek Watershed



Staff photo by David Bradley

The walls came tumbling down last Thursday as B.E. York and Sons Grading demolished a vacant house on S. Chatham Avenue in Siler City that was slowly collapsing on itself. The land on which the house sits was purchased by the Piedmont Conservation Council in order to clear, reclaim and improve the quality of the Loves Creek Watershed. Once complete, Siler City will take possession of the property for \$1.

# School board names Chatham Grove principal, receives audit report

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The first principal in the history of Chatham Grove Elementary School was officially named Monday night, the same night the Chatham County Board of Education received an audit report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



Savage

Dr. Larry Savage, the current principal at Siler City Elementary, will begin his duties as Chatham Grove's first head administrator on January 6 ahead of the school's official opening in August 2020. Savage leaves Siler City Elementary after more than five years as principal.

In the announcement on the Chatham County Schools website posted Tuesday morning, district Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan said Savage is "well-positioned to help manage the heavy lifting that will come along with ensuring

that Chatham Grove Elementary opens as smoothly as possible." Savage said he was "very excited" about the opportunity.



Poston

"I am eager to get started building a school community that leads to outstanding student achievement and growth for each child entering our doors when we begin next fall," he said. "Having said this, it has been my greatest privilege to serve the students and families of Siler City Elementary, so this is definitely a bittersweet move for me that I sought in order to be closer to my family."

The board also named Tania Poston, Siler City Elementary's current assistant principal, as SCE's new principal when Savage leaves. Poston, the wife of district Executive Director for Elementary and Middle Grades Education Chris Poston, has been in education for 22 years.

"Mrs. Poston is no stranger to Siler

City Elementary," Jordan said. "Her experience and commitment to SCE will serve our school community well."

Additionally, the board heard a report on the district's fiscal year 2018-2019 audit from Dale Smith, an auditor with Rockingham-based Anderson Smith & Wike. The firm regularly conducts audits of several school districts, including nearby Lee County.

Smith said his team's investigation returned a clean audit with both the district's financial statements and compliance with grant funding requirements.

"We did not notice any improper use of grant funds," Smith said. "There's quite a bit of compliance requirements in spending those grant funds, and we didn't have any issues in our testing."

Smith added that there were a few minor issues, none of which were "questionable," he said, but were noted due to "issues in other districts in the past few years that have made us more cautious." He added that the Chatham Schools district has since put protocols

in place to address the issues.

One particular item not referenced directly in the audit report but mentioned by Smith was the district's use of Fund Balance — more or less a savings account through which governing entities can draw money when needed. The auditor said the Fund Balance in both the General Fund and Child Nutrition allocations had seen decreases. While both funds were in good shape, Smith said, he recommended caution in spending money from those funds in the future and, when it came to Child Nutrition, trying to find a way to decrease expenses or increase revenues.

The audit report did state that the General Fund decrease came from "an increase in instructional services expenditures," among other factors, and extra Child Nutrition spending was due to an increase in food costs and salaries and benefits.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.

## CHATHAM PARK REVEALS MOSAIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND TENANTS

Mosaic, the commercial gateway to Chatham Park, was officially launched at a luncheon event on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 held under a tent on the site of the future lifestyle and entertainment destination. The event was hosted by Eco Group partners Kirk Bradley of Lee Moore Capital Company and John Fugo of Montgomery who are developing Mosaic.

The exciting kick-off event featured Northwood High School's a cappella group, Pitch Please, to whom Mosaic presented a \$1,000 check to support the performers' upcoming trip to Carnegie Hall. Bradley stated, "We look forward to having the Northwood High School arts department utilize the performing arts spaces that will be available in Mosaic."



Kirk Bradley (left) and John Fugo (right) present a check to Matthew Hanson, Northwood High School choral director.

Eco Group also unveiled four of its new tenants by name at the event which included: Town Hall Burger + Beer, People's Coffee, Edge Aveda Lifestyle Spa and Salon and UNC Urgent Care. Additional, still-to-be-named establishments include: a micro-brewery, multiple chef-driven and fast casual restaurants, a 114-room hotel, technical and creative office space, multi-generational educational space, 8-screen cinema, 350-seat live performance theatre and a central green area with an outdoor stage. Living options in Mosaic will include urban-style apartments for lease and high-end condos for purchase.



Architectural rendering of Mosaic.

Speakers at the event focused on the positive economic impact that Mosaic will have in Chatham County. The Honorable Robert T. Reives highlighted one of the current issues in the county that Mosaic will help to solve: "64% of Chatham County residents leave the county to work. That ends when this project gets up and going."

Mike Dasher, Chairperson of Chatham County Commissioners, added insight on the tax benefits to county residents: "As we pour over the budget and try to figure out how to afford the schools, parks, and facilities and programs we want, seeing Mosaic come out from the ground makes all of that possible." He continues, "So while you're out here enjoying the new restaurants, and shops, and all the event spaces here in a few months, you can also enjoy knowing projects like this help fund all kinds of services throughout the county without overburdening our residents."

Chris Blice, Chief Operations Officer for Chatham County Schools, stated, "One of my favorite baseball quotes is 'Progress always involves risk. You can't steal second and keep your foot on first.' Chatham Park and Mosaic are all about pulling that foot off first base, running to second, rounding that, heading to third and then sliding into home."

The 92-acre site of Mosaic, located off of US Highway 15-501 and US Highway 64, is slated to be complete by 2025.



CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# Houses, farms and a plug for a different kind of news product

If you're into business and the economy and you don't subscribe to the Business North Carolina "Daily Digest" email newsletter, you're missing out.

Whenever I have a statewide business item in the Corner Store, it usually comes from that newsletter. Not everything is necessarily business-related, but it's a good place to get a finger on the pulse of the economy and business news in North Carolina. If you're not already getting this daily email, head to [businessnc.com](http://businessnc.com) to sign up.

When I get these tips, I try to apply it to Chatham as much as I can, and today is no different. Let's get into it.

## Middling future for NC housing market

According to Realtor.com's

2020 housing forecast, central North Carolina's housing market won't see much change in sales but a bit of a price increase next year.

The report projects the Durham-Chapel Hill area will see housing sales drop by 0.9 percent but prices jump by 1.2 percent, and sales in the Raleigh area to increase by 0.2 percent and prices to go up by 2.2 percent.

What this means is anybody's guess, and predictions are often wrong, but if these numbers translate to the Chatham area, it's something to be aware of for developers like Chatham Park. If people are more hesitant to buy homes because of economic uncertainty, as the Realtor.com report says, those houses, once completed, could sit unsold for a while.

Additionally: the report says nationally, home sales are likely to decrease by 1.8 percent and prices grow by 0.8 percent.

Again, it's a prediction, and the calendar doesn't read "2020" yet. But it's something to keep an eye on.

## Chatham's got help on the farm

According to the nonprofit Environmental Working Group, Chatham farmers have received more than \$1.3 million in subsidies over the last four years.

The EWG's Farm Subsidy Database, which released January to October numbers for 2019 recently, says Chatham's agricultural economy has been the benefit of \$15.4 million since 1995. But the last few years can tell us some specifics.

In 2019, according to the database, county farmers have received \$242,000 in commodity programs, by which producers are compensated according to acreage and yields by the federal government. More than half, \$114,394, have come from subsidies for soybeans.

In the previous three years, county farmers benefited from \$676,000 in crop insurance subsidies. The Federal Crop Insurance Program, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, offers insurance in the case of a loss in crop yields or a

decline in revenue.

EWG said farms in North Carolina have received nearly \$161 million in government subsidies to offset the cost of America's tariff disputes.

## Mental health and its harm to business

This next item isn't Chatham or North Carolina-specific, but is of particular interest to me and a project I'm wrapping up this week.

According to a 2018 report from Penn State University, researchers found a single extra poor mental health day a month led to a 1.84 percent drop in the per capita real income rate — in other words, \$53 billion less in total income per year.

The report analyzed economic and demographic data from 2008-2014. The researchers defined a poor mental health day as a day "when people describe their mental health as not good and could include conditions such as depression, anxiety, stress and problems

with emotions." Rural counties were more affected, with one poor mental health day associated with a 2.3 percent drop in income growth, compared to a 0.87 percent reduction in urban counties.

This week, we're publishing "The Age of Anxiety," the first season of "The Chatcast," our new podcast collaboration with Our Chatham. The 10-episode series, which I created with Our Chatham reporter Adrienne Clevon, will explore teen mental health in Chatham County. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Helping teens with their mental health in that fragile time could, in theory, help business and the economy down the road.

Check out "The Chatcast" to learn more. It's worth a listen.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@Zach-HornerCNR](https://twitter.com/Zach-HornerCNR), where you can find him excited about the trailer for the new James Bond movie.



Submitted photo

Central Carolina Community College's new Health Sciences Center will open in spring 2020. The CHSC is located at 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro, near the corner of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 and Taylor Road, in a developing commercial section of Briar Chapel.

## CCCC's Chatham Health Sciences Center offering courses

From Central Carolina Community College

PITTSBORO — The Central Carolina Community College Chatham Health Sciences Center (CHSC) will open in Spring 2020.

The CHSC is located at 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro, near the corner of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 and Taylor Road, in a developing commercial section of Briar Chapel.

Curriculum courses to be offered in Spring 2020 are Anatomy & Physiol-

ogy II, Basic Anatomy & Physiology, First Aid & CPR, and General Microbiology. Workforce/Continuing Education courses offered in Spring 2020 are Fitness Instructor Preparation and Yoga I. Additional spring courses will be offered in the coming months.

Programs coming in 2020 include Cardiovascular Monitor Technician, Central Sterile Processing Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Health Information Technology, Health and Fitness Science, Intro to Sonography Course,

Massage Therapy, Medical Assisting Diploma (apply now for the Fall 2020 Cohort), Medical Math, Nurse Aide I, Paramedic, Phlebotomy, and R.N. to B.S.N. General Education.

The CCCC Chatham Health Sciences Center webpage is located at [www.cccc.edu/chsc](http://www.cccc.edu/chsc).

For more information, contact CHSC Site Director Melissa Fogarty at 919-545-8060 or by email at [mfogarty@ccc.edu](mailto:mfogarty@ccc.edu) or Senior Admissions Specialist Rhonda Jones at 919-545-8025 or by email at [rjones@ccc.edu](mailto:rjones@ccc.edu).



Photo courtesy of CCCC

Two Central Carolina Community College students — Lutfiah Alwahishi and Shaimaa Ali — recently participated in the Tar Heel Service Day event. They assisted in the work of the Chatham Habitat for Humanity program.

## Two CCCC students participate in Tar Heel Service Day program

From Central Carolina Community College

PITTSBORO — Two Central Carolina Community College students — Lutfiah Alwahishi and Shaimaa Ali — recently participated in the Tar Heel Service Day event. Both students, from Siler City, are members of the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP).

C-STEP serves as an assured pathway for transferring to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through special events, advising, and support while students are attending CCCC, in their transition to and during their tenure at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Alwahishi and Ali assisted in the work of the Chatham Habitat for Humanity program.

"We cleaned up the unused materials from a previous build," said Alwahishi. "I helped paint siding for the house. I worked alongside the future homeowners of the house, which was really nice."

Alwahishi and Ali both

talked about helping others.

"There is so much satisfaction that comes from helping others," said Ali. Alwahishi noted, "I believe the more I put effort into helping others, the more I grow from it as a person."

Dr. Carl Bryan, a CCCC C-STEP Advisor and Health & Fitness Science Program Director, said Tar Heel Service Day is an opportunity for students to have the opportunity to give back to their respect communities and make a difference. "It's letting the students know that they are not only a part of their respective communities, but also a charge in knowing that they are Tar Heels as well who need to go the extra mile," he said.

Ali said she enjoyed helping out and would be happy to do it again.

"It was an overall great experience, everyone there was really nice and we all worked as a team," she said.

To learn more about the C-STEP program, visit [www.cccc.edu/student-services/cstep/](http://www.cccc.edu/student-services/cstep/).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CORA's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser slated for Feb. 9 at Fearington

PITTSBORO — CORA's 10th Empty Bowls charitable fundraiser will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, at Galloway Ridge at Fearington Village in Pittsboro from 5-7:30 p.m.

This year, the event will have two seatings, at 5 and 6:30 p.m. The concept is simple: guests choose a hand-made bowl, enjoy delicious soup from local restaurants, home-baked breads and desserts, and go home with a bowl that serves as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty and that we need to continue our efforts to end hunger in Chatham County. This popular event is open to the public and tickets will go on sale on Jan. 4 at [www.corafoodpantry.org](http://www.corafoodpantry.org).

At present, CORA has experienced a nearly 60 percent increase in demand for our services due to cuts in Social Service benefits and CORA's expansion: adding weekend

hours, starting a Mobile Market in Siler City, and the closure of a local food pantry. The success of this event is crucial to helping us meet this increased demand. CORA encourages all who are interested to attend and purchase a bowl and supper to support a great cause.

CORA's Empty Bowls is one of many such events held nationwide and in at least 14 other countries. The concept, now in its 29th year, was first developed by a teacher and his high school students in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and conceived as a way to raise money for hunger relief organizations while providing donors with a tangible reminder of the problem of worldwide hunger.

Interested parties can also sponsor the event. Levels range from \$250 to \$1,500 and are open to individuals or couples, businesses, civic organizations and faith communities. For more information please visit [www.corafoodpantry.org](http://www.corafoodpantry.org) or contact Rebecca Hankins at 919-491-5896.

— CN+R staff reports







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# Chatham Congressional candidates highlight early 2020 election filings

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**

News + Record Staff

Two incumbent Congressman, a state Senate challenger and an incumbent school board member are among the notable names already filed for the 2020 election.

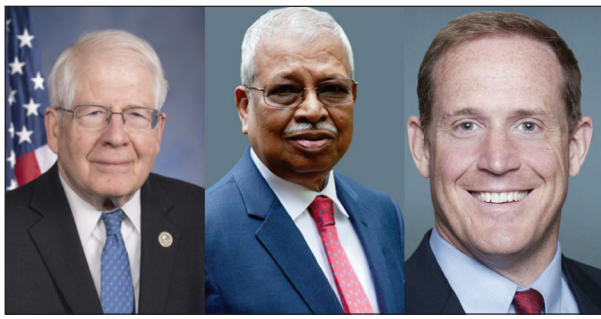
U.S. Reps. David Price (D-N.C., 4th District) and Ted Budd (R-N.C., 13th District) registered to retain their seats, which newly include Chatham County after redistricting moved Chatham out of the 6th Congressional District and split it between the 4th in the east and the 13th in the west.

In a campaign email, Price said he was seeking re-election to “continue the fight for affordable housing, transportation diversity, expanded access to health care, and a clean energy future.”

Price has represented the Fourth District since 1997.

“The progress we’ve made to expand health care access and protect our planet is under daily threat by a reckless president who puts his own personal interests ahead of our country, both at home and on the world stage,” Price wrote in the email. “Now more than ever, we need steady hands in Congress to restore our democracy and give a voice to our community’s shared values.”

Price is already facing a GOP challenger, Wake County resident Devesh “Dave” Sarkar, who filed for the seat last week. A structural engineer by trade, Sarkar’s website states that he is a first-generation immigrant from India whose “core values” include fiscal conservatism, personal responsibility and government accountability.



Submitted photos

**Three candidates for the two Congressional seats covering Chatham County filed last week. From left to right: U.S. Rep. David Price (D-N.C., 4th District), potential Price challenger Devesh Sarkar (R), and U.S. Rep. Ted Budd (R-N.C., 13th District).**

“I believe in giving back and helping those who struggle,” Sarkar stated on his webpage. “My work with those who need a helping hand is something I hope can inspire others. I have two grandchildren and I want them to grow up and have a chance to live in a safe neighborhood with peace and prosperity, clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.”

Budd, who has been in Congress since 2017, is a Winston-Salem native and gun store owner. On his campaign Facebook page, Budd stated that he was seeking re-election “because Piedmont families need a reliable conservative who stands with President Trump and doesn’t cave to Washington insiders.”

“The only way to change our politics is to serve with integrity, conservative backbone, and a heart for others,” he said.

Both incumbents whose terms were up on the Chatham County Board of Education are back in the race, after District 1’s Melissa Hlavac filed for re-election on Monday. She joins District 2’s David Hamm,

who filed last week.

On the state level, Pittsboro Republican Tom Glendinning has filed for a second shot at the State Senate District 23 seat currently held by Durham Democrat Valerie Foushee, who also filed last week. Glendinning, who lost in 2018 by more than 43,000 votes, is described on his website as someone who has “been part of this community for over 50 years, working tirelessly to make it a better place.”

Additionally on the state level, Republican and Democratic candidates filed for N.C. Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commissioner of Labor.

Of note, as of Tuesday morning, no one had filed for the two open seats on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The terms for Democrats Karen Howard (District 1) and Mike Dasher (District 2) expire next year.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@ZachHorn-CNR](https://twitter.com/ZachHorn-CNR).

# PETS OF THE WEEK: Sherbet & Dreamsicle



The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office would like you to meet Sherbet and Dreamsicle! This mother-son duo has been inseparable since they were brought to the ARC as strays. Sherbet is curious, laid-back and loving. She is just over a year old, but has maturity beyond her years. Dreamsicle is a feather-soft, infinitely cuddly 13-week-old who is fiercely loyal to his mother. He is a shy, rambunctious kitten who never lets mom out of sight! Unraveling this close-knit family is not an option due to their unshakable bond. Together, they adapt well to new surroundings and interact calmly with other cats and older children. Help us make the holidays special for this deserving feline family — and earn double the love with this purr-fect pair! For more information on how to meet or adopt Sherbet and Dreamsicle, swing by the Chatham County Sheriff’s Animal Resource Center at 725 Renaissance Dr. in Pittsboro or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an Animal Resource Officer.

Photos courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff’s Office



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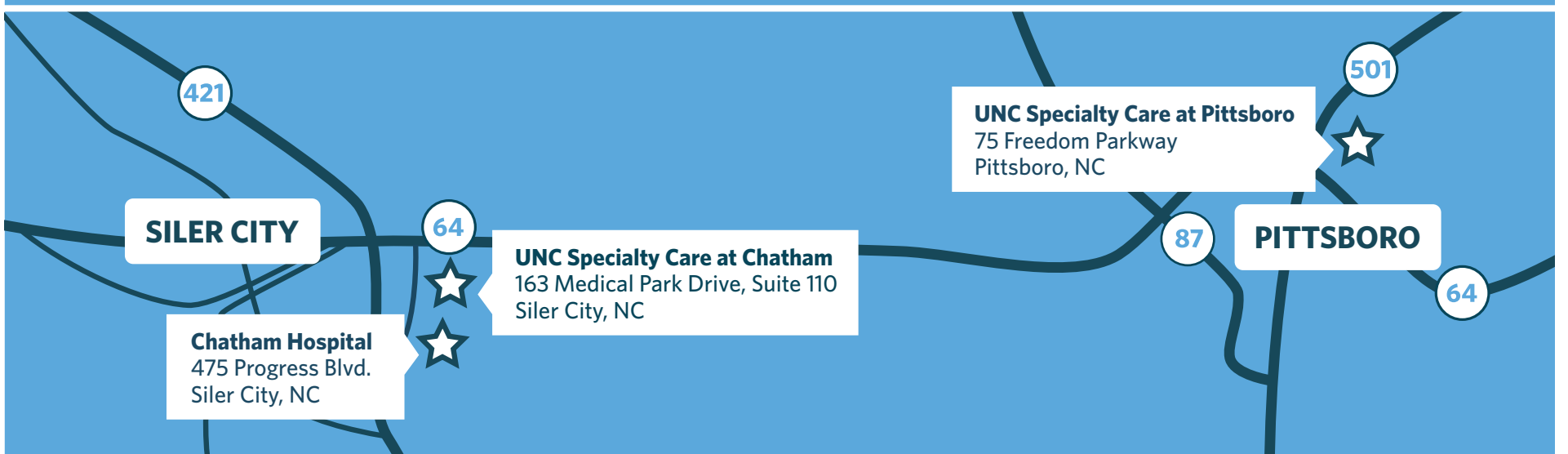
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# Conference opener a success as Chatham Central cruises past South Stanly

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
 News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — No matter the sport, winning your conference opener is always a step in the right direction. Despite being hampered by three first-half fouls, Michael Moore tossed in 20 points prior to intermission to help Chatham Central forge a 42-22 lead at the break and the Bears went on to cage the Rowdy Rebel Bulls of South Stanly 66-55 in the Yadkin Valley 1A Conference opener for both teams Friday night in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium. Posting their fifth straight win over the Rebel Bulls, Chatham Central improved to 3-2 for the season, while South Stanly fell to 2-2 overall.

Moore finished with a game-high 25 points and Preston Cox pitched in a dozen for the Bears, who connected on 42% (21-of-50) of their field goal attempts and won the battle of the boards by a 28-16 margin to aid in counteracting 15 turnovers. Brandon Teller came off the bench to lead the Rebel Bulls with 17 points while Justin Gaddy, who came into the contest averaging 21 points an outing, was limited to 14. South Stanly shot 34 percent (17-of-50) from the floor while only committing five turnovers. “We executed our plays the first half in finding the open man, and rebounding was a big key along with holding their top scorer to just 3 points over the first 16 minutes,” said Chatham Central

**‘We executed our plays the first half in finding the open man, and rebounding was a big key along with holding their top scorer to just 3 points over the first 16 minutes.’**

ROBERT BURKE, Chatham Central coach

coach Robert Burke. “When three of our starters got in early foul trouble we turned to our depth on the bench and had guys come in who provided offense while playing solid in-your-face defense in containing South Stanly’s outside shooters.” Rebel Bulls’ coach Sean Whitley remarked Chatham Central did a good job the first half in taking away his team’s ability to drive into the lane.

“Their guards really force the issue and denied us inside penetration the first half, which resulted in us settling for jump shots,” Whitley said. “When some of their starters got into foul trouble they just seemed to reload off the bench and not miss a beat, while their aggressiveness in the paint allowed them to control the boards.”

See **SUCCESS**, page B2

# Middle quarters the ticket for Lady Chargers in rout of Jets

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — It’s not always how you start, but more often how well you finish that determines the outcome of a game.

After battling feisty Jordan-Matthews to a 13-all stalemate through the first eight minutes, Northwood outscored the Lady Jets 22-6 over the middle two quarters to open up a sizable advantage and cruised to a 49-28 non-conference triumph last week in Frank N. Justice Gymnasium.

The Lady Chargers’ 14th consecutive win over their cross-county foe permitted Northwood to even its season record at 2-2, while J-M lost its fourth outing in a row in falling to 1-4 for the year.

Gianna McManaman and Natalie Bell notched 11 points apiece and Rae McClarty added 10 for the Lady Chargers, who connected on 19-of-49 (39 percent) of their field goal attempts while turning the ball over 14 times.

Avery Headen and Ellia Wright tallied seven points each to lead Jordan-Matthews, which shot 11-of-30 (37 percent) from the floor and held a slim 25-24 advantage on the boards but committed 27 turnovers.

“We always seem to have some jitters playing on J-M’s court, and with two freshmen in the starting lineup we had trouble establishing any early momentum,” said Lady Chargers coach Cameron Vernon. “But I thought we set the tone in the second quarter when we picked up our defense and limited them to two points in the period before carrying that intensity into the second half. At the same time we became more patient on offense and began moving the ball much better while looking for the high-percentage shot, and it helped putting three players in double figures to give us balanced scoring.”

Lady Jets coach Charles Byrd was unavailable for comments



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood’s Tekeyah Bland gets past Jordan-Matthews defenders in last Tuesday’s game in Siler City. The first game of the season between the two rivals ended in a blowout, with a Northwood victory, 49-29.

following the game.

The opening stanza was a seesaw affair the featured three ties and four lead changes prior to Jordan-Matthews managing to pull even following a Wright free throw and lane drive over the last 1:06 of the period.

After J-M seized its final advantage at 15-13 on Makayla Glover’s layup with 6:54 left in the first half, the Lady Jets failed to score another point the rest of the quarter while committing a rash of traveling calls and lane violations that allowed Northwood to run off the

last nine points of the stanza to fashion a seven-point lead at the break.

With Jordan-Matthews struggling to put the ball in the hole in the third period, the Lady Chargers expanded their advantage to 35-19 by the end of the quarter and continued

to pull away down the stretch, never letting the Lady Jets trim the difference to less than 14 the rest of the evening, while a Bell layup with exactly one minute remaining accounted for the final spread and gave Northwood its biggest lead of the contest.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood’s Jalen McAfee-Marion slams home a dunk last Tuesday in the first half of play during the Chargers’ game against Jordan-Matthews. The Jets didn’t leave the hanger in the blowout loss, 66-44.

# Northwood deals Jordan-Matthews lopsided defeat in Siler City

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When unbeaten Northwood took to the road last week to face county rival Jordan-Matthews, the Chargers embraced one of the basic principles outlined in Chapter One of the basketball manual — to ensure a victory, simply outscore your opponent every quarter.

After an eight-point Northwood advantage at the end of one period ballooned to 17 at intermission, the Chargers never let up in the second half, building as much as a 29-point lead before settling for a 66-44 non-conference win on John Phillips Court.

The triumph lifted Northwood to 4-0 for the year, whereas the Jets suffered their second setback in five outings while losing to the Chargers for the seventh straight time.

Jalen McAfee-Marion tossed in 14 points to lead the victors, who shot 52% (26-of-50) from the floor while committing 15 turnovers.

Jayden Davis totaled a game-high 17 points for J-M, which connected on 45% (15-of-33) of its field goal attempts but was hampered by 27 turnovers. Both teams grabbed 20 rebounds apiece.

“I felt like we didn’t let the game come to us, and most of our (nine) first-half turnovers resulted from a lack of concentration,” said Northwood coach Matt Brown. “But I was pleased with our balanced scoring tonight, with six players ending up with six or more points, as well as the fact we managed to draw five charge calls. While it was a nice win against a big rival, we still have a few little things to clean up, especially reaching fouls.”

See **DEFEAT**, page B3

# Lady Bears tame South Stanly in conference opener

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Shaking off a tough non-conference loss to Providence Grove one night earlier, Chatham Central focused its attention last Friday on the start-up of Yadkin Valley 1A Conference play in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium by jumping out to a 21-8 first-quarter lead over a young South Stanly squad and rolled to a 56-42 victory that wasn't as close as the final score might indicate.

With a win in their league opener the Lady Bears raised their overall record to 3-2, while the Lady Rowdy Rebel Bulls remained winless after four outings and dropped to 0-1 in the conference standings.

Danielle Vaughn fired in six three-pointers — giving her 10 treys in her last two games — to finish the night with 18 points in leading three Chatham Central players in double figures.

Mary Grace Murchison contributed 13 points for the Lady Bears and Savannah Stilwell came off the bench to add a dozen as Chatham Central connected on 34 percent (19-of-56) of its field goal attempts and held a 17-16 edge in rebounds while committing 18 turnovers.

Sadie Lee tallied 10 points while D'Nysia Wall and Jacy Noble added nine

apiece for the Lady Bulls, who shot 29% (15-of-52) from the floor besides turning the ball over 15 times.

"Our offense was clicking very well tonight," said Lady Bears' coach Lynda Burke. "We did a nice job passing the ball to find the open person for good looks at the basket, while both the high and low posts got shots on most possessions. Danielle is a pure shooter who has great form, and her ball handling makes her one of our leaders on the floor. In addition she listens well and works very hard to constantly improve her game. Defensively we started out in a zone but changed to a man defense when South Stanly hit some threes, and that made a big difference. Then later in the second half we switched to a 3-2 defense."

Lady Bulls' coach Sean Whitley stated with the youth on his team the season so far has been a work in progress.

"Five of the 10 players on our roster are freshmen, and we only have three individuals on the team with limited varsity experience, and two of those were freshmen last year," said Whitley. "While we were definitely out-sized tonight, I thought we boxed out well and held our own on the boards. It all starts with effort, and I was pleased



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Grace Jones drives for the basket through a crowded defense last Friday in Bear Creek. The Bears clawed their way to victory against South Stanly, 56-42, bringing their season record to 3-2.

with the aggressiveness I saw on the floor."

South Stanly gave the Lady Bears all they wanted in the opening five minutes of action and only trailed 10-8 following Wall's trey from the right wing with 2:58 remaining in the first stanza.

But six straight points from Stilwell — in the form

of two free throws, a put-back off the right baseline and a lane jumper — then triggered an 11-0 Chatham Central quarter-ending run that put the Lady Bears in full control.

Three-pointers by Vaughn and Murchison highlighted a second period in which Chatham Central outscored the

Lady Bulls 11-4 as the winners proceeded to fashion a 32-12 advantage at the break.

With Vaughn, Stilwell and Grace Jones combining for 14 points in the third stanza, the Lady Bears continued to expand their lead, which grew to 50-23 by the conclusion of the quarter.

But South Stanly refused to throw in the towel and instead began chipping away at its huge deficit as Burke cleared her bench in the fourth period while the Lady Bulls went on to out-pout Chatham Central 19-6 over the last eight minutes to make the final margin more respectable.

# Tale of two Tigers as College Football Playoff set



DON BEANE  
Sports Editor

By halftime of the 2019 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship game in Charlotte on Saturday evening the outcome of the game was a formality.

Clemson, the reigning National Champion, was in complete control with a 31-7 advantage over Virginia.

The only question left was just how much the Tigers would win, and what seed they would garner in the College Football Playoff series.

The answers to those questions would be 62-17 and the No. 3 seed.

After watching Clemson again there's no doubt in my mind that they are the second

best team I've seen this season. No offense to Ohio State, but Clemson is better and will prove it on the field when the No. 2-seeded Buckeyes play the No. 3-seeded Tigers in the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28.

Much has been made about the Clemson schedule, which was awful. But Dabo Swinney and the Tigers can't control the rest of the ACC and how mediocre the other league teams are. Mediocre may be an understatement.

Clemson, however, beat those opponents like the great teams do — senseless. The Tigers simply destroyed any and everything in its path with just a few minor hiccups such as the UNC game in Chapel Hill. And yet the purple-and-orange-clad Tigers continued to get little respect from the national media

who fawned and drooled all over Ohio State all season long

Now the proof will be in the pudding. Do I think Clemson is as good as last season? No, I don't, at least not overall. I think the offense is as good, perhaps a bit better as Trevor Lawrence and his surrounding cast are a year older, stronger and more experienced.

It's the defensive side of the ball in my eyes, particularly the front seven, that's not as strong, starting wise and depth wise. They are plenty good enough to get by the Buckeyes IMO, and I feel they will.

Less than four hours southwest of Charlotte down I-85 in Atlanta earlier on Saturday, another set of Tigers were busy making their statement as the top team in the county.

And Louisiana State University did just that, destroying UGA 37-10 in the SEC title game. Now enjoying Kirby

Smart and the Dawgs getting whipped like there was no tomorrow was enough to make my day, and day, 24/7.

But at the same time I did make it a point to take notice of the purple-and-gold-clad Tigers, and they looked every bit the part of a national championship caliber team. LSU is a complete team and loaded at every position group. The play of quarterback Joe Burrow, a Heisman candidate, has vaulted LSU into the next level.

The Tigers have had talent the past decade to win another national title, but has lacked at that one position. Now LSU doesn't lack that one glaring flaw, and appears to be the best team in the country.

The Tigers will have the opportunity to prove it now as the top seed, and that all begins when LSU plays the No. 4-seeded Oklahoma Sooners in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl at

Mercedes-Benz Stadium back in Atlanta at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28.

Everything is set up for a Go Tigers National Championship finale — and where else but the Superdome in New Orleans at 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13.

And what fun that could be and I'm standing with my Tale of two Tigers prediction for the title game. I mean, Dabo Swinney and his "aw shucks" talk from right out of the Andy Griffith Show combined with LSU's Coach Ed Orgeron, who is like a Cajun character straight out of the movie "The Waterboy." I mean it's almost too good to be true, and if Ohio State and/or Oklahoma win, then hats off to them. Regardless, college football fans in Chatham County and across the nation are in for a treat and some very entertaining matchups and games.

# Randleman ousted, Lee County wins 3AA Eastern Regional finale

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

It was a bittersweet ending to a great season for Randleman Friday night as the Tigers dropped a hard-fought 14-7 decision to visiting Salisbury at Charles Gregory Stadium in the 2AA Eastern Finals.

In the end the Salisbury defense was too strong, holding Randleman sophomore star Na'Heim Lilly to just 77 yards rushing after entering with over 2,000 yards.

The star of the night for the victorious Hornets and coach Brian Hinson, an East Montgomery grad who starred for legendary Eagles coach Jerry Daniel, was McClean who rushed for 177 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries including an six-yard touchdown run early in the fourth which proved to be the difference in the game. McClean had scored from eight yards out to open the second period to send Salisbury to a 7-0 advantage early on.

Randleman, which allowed 236 yards rushing and 326 total yards to Salisbury, didn't score

offensively the entire game.

The lone Tigers score came just before the half when senior Dominique Poole picked off a Hornets pass and raced 85 yards the other way for a game tying touchdown to send the teams into the locker rooms at the half knotted at 7-7.

Randleman closed the season at 13-1 while Salisbury (13-2) will face defending state champion Shelby for the 2AA state championship Saturday at BB&T Field in Winston-Salem at 11am.

In Sanford, the excitement is high after Lee County (14-0) crushed New Hanover 34-9 in the 3AA Eastern Finals to advance to the state title game for the first time since Sanford Central won the 1973 state championship under legendary coach Paul Gay.

The Yellow Jackets will take on defending 3AA state champion Weddington (15-0) at 7pm at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh on Saturday.

Weddington, located outside of Monroe, has destroyed any

and everything in its path this fall including Watauga 49-14 last Friday night.

In the Eastern Final game, Lee County senior running back A.J. Boulware had a game that will go down in Yellow Jacket history with 245 yards rushing and four touchdowns.

Boulware scored from six yards out early in the contest to send Lee County in front 6-0 before dashing 70 yards midway through the second period to extend the Jackets advantage to 14-3.

Lee County opened it up in the second half as Boulware darted 52 yards on a 4th-and-1 play early in the third to extend the lead to 20-9 before Boulware went five yards into the end zone midway through the fourth to push the Jackets advantage to 27-9.

A T.J. Johnson pick set up Colin Johnson connecting with Tyric McKendall on a 16-yard TD pass to cap the 34-9 victory.

Johnson completed 12-of-18 passes in the contest for 75 yards and a score for Lee County.

## SUCCESS

Continued from page B1

A pair of Lucas Skertich free throws and turnaround basket in the lane, sandwiched around Moore's three-pointers from the left wing, staked the Bears to a 7-0 advantage in the first two minutes of play before South Stanly narrowed the margin to two following Teller's floater off the left baseline with 4:47 to go in the opening stanza.

But a Skertich trey from the left side 24 seconds later ignited another 7-0 Chatham Central run that boosted the winners' lead to 14-5, and the rout was on.

Following Preston Cox's three-pointer from the left wing in the

closing seconds of the first quarter that put the Bears up 22-11, Moore registered 10 points in the second period as Chatham Central continued to extend its advantage throughout the frame until it swelled to 20 at halftime.

A lane jumper by Cox with 2:05 remaining in the third stanza gave the Bears their biggest lead at 58-31 prior to the Rebel Bulls tallying nine unanswered points over the last 1:47 of the quarter to reduce their deficit to 18 entering the final eight minutes.

After Nic Wilson's turnaround bucket off the left baseline put Chatham Central up 66-47 with 3:18 to go in the game, the Bears went scoreless the rest of the way while South Stanly closed the contest with an 8-0 spurt

to trim the final spread to 11 points.

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[www.chathamnc.org/publichealth](http://www.chathamnc.org/publichealth)



# DEFEAT

Continued from page B1

Jordan-Matthews' coach Rodney Wiley commented he felt turnovers were the difference in the contest. "I thought we played well at the outset, but then the game got away from us mid-way through the first quarter when we started making some ball-handling mistakes that put us in a big hole," Wiley said. "Northwood's press puts a lot of pressure on you as their quickness allows them to disrupt things in the passing lanes while they did a good job keeping us away from the basket when we tried to start our half-court offense. Although we were short-handed this evening with three of our guys in street clothes, I thought Chandler Matthews and Jacques Thompson gave us some quality minutes off the bench, while Eral Jones was really aggressive around the boards, with seven of his nine rebounds coming on the defensive end."

After Huston Causey's jumper from the right wing 23 seconds into the game gave the Jets their only lead of the night, Troy Arnold's three-pointer from the right side 12 seconds later put the Chargers ahead for good, and with Arnold and McAfee-Marion combining for 11 points in the initial period the visitors from Pittsboro opened up a 15-7 advantage after one quarter.

Janice Hedgepeth's layup to begin the second stanza drew J-M within six before McAfee-Marion's bank shot from the right wing and a fast break dunk by Aaron Ross provided Northwood with a double-digit lead at the 6:36 mark of the period. After the Chargers stretched their advantage to 33-13 on Alex Snively's lane drive with eight seconds to go until intermission, Matthews closed out the half with a trey from the right side at the horn.

A Davis three-pointer from the left wing to start the third quarter got Jordan-Matthews within 14 but the Jets could edge no closer while Northwood concluded the stanza with Tucker Morgan's layup to go up 48-30 entering the final eight minutes.

The Chargers equaled their biggest lead at 63-34 following Justin Brower's layup with 4:08 remaining to play prior to J-M closing out the game with a 10-3 run against Northwood subs.

## 2019 NCHSAA State Championship Football Pairings

### BROOKS FIELD AT WALLACE-WADE STADIUM (DUKE UNIVERSITY)

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
1A State Championship  
#4 Northampton High School (11-3) vs. #1 Robbinsville High School (14-0)  
Game Time: 3:00 PM

### 1AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#1 Tarboro High School (14-0) vs. #1 East Surry High School (14-0)  
Game Time: 7:00 PM

### BB&T FIELD (WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY)

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
2A State Championship  
#3 Northeastern High School (12-3) vs. #2 Reidsville High School (14-1)  
Game Time: 3:00 PM

### 2AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#7 Salisbury High School (13-2) vs. #1 Shelby High School (13-1)  
Game Time: 11:00 AM

### CARTER-FINLEY STADIUM (NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
3A State Championship  
#1 Southern Nash High School (15-0) vs. #5 Charlotte Catholic High School (11-3)  
Game Time: 3:00 PM

### 3AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#1 Lee County High School (14-0) vs. #1 Weddington High School (15-0)  
Game Time: 7:00 PM

### KENAN STADIUM (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL)

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
4A State Championship  
#4 Cardinal Gibbons High School (12-2) vs. #2 East Forsyth High School (11-2)  
Game Time: 11:00 AM

### 4AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#2 Leesville Road High School (13-0) vs. #10 Zebulon B. Vance High School (12-2)  
Game Time: 3:00 PM

## NCHSAA Regional Final Scores

### 1A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Northampton 20, North Edgecombe 12

#### WEST

Robbinsville 28, Thomas Jefferson 14

### 1AA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Tarboro 35, Holmes 6

#### WEST

East Surry 35, Mitchell 28

### 2A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Northeastern 23, Clinton 8

#### WEST

Reidsville 63, West Stokes 13

### 2AA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Salisbury 14, Randleman 7

#### WEST

Shelby 42, Burns 14

### 3A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Southern Nash 32, Eastern Alamance 29

#### WEST

Charlotte Catholic 56, Kings Mountain 49 7OT

### 3AA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Lee County 34, New Hanover 9

#### WEST

Weddington 49, Watauga 14

### 4A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Cardinal Gibbons 22, Scotland County 15

#### WEST

East Forsyth 21, Grimsley 20

### 4AA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

#### EAST

Leesville Road 21, Wake Forest 10

#### WEST

Vance 38, Richmond County 7



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Relying on Riley

Chatham Central's Riley Lagenor takes a fast break past South Stanly's Justin Gaddy in the first half of play last Friday in Bear Creek.

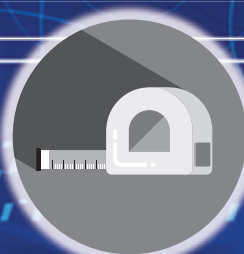


Staff photo by David Bradley

## Blocked at the basket!

Northwood's Jalen McAfee-Marion shoots for two and gets blocked by Jordan-Matthews' Huston Causey in the first half of their game Dec. 3 in Siler City. McAfee notched 12 points, two assists and five rebounds in the Chargers' 66-44 win.

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# Central boys snap five-game losing skid to Patriots

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — When it comes to rematches in basketball, if you lost the first time around there's nothing more satisfying than a good payback. After suffering an 18-point defeat to Providence Grove on the road 10 days earlier, Chatham Central was in no mood to let a 29-all halftime stalemate stand in its way as the Bears forged a double-digit lead six minutes into the third quarter and withstood a fourth-period Patriots' comeback attempt before pulling away down the stretch to claim a 66-56 non-conference victory last week in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium. Snapping a five-game losing streak to Providence Grove, Chatham Central evened its season ledger at 2-2, whereas the Patriots slipped to 3-3 for the year. Michael Moore topped the Bears with 18 points, while Lucas Skertich chipped in 15 and Phillip Gaines added 12 as the winners shot 44% (24-of-55) from the floor and commanded a 41-31 rebounding advantage to offset 11 turnovers. Jonathon Foust pumped in a game-high 21 points and Mi-

chael Fee collected 13 for Providence Grove, which connected on 38% (20-of-52) of its field goal attempts while turning the ball over a dozen times. "I thought the key to our success tonight was controlling Providence Grove's outside shooters by constantly rotating on defense and stopping the ball," said Chatham Central coach Robert Burke. "Credit this win to an overall team effort. We shot much better against Providence Grove this time while playing off Michael Moore a lot so he didn't have to worry about carrying the scoring load. "I was especially pleased how well we read the defense to score on a number of backdoor cuts, while we had several younger guys come off the bench to make big contributions at both ends of the court." Patriots' coach Wes Luther said it wasn't a good shooting night for his squad. "We're a perimeter shooting team that lives or dies on our three-pointers, and we only made about a third of our long-range attempts this evening while we shot less than 50% from the foul line," Luther said. "Not only did Chatham Central

outshoot us from the outside, but they were more physical inside and did a good job in the paint using their bodies to box out as they cleaned the glass all night. After they opened up an 11-point lead in the third quarter we cut it to five by the end of the period, but then they hit a couple of big buckets to regain the momentum while we were missing close shots and we never recovered." Following Nic Wilson's fast break layup with 2:28 left in the initial stanza that gave the Bears a 9-5 advantage, Providence Grove registered seven straight points to go up by three before Chatham Central closed out the opening frame with Wilson's drive off the right baseline and Moore's three-pointer from the left wing to reclaim the lead at 14-12. The Patriots began the second period with an 11-5 burst capped by Fee's put-back off the left baseline that put them ahead 23-19 with 3:24 to go until halftime prior to three-pointers by Gaines and Preston Cox sparking a 10-6 quarter-ending run that pulled the Bears even at intermission. With Skertich, Cox and Parker Crowley combining for all of



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Lucas Skertich makes a break for the basket past South Stanly's defensive line in last Friday's game in Bear Creek.

Chatham Central's third-period points, the Bears surged to a 46-35 advantage six minutes into the stanza before Providence Grove rallied to slice the difference to five by the end of the quarter. After Questin Overman's trey from the right corner 38 seconds into the final period got the Patriots within 48-44, Skertich answered with a

three-pointer from the right corner at the seven-minute mark prior to Gaines notching a conventional three-point play half a minute later that reestablished a double-digit lead for the victors, who increased their advantage to as much as 14 points on three occasions while Providence Grove could never trim the margin under 10 the remainder of the contest.

# 4A Wakefield claws past Charger girls basketball 51-38

**BY DON BEANE**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — One thing you can say about the Northwood girls basketball program and its veteran coach Cameron Vernon is that they won't back down from playing a tough non-conference schedule. That remained true Friday night in Pittsboro as the Lady Chargers entertained 4A Wakefield High School out of Raleigh. Despite a gutsy effort, Northwood dropped a hard-fought 51-38 decision to the visitors from Wake County to fall to 2-3 on the season. Vernon felt his club did some good things but

in the end poor shooting from behind the arc and turnovers led to the Chargers downfall. "Another tough non-conference opponent that we just couldn't overcome their pressure on the defensive end," said Vernon. "Looking over the stats we shot two point field goals well at 50 percent (11-22), we rebounded well and shot well from the foul line at 72 percent (13-18). However we struggled from three at 10 percent (1-10) and had too many turnovers." Despite four points from Natalie Bell in the opening period the Chargers couldn't throw the ball in the ocean.

Fortunately the Wolverines weren't much better as Elise Williams scored all eight of the Wakefield points to give the visitors an 8-5 advantage after one period of play. The next eight minutes proved to tell the tale of the contest as Wakefield owned the second quarter to the tune of a 19-10 advantage to improve its lead to 27-15 at the intermission. Kasey Lund canned a trio of treys for nine points in the stanza for the Wolverines while Williams chipped in a three-pointer, and Amirah Allen four points. Freshman Tekeyah Bland netted five points in the second for North-

wood. "We really struggled with their half court defensive pressure and just threw the ball away so many times especially in the second quarter," Vernon said. "It is a recurring theme in our three losses and we have got to do a better of mimicking the pressure we are facing in practice and making our teammates better. But this game will definitely help us down the road." Bland would added six points in the third for Northwood and Caitlin Bailey three more as the Chargers outscored the Wolverines 11-10 in the third

period to close the gap to 37-26 entering the fourth. Williams had four for Wakefield to keep the lead at double-digits throughout. The Lady Chargers simply could not hit the open treys in the contest including the final frame as the Wolverines used a 14-12 run in the quarter to close out the 51-38 triumph. Williams had five more for Wakefield to close the contest with a game-high 20 while McKenna Blanton added four more in the fourth. Bailey had five points for Northwood in the final stanza while McKenna Snively canned the lone trey out of 10

attempts for the locals in the period. Bland would close with 13 points and eight rebounds for Northwood while Bailey added eight points and eight boards, and Jyrea Smith and Gianna McManaman three assists apiece. "I thought Tekeyah Bland really had a nice game inside and Caitlin Bailey exemplified some toughness tonight scoring 8 and getting 8 rebounds," Vernon said. "We will regroup and get ready for next week with a three game schedule and opening up conference with Northern Durham on Tuesday." Lund added nine points in the win for Wakefield.

# Providence Grove marches past Lady Bears with late surge

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — As the saying goes, it was close, but no cigar for Chatham Central. With neither team enjoying more than a four-point advantage through the first 28 minutes of play, undefeated Providence Grove used a 9-3 run over the final 3:18 to slip past the Lady Bears 59-50 in non-conference action last Thursday in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium. Completing a sweep of the season series with their eighth win in the last nine meetings between the two teams, the Lady Patriots improved to 6-0 for the year, while Chatham Central stumbled to 2-2 overall. Despite shooting just 32 percent (21-of-66) from the floor, Providence Grove placed three players in double figures, led by Malea Garrison's 18 points. Kaitlyn Sexton and Makayla McClain contributed 11 points apiece for the winners, who held a 20-14 advantage on the boards while turning the ball over 14 times. Danielle Vaughn sank four three-pointers and finished with 18 points for the Lady Bears while Mary Grace Murchison chipped in 14. Chatham Central connected on 41 percent (20-of-49) of its field goal attempts but committed 21 turnovers. "We couldn't get our shots to fall in the first half, but our rebounding kept us in the game," said Lady Patriots' coach Erin Sikes. "We switched from a man defense to a zone in the second half to stop Chatham Central drives in the middle, while we started creating more open shots for ourselves and doing a better job pushing the ball up-court in transition. Our 'go-to' players (Garrison, Sexton and McClain) can make things happen on the floor, and we needed their leadership tonight. Free throws eventually allowed us to pull away in the final minutes, while Aria Coltrane was a key factor coming off the bench to score some big put-backs and give us more aggressiveness in the paint." Lady Bears' coach Lynda Burke indicated she felt her team played much better this time around against Providence Grove compared to their previous game that was won 54-37 by the Lady Patriots back on November 25. "We shot the ball well tonight and worked our offense to get good looks," Burke said. "But on their 9-3 run at the end we missed three layups and didn't rebound well. Providence Grove definitely out-hustled us for loose balls when the game was on the line, and that along with their ability to hit free throws down the stretch was the difference." Following a pair of early ties, Chatham Central opened up a 13-9 advantage with 1:52 left in the initial period before the Lady Patriots rallied to take a one-point lead on the strength of two Garrison free



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Savannah Stilwell gets some air last Friday while being watched defensively by South Stanly's Jessica Dunlap and Sadie Lee, (right) in Bear Creek.

throws and Sexton's trey from the left corner prior to Murchison's three-pointer from the right wing with three seconds showing on the clock that put the Lady Bears ahead 16-14 after one quarter. Chatham Central then rebuilt its margin to four at 20-16 on a pair of Savannah Stilwell foul shots with 7:01 remaining in the second stanza only to have Garrison's bank shot off the right baseline two minutes later thrust Providence Grove back in front 21-20, but following two more lead changes the Lady Bears eventually carried a 28-27 advantage into intermission. After battling to a 34-all standoff midway through the third period, Edi Austin's rebound bucket in the lane coupled with two McClain charity tosses elevated the Lady Patriots into a four-point lead with 2:21 left in the stanza before Chatham Central managed to narrow the gap to 40-39 heading into the fourth quarter. Following Vaughn's three-pointer from the right corner that snapped a 42-all tie with 6:12 remaining in the contest, Providence Grove fought back to seize the advantage for good at 46-45 on McClain's bank shot in the paint with 5:14 to play. McClain's fast break layup at the 3:18 mark then gave the Lady Patriots the biggest lead by either team up to that point at 52-47, igniting Providence Grove's game-ending 9-3 burst that sealed the victory for the visitors from Franklinville.

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# SWISSSSH!!!!



Staff photo by David Bradley

Near the free-throw line, Jayden Davis shoots a long one over defenders from Northwood last Tuesday night in Siler City.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Kailey Green prepares to jump when she is fouled by South Stanly's Jocelyn Vazquez in last Friday's game in Bear Creek.



Northwood's Gianna McManaman scores last Tuesday past Jordan-Matthews' Avery Headen as the Chargers' victory dropped the Jets' record to 4-1.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Philip Gaines and South Stanly's Justin Gaddy watch as Gaines' layup adds two points for the Bears at Chatham Central last Friday.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Tucker Morgan shoots past Jordan-Matthews defender Eral Jones as teammate Chandler Matthews waits for the rebound in the second quarter of play in Siler City last Tuesday.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan Matthews' Camden Fuquay is swamped by Northwood's Jack Thompson in last Tuesday's game in Siler City.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews' Lanice Hedgepeth tries to break past Northwood's Jalen McAfee-Marion, Deuce Powell (back) and Aaron Ross on a dash to the basket in last Tuesday's game in Siler City.



Jordan-Matthews' Avery Headen pushes a path clear around Northwood's Mckenna Snively last Tuesday night in Siler City. The Chargers' non-conference win brought their record to 2-2.

Staff photo by David Bradley



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Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Addie Fields (14) faces the defensive line of South Stanly as she pushes her way to the basket last Friday in a conference game in Bear Creek.

# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Amanda Gordon, 28, of Bear Creek, was charged November 25 with larceny of a motor vehicle. She was released on a written promise with a December 2 court date in Pittsboro.

David Baldovinos, 23, of Siler City, was charged November 25 with assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Andrea Donald, 45, was charged November 25 with assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats. She was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Ronman, 30, of Chapel Hill, was charged November 27 with assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Jacqueline Chase, 28, of Chapel Hill, was charged November 27 with assault on a government official, assault and battery and resisting a public officer. She was held on a 48-hour

mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Timothy Fitzgerald, 27, of Chapel Hill, was charged November 28 with driving while impaired and careless and reckless driving. He was released on a written promise with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

Francis Alefosio, 43, of Chapel Hill, was charged November 29 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$500 bond with a January 22 court date in Hillsborough.

Hannah Parker, 30, of Moncure, was charged November 30 with simple assault. She was held under a \$500 bond with a December 18 court date in Chatham County.

Christopher Emery, 31, of Siler City, was charged December 1 with accessory before the fact to a felony. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Dylan Fleming, 25, of Siler City, was charged December 1 with accessory before the fact to a felony. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a

December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Mason Lupek, 32, of Pittsboro, was charged December 1 with assault on a female, breaking or entering and injury to real property. He was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Jaquan Woodard, 25, of Chapel Hill, was charged December 2 with assault on a female, assault by pointing a gun and interfering with emergency communications. He was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Clyde Morris, 37, of Siler City, was charged December 2 with assault on a female, possession of marijuana up to one-half ounce and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. He was held on a 48-hour mandatory domestic violence hold with a December 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Jessica Derrick, 37, of Siler City, was charged December 2 with failure to appear. She was held under \$1,000 bond with a January 7 court date in

Fayetteville.

Kevin Martinez-Romero, 21, of Siler City, was charged December 2 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$400 bond with a January 7 court date in Siler City.

Michael Phillips, 47, of Moncure, was charged December 3 with assault on a female. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Larry Smith II, 34, of Bear Creek, was charged December 3 with violation of pretrial release. He was held under a \$300,000 bond with a December 16 court date in Pittsboro.

## SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Asael Merida, 27, of Siler City, was charged December 2 with felony assault by strangulation and assault on a female. He was held with a December 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Allison McLaughlin of Pittsboro was cited December 3 for safe movement violation and reckless driving with wanton disregard in the parking lot of Chatham Recovery in Siler City.

Felix Rodriguez-Garcia, 47, of Ramseur, was charged December 7 with driving while impaired and careless and reckless driving. He was held under a \$25,000 bond with a December 17 court date in Siler City.

Randa Brady, 34, of Siler City, was cited December 7 for attempting to break and enter a motor vehicle. She has a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Gary Louk Sr., 50, of Sanford, was charged December 8 with two counts of failure to appear. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a December 13 court date in Fayetteville. Louk was also charged with two felony counts of identity theft, two misdemeanor counts of financial card fraud and one felony count of possession of methamphetamine. He was held under a \$25,000 bond on those charges with a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Virginia Cameron of Fuquay Varina was cited December 2 for failure to yield on Governors Drive in Pittsboro.

Marilyn Chaplin of Chap-

el Hill was cited December 2 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Erika Gabriel of Greensboro was cited December 2 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Taylor Walker of Pittsboro was cited December 3 for failure to reduce speed on Mt. Gilead Church Road in Pittsboro.

Tonya Williams of Ramseur was cited December 3 for failure to reduce speed on Third Street in Siler City.

Erick Colette of Carmel, Indiana, was cited December 4 for failure to yield right of way in obedience to a stop sign on N.C. Highway 42 in Pittsboro.

Leslie Walker of Pittsboro was cited December 4 for failure to yield on Pearleman Teague Road in Siler City.

Amanda Lazides of Siler City was cited December 5 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

Vincent Hall of Shelby was cited December 6 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 421 in Siler City.

## In memory of the fallen



Staff photo by David Bradley

Filled with more than 100 names of those fallen in the line of duty, these individuals served their communities across the country. Deputy Sheriff Spencer Allen Englett was from Forsyth County, Georgia, and succumbed to illness during training.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Siler City Police officers and detectives join a group of ladies from the West Chatham Senior Center to place ornaments on a Christmas tree in the lobby of the Siler City Police Department Dec. 4. Each ornament represents one of the 119 officers who fell in the line of duty in the United States last year.



Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner reads a tribute to fallen police and officers. His message was one of remembrance of the law enforcement personnel who have fallen in the last year. Pastor William Brewer, left, and Officer Eric Plata joined in the tribute.

Staff photo by David Bradley

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Staff photo by David Bradley

Norma Brooks was part of the group which decorated a memorial tree at the Siler City Police Department last Wednesday. 'It's a sad but very special occasion,' Brooks said. 'Someone lost their life in the line of duty, and left the family behind. It's especially sad at the holidays.'

## Students, get your applications in for the 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Each year, Central Electric sponsors two rising high school juniors or seniors on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. in connection with the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. While in D.C., you'll join 1,800 other students from across the country to meet members of Congress and learn more about American history and electric cooperatives.



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## Bynum Front Porch Holiday Bazaar



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Aja Dematerra, a Bynum artist, poet, writer and painting coach, works with pastels and acrylics. She displayed some of her work at the Bynum Front Porch Holiday Bazaar, held at the Bynum General Store Nov. 30.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Despite cold temperatures, the Bynum Front Porch Holiday Bazaar, held Nov. 30 at the Bynum General Store, drew a large number of holiday shoppers.

Savanna Matthews of Bynum makes and sells healthy dog treat cookies, sweet popcorn and other treats.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

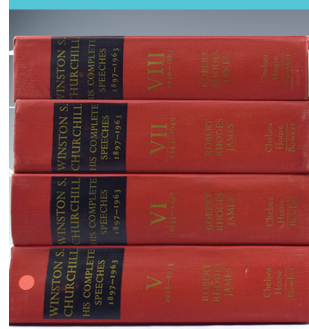


Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Among his other creations, artist and craftman Dave Vick of Sanford brought several dragonflies he's created. The unique art was on display at the Bynum Front Porch Holiday Bazaar.

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

# Gale Ann Wells-Brickhouse | Northwood High School

**Grades/subjects you teach:** 9-12 Agriscience Applications, Animal Science I & Animal Science 2 (small animals)

**E-mail address:** galew@chatham.k12.nc.us

**Date, place of birth:** Kenansville, N.C. (Duplin County)

**Education:** Wallace-Rose Hill High School; North Carolina A&T State University (Bachelor of Science degree in 1987)

**Brief work history:**

Going into my 11th year Northwood High School; 10 years at Jordan-Matthews; also taught at Southern Vance High School, Wallace-Rose Hill High School and Lee Senior High School.

**Honors/awards:** 30-year pin — CTE Agriculture; two awards for teacher of the year, at Northwood High School and Jordan-Matthews High School.

**Hobbies/interests outside of educating:** Sad to say I have no interests or hobbies outside of educating youth. In my free time I check out other educational game apps on the computer. Other than that, just gardening.

**Family:** Three sisters and three brothers

**What led you to a career in education?** I have always wanted to be a teacher.

**Who were your favorite teachers as you went**



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

**Northwood High School's Gale Wells-Brickhouse teaches Agriscience Applications and Animal Science.**

**through school, and what did you learn from them?** My favorite teacher was my PE teacher and chemistry teacher. They taught me that given time, all children can and will learn. They were very patient with me.

**Has becoming an educator been all you expected it would be?** Yes, and so much more. During the summertime, I miss the kids (and student-) officers so much I would call them in for a workday at school just to see how they are doing.

**How has education changed since you were a student?** Class sizes are still big. There is less choices in curriculum.

**What "makes your day" as an educator?** When students I have taught have come back to me and say, "We talked about that in another class and I was able to add to the discussion."

**What's working in schools today?** Requiring students to be more accountable

**What's not working?** High-stakes testing — given time, all children can and will learn

**What's your favorite memory of your first year in education?** A student said that they wished they had my class all day long.

**How would your "educator" persona handle you as a student?** My educator persona would love me... because I would be the one asking "why?"

**Best piece of advice for other educators?** FIND YOUR WHY!

**For students?** Do the work required of you.

**For parents?** Continue to support their child as well as their teachers. Please check in with



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

**Northwood High School educator Gale Wells-Brickhouse (green coat) works with her students in the school's garden.**

teachers if there is an issue.

**What about your job would most surprise your friends who are not educators?** That although I work weekends, I choose to do it. There is no other place I'd rather be.

**If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?** There are no stupid questions. So ask questions!

**When you think about today's kids, you:** They are in such a rush to get out of school because they think it will be easier, but it is not.

**If one of your students was asked for a one-word**

**description of you by a student who hadn't had you as an educator, what would that one word be?** Funny

**Favorite movie about school or education:** "Lean on Me"

**How would you summarize your philosophy as an educator?** "I am an agriculture teacher by choice and not by chance..." (The Agricultural Teacher Creed)

**What five things must every educator know?**

1. No two students are the same. They come from different backgrounds.
2. Communication is the key that makes everything work within the classroom.

3. Everybody's got emotions (feelings)
4. We can motivate even the laziest students.
5. It is OK to build a good, positive relationship with your students and their parents. Set boundaries.

**What's special about your education space at your school?** I have been blessed with a classroom, office, shop, greenhouse, barn garden area and a small-animal unit area.

**What's special about your school?** The students. They are so diverse.

**Most unusual question you've ever gotten from a student?** "Do we eat the chickens we grow outside?"

## Ringling the bell



**Carly Davis, 6, deposits money into the Salvation Army's Red Kettle outside Siler City's Walmart Dec. 3. Funds raised through the annual kettle drive goes towards feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, and assisting the poor.**

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Maggie Poe, Christee Cranford, Gail Backof, Barbara Dowdy and Brenda Shaw (left to right) were joined by Abbey Poe, 5, as they sang Christmas carols while ringing bells to raise funds for the services of the Salvation Army in the cold weather at the Siler City Walmart Dec. 3.**



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

**Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan and Jack Black star in 'Jumanji: The Next Level.'**

## Jumanji: The Next Level has laughs and just the right amount of Hart

In assessing the latest cinematic incarnations of



**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

the prism of action-adventure films. They lack vivid visual effects, compelling combat, and formidable foils. Their pacing is fragmented, and the plots are scattershot.

But "Jumanji: The Next Level," like "Welcome to the Jungle" before it, is more an effects-driven coming-of-age comedy revolving around the themes of family and friendship and carried by the camaraderie of its characters.

The quartet of classmates who bonded through their shared misadventures in the Jumanji video game have moved on with life after high school. Bethany (Madison Iseman) is living in Costa Rica, while Fridge (Ser'Darius Blain), Martha (Morgan Turner), and Spencer (Alex Wolff) are attending college. The four plan to meet while back home for the holidays, but Spencer is feeling overwhelmed at NYU and undervalued at his part-time pharmacy job. Spencer longs for the heady confidence he felt playing adventurer Smolder Bravestone in the Jumanji universe. Sp when he visits his family, including his grandpa Eddie (Danny DeVito), Spencer reboots the Jumanji console and returns into the game.

### JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL

**GRADE:** B

**DIRECTOR:** Jake Kasden

**STARRING:** Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Alex Wolff, Madison Iseman, Morgan Turner, Ser'Darius Blain, Nick Jones, Awkwafina, Danny DeVito and Danny Glover

**MPAA RATING:** PG-13

**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr. 3 min.

When Spencer's friends discover what he's done, they reluctantly decide to follow him back into Jumanji. However, their teleportation inadvertently sweeps up Eddie and his estranged friend Milo (Danny Glover). Eddie and Milo once ran a local restaurant together before falling out, and Milo had just dropped by to share a cup of coffee and some other distressing news.

The participants once again inhabit avatars from the Jumanji game, but "The Next Level" mixes matters up. Martha remains comely commando Ruby Roundhouse (Karen Gillan), but Fridge now occupies the body of portly cartographer Sheldon Oberon, which Kevin Hart voices as DeVito's grumpy, New Hampshireite. Meanwhile, Milo is now diminutive zoologist Franklin Finbar, which Kevin Hart voices like, well, an impersonation of old Danny Glover. It's a stroke of minor genius by Hart and director Jake Kasden, who finally shelves Hart's well-worn

schtick as a flibbertigibbet by slowing down his delivery and just allowing his wit to carry the load.

Spencer eventually shows up under the guise of new avatar Ming Fleetfoot, an Asian cat burglar played by Awkwafina. Awkwafina able channels Spencer's timid insecurity until some late-film role-switching gives her a go at a DeVito caricature that's just as amusing as Johnson's.

The storyline remains as fragmented as its video game construct — something about another gemstone that needs rescuing from a nondescript baddie in order to save the realm and escape the game before the avatars lose their allotted lives. And the wonky action sequences succeed only as vehicles to propel the hilarity. "The Next Level's" charm resides in both the evolving rapport between its main characters and the comedicadroitness of Johnson, Hart, Gillan, Black, and now Awkwafina. An end credits scene presages the setting for the next sequel, and even after two go-rounds it's a world you won't mind revisiting.

HUNGRY HUNTERS

# Non-profit provides 160,000 servings annually

BY CHAPEL FOWLER  
UNC Media Hub

In 2013, Phillip Craven got a visit he'll never forget. A few weeks earlier, he'd donated venison from his deer processing plant in Asheboro to the nearby Randolph County Senior Adults Association. The organization, trying to beat an incoming snowstorm, quickly doled out the meat to some of its homebound residents through a Meals on Wheels program.

Craven didn't think much of it — such donations were standard practice at the plant he's run since 2008. But when a 92-year-old man popped into his shop that day to personally thank him for his help, he was shocked, flattered and emotional.

The man, who used a wheelchair, said he had been a "bad father." He'd learned from his mistakes.

His children, though, never forgave him. He had no friends close by. No family present in his life.

"Nobody cares about me," he told Craven.

Ahead of the storm, the senior center delivered him four packs of Craven's ground venison and some crackers. When he was snowed in and couldn't be reached for three days, that was the only meat in his fridge. He used it to make soup.

Once the roads had cleared, he arranged for his caretaker to drive him to Craven's Deer Processing so he could tell the owner his story.

"That's strong," Craven said, "when a man gets wheeled into your business just because he wants to tell you thank you."

Six years later, the moment's still fresh on Craven's mind. It's also a tangible example, he said, of what North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry can do.

Since 1993, Hunters for the Hungry — the non-profit at the root of that donation and thousands more — has provided a simple process for supplying free deer meat to those who need it most.

Hunters legally kill and donate deer; processors convert it into venison burger; and it's distributed to food banks, soup kitchens, churches and other organizations.



Photo by Nathan Klima

**A hunter signs a donation form for a deer he dropped off at Pearce's Custom Processing last month. The plant contributes donated venison to the N.C. Hunters for the Hungry program, which serves as a link between hunters and nonprofit food pantries to provide meals for people in need.**

Hunters for the Hungry, on average, turns 1,000 deer into 160,000 servings of protein a year.

As the main deer season begins in most of the state in November, there's still plenty of room for growth. Less than 1 percent of North Carolina's yearly deer harvest is donated to Hunters for the Hungry, and the all-volunteer organization is making its annual push for more recognition and participation from hunters and non-hunters alike.

"Some people don't think that animals should be hunted," treasurer David Blake said. "Whether you do or you don't, this is one of those things you really can't complain about. It's a full circle of life."

**'An overabundance'**  
A century ago, North Carolina's whitetail deer population was about 10,000, according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. As for today? Estimates range from 1 million to 1.2 million.

The cause of the growth is clear. North Carolina implemented a major restoration program from the 1940s to the 1970s, stocking about 4,000 deer throughout the state. At the same time, fewer people were living off the land and hunting. Animals such as bears, wolves and mountain lions also dwindled, which left humans as the only main predator to control the state's deer population.

And that population grows fast. Over a five-year period, a single doe and her offspring can produce 31 more deer. Deer overpopulation is a well-documented issue; it leads to more vehicle collisions, more disease and damage to urban landscapes and agricultural fields alike.

"We're blessed with a bountiful number of deer, but that can go awry if not managed well," said Judy Gardner, who lives in Lillington and works with Hunters for the Hungry.

Case in point: it's no coincidence that the organization began in the mid-1990s, when the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and longtime Commissioner Jim Graham were looking to curb a far-too-large deer population.

The department loosened regulations, allowing hunters more chances for "either-sex" hunts, in which they could harvest male and female deer. In 1993, Hunters for the Hungry was founded as a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit — and, 26 years later, its mission of processing with a purpose hasn't changed.

**'All the deer we can get'**  
No one affiliated with Hunters for the Hungry is paid. It's purely volunteer — and that was an issue early on. The business model hinges on donations, which balance out the processing costs of each individual deer and are paid directly to the respective processor.

In 2019, the rate is \$60 for a full deer and \$50 for

a deer that's been field dressed, or skinned and gutted, by a hunter. As it laid its fundraising roots, the group had to cap itself at a certain number of deer a year to break even. Funding is still a prevalent issue — "We want to take all the deer we can get, but we want to make sure we have enough money to pay for it," Blake said — but the organization has found some footing through grants from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commissions and money from private donors.

Accessibility has helped, too. Hunters for the Hungry works with 17 certified deer processors across the state. There are also five drop-off sites, including the Harnett Area Deer Donation Site Gardner runs with her husband, Guy.

Such sites will clean, wash and preserve deer before dropping them off at the nearest processor themselves rather than making local hunters do it. It all plays into Hunters for the Hungry's goal to make things "free and easy" for donors, as Gardner put it.

In terms of monetary donations, the pitch is also simple: your money will go directly to producing venison for hungry people across the state — not someone's pocket. "I'd say probably 97 percent of the money we make is used to process deer," Blake said.

**'A great big team effort'**  
Jeffrey Pearce stood outside his Louisburg



Photo by Nathan Klima

**Scottie Spencer, an employee at Pearce's Custom Processing in Louisburg, skins a deer on Nov. 9.**



Photo by Nathan Klima

**Scottie Spencer bags the head of a deer after it was processed at Pearce's Custom Processing.**

deer processing plant, shook his head and laughed.

It was back in 1993, when Hunters for the Hungry began and some family members — he won't name names — told him he was "too little" a processor to help. The next deer season, Pearce joined and handled 87 percent of the state's donations by himself.

"But I was 'too little,'" he said with a grin.

In the years since, Pearce's Custom Processing has blossomed into Hunters for the Hungry's largest processor. Pearce, who has been in deer processing for 48 years, runs a tight ship and dedicated operation. This fall, he'll take his usual two days off: Christmas Eve and Christmas.

The career outdoorsman has also kept extensive records of donations — later this year, his plant will surpass 2.5 million free meals produced for Hunters for the Hungry.

"I didn't do it by myself," Pearce said. "I may have been up here directing traffic, but all these hunters coming in here are supplying the meat. It's a great big team

effort. I'm just the one who got to stand up there and direct traffic. But, you know, it took everybody to get there."

That's an overwhelming theme of Hunters for the Hungry: team effort. The organization functions without a formal headquarters. Members such as Pearce, Craven and Gardner spread the word on their own — to churches, to civic centers, to rotary clubs, to their normal clients — and often serve and deliver the venison, too.

This fall, the Hunters for the Hungry will do more of just that: bringing venison full circle to the hungry people of the state and, if things go as planned, finding a few new volunteers along the way, so they can keep building on what they began 26 years ago.

"A lot of people, their first deer, before they fill their freezer, they'll donate," Craven said. "It's not like they don't want the deer. It's because they've done it over the years, and they've met people who have benefited from it. They want to bless somebody first before they get their own blessings."

## J-M students take part in HOSA event



Jordan-Matthews High School sent 49 health science students to the HOSA Future Health Professionals Regional Leadership Competition at South Garner High School on Nov. 22. A total of 16 Jets were medal winners, finishing in the top three in their events. More than half of J-M competitors placed in the top 10. Taking part were (top row, from left): Betty Francisco Martin, 1st place Veterinary Science; Kenia Ruiz, 3rd place Veterinary Science; Hallie Barre, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Eve Long, 2nd place, Health Career Photography; Ashlyn Ray, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Laci Burt, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Natalie Gonzalez, 3rd place, Dental Science; Sandi Goux Ordenez, 3rd place, Home Health Aide; Rebecca Hernandez, 2nd place, Medical Spelling; Robert Maupin, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team. Bottom row, from left: Victor Nambo, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Myia Pettitt, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Hannah Redding, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Jamia Walden, 3rd place, CERT skills team; Jocelyn Ramirez, 1st place, Parliamentary Procedure team; Granville Rogers, 3rd place, CERT skills team.

Submitted photo

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### 'Barn to Badge' event to pair farmers, Sheriff's Office

The N.C. Cooperative Extension and Chatham County Sheriff's Office is hosting a joint event on December 19 to improve communication and relationships between farmers and deputies.

The "Barn to Badge: Farmer Meet and Greet" event will run from 4-6 p.m. at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

Practicing open communication and building positive relationships between law enforcement and the commu-

nity benefits the safety and protection of Chatham's agriculture industry, according to a news release. Speakers will include Andrew Branan, Ag Law Extension Specialist, who will give updates on the new gag law, right to farm and basic ag laws that apply to farmers.

Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, concerns and ideas to the table for a fun evening. This event is non-formal and will include light foods and drinks.

The event is free, and attendees are asked to pre-register at [www.eventbrite.com/e/barn-to-badge-meet-and-greet-for-farmers-chatham-county-sheriffs-office-tickets-81748454829](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/barn-to-badge-meet-and-greet-for-farmers-chatham-county-sheriffs-office-tickets-81748454829).

iffs-office-tickets-81748454829.

#### Chatham County government seeking applicants for Environmental Review Advisory Committee

PITTSBORO — Chatham County seeks applicants to fill a new vacancy for its Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC), which advises the Board of Commissioners on environmental policy and related county ordinances and serves on the Chatham County Watershed Review Board. The deadline to apply is by 5 p.m. on

Friday, Dec. 27.

The ERAC also assists County staff with reviews of state and federal environmental permits in the county and partners with towns and other governmental agencies on mutual environmental concerns.

The board of commissioners especially seeks applicants with environmental expertise or interests.

The vacant seat is appointed by the full board of commissioners. Individuals interested in the position should apply regardless of where they live in the county. The person appointed would serve a partial term ending June 30, 2021 but would

be eligible for reappointment to a full three-year term.

A map of commissioner districts and an online application form can be found at [www.chathamnc.org/CommitteeAppointments](http://www.chathamnc.org/CommitteeAppointments). If you would like an email or printed copy of the form, contact Lindsay Ray at 919-542-8200 or [lindsay.ray@chathamnc.org](mailto:lindsay.ray@chathamnc.org).

The ERAC typically meets four to six times per year on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at a location in the Pittsboro area. To find out more about the ERAC, visit: [www.chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=379](http://www.chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=379)

— CN+R staff reports

# Chatham Artists Guild Open Studio Tour continues this weekend



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Artist Selden Durgom Lamoureux of Pittsboro is a potter and artist on the Chatham Artists Guild Open Studio Tour this weekend. For more information, including a map of studios, visit [ChathamArtistsGuild.org](http://ChathamArtistsGuild.org).



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Forrest Greenslade's latest painting is just one of the many pieces of locally produced art that will be on display this weekend. Artists include painters, sculptors, photographers and potters.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Shoppers enjoy Forrest Greenslade's paintings during the Chatham Artists Guild Open Studio Tour.



Linda Collura makes her Studio 366 debut in the 2019 Chatham Studio tour. Collura explores painting with mixed media. Her works are uniquely characterized by her exploration of different media: Water color, acrylics, colored pencil and ink may all be included in one painting.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Amanda Greiner of Pittsboro continues on a piece of artwork during the studio tour.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Nature inspired figures by Forrest Greenslade.



Forrest Greenslade's Dwelling Sculpture Garden is open during the Chatham Artists Guild Open Studio Tour.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Artist Selden Durgom Lamoureux also produces functional pottery in her Pittsboro studio.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



**REGISTER NOW**  
FOR SPRING 2020 CLASSES!

Classes Begin **JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>**

[www.cccu.edu](http://www.cccu.edu)



# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2019 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 1

## The Gift of Reading

**Reading is powerful!** If you read 20 minutes a day just for the fun of it, you would read about 1.8 million words in year! That amount of reading gives kids an edge in school.

The newspaper offers great ways to play games that help you read more. A subscription to a newspaper brings reading opportunities to your doorstep every day!

Draw a line connecting each gift with its exact twin. Circle the gift that is one-of-a-kind.



### Valuable Headlines

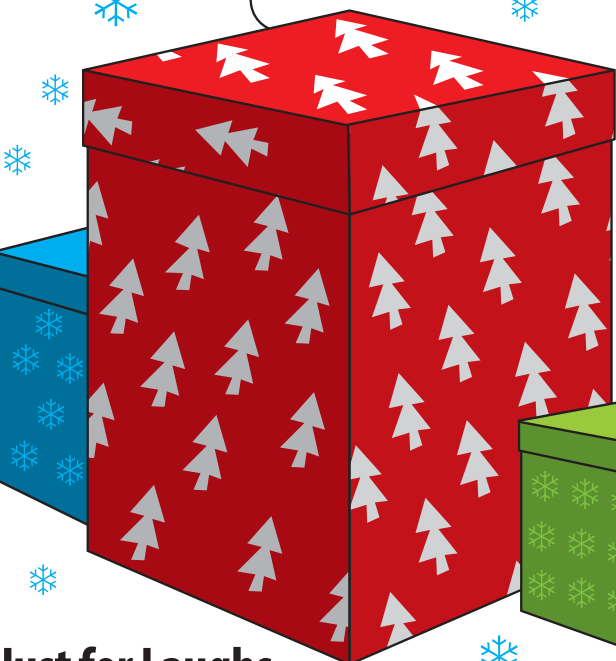
The number code below assigns a value to every letter of the alphabet. Figure out the "value" of a headline in the newspaper. Then see if you can find another headline with a higher value.

Example: **MAYOR VISITS SCHOOLS** = 261  
 $(13+1+25+15+18=72)$   $(22+9+19+9+20+19=98)$   $(19+3+8+15+15+12+19=91)$

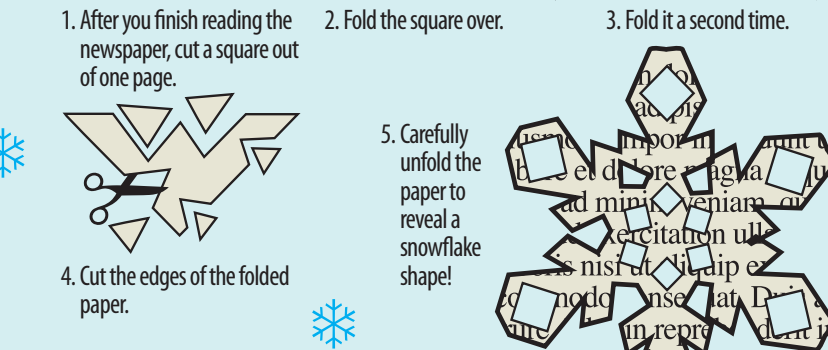
A = 1	G = 7	M = 13	S = 19	W = 23
B = 2	H = 8	N = 14	T = 20	X = 24
C = 3	I = 9	O = 15	U = 21	Y = 25
D = 4	J = 10	P = 16	V = 22	Z = 26
E = 5	K = 11	Q = 17	=	=
F = 6	L = 12	R = 18		

### Word Game

Can you find the letters that spell the word **SUBSCRIPTION** on one page of the newspaper? Circle each letter then connect the letters in the order that spells **S-U-B-S-C-R-I-P-T-I-O-N**. Color in the design made by the lines.



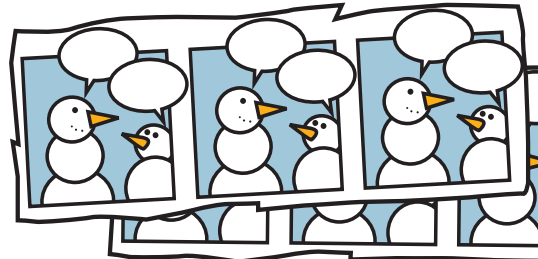
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How many snowflakes can you count on this page?

### Just for Laughs

Save a few days' worth of your favorite comic strip. At your holiday gathering, have family members help you put on a show by acting out the comic strips for family and friends.



### Find Happy

Look through the newspaper for words and pictures that show what is, in your opinion, an example of:

- a happy word
- a happy picture
- a happy person
- a happy group
- a happy occasion

Standards Link: Research. Use the newspaper to locate information.

### Kid Scoop Together:

Work with a family member to put the parts of this story in the correct order.

### Rockstar Reader

the Georgia 1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten Program, which challenges kids to read 1,000 books before their first day of kindergarten.

Her story caught the attention of Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress.

Dalayah Marie Arana is a regular at her local Gainesville, Ga. library. Recently she completed

librarian and wants to help children learn to read at a young age.

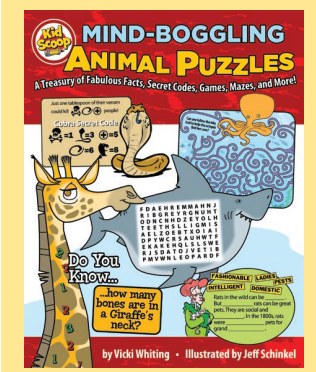
Dalayah visited the biggest library in the world to shadow Hayden as "librarian for the day." She has dreams of one day being a



Dalayah with Carla Hayden at the Library of Congress.

### The Kid Scoop book for puzzle lovers!

A great gift idea! Order from your local bookstore, Target.com, BarnesandNoble.com or Amazon.com today!



### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ASSIGN**  
 The verb **assign** means to give out with authority.

The teacher began to **assign** detention to students late for class.

Try to use the word **assign** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

### Write On!

### No Money Gifts

What can you give as a Christmas present that doesn't cost money to buy?

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Make as many words as you can using the letters in "READ NEWSPAPERS EVERY DAY"

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1-5 WORDS: **GOOD START**    5-15 WORDS: **WORDFUL WONDER**  
 16 WORDS OR MORE: **HEADLINE HERO**

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

### Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

NEWSPAPER ALPHABET READING POWERFUL ASSIGN PERIOD SQUARE WORDS VALUE GROUP GAME CODE EDGE GIFT YEAR

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### Before and After

Look at a photograph in the newspaper. Discuss with a partner what you think happened before the picture was taken. Write about what you think happened after?

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a narrative that develops a plot and setting and an appropriate point of view.

Which building in town has the most stories?

ANSWER: The library.

**Chatham YMCA**

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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## Chatham takes Christmas to the streets



Staff photo by David Bradley

J.S. Waters School athletes and cheerleaders were on hand for Saturday's Christmas parade in downtown Goldston, giving out candy to children and wishing 'Merry Christmas' to all.



A North Moore High School Marching Band horn player travels down Main Street last Saturday, giving Christmas cheer to the crowd with her band mates on the cool December morning.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Santa Claus wrapped up the 2019 Pittsboro Christmas Parade with a hearty 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' last Sunday as he traveled around the traffic circle at the courthouse. When the parade was completed near the ReStore building on West Street, Santa sped off to the North Pole to continue prepping for his annual Christmas journey.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Siler City Mayor John Grimes steps on a control button to officially light the city Christmas tree last Thursday at the Oasis Market.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson is joined by wife Annette and Animal Resource Center Attendant Carolyn Stevens (left) with a couple of dogs from the county's animal shelter in last Sunday's Christmas Parade in Pittsboro.



The saxophone section of Northwood High School's Marching Band lights up the night with smooth tunes during last Thursday's Christmas Parade in Siler City.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Beth Barrickman Davis (left) re-ignited WINGS after 10 years, with Pam Smith (not pictured). Here Davis is shown with Tami Schwerin, one of the original WINGS organizers.



Staff photo by David Bradley

State House Rep. Robert Reives, center, was one of several government officials participating in Goldston's 2019 Christmas Parade.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Santa and Mrs. Claus took a break from the North Pole to visit downtown Siler City last Thursday night. The trip was a fast one because Santa had to get back to get presents ready for Christmas morning.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Women came from all around the county to participate in WINGS' parade entry. Here, Jo Ann Beal of Bear Creek showed off her iridescent wings.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

WINGS (Women In Nice Gowns) returned to the Pittsboro Christmas parade Sunday, spreading peace and love to Pittsboro.