

Chatham News + Record

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Does Chatham County Schools get enough state funding? No.

BY ZACHARY HORNER
 News + Record Staff

The short answer to the question of whether Chatham County gets enough funding is simple — no, according to schools officials.

But neither does any public school district in North Carolina.

That’s according to the recently-released “Sound Basic Education for All: An Action Plan for North Carolina,” a 300-page report on the State of North Carolina’s adherence to a 1997 ruling in *Leandro v. State* by the state Supreme Court, which said the state “has a constitutional responsibility to provide every student with an equal opportunity for a sound basic education” — and that the state was failing to meet that responsibility.

The Action Plan added this: “North Carolina’s current education system fails to meet the educational needs of many of its children and thereby fails to provide for the future success of these individuals, their communities, and the state.”

The report — also known as the Leandro report, based on the 1997 court case — was generated by the nonpartisan, California-based firm WestEd as part of an agreement by both the plaintiffs in the suit, a group of parents and school boards, and the State of North Carolina. The state Supreme Court has tracked this case and the state’s progress since 1997.

The document’s release on Dec. 10 generated lots of conversation in the education community across the state.

Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan said he hasn’t read the full document yet, but plans to. But on the subject of money, he said he doesn’t know if he’ll ever be satisfied with the amount of money the state provides his district, and the report is more or less spot on.

“I think that as things stand today, there are a number of needs that are yet unmet,” he said, “based on the way that the current funding is allotted from the state level to the local level.”

The Leandro report cites

See **SCHOOLS**, page A7

For some of us, holidays are work days

BY BOB WACHS
 News + Record Correspondent

Christmas and New Year’s are here, the holidays where *most* everyone is at home with family and friends, opening gifts, attending church services, playing with the children, eating together, sitting by the fire, and watching football games or Christmas movies.

But not everyone.

For some, those two holidays — and their respective eves — are routine work days. Law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, farmers, and even some businesses workers find themselves on the clock and on the job when most everyone else has a paid day off.

“Christmas and New Year’s are normal work days for us,” says Siler City Chief of Police Mike Wagner. “And it’s not just for us in police but other public safety as well — fire departments, emergency medical service and hospitals.”

Law enforcement, fire and emergency services personnel can’t take off on holidays. All across Chatham County, Sheriff’s department officers will be patrolling. Jail personnel will be at work. Highway patrol officers will be watching for speeding and drinking drivers, especially around New Year’s. And Pittsboro and Siler City’s police departments will be on the job, doing routine patrols, offering public assistance, keeping an eye out for ways to be of service.

Officer Chris Gallimore of the Siler City Police Department knows that full well. A veteran of almost five years on the force, he’s seen his share of working on holidays.

“I’ve worked on every Christmas Day,” he says, “partly because I’ve changed shifts some and that’s just the way it falls.”

Wagner points out that unless there’s an emergency requiring most staff, officers and other personnel will have part of the day away from work, although it may be early in the morning or later at night.

“You always have a plan,” Wagner says, “and response depends on the magnitude of the event. You can have a plan ‘A’ and even a ‘B’ but, for instance — if the fire department has a structure fire, that may mean everyone is needed.

“There’s one of two things about public safety,” he says. “You either have to stay up a really long time to get it all done or miss family festivities. We try very hard to rotate holidays, so that folks who worked long last Christmas don’t on the next one.”

Gallimore says he’ll spend his holiday shift doing what



Krissta Hussey, a Siler City Police Department dispatcher, is usually on the job during some portion of Christmas Day each year. Hussey, a six-year veteran on the force, said she was OK with working on the holiday because of the nature of the department’s work.



Leigh Poe, a Certified Nursing Assistant and one of the support staff at Chatham Hospital, works at a nurses station. Health care professionals at the hospital can’t take the day off just because most of the rest of us do.

One donated gift at a time

BY MOLLY WEISNER
 Our Chatham

For Emmy Little, finding people in need is almost instinctual.

The 10-year-old student at North Chatham Elementary School has organized home-made charities since she was little. From lemonade stands that helped pay for her horseback riding instructor’s vet bills to random acts of kindness, Little is always thinking about to whom she can bring a smile next.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Katherine Smart, Little’s instructor.

But this year, Little is looking to rise to a new challenge of giving: donating 100 toys by Christmas to UNC Hospitals, the Lineberger Cancer Center and the Ronald McDonald House.

Little’s mother, Laura Little, said the idea originally sparked after her daughter helped raise money for a school friend with leukemia.

But now the mission to deliver gifts to children in the hospital is in full swing, with Little and her mother having collected gifts this December from friends, neighbors, family and even online donations.

“She has also raised funds in the past for children with cancer,” Smart said. “I think this generous effort, to give 100 hospitalized children each a present for Christmas, tops them all.”

Laura Little said she worked to help Emmy spread the word with her coworkers and posts on

See **GIFT**, page A3

Public assistance sought after Bear Creek hit-and-run death

BY CASEY MANN
 News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — The N.C. Highway Patrol is asking the public for any information about a hit-and-run that occurred in Bear Creek earlier last week that resulted in a man’s death.

Sometime between Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon last week, a vehicle struck and killed 72-year old Bear Creek resident Ray Cotton on Meronies Church Road in Bear Creek. Cotton, who was frequently seen walking along that road by residents and passersby, had been reported missing Monday afternoon. Chatham



Cotton

County Sheriff’s deputies searched along the road on Tuesday and discovered his body in a ditch next to the road.

A medical examiner at the scene made a preliminary examination and determined Cotton was likely struck by a vehicle, at which time the State Highway Patrol took over the investigation.

According to Sgt. Zeb Stroup, several members of the team have been “chasing leads,” but they are also seeking the public’s assistance in finding the driver of vehicle that struck Cotton.

If you have any information that can assist, please contact the N.C. Highway Patrol by dialing *47.

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

A kiln-fired Christmas in downtown Siler City

BY DAVID BRADLEY
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — “We like to come and create memories each year,” Michelle Scott said as she and her daughter, 5, Harper Grace, were in Raleigh Street Gallery recently.

They had stopped by the store to pick up hand-painted Christmas items they made in the Gallery’s “paint-your-own pottery” section inside the store in downtown Siler City.

The pottery area is filled with pre-baked clay pieces



At the Paint-your-own-Pottery table at the Raleigh Street Gallery co-owner Christy Eubank completes the decoration of another customers piece before firing. Participants get to try different sizes of brushes and colors to make the best match for their pottery.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 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.

SATURDAY

- 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!
- **A Bird Walk with the NHAS** is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 29, meeting in front of the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill. For questions, contact Kent Fiala at kent.fiala@gmail.com. Heavy rains will result in cancellation of individual walks. For walks, wear long pants and closed toe

shoes with socks. Bring snacks and water if you like.

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.
- **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: gunnhsd@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.

UPCOMING

- The **Bluegrass Experience's Twenty-First Annual New Year's Eve Concert** will be held beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at The Temple Theater, Sanford. Tickets are available at the Temple Box Office on Carthage Street, online at www.templeshows.com and at Edwards Antiques on Hillsborough Street in Pittsboro.
- The **Chatham County Council of Aging**, a non-profit organization, will hold its annual public board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 9 at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center (365 Hwy 87 N.) in Pittsboro. The Council on Aging is the county's designated agency for senior services and programs. If you have questions or wish to speak at the meeting, please contact Dennis Streets at 919-542-4512.
- The **Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (12-19) 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 or 919-929-5359.

- Learn a new skill in the new year at Chatham Community Library! The library is offering a series of **free computer classes** in January and February. You can find a description of each class, including topics covered and prerequisites for attending, by visiting www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Drop-in Computer Assistance: From 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8 Getting Started with eBooks: At 3, 3:30 or 4 p.m. (30-minute, one-on-one sessions) on Wednesday, Jan. 15 Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1: From 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: From 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Drop-in Computer Assistance: From 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Intro to Facebook: From 3-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. The Drop-In Computer Assistance sessions (Jan. 8 and Feb. 12) do not require registration. For all other classes, space is limited and you must register in advance. Register online at the address above. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. All classes take place in the computer lab at Chatham Community Library, 197 NC Hwy 87 N in Pittsboro, on the campus of Central Carolina Community College.
- **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 for further information. All who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome.
- **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. 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. If you need directions, call the Hospice Home at 984-215-2675.

ALSO HAPPENING

- The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop's** regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. We will also be open on Monday, December 23 from 10am to 4pm, then closed December 24 and 25. We are in Pittsboro on the Courthouse Circle beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support domestic violence services and education in collaboration with Chatham County.
- **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, or email rachelh@chathamhabitat.org
- **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open from 11 am until 4 pm 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.
- 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 Dec. 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. For more information about WGU North Carolina, visit www.wgu.edu/north-carolina.html.

- **Adult Volunteers Needed at Chatham Hospital in Siler City**, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. All prospective volunteers must complete an on-line application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer.

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

- **Meals on Wheels drivers are needed in Chatham County.** Regular and substitute drivers are needed. We are looking for individuals or teams to deliver meals as a regular driver for our routes. Meals are delivered between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Routes take about an hour. Substitutes will likely deliver 1 to 2 times per month. Contact Allison Andrews with Chatham Council on Aging, phone: 919-542-4512, ext. 226. Allison.

andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org.

- **Foster and/or adoptive information** - Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent. Call 642-6956 to learn more.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

- **Motorcycle Association** - The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

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

- **Al-Anon Meeting** - Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays, at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

- **Caregiver Support Group** meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Pittsboro Senior Center. For more information, contact Susan Hardy at 919-542-4512.

- **Scout News**
 - Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.
 - Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
 - Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney's U.M.C. following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.





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Holidays bring changes in deadlines and delivery schedule for Jan. 2 edition of the CN+R

NEW YEAR'S DAY is on Wednesday, Jan. 1. 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

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Chatham County property listing forms must be submitted in January

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Tax Office reminds those owning real estate that personal and business property as of January 1, 2020, must be listed with the Tax Office no later than January 31.

Listings received after that date will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to ten percent of taxes owed, county officials said.

Forms will be mailed out, but property owners may also obtain forms at the Tax Office in Pittsboro or download a 2020 Listing Form at chathamnc.org/TaxForms. Property owners who do not receive their listing form by January 20, 2020, should call 919-542-8250 to make arrangements to list property by the deadline.

Individuals can mail their completed listing forms, which must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than January 31, 2020, to avoid penalties. Property also may be listed in person at the county's tax office, located at 12 East St. in Pittsboro. Owners must bring all detailed information necessary to identify their property and its value, including forms that were mailed.

Personal property listing forms are not used to list real estate property and any registered motor vehicles with tags. Registered motor vehicles are handled by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

Individuals who made any non-permit

changes valued at \$100 or more to real estate property during 2019 or those who need to change the registration status of a vehicle should contact the Tax Office. Examples of changes to real property impacting the value include destruction, acquisition, erection and damage.

Owners must list such property as unlicensed vehicles, trailers with multi-year registrations, mobile homes not designated as real property, all types of water craft, aircraft and items used in a business. Business property also includes items used for farming, a trade or profession, or furnishings or appliances provided to a tenant.

For businesses requiring an extension, owners should contact the Tax Office at 919-545-8475 to request a business listing extension form that extends the deadline up to March 16, 2020. However, the business extension form must be completed and submitted no later than January 31, 2020.

Unpaid 2019 Property Taxes: Tax bills mailed in 2019 for real and personal property are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 6, 2020. Interest will accrue on all unpaid balances starting January 7, 2020.

Once tax bills become delinquent, the Tax Office can begin collection procedures for late bills through such methods as garnishing wages (removing taxes from paychecks), attaching bank funds from bank accounts and income

tax refunds, attaching rental income, placing levies on personal property and foreclosing on property.

Also, unpaid real estate property taxes will be advertised in the newspaper at an additional cost to the taxpayer. The taxes owed will be advertised in the current owner's name.

Tax Relief Options for Specific Property Owners: North Carolina law provides a few property tax relief options for the elderly and permanently disabled, disabled veterans and certain low-income property owners. Information about these options and how to qualify can be found at chathamnc.org/taxrelief. Those who no longer meet the requirements of these programs must notify the Tax Office. Persons receiving the tax relief options are by North Carolina law required to have a periodic compliance review conducted by the Tax Department. Those responsible for listing the property of someone who is deceased and who had qualified for the program last year, must notify the Tax Office.

Taxpayers are encouraged to review their personal property information online at ustaxdata.com/nc/chatham/ or visit the Tax Office to verify information on file.

For more information about any of the items listed above, or payment of taxes in general, please contact the Chatham County Tax Office at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.



Photo by Charlotte Ririe/Our Chatham

Emmy Little, 10, a student at North Chatham Elementary School, has been organizing homemade charitable efforts for several years.



Emmy Little poses with some of the more than 100 toys she's acquired to donate to young patients at UNC Hospitals, the Lineberger Cancer Center and the Ronald McDonald House.

Photo by Charlotte Ririe/Our Chatham

GIFT: 'Teach so many adults'

Continued from page A1

Facebook about how and where people can donate toys.

Emmy says her recent count of toys was at nearly 125.

"It's good to help them out because if you would imagine yourself in [the hospital], you'd want something," Emmy said. "You'd probably want to be home, instead of at the hospital."

According to data from 2012, the average hospital stay in the U.S. for children is nearly four days, and there were roughly

8 hospitals stays per 100 people. UNC Children's has 14 divisions just in its Department of Pediatrics, and 150 inpatient beds in the department.

But for Emmy, she says not being at home with friends and family during the holidays is something no child should endure. She said she's working to bring gifts, but also smiles.

And that's a welcome mission in Chatham, especially with protests wracking downtown Pittsboro. Laura Little mentioned in a video interview that both she and Emmy noticed the

protestors while driving downtown, and that it has impacted the daily lives of Chathamites.

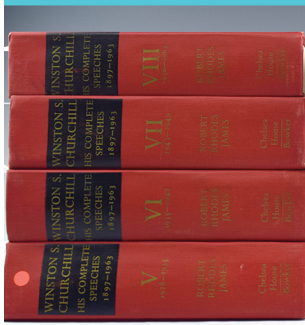
Laura Little said she's had to veer around downtown or take another route around the protests.

That's why Laura Little believes her daughter can be an example — not only for her peers, but also to other adults, especially during the holidays.

"It's all that negativity, and I was just like, 'this is what we're doing with our time,'" Laura Little said. "I just wish her views can go off. I feel like she can teach so many adults."

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

A time to lift every voice and sing

Christmas music seems to begin around Halloween. Perhaps by now you'd just as soon take a break and have a little peace and quiet.

But if your ears are open, you can hear the music in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Mary sings. Elizabeth sings. Zechariah sings. Angels sing. Shepherds sing. It's an ancient Broadway musical! Clearly singing was important long ago!

Why is singing still a holy act for us today?

Singing may give us hope. Songs have the power to offer a vision of what shall be in the face of what is. Looking for inspiration, people of faith have long gathered to sing in houses

of worship.

But as those shepherds watching their flocks by night proved long ago, a mere building cannot contain the power of a song. Slaves sang in the cotton fields. Civil Rights activists sang in the streets. Such songs not only gave hope for the future but also strength in the present. In the words of preacher and scholar David Lose, "Singing is an act of resistance."

Before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, a few hundred citizens of East Germany gathered outside a church to sing. After two months, the number of singers had swelled to 300,000! Singing was their act of resistance. Reflecting

afterward, an officer of the East German secret police admitted, "We had no contingency plan for singing."

When our backs are against the wall, we do not have to despair. We can sing. Freedom songs can bring the walls tumbling down. Not just the physical ones, but also barriers with others who look and think differently.

A friend's granddaughter is a junior at Dartmouth and a member of the Rockapellas — an all-female, a cappella choir. These young women from four different countries sing together in beautiful four-part harmony. Though different in ethnicity and skin color, they are one choir.

The Rockapellas went on tour the week before Christmas, performing in New York City, Washington, D.C., and just down the road in Raleigh. Of course, the group did a few holiday favorites, including "The Little Drummer Boy" with one of the young women on beatbox!

And the Rockapellas also sing messages of social justice. "Ella's Song" is named after the legendary human rights activist Ella Baker and incorporates her actual words — *We who believe in freedom cannot rest. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.*

So, gentle reader, I can appreciate that you might desire a little rest and quiet after the holiday bustle. But if we are

to have peace in such tumultuous times as ours, then we need a harmonious chorus for freedom, justice and equity. We must tear down the divisions, including the walls that brick and bar our hearts.

I'm reminded of a hymn written for Abraham Lincoln's birthday celebration in 1900 by the great African-American preacher James Weldon Johnson:

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

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

Answer to columnist's query comes from Sweden

In a "Randall Reflects" from March about what I called the "questionable influence of 'Instagram influencers,'" and in which I bemoaned (and who, I ask, doesn't like to bemoan?) the online rise of a slate of superficial young product-pushing role models coming to my attention during the then-fresh college admissions scandal, I concluded the reflection with this: "Is there room in the vastness of the Internet for positive people who lead, who create, who contribute, and who inspire us to reach higher and do better, and not just to preen and purchase? Let's hope so."

It turns out the answer to my question is/was yes. There's room and, though it took a few more news cycles — a period of elapsed time during which the United Nations Climate Summit convened (on September 23) and Time magazine announced its Person of the Year (on December 11) — for me to see it, there's someone skillfully occupying one such positive spot.

Her name, as you know, is Greta Thunberg. And it's not dorm room furniture or make-up or, certainly not, her own newfound celebrity the teenager, whose Instagram profile with 9 million followers identifies her as a "16 year old climate and environmental activist with Asperger's," is endorsing.

Setting her sights much higher, the young Swede is instead focused with a laser-sharp intensity on the fate of the planet.

"Thunberg began a global movement by skipping school," Time magazine writers Charlotte Alter, Suyin Hayntes and Justin Worland report in their compelling cover story, recounting the genesis of Thunberg's activism in August 2018 when she launched her "School Strike for Climate" at the Swedish Parliament.

"In the 16 months since," Time reports, Thunberg "has addressed heads of state at the U.N., met with the Pope, sparred with the President of the United States and inspired 4 million people to join the global climate strike on September 20, 2019, in what was the largest climate demonstration in human history."

It's an awesome achievement.

The very personal reason she embraced the climate cause, unknown to me until I read Time's profile, is well-told in the magazine.

She's inspiring.

Author Margaret Atwood compares her to Joan of Arc.

But no activist — not even a plain-talking Swedish teenager who happens to also be on the Autism spectrum — can escape backlash.

There was, naturally, backlash in the form of disapproving tweets from President Trump, who said after her U.N. speech in September that the teen has issues with "anger management."

Last week there was backlash after Thunberg's December 14 Instagram and Twitter post — she's seen in the posts sitting on the floor of a train traveling through Germany — brought ire from Deutsche Bahn, the rail company, which responded with a defensive tweet: "It would have been even nicer if you had also reported how friendly and competently our team served you at your seat in first class."

Thunberg (16 years old, remember), in a textbook example of taking the high road and staying on topic, responded: "This is no problem of course and I never said it was. Overcrowded trains is a great sign because it means the demand for train travel is high!"

And then I ran across a Facebook post last week in which the poster referred to the inspirational young activist (my words) as "that little b***h from Sweden" before using the public forum to present an ill-informed attack on Thunberg — for being "all talk, no action," or something like that.

She's inspired many people — especially young people, thank goodness, who need inspiring figures to help them reach their own grand potentials — and she's touched many nerves, igniting a lot of new vitriolic content on social media platforms so already heavily-laden with vitriolic content as to induce numbness.

Disagree, as some do, with the whole climate issue, the politics of which "are as entrenched and complex as the phenomenon itself," Time writes, but mean tweets and disparaging, rude comments on social media — especially those aimed at a kid who's trying to do something about something — seem especially harsh, even in late 2019.

It's shabby and undeserved treatment for the person who, as Time writes, "is an ordinary teenage girl who, in summoning the courage to speak truth to power, became the icon of a generation."

To her naysayers, Greta Thunberg is an irritant, like a sand spur caught in the toe strap of a flip-flop.

For me, she's a fresh — and sorely needed — signal of hope, not just for the future of our planet and the people who inhabit it now and later, but also for the principle that substance can trump superficiality.



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects



Here's what I want for this Christmas

They say (whoever "they" are... but whoever "they" are, they say a lot) that as you get older memory is the first thing to go.

I forget what's second.

But while I can still remember, I want to say I think "they" are right.

So far I haven't forgotten who I am; I hope it never comes to that. But on the other hand, there are some times, it seems, that I forget where I'm supposed to be next or what to do once arriving there, wherever "there" is.

Let me hasten to add that I don't think I'm alone in this. There are no grand illusions that I'm the Lone Ranger and that even my faithful trusty friend Tonto has flown the coop. Rather, it seems, such behavior is one of the symptoms of the society in which we all live these days, whether we are active participants in its details or not and whether we like some parts of it or not.

Take technology, for instance. To say technology has come a long way is like saying, "You know, it gets really dark at night when it's cloudy and there's no full moon." Technology is everywhere.

But it wasn't always so. Back in the dark ages when dinosaurs roamed the earth and I was in my third year as a freshman in my college experience, I took a class (perhaps "exposed to a class" may be a better term) entitled "Information Science." It was a course in computer use and benefit and all that stuff.

This was about 1968 or so and at that time computers were about the size of a small battleship. There was no internet or Skype or Wi-Fi or Wii. (I'm not even sure I'm spelling those things right).



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

All the data was entered into the computer on paper "punch cards" and if you hit one wrong key on card number 413 then the whole thing was toast and you had to start over. With those kinds of possibilities it's no wonder many of us opted out of that class in favor of "Advanced Phys Ed" or an Economics course like "Money Can Make You Rich."

Today, of course, all that's back with the Roman Empire. Computers are about the size of a gnat. "Laptops" are no longer where I sat on my second grade teacher Mrs. Williams at the end of the day waiting for the buses to line up to take us home.

We can't keep up with all the micro changes but I stubbornly cling to pen and paper. What that means is even though I don't like the pace, I'm still affected by it. I can't tell you how many times I've been in a face-to-face conversation only to have my conversation mate say, "Wait a minute" as his cell phone rings and he answers it. If I were a bit more bold or brazen I'd probably just walk off and say, "Forget it."

By now, if you're still with me, you may be asking yourself, "Where's he going with all this?" Earlier I mentioned the symptoms of society we all deal with. Remember? The one that seems to infect us all — and even more so this time of the year — is hurry-up-itis.

Some years ago the musical group Alabama had a little piece that had a recurring refrain that went something like this: "I'm in a hurry to get things done; I rush and rush until life's no fun; All I've really got to do is live and die; I'm in a hurry and don't know why."

It's becoming clearer that more to do and more stuff can be hazardous to your health. I want to remember that often less really is more. As I wore my Sunday morning hat not so long ago and encouraged our folks

It's becoming clearer that more to do and more stuff can be hazardous to your health. I want to remember that often less really is more. As I wore my Sunday morning hat not so long ago and encouraged our folks along certain ways of behavior and attitude I found myself listening to myself.

along certain ways of behavior and attitude I found myself listening to myself. The topic of the day was about Christmas gifts for people who have everything.

The point I was trying to make is that in our society today the biggest problem many people have is, What do you get for someone who has everything? What I realized as I went on is that many times we who have so much really have so little of what we really need.

This Christmas what I want is not more books, CDs or clothes but instead some other things...things like simplicity in life, time to sort out my own life and to be together with other folk and to get to know one another better; things like a holy time, a sense of life's deeper dimensions, of the eternal mysteries breaking in on our rush to get to Target or Walmart; things like seeing life as it is, not reality TV where the folks on "Survivor" really aren't out there all alone but have makeup people and food trucks...*real* life, where people are in nursing homes and millions are starving to death; things like the spirit of Christmas and a renewal of my own spirit.

I know that's a long list and you don't get any frequent flier miles with it, but it just may be what it takes for the best Christmas ever.

Any other folks hankering for some of the same?

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What's on your mind?

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | WARREN ORT

History and celebration: what Hanukkah means to me

As a young boy growing up in a Jewish household, the festival of Hanukkah was my favorite holiday. The reason could be that the holiday lasted for eight nights, and my parents and relatives gave me different presents for each night of Hanukkah . The holiday is celebrated with friends and family attending a candle-lighting ceremony, which is highlighted by the lighting of the Menorah. The Menorah is a nine-branch candle holder. Starting with the first night of the holiday, one candle is lighted and every following night an additional candle is lit, until the eighth night when all candles are burning. An additional candle called the Shames (servant) is used to start the candles, and burns every night as well. Gifts are given to the children, prayers are recited over the candle lighting, games are played and food fried in olive oil is eaten. Latkes (potato pancakes)

and deep-fried doughnuts filled with jam and covered with sugar are featured. There is no talk of calories during the holiday. The reason for the olive oil is to serve as a reminder of the miracle that while there was only enough olive oil for the candles to last for one night, they stayed lighted for eight nights. Hanukkah celebrates the reclaiming and rededicating of the second temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabees defeated the Syrian-Greek armies, led by Seleucid General Apollonius between 167-160 BCE. The Maccabees were a clan of priestly Jewish warriors who led a revolt against the Greeks who wanted the Jews to worship Greek Gods. At first the Seleucids almost annihilated the Maccabees because they would not fight on the Sabbath. The Maccabees soon learned this was not a good idea, and they fought seven days a week. While Hanukkah is considered

a minor holiday in the Jewish calendar and is not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible, it is written about in the Talmud. The Talmud is a record of Jewish and ceremonial law. There are no requirements for abstaining from work, school or physical activity during the holiday. Now on a different note... Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipper are the two holiest of Jewish holidays. These holidays require Jews to attend houses of worship to pray, limit physical activity, and to fast on Yom Kipper, the day of atonement. A story is told that during the Civil War Jewish soldiers felt the need to return home to celebrate these important holidays. In July 1861, Rabbi Max Michelbacher of Richmond wrote a letter to General Robert E. Lee requesting furloughs for Jewish troops serving in the Confederate army so that they could go home for these important holidays. Over 2,600 Jewish troops

did serve. While the General denied the Rabbi's request, he wrote a thoughtful reply, which I would like to reproduce. *Headquarters of Army of Northern Virginia Sept 20-1861 Rev. M.J. Michelbacher, Richmond, Virginia I have received your letter of the 15th asking that furloughs may be granted to the Israelites in the army from September 30th to October 11th to enable them to return to Richmond to observe the holy days appointed by the Jewish religion. It would afford me much pleasure to comply with your request did the interests of the service permit. But it is impossible to grant furloughs to one class of soldiers without recognizing the claims of others to a like indulgence. I can only grant furloughs on applications setting forth special grounds for them, or in accordance with general orders on the subject applicable to all army alike. I will gladly do all in my power*

to facilitate the observance of the duties of their religion by Israelites in the army and allow them every indulgence consistent with safety and discipline. If the application be forward to me in the usual way, and it appears that they can be spared, I will be glad to approve as many of them as circumstance will permit. Accept my thanks for your kind wishes for myself, and believe me to be, With great respect, Your obedient servant, R.E. Lee Since the first day of Hanukkah began the evening of December 22 and ends the evening of December 30, I want to wish all a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. Warren and Barbara Ort moved to Fearrington from Oyster Bay, New York, a decade ago and serve and volunteer with various organizations in Chatham County, and are regulars at Virtlie's Grill and the S&T Soda Shoppe.

A beautiful, scraggly Christmas tree

I remember one Christmas more than all the others. Thinking of it now almost 60 years later, surrounded by new generations of healthy family members. I wonder if it might not also have been the best Christmas our family ever had. My father always kept in good physical shape and generally stayed in good health. But a persistent problem with his kidneys and bladder led to some minor surgery, just before the Christmas holidays. Maybe he planned it then so he would not be missed so much at work. His doctors operated on him at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, about 65 miles from our home in Davidson. With his surgery a seeming success, he came home before Christmas, just in time to be with his family as it gathered for the holiday. He was not home for long. He had sharp pains and his bladder jammed up. He said he felt like he was going to burst. Panicked, we called his doctors and rushed him back to Winston-Salem. Our alarm turned to joy when his doctors reported that they had fixed the minor clog and that he would be all right after a few days in the hospital. It was Christmas Eve, but notwithstanding the doctors' assurances of my dad's good prospects for speedy recovery, we were at first subdued. His stark hospital room was distinctly "un-Christmassy." No gifts, no Christmas cards, no decorations. We were very thankful, but we had missed the holiday. Then, the joy of Christmas began to slip up on my mother. "We ought to have a tree in here," she said. "What do we think?" she asked, looking at me. "Could you go somewhere and get us one?" It was already dark, but I drove from the hospital towards downtown Winston. Every store had closed. The few Christmas tree lots I passed were empty or closed. Except there was one, where I caught an old man who was just turning out the lights of a lot that had sold every tree except one very small, very dry, very scraggly tree. It must have been passed over a hundred times. "How much will you take for it?" I asked. "What'll you give me?" the old man laughed in a funny, friendly way. "How about a couple of dollars?" "I'll take it, but I'd of give it to you for nothin', if you'd asked."

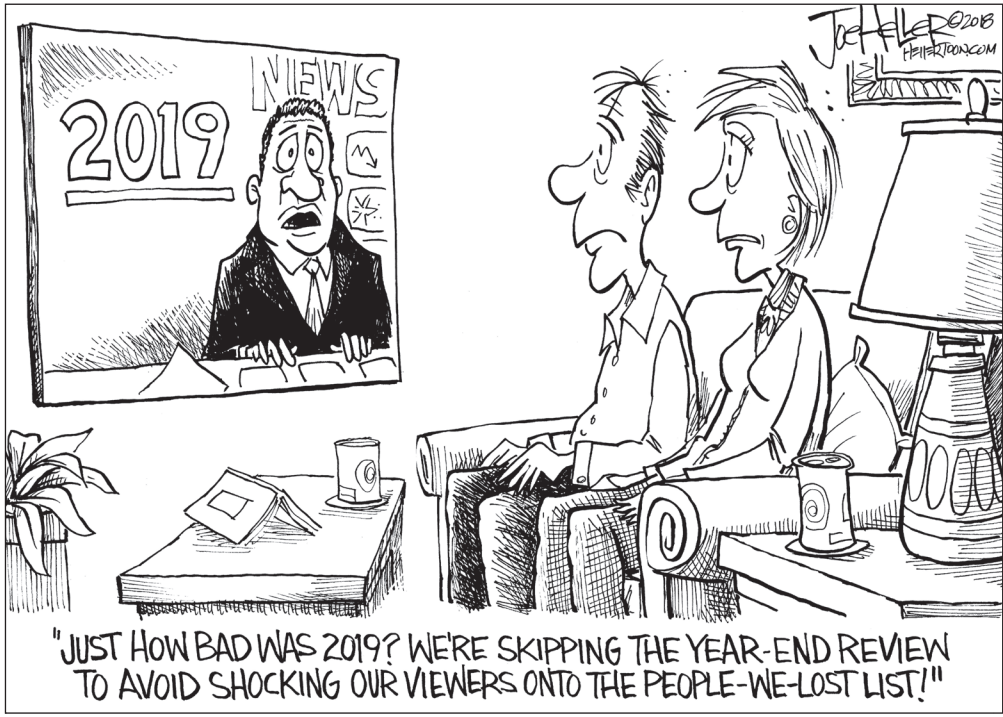
Surely the fire code should have prevented me from dragging that little tree up to my father's room. But on that Christmas Eve, nobody at the hospital stopped me. I had almost forgotten what a sorry tree it was when I pushed it into my dad's room. My mother promptly put me straight. "That is the most pitiful tree I have ever seen." She laughed, though, when I told her about what the old man said and the tree being the last one on the last open lot on Christmas Eve. When Dad smiled his approval, my mother started finding things to put on the little tree. As scraggly as it was, it became hers and ours. Our beautiful, scraggly, happy tree. Somehow, my father's little crisis and that little tree left us with something special and rich. And, it might have helped prepare us to face the devastating illness that would brutally wreck my father's good health a few years later. This Christmas, as my family enjoys our large beautifully decorated tree and sits around our table eating the wonderful dinner my wife has prepared for us, I will not forget that many others this season will be comforting sick family members or facing the holiday alone, braving the cold, and marking Christmas without even so much as a scraggly tree. Mindful and very grateful.

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

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Are mini-cities in N.C.'s future?

When I moved to Raleigh in 1978, it was a sleepy state capital with little excitement and few downtown residents. Now, more than 40 years later, construction cranes dot the landscape of downtown. Raleigh is a magnet for young college graduates, tech and financial firms, and cutting-edge eateries. What city leaders four decades ago hoped for has come true: Raleigh is a destination with a national reputation. Yet, this success has brought challenges, with two in particular attracting the most attention. First is housing costs. The popularity of downtown and nearby locations has caused financial values of those sites to soar. But higher site costs require higher-valued developments to make the investments work. Left out are moderate and lower-priced dwellings and the households that can only afford them. The second challenge is commuting. Households who are priced out of the downtown market locate in outlying areas where real estate costs are lower. The trade-off is their commutes to downtown and central locations for work, school or shopping are now longer. Longer commutes create more congestion and higher levels of polluting emissions to the environment. There are numerous policy suggestions to the housing and commuting issues prompted by the increased popularity of big cities. Limitations on new development, subsidized housing and mass transit



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

have been tried or debated in many regions with revitalized inner cities. There may be another approach that is now receiving attention. It's the idea of "mini-cities." Mini-cities, also known as live-work-play communities, combine residences, businesses, shopping, entertainment amenities and educational and medical facilities into one coordinated development. Households can live in the development, work there, and do much of their shopping and leisure time activities in the same general location. Depending on the size of the mini-city, routine commuting and travel are minimized and replaced by walking, riding shuttles or trams, or even using a light-rail system built as an integral part of the development. The reduction in daily traffic travel is also a big plus for the environment. Developers of mini-cities can be motivated to construct residences with a range of prices if doing so ensures a dedicated labor supply to businesses in the mini-city. Just like the general economy, mini-cities need a variety of skills and occupations paying different salaries. If businesses in the mini-city know they will have access to an on-site, reliable labor force, they may be willing to subsidize both the construction and occupancy of dwellings marketed specifically to moderate and lower-income households. In addition, regional residents who benefit from the improved environmental quality associated with the mini-city may support public subsidies for moderate and lower-income housing in the mini-city development. The idea of mini-cities has already

taken hold in North Carolina. Chatham Park near Pittsboro is a mini-city under construction. Others have been announced or planned for various regions in the state. Are mini-cities only a concept for urban areas? Not at all. Mini-cities can also be adapted to small town and rural regions, especially if focused on a particular economic function. Mini-cities developed primarily for retirees have been proposed or built in several states. They cater to the growing older population and usually offer significant medical facilities for the residences. Mini-cities can also be developed around a large employer, such as an auto assembly plant or a technology complex. In fact, such developments would be similar to the numerous textile towns of North Carolina's past. If current trends continue, North Carolina's population could increase by 30 percent, equivalent to 3 million new people, by 2050. Adding this growth to our already strained urban regions could lead to considerable new costs in those locations. Mini-cities built in both urban and rural regions can moderate these costs and still allow for the benefits of growth to occur. How and where we live are big components of our quality of life. You decide if mini-cities are a viable alternative to the kinds of development typically used to accommodate an increasing population.

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

LETTERS

Building a better South

TO THE EDITOR:

I grew up here. I left Chatham County when I graduated from Northwood to make my way through the wider world, and have since returned home to be closer to family. I have been all over this great land of ours where the people have lived together in relative peace if not perfect harmony in the 150 years since the end of the American Civil War. Our imperfect union makes me proud to be an American. These people waving rebel flags in Pittsboro do

not make me proud. The Confederate battle flag is the chosen flag of the bigot and the racist, and as such, a flag of hate. These atavistic people look backward longingly for answers to questions their ancestors never could have imagined. By swearing allegiance to the vile, bankrupt notions of 150 years ago, they betray all hope for a better Chatham County. And while they talk a lot about heritage, they have nothing to contribute to our future but the worst part of our past. With Chatham Park and its attendant infrastructure erupting all around us, we here in Pittsboro need to

decide now what we will become in the shadow of this massive development. Our town could enjoy a reputation as a genuine destination, and local residents stand to reap the benefits from an absolute avalanche of development. The other side of the coin is that Pittsboro could become an island of backwardness to be avoided at all costs: Chatham Park's slum. I am fortunate to have a picture of one of my Confederate ancestors. Not many Southerners do, as photography was prohibitively expensive to most Southerners in the 1800s. The photograph was taken from his front left,

so the right half of his face is mostly hidden. In the sepia-toned facsimile, I can see one eyelid droops lower than the other. His visible cheek is streaked with pockmarks where Union shell fragments ripped into his face at the Battle of Seven Pines. He wanted a better South, and did his duty as he saw it. I humbly suggest all-inclusive war memorials might be appropriate replacements for the bronze soldiers and marble men all across our region. But the best way to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors is to build a better South. Dwayne Walls Jr. Pittsboro

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | NILS SKUDRA

A reflection on Pittsboro’s Confederate monument from the lens of a Civil War historian

The recent removal of Chatham County’s Confederate monument in Pittsboro struck me profoundly since I had visited the monument on October 20, only a month before this took place.

As a passionate student of Civil War history, I have traveled to least 53 cities and towns in North Carolina and always endeavored to visit local Confederate monuments and cemeteries containing the graves of Confederate soldiers. I initially developed an interest in visiting Pittsboro when I first learned of its Confederate monument and the Chatham Historical Museum, but my family and I never managed to find the time to take a trip there due to my academic commitments as a graduate student at UNC-Greensboro. However, upon hearing the news that the Chatham County commissioners had voted in favor of removing the statue from its location in front of the Chatham County Courthouse (which houses the Historical Museum), I felt that I now had an urgent incentive to make a trip to Pittsboro and visit the statue in person before authorities removed it. Although the Chatham Historical Museum is normally closed on Sundays, volunteer Cindy Schmidt told me that she could give us a special tour if we came down on October 20, so we made plans with a family friend for a trip that day and promptly drove down to Pittsboro.

Upon arriving in town, I had the opportunity to see the Confederate statue firsthand. The monument featured a Confederate soldier standing

erect at parade rest with the inscriptions “C.S.A. 1861-1865,” “To the Confederate Soldiers of Chatham County,” and “Our Confederate Heroes” on the front base of the pedestal. Other inscriptions were featured on each side of the monument, but I was unable to venture up close to read them since there was a metal-barred fence that authorities had placed around the statue, pending a final decision on the statue’s removal. However, I was able to see that there were other Confederate commemorative plaques inside the barrier, including a Jefferson Davis Highway marker.

Observing the statue in person resonated with me very strongly since I knew that it was facing impending removal from the courthouse grounds, and I felt satisfied at having been able to see it firsthand before Chatham County made a final decision on whether to remove the monument.

The experience of visiting Confederate monuments and historic Civil War sites has also been very profound for me because of my background as a transplanted Californian. Born and raised in California, I developed a keen interest in the Civil War from a very young age and began reading voraciously about the topic well ahead of other children in my age range. Having moved to North Carolina three years ago for graduate studies as a History MA student at UNCG, I have found that studying the Civil War takes on a very different nature here in the South since I feel that I’m actually living the history by traveling to historic landmarks such as Appomattox Courthouse, Bennett Place

and Bentonville Battlefield and visiting Confederate statues on courthouse grounds or in local cemeteries where Confederates are buried. Because of this experience, together with my encounters with numerous individuals whose ancestors served in the Confederate Army, I recognize how strongly felt this issue is among people who oppose the removal of monuments, though I also can understand the perspective of those who find the monuments controversial and are in favor of relocating them to cemeteries where the statues would seem less likely to attract public protests.

I feel that Chatham County’s removal of the Confederate statue highlights the importance of providing historical context so that members of the public can be educated about their local history. While defenders of the monument have argued that it represents the heritage of Chatham County’s Confederate past, studies by historians on North Carolina’s wartime experience reveal a more nuanced reality: Although Chatham County contributed 2,000 men to the Confederate Army, among whom there were approximately 400 casualties, the county was also one of the centers of internal dissent in the Piedmont.

In his article “Desertion in the Confederate Army: A Disease That Crippled Dixie,” Daniel Franch of East Carolina University contends that in the Piedmont region, the Home Guard encountered “the most resistance from deserters” in Randolph, Moore and Chatham counties, with more than 800 deserters reportedly active in Randolph County. Given this historical background, one

of the arguments raised by monument opponents is that Confederate statues represent the Lost Cause narrative of a unified South, effectively obscuring the Southern Unionists and anti-Confederate dissenters who resisted the Confederacy through desertion, fighting in the Union Army or sabotage on the home front.

Among the numerous historians who have commented on the monument debate is the eminent Civil War scholar Gary Gallagher, who has argued in favor of creating new monuments to those who fought for the Union cause while preserving Confederate monuments, citing Charlottesville, Virginia — which witnessed violent riots between white supremacists and left-wing demonstrators over the impending removal of Robert E. Lee’s statue two years ago — as an example.

“Should all [Confederate] monuments go, the opportunity to draw lessons from a valuable interpretive resource regarding Charlottesville’s connection to the Civil War and the conflict’s long-term resonance will disappear,” he states in *Civil War Places: Seeing the Conflict Through the Eyes of Its Leading Historians*. As an alternative to the removal of Confederate monuments, Gallagher encourages students of Civil War history “to imagine standing near the [Robert E. Lee] statue and seeing, across the small park, a memorial to the U.S. Colored Troops soldiers. What better way to engage with history and memory and the changing nature of historical landscapes?”

I concur wholeheartedly with this perspective since I believe that adding monu-

ments to Southern Unionists and anti-Confederate dissenters would go a long way toward educating the public about how the Civil War was much more complex than a mere sectional conflict between North and South, as it pitted neighbors and even families against each other in areas that were internally divided. For North Carolina, this was especially true in the Union-controlled coastal counties, the Piedmont region and the mountain counties where bitter guerrilla conflict ensued between local Unionists, Confederate loyalists, and renegade bands of deserters that preyed on anyone in their path.

As Chatham County authorities determine what to do with the Confederate statue that they have removed, a careful examination of Chatham County’s Civil War history would be well-considered in light of the arguments raised by individuals on both sides that the public must be educated about history, however much they might differ in their interpretation of that history. If it is decided that the statue will be relocated to a local cemetery containing the graves of Confederate soldiers, it could still serve as a memorial to the dead in such a venue. If Chatham County decides to restore the monument to its original location, the addition of historical signage with information about Chatham County’s Civil War experience would be instructive in providing context. Through this approach, Chatham County authorities could protect the monument while at the same time ensuring that residents can learn more about the multifaceted nature of their local history.

Our state could tip national balance

RALEIGH — It’s no secret that North Carolina is one of the most politically competitive states in America. But recent decisions by the presidential campaign of late-entrant Michael Bloomberg demonstrate just how central the Tar Heel State is likely to be in the political melodramas of 2020.

Bloomberg, the media entrepreneur and former New York City mayor, launched his field operation on December 15 not in Iowa or New Hampshire but in Charlotte. He plans to have 11 field offices in North Carolina alone, plus dozens more in other battleground states.

North Carolinians are used to seeing presidential candidates make early and frequent visits to Charlotte. A significant share of the region’s media market is actually in South Carolina, a key early-primary state, and Charlotte is home to lots of political donors. There is also symbolism involved, as Charlotte hosted the Democratic convention that nominated Barack Obama for a second term and will do the same for the GOP’s re-nomination of Donald Trump next year.

Bloomberg, however, isn’t competing in South Carolina. He’s focusing on the 16 primaries and caucuses to be held on Super Tuesday, March 3, including North Carolina’s primary. More to the point, Bloomberg said that even if he isn’t his (new) party’s nominee — admitting that possibility is a refreshing sign of candor — he plans to keep his field offices open through the general election to boost Democratic fortunes in North Carolina.

Our political races have long attracted significant inflows of campaign contributions and independent expenditures from other parts of the country, going back to the days of former U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms and former Gov. Jim Hunt. We should expect more of the same, perhaps a great deal more, in 2020.

Democrats and Republicans will contest many states and districts, to be sure, but North Carolina may prove to be a tipping point in more ways than one. For example, while it is conceivable that President Trump could prevail in the Electoral College without one or

more of his 2016 prizes along the Great Lakes, it’s hard to imagine a successful scenario without North Carolina (and two other vote-rich states in the reddish Southeast, Florida and Georgia).

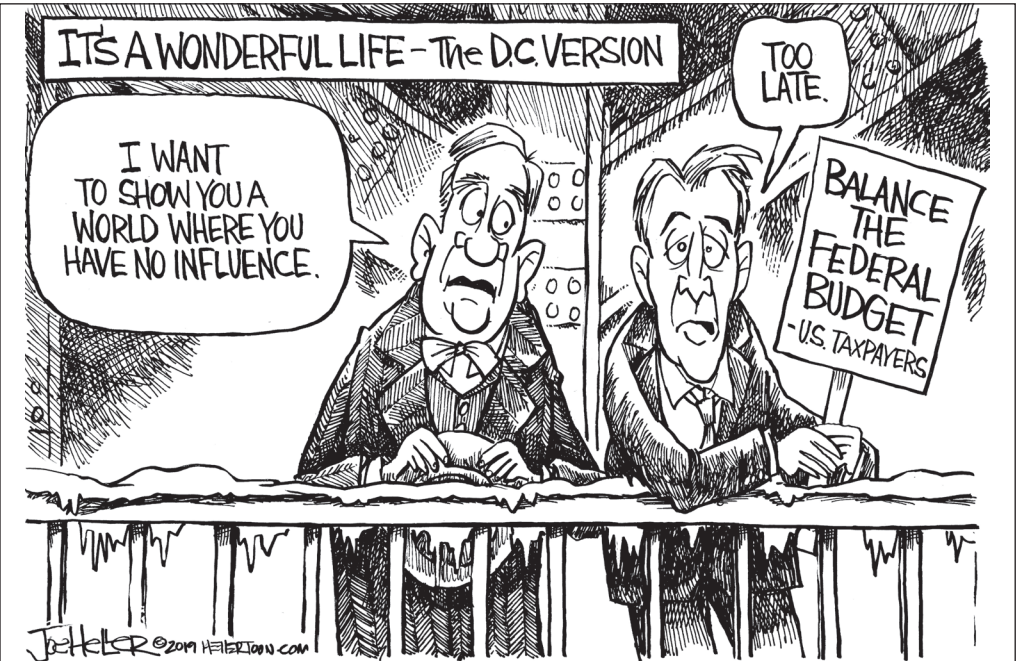
In the contest for control of the U.S. Senate, Republicans currently hold 53 seats. Democrats and their allies hold 47. To take over, Democrats will need a net gain of four if they don’t win the White House or three if they do.

Unless something truly weird happens, Alabama will replace Democrat Doug Jones with former Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions. Three races in Republican-held seats are widely considered toss-ups: Cory Gardner in Colorado, Susan Collins in Maine and Martha McSally in Arizona. If Democrats won all three but lost in Alabama, they’d need another Senate victory to get to 50-50. That probably means defeating North Carolina’s Thom Tillis. (If Trump/Pence wins, Democrats would then likely need a victory in Georgia, Iowa or Kansas to net four seats and the Senate majority.)

As to control of state governments and legislatures, North Carolina is again in the thick of the battle. After securing a “trifecta” in neighboring Virginia, Democrats hope to flip at least the North Carolina House in 2020, aided by more-favorable districts, a highly energized ground game and fundraising help from Gov. Roy Cooper. While national Democrats seeking to maintain their U.S. House majority aren’t as interested in Cooper’s own race — unlike in other states, North Carolina’s governor has no role in redistricting — both parties see governors not only as important in their own right but also as strategic assets in building and deploying strong partisan coalitions to win the Senate and presidency. So expect out-of-state investment in our gubernatorial race, too.

In polls of expressed party preference, which is more telling than party registration, North Carolina is among only a handful of states where Republicans and Democrats are roughly tied. Our electoral outcomes aren’t preordained. Surprises aren’t really surprising. Non-North Carolinians understand that. They’re coming here to win, not just to play.

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.



I will not wait for peace

In the Christian faith followers are observing the season of Advent, a time of waiting for the birth of the Messiah. On each of the four Sundays before Christmas, Advent candles are lit to focus on specific words of hope, peace, joy and love.

At Christ United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, the second week’s candle represented peace, and the liturgy, written by Sarah Are of Sanctified Art, was especially meaningful. One after another reader said he or she was willing to wait for such things as the sky to clear, for dinner to be ready, a child to learn to walk, leaves to change color or even for the plot to thicken. The liturgy concludes by saying we will wait for a lot of things, but we will not wait for peace.

Pastor Ben Williams reminded the congregation that we live in times of great unrest, controversy and turmoil. He cited a recent report from the FBI saying that even though hate crimes declined in 2018, violence against people rose to a 16-year

high. We are a people quick to anger and violence. It is commonplace to see division, grudges, revenge and retaliation. With a prophetic voice, Williams proclaimed we cannot continue this on path. Peace can’t wait.

But is it possible to imagine that this current culture can be changed so dramatically? How can we learn to live peaceably with all of God’s creation?

Williams reminded us to look no further than the Old Testament scripture of Isaiah, which foretells of a time when the lion will lay down with the lamb, a universal symbol of peace and harmony. He offered a prescription, one easy to understand but extremely difficult to accomplish. It begins by passing the peace with whomever we meet each day. Understanding that words have great power, let us speak peace to others, assume the best in those who do not look like or believe like us, and always look for common ground instead of things that divide us. All of us can take steps to practice peace until it actually happens.

Looking out into his congregation Pastor Ben noted there would doubtless be skeptics, some who thought these practices far-fetched and impossible. He reminded

But is it possible to imagine that this current culture can be changed so dramatically? How can we learn to live peaceably with all of God’s creation?

those gathered that at one time human flight, communicating through airways, walking on the moon and heart transplants were thought impossible. And with a big grin, he remembered that many had believed it impossible for his beloved Chicago Cubs to win a World Series. But these things came to pass.

So as we celebrate Christmastime, the birth of the Christ-child, let us remember the words to the song, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me... With every step I take let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment with peace eternal. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Let us not wait for peace.

Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that airs on UNC-TV.



A wide selection of pottery available for painting awaits the public at the Raleigh Street Gallery in Siler City. Sports-themed pieces sit beside functional or conceptual designs. Your purchase price includes a glaze and firing.

Staff photo by David Bradley

POTTERY: ‘I love the creativity of kids’

Continued from page A1

in a variety of shapes, waiting for decoration, including Christmas ornaments, sports, and religious items. Once a customer chooses a special piece, they take it to the painting table where a wide variety of color glazes and brushes await. It’s an easy process that anyone can do.

“The kids can do it by themselves,” Scott said. “They have many things for year-round.”

Scott said that they had also been coming to the gallery to make ornaments for the grandparents for two years.

“We’re excited to have it on the tree,” she said.

The paint-your-own pottery section is just one of the artistic areas of the Gallery, which includes other arts such as painting and photography.

Christy Eubank, a professional potter for 20 years, has been running the Gallery for the past eight years, after operating in the Siler City’s N.C. Arts incubator for four. In her professional work, she tries to combine form and functionality, making mugs, bakeware, or “whatever the mood hits me.”

The transition from the Incubator to running a store was difficult for Eubank.

“I wasn’t used to bisqueware,” she said.

Bisqueware is a pre-baked piece of clay in a variety of forms, leaving a white appearance for decoration. The white clay keeps your color true to form.

She also had to change to adjust to the more public space.

“I had to get used to working with the public,” she said. “As a studio potter, I had a lot of time on my own.”

Now transitioning to working a lot with children, Eubank praises the work that she sees.

“I love the creativity of kids,” she said. “They have no filters or preconditions. There’s a freedom of spirit we outgrow as adults.”

“The kids love it,” Scott said about decorating the pottery at the gallery. “It’s something to create a memory. It’s all ready



Staff photo by David Bradley

Michelle Scott pulls out a newly-fired gift to show her daughter, Harper Grace Scott, 5, at the Raleigh Street Gallery in Siler City. Harper and Michelle had their hands painted with a glaze and then placed their handprints onto the dish for baking into the clay as a unique Christmas gift.

here, and you don’t make a mess at home.”

Eubank finds this creativity as a key to new possibilities in her work as a potter.

“It kinda gives insight into being a kid,” she said. “There are no boundaries, just pure expression.”

It affects her own work because it allows her to think outside the box, to consider other ways of creation that she hadn’t considered.

“It’s kind of an education,” she said.

Eubank said she sometimes flashes back to drawing with crayons after watching the children at work.

“It’s fun to watch, to see joy on a face. It’s so much fun,” she said. “I wish there had been a store like this when my kids were little.”

Getting the last-minute pottery finished and fired for the holidays is keeping Eubank busy. At this time of year, she may have 20 to 30 pieces each week to fire in the kiln. Because of the time needed for firing, her customers will usually have a week to 10 days’ wait before a piece is completed, baked, and ready to take home.

Your pottery is placed in the kiln, along with other

pieces, until full. Then, it is fired for nine hours at temperatures of more than 1,800 degrees, then allowed to cool gradually for 24 to 36 hours inside the kiln, before removal.

For those worried about the difficulty of creating the art, “the paint-your-own pottery process is a easy one,” Eubank says, and she can help you find the perfect piece, show you how to make the special footprint ornaments, and how to paint a piece of pottery.

In addition, the studio is not limited to individuals; Eubank offers the studio for private parties for a \$25 booking fee.

Additional costs are the price of the product on the bottom, which includes the glazing and firing.

The least expensive product in the store is just \$7, and it’s great for footprints of the children. There’s also the plate, similar to the one bought by Michelle Scott, that is \$20, and there’s no additional charge to personalize it and make it your perfect masterpiece.

Eubank said, “You’re only limited by your own imagination.”

Regional leaders seek solar schools partnership with Duke Energy

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Local elected officials are calling on Duke Energy’s CEO to work with them to install solar power matched with energy storage at North Carolina schools.

Those leaders say two divisions of Duke Energy are providing such solar+storage systems to schools in other states at no upfront cost and with millions in savings and they’re asking the same here.

“We are urging Duke CEO Lynn Good to provide those same benefits in the corporation’s home state,” said Durham County Board of Commissioners Chair Wendy Jacobs. “It’s what we all must do for our schools and to help slow climate change.”

“This is just an idea that a small group has been discussing,” said Chatham County Commissioner Diana Hales. “Why not at least ask Duke to come to the table and let’s talk about it? Let’s have a conversation and we’ll take it from there. It never hurts to ask. Anything we can do to reduce carbon dioxide is a good thing.”

Hales said she hopes any discussion with Duke may yield a pilot program in North Carolina, starting with one or two schools.

A group of 34 leaders of local governments and school systems in the region, including the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, say they

will recruit colleagues across the state to endorse the request that was outlined in an open letter sent last week to Duke Energy’s CEO.

“We need Duke Energy’s help meeting our clean energy targets,” Hales said, “and we are eager to work in partnership with the company. Bringing low-cost, clean power to the state’s schools is clearly something that can and must be done.”

Those making the request of Duke are calling the fledgling proposal the “N.C. Solar Schools Initiative.”

“We think the idea is a no-brainer,” Orange County Commissioner Mark Marcoplos said, quoted in a press release issued by Durham County Government.

Their request, its proponents say, is win-win, saying it would earn a profit for Duke Energy, save the school systems money, and be cheaper and more beneficial to the people of North Carolina than building new fossil-fuel power plants.

Fifteen cities and seven counties in North Carolina have made commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and boost the use of clean energy, including Chatham County.

Advances in battery technologies allow renewable power to be stored for use when the sun isn’t shining or the wind isn’t blowing. That trend is predicted to accelerate, according to industry experts including the

Rocky Mountain Institute, the non-profit founded in 1982 aimed at, according to their website, finding “market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables.”

Outgoing Apex Town Councilman Bill Jensen said, “It’s time for North Carolina and Duke Energy to follow the lead of other states that are taking advantage of the rapidly falling costs of renewables and storage and are choosing those technologies over building new gas-fired power plants.”

One solar+storage system installed by Duke subsidiaries in California will earn a profit for the corporation while saving the school \$2.2 million over 25 years.

Durham County Commissioner Heidi Carter said: “Savings like that would free up valuable resources that are desperately needed in the classroom, especially at under-resourced schools, not to mention providing power during outages for schools in Down East communities that have been particularly hard-hit by recent storms.”

The group has asked to meet in February with leadership of Duke Energy’s renewables efforts.

NC WARN, the Durham-based clean energy non-profit, is providing technical assistance to the local leaders.

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

Haw Bridge accident feeds rumors

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Rumors of a potential suicide jumper began to swirl last Monday night after an accident on the Haw River bridge on U.S. Hwy. 15-501 just north of Pittsboro.

At around 7:41 p.m., a 2010 Toyota careened into the side of the bridge, in between the north- and south-bound lanes. The north and south-bound lanes are actually two separate bridges, with an open space in between which drops straight to the Haw River, more than a hundred feet below.

Chatham resident Virginia Penley was driving past the accident just as the first law enforcement officer arrived.

“The car was hanging down at a 45-degree angle,” Penley said. “The headlights were pointed

down to the river with its rear lights in the air.”

Penley noted that the first law enforcement officer on the scene screamed to a halt at the scene, jumping out of his vehicle with a flashlight and began frantically searching the interior of the vehicle before using his flashlight to look in the water below. According to State Highway Patrol Sgt. Zeb Stroup, when other law enforcement arrived on the scene, the car’s driver was not in the vehicle. Because of the seriousness of the accident, initial concerns were that the driver had somehow fallen into the Haw River below.

The truth was very different, according to Stroup.

It turns out the driver of the vehicle, Elizabeth Gutierrez, 22, of Durham, had secured a ride from the scene following the accident. The friend who

picked her up — who was unnamed by law enforcement and was not cited — later returned to the scene. He spoke with law enforcement and explained what had happened.

Later that evening, law enforcement located Gutierrez at her apartment in Durham. She was charged with careless and reckless driving, leaving a scene of an accident and driving with a revoked license. When asked if Gutierrez was charged with any type of driving impaired crime, Stroup noted that when the officers arrived at Gutierrez’ apartment, they did not find her impaired.

Stroup was not yet aware of the first court date for the charges, but it would likely occur in District Court in Pittsboro.

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

SCHOOLS: ‘Ongoing commitment and wise investments are vital’

Continued from page A1

several areas where North Carolina’s public education system needs improvement: higher pay for teachers so they join and stay in the profession; better

and more equitable education for minority students; revision to the student assessment and school accountability system; and higher quality early childhood programs.

While the document

says money is not the only answer to these problems, it does suggest that how funding is allocated and what money is currently being spent is not enough, particularly when it comes to disadvantaged student popu-

lations.

Jordan agrees that funding is not the solution in and of itself, but it’s where the fixes start.

“I don’t think there’s a particular amount of money, that’s going to be a magic bullet,” he said. “I do think that money is the basis for the additional resources, and without money, there won’t be additional resources, and without additional resources, there won’t be greater degrees of success for students who struggle the most.”

Chatham spends the sixth most of any district in N.C. on per pupil funding at \$3,350 and ranks 86th in state funding per student at \$6,132. While state funding per pupil has actually increased by \$560 in Chatham since 2015, how that funding can be used is another issue.

The Leandro report said district chief financial officers “most frequently cited obstacle is aligning funding with student needs at the local level.” In the 2010-2011 school year, “allotments with substantial flexibility” made up about three-fourths of state funding. Eight years later, that’s dropped to around 20 percent.

“When funds are restricted to a particular use and cannot be transferred, it restricts district leaders’ ability to make

decisions about how to allocate resources to make the greatest impact on student outcomes given their local circumstances,” the report stated.

Jordan agreed, stating, “We have absolutely been frozen by the shifts away from flexibility that have historically been allowed.”

The report suggests that the state spend \$8 billion over the next eight years as part of not just adherence to the Leandro ruling, but for the state’s future.

“A deep ongoing commitment and wise investments are vital to building and maintaining the required capacity at the school, district, regional and state levels,” the report states. “The future of the state hangs in the balance.”

While Jordan believes that more funding doesn’t directly lead to better educational outcomes, it can only help.

“It’s probably unreasonable to say, ‘Hey, if you give more money, this will happen,’” Jordan said. “I can’t give specifics, but I can say with a high percentage of certainty that if more resources are provided, there’s potential to use those resources to provide to the needs of the student, then we will be better equipped to push a kid toward a higher success rate.”

What happens next is up to lawmakers. It’s

questionable whether or not the court can mandate the state spend a certain amount of money.

Education funding, particularly teacher pay, has been a subject of debate in the halls of state government for years. The Leandro report provides a recommendation for funding, but also says changes have to be made across the board in practical policy and procedure, including areas Jordan emphasized like helping students with social-emotional needs and children coming into kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grades from various backgrounds and reading levels.

“If we don’t provide ways to provide resources for those things, we’re beating our heads against the wall,” Jordan said. “I would hope that regardless of political persuasion that everyone would agree that if you don’t have adequate needs to meet the resources of those you’re funding, you’re unlikely to meet the goal.”

That goal? Helping students “survive beyond school walls once they’re adults,” he said. “If we do what we’ve always done, we’ll get what we’ve always got.”

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



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OBITUARIES

RANDALL “RANDY” LEWIS MOODY



Randall “Randy” Lewis Moody, age 74, of Bear Creek died Friday, December 20, 2019 at his home. Mr. Moody was born May 12, 1945 in Chatham County, the son of Charles and Argie Gaines Moody. Randy was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Roger Vann, Larry Wayne, Jimmy Earle Moody, and son, Johnny Ray Moody. He was employed by Wilson Brothers Milling and Trucking. He enjoyed driving his trucks, watching western movies and was a UNC Tar Heel fan. He was a member of Sandy Branch Baptist Church. He is survived by sons, Bobby L. and Tommy E. Moody, both of Bear Creek; brothers, Charles “Bill” Moody and wife Peggy of Siler City, Jerry Moody and wife Ann of Goldston, Kenneth Moody of Siler City; grandchildren, Bobby L. Moody, Jr., Jessica Lynn Moody, Jennifer Nichole Moody, Vannesa Jean Moody, Jarrett Lewis Moody, great grandchildren, Anthony and Johnny Moody; daughter-in-law, Kathy McKinnon Moody; and sister-in-law, Lucille Moody. The family received friends Monday, December 23, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. The funeral service was held Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Sandy Branch Baptist Church with Rev. Jay Smoot officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Smith and Buckner is honored to assist the Moody family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com . Mr. Ray Cotton, age 72 of Bear Creek, NC passed on Monday, December 16, 2019.

VIRGINIA CAUDLE BRADY

Virginia Caudle Brady, 80, of Bennett, passed away Saturday, December 21, 2019 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill surrounded by her loving family. The funeral service was held on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Fall Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Edwin Moore and Rev. George Townsend presiding. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at Joyce-Brady Chapel and other times at the home. Virginia was born on June 30, 1939 to Andrew Leroy Caudle and Sarah Elizabeth Burke Caudle. She was a member of Fall Creek Baptist Church where she sang in the choir and served as the treasurer for 38 years. She worked at First Union National Bank for 18 years and was the Vice-President of B & B Tire Service. Virginia enjoyed cooking and time spent with her family. She treasured her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was always there to support them in their activities. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her. In addition to her parents, Virginia was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Kendal Paige Brady. She is survived by her husband, Joe “Ledford” Brady of the home; children, Sandi Brady of Pittsboro, Mike Brady (Lisa) of Bennett, Janet Brady Bridges (Justin) of Siler City; sister, Jane Campbell (Jerry) of Goldston; brothers, Howard Caudle (Maude) of Summerfield, Coy Caudle (Karen) of Bear Creek; grandchildren, Adam Brady (Amanda), Kristin White (Shannon), and Makenzi Brady, all of Bennett; great-grandchildren, Maddie Miller, Cayden and Camden Brady, Hudson and Harris White; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to: Liberty Home Care, 401 E. Third Street, Siler City, NC 27344, NC Baptist Children’s Home, P.O. Box 38, Thomasville, NC 27360, or Samaritan’s Purse-Operation Christmas Child, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607. Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebrady-chapel.com . Joyce-Brady Chapel is honored to serve the Brady Family.

RAY COTTON



Ray Cotton was born on December 1, 1947 in Chatham County to the late Bishop Alton and Lottie Marsh Cotton. He was called home on December 16, 2019. The funeral service was held at 3:30 p.m. Monday, December 23, 2019 at Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro. At a young age, Ray attended Goldston High School and most recently gained a love for masonry and landscaping. He was preceded in death by his father, Bishop Alton Cotton, mother, Lottie Marsh Cotton, and a brother, David L. Cotton. Ray leaves to cherish his memories four children, Stephon Cotton, Rae Ann Cotton, Hilda Cotton, and Lamont Cotton; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; siblings, Rev. Walter Cotton (Rena), Alter Mae Hatley, Delois Minter, Roberta Alston; uncle, Curtis Marsh; a host of nieces and nephews, relatives and friends. Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

DARA SPAULDING EDDINS

Dara Spaulding Eddins went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro. Dara was born in Fleetwood, North Carolina and lived in Ashe County until moving to Chatham County in 1957, where she met and married her beloved Jimmy. She worked in the home and was an active member of Chatham United Methodist Church in Moncure. Her most treasured roles were that of sister, wife, mother, and MawMaw. Dara was a kind and gentle woman. She enjoyed spending time with family, listening to music, being outdoors, visiting her home in the mountains and being a caretaker of God’s animals. She always treasured her time with family and friends. Dara was born November 17, 1939 to the late Austin and LaVon Spaulding. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Eddins and sister Esta Smith. Survivors include sons, Jimmy Jr., Tracy, Ronald and wife Tammie; grandchildren Moli and Nathan. Other survivors include her sister, Trema Carroll of Pittsboro; brothers, Conrad Spaulding of Cocoa Beach, FL and Edwin Spaulding of Foxfire Village, NC. Services were held Friday at 11 a.m. at the Chatham United Methodist Church in Moncure, North Carolina. Visitation was held from 10 to 11 before services begin. Memorials may be made to the UNC Hospice House, 287 East St, #221, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or the CoolWater Cowboy Church Sunday School Building Fund, 1852 Asbury Church Road, Sanford, NC 27330. The family wishes to express sincere gratitude for all the love and support provided during this tragedy. Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Eddins family.

PAUL GENE OWEN

Paul Gene Owen passed away in Pennsylvania on December 19, 2019. Born and raised in North Carolina, he was the beloved husband of Judith, father of David (Susan), and grandfather of Hailey and Tyler. An Army Veteran, he was an Artisan, collector and good friend to many across these United States. Funeral arrangements are private at the request of the family.

HAROLD THOMAS JOHNSON

Harold Thomas Johnson, 64, of Sanford, passed December 16, 2019. It was his request that there will be no funeral or memorial service. He leaves behind his wife, Patricia; a sister, Sandra Layne and a brother, John G. Johnson, Jr., both of Sanford. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, John Graham (Leona Johnson) Johnson, Sr. and a sister, Barbara J. Allen. Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

CHARLOTTE ANN STOUT JONES

Charlotte Ann Stout Jones, 71, of Staley died Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at Alamance Regional Medical Center in Burlington. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Mrs. Jones was born in Chatham County on April 22, 1948, the daughter of Kirby and Gladys (Craven) Stout. A homemaker, she was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Jones and her parents. She is survived by two daughters, Amanda Dunlap of Staley, Anissa Clark of Siler City; son, Richard Jones of Staley; brothers, Earle Stout of Siler City, George Stout of Greensboro; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

FLOSSIE NAOMI POOLE BEAL

Flossie Naomi Poole Beal, 93, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at Oak Haven Rest Home. A graveside service was held on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Mr. Jody McNeill officiating. Mrs. Beal was born in Lee County on August 13, 1926 to the late Myrtle Mae Poole Wicker. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Glenn Beal, daughter, Jean Miller; sisters, Jessie Beal, Edna Parks and half-brother, William Wicker. She was a member of Sanford Church of God since 1956. Mrs. Beal is survived by her son, Robert Beal of Texas; daughters, Faye McNeill, Brenda Cooper and Judy Beal, all of Sanford, Nancy Goins of Little River, SC; sister, Lethea Garner; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Byrd: 2019 a ‘really good year’ for existing industries, expansions



ZACHARY HORNER
Corner Store

The end of a calendar year is a good time to look back, assess what’s happened and think ahead for what’s to come. So to do that, I spoke to Alyssa Byrd, president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation about those things. We also chatted about the county’s megasites and reflected for a bit on her (almost) first full year as president of the EDC. Of note: We’ll hear more from Byrd in multiple stories over the next couple weeks. What’s below is just part of the conversation I had with her. Next week, I’ll feature New Year’s Resolutions and hopes and dreams for 2020 from multiple business and economic development leaders, including Byrd. So there’s more to come.

How would you assess economic development in Chatham County in 2019?
Great year for existing industries and expansions. Really good year. We have some growing local employers, of course, and then we’ve had a couple good projects land and start up. Gilero coming into downtown Pittsboro, still renovating their building, expecting at least 60 employees out of that one. AD Tubi in Siler City acquired their building, got up and running within 10 months. Incredible overhaul of that building. We were able to leverage grants with the (N.C. Department of) Commerce for building reuse grants for both projects. It’s plugging along and filling the opportunities where we see them. Any challenges that we’re seeing are challenges that any other community across the state, across the nation are seeing. The demand for workforce, affordable housing — everyone is grappling with those issues. We’re so fortunate that we’re so much further ahead with our proximity within a growing market and the development that’s been in the works for over

10 years, Briar Chapel and Chatham Park. We’re in a very good position going into the next decade.

What’s the status of the Moncure Megasite and Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site?
I think they’re still both in really good positions. Sewer is anticipated to deliver at Moncure in early spring, and that’s the last piece of infrastructure for that site. So you’re looking at delivery time, speed to market from a business perspective, you’ve got everything in place there. The Chatham-Siler City (site) is very much in the same boat, because all of the planning and due diligence has been done for the missing pieces of infrastructure, which is really just sewer and gas at this point. And expansion of those things coincides with construction and site development of a project. So continuing to work to promote what we’ve got, the partnerships that we have, the region that we’re in. These aren’t sites in the middle of Chatham County. They’re sites on the edge with other counties. So we have to work regionally and collaboratively with promoting these. Along with that is recognizing what opportunities and trends are out there, and does 1,000 acres make sense, and having a plan B for marketing smaller concepts, and being able to think that way as well. Both owners are open to that. We know we’ve got the product, we’ve got the land. This is the one way we’ve been marketing it, to have that additional flexibility. We know it’s a good product, we know we’ve got a good workforce, we know that we can pull a lot of people in. These are regions that continue to grow. It’s a good destination for new people.

The EDC has seen some expansion in the last year — you hired someone — and continues to receive taxpayer support. Where does the EDC stand as we head into 2020?
We’ve got three staff members and a bookkeeper. So we’re feeling good. We’re heading into 2020 with some



Alyssa Byrd

strategic planning. We’re going to do a three-year strategic plan. In the past, it’s been five years, but we feel like things change so rapidly now that we need to be constantly evaluating and more regularly updating the strategy of the organization. So nothing’s going to shift monumentally, but if you consider the fact that our last strategic plan was done in 2014, a lot has happened since then. So looking forward to that, it’s been a really good experience so far, and then from there as an organization, launching a new capital fundraising campaign alongside the strategic plan to get some buy-in from the community and businesses to support the plan that we’re going to work. And then continuing to enhance our proactive community outreach and education internally.

What do you personally take away from your first year as president of the EDC?
I think doing a strategic plan for an organization really helps you feel ownership of it and responsibility for it. It gives you a different sense of, “Alright, I have to take care of this baby now and see it through.” I felt that way before, but I’m not just keeping the wheels on anymore. It’s growing it rather than maintaining it.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-CNR.

Pet of the Week: SNOOKI



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff’s Office

The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office would like you to meet Snooki, a 4-month-old female who came to the Animal Resource Center in early September. Her littermates have all been adopted, but Snooki is still searching for her fur-ever home! She is a ball of energy who loves to play and interact with other cats and humans. Snooki would do well in a household with children or other pets to keep her engaged. She is a free-spirited, incredibly loving kitten who is always purring and ready for attention — you’re guaranteed to fall in love with her unique personality and charm! Don’t miss the chance to claim this deserving feline for your own. For more information on how to meet or adopt Snooki during our ongoing \$20 Cat Adoption Special, swing by our office at 725 Renaissance Dr. in Pittsboro or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an Animal Resource Officer.



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 6 Beatie Ringo | 51 Striped stone | 101 Pod items | 7 "For shame!" | 48 Hubbubs | 90 Cuzco locale | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Depict with bias | 52 "Are you — out?" | 102 Franz Liszt piano piece in 3/4 time | 8 "Just — suspected!" | 49 Model binder | 93 "Likely story!" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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CHURCH NEWS

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The annual New Year's Eve Night Watch Service will be held beginning at 10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 at the First Missionary Baptist Church.

The public and surrounding churches are invited. The church is located at 914 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City.

FIRECHOSEN MNISTRIES

You invited you to join Firechosen Ministries for its "New Year's Celebration" at 10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Breakfast will be served afterward. The church is located at 190 Sanford Road, Pittsboro.

MOUNT SINAI UNITED HOLY CHURCH

The Quarterly Saints Gathering of the Mt. Sinai United Holy Church will convene at 7:30 p.m., Friday night, Dec.

27 - Sunday, Dec. 29 with Rev. Sharon Sutton as the speaker. The Gethsemane Mixed Chorus will provide the music.

Saturday session, a program will be presented at 4 p.m. with music provided by the United Youth Fellowship Choir.

The Sunday morning service will begin at 9 a.m. with Sunday school followed by morning worship, with Elder Curtis Boykin, speaker. Music will be rendered by the United Fellowship Choir.

The church is located at 243 Vernie Phillips Road, Bear Creek.

CAMERON GROVE AME ZION CHURCH

The New Years' Eve Watch Night Celebration will be begin at 10 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31. The theme will be "MORE."

The church is located at 309 Vernon St., Broadway.

SMITHS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

William Myrle Smith and Joyce Faulkner Smith of Silk Hope celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at The Farmhouse in Chapel Hill on Saturday, December 21, 2019.

The Smiths were married in Durham on December 21, 1969. They have two children, Jennifer D. Scott of Pittsboro, Jeffrey Smith of Glen Allen, Virginia, and nine grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Smith

It's a Christmas miracle cookie!

Welcome, Gentle Reader, to my family's most



DEBBIE MATTHEWS

The Curious Cook

pleased you will be joining us.

It is time for our (approximately) 45th annual cookie frosting party. And honestly, I couldn't be more excited.

Each year, my mother and father bake dozens (this year it's 13 dozen) of her famous sugar cookies. The origin of which has been lost to the mists of time. Then we frosted them using a recipe that came from a cake decorating class Mom took in the 70s when we lived in Puerto Rico. It was taught by Winnie Chazaroo (I've always thought her name sounded like the moniker of a sassy cartoon horse from Australia).

This is the only recipe that I offer every year, because these cookies are spectacularly, astonishingly delicious.

But their very humble looks are infinitely deceiving. Finished, they look less like the cover girl of a food magazine, and



more like a kindergarten class art project. They are simple round, lightly golden, a little-too-thick, sugar cookies. They are then cloaked in way too much frosting and sprinkled haphazardly with store-bought jimmies, sprinkles, and/or colored sugar.

Somehow though, these cookies pack a flavor punch that will make even the most jaded palate sit up and take notice.

So, this recipe is my Christmas present to you.

And once you taste them you will know that it is a gift far more valuable than any expensive, colossal-bow-clad car, shiny jewelry featuring stones formerly known as carbon, or even a pony.

Just make a batch, you'll understand.

Thanks for your time, and from the Matthews Family Band to you and yours, have the merriest of Christmases.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Mom's Christmas Cookies

Preheat oven to 400°.

Ingredients:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour | 1/2 cup sugar |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking powder | 1/2 cup butter-flavored Crisco |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1 egg |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking soda | 2 tablespoons milk (whole or 2%) |
| | 1 teaspoon vanilla |

Sift dry ingredients into bowl. With mixer, cut in shortening until it resembles coarse meal. Blend in egg, milk, and vanilla.

Roll out to 1/8 inch and cut into shapes.

Bake on parchment-lined cookie sheet for 6-8 minutes or until golden. Remove to cooling rack.

Frost cookies when completely cooled. Makes about 1 dozen.

Winnie Chazaroo frosting

| |
|----------------------------|
| 1-pound box powdered sugar |
|----------------------------|

Chatham commissioners formally approve 2021-27 capital spending plan

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The next seven years of capital spending by the Chatham County government is more or less in place. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved last week the 2021-27 Capital Improvements Plan, a list of items that would cost the county more than \$100,000.

The CIP, as it's called, is

not a formal budget, but a planning document that gives rough estimates and tentatively schedules major projects. Commissioner Jim Crawford said that it's "evident" what "the benefits to the people" are in the CIP. "That's what allows the county to have such a healthy fiscal relationship with the people who loan us the money," he said. "That policy then goes down to all the departments, it goes to the school district. It makes

all of the county functions more aware of what their physical plant needs are." Actual public input on the plan was non-existent, but not for a lack of trying. The commissioners first received the CIP at the board's November 4 meeting, after which it was available for viewing on the county's website and in all three public libraries. The board then held an official public hearing on November 18

— during which no member of the public spoke for or against the plan — and a public workshop on November 19. The CIP was then put to a vote last week at a meeting where no one spoke during public comments about it. These four separate public meetings took place with no comment or input from the public, despite all slated projects costing an estimated combined \$203,187,364 over the next seven years. The county will likely take

on debt for some of the projects, which is normal practice, while others will be paid for from special funding sources and Fund Balance, the county's "savings account." Projects scheduled in this CIP include an \$18.3 million expansion to the county's Emergency Operations Center, upgrades to the county's emergency communications radio system and multiple Chatham County Schools projects, including the new Seaforth High School

and multiple new mobile classrooms. The county will now begin work on the FY 2021-22 budget. The commissioners will meet on January 14, 15 and 17 as part of their annual budget workshop to begin hearing presentations and start deliberations on specifics.

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

Toys for kids



Submitted photo

FirstHealth Chatham EMS collected toys, clothes and much more Nov. 23-24 as part of a Christmas toy drive outside the Walmart in Siler City. The items will benefit the Chatham County Department of Social Services.



FirstHealth Chatham EMS members took part in a Christmas toy drive outside the Walmart in Siler City Nov. 23-24, with the donated toys benefiting the Chatham County Department of Social Services. Paramedic Paula Bowman, EMT Matthew Matunis, EMT William Adams, AEMT Jason Paul, AEMT Robin Lawson and paramedic Alene Cameron, from left, were on hand for the event.

Submitted photo



Members of FirstHealth Chatham EMS paramedic Nathan Bimrose and EMT Matthew Matunis, from left, worked with Clare Harman at a Christmas toy drive Nov. 23-24 outside the Walmart in Siler City, with proceeds benefiting the Chatham Department of Social Services.

Submitted photo

Open for business



Staff photo by David Bradley

Dr. Manish Mistry cuts the ribbon Dec. 13 at his new Brightside Family Dental office at 26 Knox Way in Chapel Hill as his family, Cindy Poindexter and Commissioner Diana Hales join in. Mistry said that he had been looking for just the right place for his practice, and found Chapel Hill the perfect choice. Hales said, "It means expansion of dental services for the growing community, a family practice that will serve Chatham."



Staff photo by David Bradley

Endodontist Alessandra Ritter gets a peek at one of the patient treatment rooms while touring the new Brightside Dental office in Chapel Hill with Dr. Manish Mistry.



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Silk Hope Ruritan Club installs officers

CN+R Staff Report

SILK HOPE — The Silk Hope Ruritan Club held its annual Christmas party and installation of officers and board members on Dec. 9 with members' spouses and other special guests attending.

Outgoing Rocky Mount-Durham District Governor Jeff Neese installed the club's new officers. Officers installed for 2020 were Ned Gaudette, President; Daniel Rickard, Vice President; Chelsea Gaudette, Treasurer; Kyle Dekaney, Assistant Treasurer; Paula "Missy" Thompson, Secretary; and Mike Angeli, Assistant Secretary.

Directors installed were Mike Smith, Conner Tomlinson and Jim Brewer.

Ruritan of the Year, chosen by a vote of club members, was Alfred Combs, who spends countless hours year after year mowing around the Ruritan's community

center and the Farm Heritage Park show grounds.

Volunteer of the year was Faye Johnson, who has done volunteer work for the club for many years.

Agri-Business person of the year was Keith Moore, owner of Silk Hope Service and a local cattle farmer.

Club member Harold Rogers was presented with the Tom Downing Award, which is the highest honor that is awarded in Ruritan.

Others in attendance were newly elected Rocky Mount-Durham District Zone 1 Governor Neill Lindley, who was the Silk Hope Club 2019 President; and incoming District Lt. Governor Johnny Johnson, whom Lindley replaces as Zone Governor.

The Silk Hope Ruritan Club is a community service organization supporting many local projects including awarding scholarships to high school seniors,



Submitted photo

Pictured at the Silk Hope Ruritan Club's annual Christmas party and program for the installation of officers and board members are, from left Daniel Rickard, Mike Smith, Jim Brewer, Ned Gaudette, Missy Thompson, Kyle Dekaney, Chelsea Gaudette, Neill Lindley, Mike Angeli, and Conner Tomlinson.

scouting programs, little league sports, families in need and many other worthwhile projects.

The motto of Ruritan National is Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service.



STILLPOINT
ACUPUNCTURE
Heather McIver, L.Ac.
919-663-1137

MASSAGE
THERAPY
Erica Diamant, LMBT 16119
984-265-0999

POSITIVE CHANGE HYPNOTHERAPY
Karen Howard, C.Ht
919-214-0209

Gift Certificates Available
229 E. Raleigh St. Siler City NC 27344

Lending a helping hand at Christmas



Staff photo by David Bradley

Charlie Backof delivers a Christmas bag of gifts to one of the many families on the Salvation Army list at the National Guard Armory Dec. 12. Beckof and his wife Gail devote time and money each year to the gift giveaway to make the season bright for many children in the area.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Donna Smith with the Salvation Army stands with District 3 Commissioner Curtis Brown, in the Siler City Armory Dec. 12. The two were involved in the Salvation Army giveaway that matched requested toys with more than 900 children from 445 families in the area. Children under 12 years old were eligible for the goodies.



Donnie Brafford carries one of the many bicycles given away to children by the Salvation Army for Christmas this year. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office came by and donated helmets for each of the bike recipients.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Micaela Francisco stands with her daughter Irma Vasquez after receiving two bags of gifts from the Salvation Army at the armory last Thursday in Siler City. 'It's real exciting,' Vasquez said. 'It's usually stuff I can't afford to buy for my boys. I'm very thankful for this.'

Staff photo by David Bradley

Beef Powerstroke FEED SALE JANUARY 1ST - 31ST, 2020



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— or —
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Saturday: 8:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday: Closed

SOUTHERNSTATES.COM

WORK: ‘Christmas is in the middle of the flu and pneumonia season’

Continued from page A1

he normally does — “patrolling downtown, sometimes on foot, and routine patrol into neighborhoods and business districts. It’s just part of the job.”

Line officers and patrolmen won’t be alone working those days. Kriss Hussey will put in her 12-hour shift as a dispatcher. “It’s just part of the job, what we do,” she says.

Another group of workers who’ll be on the job those days are doctors, nurses and hospital support staff. Hospital patients aren’t automatically discharged just because it’s Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. And if they’re going to be there, so, too, are staff.

“We’ll have a full staff on hand,” says registered nurse Megan Moore, Chatham Hospital’s nursing director for inpatient care. “We do rotate our nursing staff so if someone worked last Christmas they can be off this year. Shifts run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. so some will get off early and others will come in at night.

“Since we still have patients, there has to be a normal full schedule of support. We’ll have food service, therapists, house-keeping, everyone needed to do the job.”

A nurse for 10 years, Moore has experienced her share of work on holidays.

“It is hard being away from your family,” she says, “but we remember that the patients are away from theirs, too. They’re not here because they want to be.”

Chatham Hospital has 25 beds and this time of year, they tend to be all or almost all be filled.

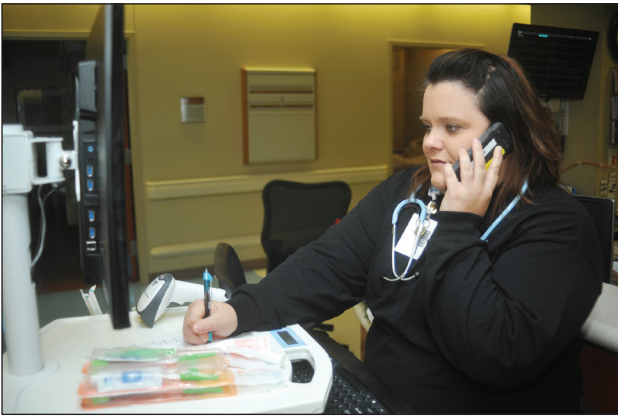
“Christmas is in the middle of the flu and pneumonia season,” Moore says, “so that can account for some of our patients. This is a special time of year and it can be hard on everyone but most families recognize we’re here to care for their family member and they’re typically kind to us.”

In-patients staff



Staff photo by David Bradley

Ashlee Emerson, R.N., writes up patient notes at Chatham Hospital last Friday. Emerson will be one of the medical staff on duty over the Christmas holiday.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Megan Moore, R.N., works with patient data at a mobile desk at the Chatham Hospital last Friday. Moore, a 10-year nursing veteran, will be part of the Christmas team at the hospital in Siler City this year.

members aren’t the only Chatham Hospital personnel who will be at work Christmas and New Year’s days. Across the building from the nurses’ stations and patient rooms is the emergency department — and like insurance policies, you

hope you won’t need it but if you do, you’re glad it’s there.

Ashlee Emerson has been an emergency room registered nurse for two years.

“Our shifts are 12 hours,” she says, “and we sign up and work out



Staff photo by David Bradley

Officer Chris Gallimore of the Siler City Police Department studies ornaments on a memorial tree in the department’s lobby that celebrate the lives of those who have fallen in the line of duty. Gallimore worked every Christmas during his four years at the department. ‘The shifts just fell that way,’ he said.

schedules for holidays. But we’ll have our full staff on hand — three to four nurses, nursing assistants, a doctor and physician assistant.”

Emerson says that while workers hope the days are quiet and peaceful for the sake of the public, if there’s a need, the staff and services will be there.

“Our full range of services will be available,” she says, “CAT scans, x-rays, labs. In many ways, it’s a normal work day.”

As with in-patients, emergency department staff often see a large number of colds and flu sufferers.

“It’s the season,” Emerson says. “We see those folks, sometimes people with chest pains and other symptoms.”

When the days are slower, there’s still work to be done.

“We like to do call-backs,” she says, “to

check on people who have been here. There’s always paperwork, inventory checks, even some extra deep cleaning.”

Emerson said even though she and her co-workers may be away from their families for extended periods of time, they feel the work is valuable.

“We knew going into the profession that there would be times like this, working on the holidays, but it was a choice,” she said. “Sometimes you can’t be with your own family but I have a work family. I love this hospital. It’s a great place. We feel like we’re helping people.”

Whether someone is a public safety official or a health care provider or an employee of Waffle House, the local restaurant which never closes, there are sacrifices to be made by working on holidays.

Wagner sums it up this

way: “I’ve always believed it takes a special spouse and family to live with this. The jobs, serving the public, can be stressful enough but add in the family dynamics of missing your children’s ball games, school events, concerts, birthdays. Missing all that takes a toll and can be hard to manage. It’s a challenge, especially during holidays. You’ve got plans and something comes up and you have to call home and say you can’t be there.

“During my career, I’ve noticed sometimes you can have a significant amount of serious crime on Christmas Eve. You may have families who have lost a loved one; they’re sad and it takes a toll on their spirit. They may also be facing financial strain and when they come together as a family in stress, it only takes a little something to get blown out of proportion and then you’ve got a domestic disturbance and us in the house, taking someone to jail.”

Wagner said his officers aren’t the only ones facing stress.

“When you look at the Christmas tree in our lobby, the 111 bulbs on it each representing an officer killed in the line of duty, it’s sobering,” he said. “Add in the 93 firefighters and then the military and you see these men and women dying at an alarming rate. It used to be that an officer might lose his life in an accident; now they’re being ambushed.”

Still, life and the work must go on and the chief says there are positive sides to the task.

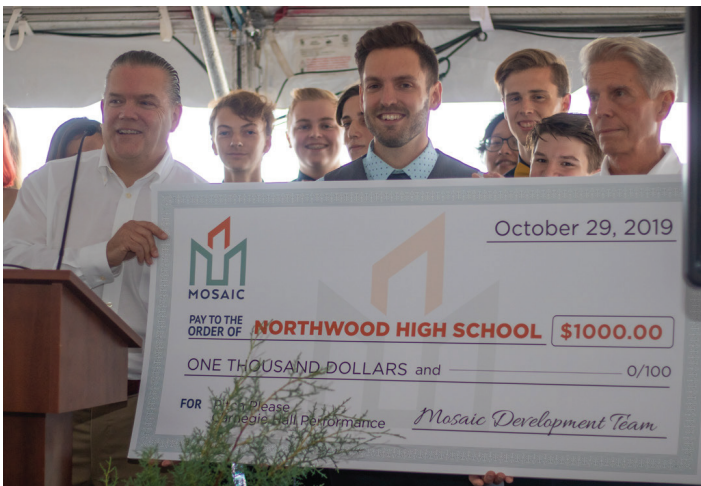
“Working holidays is a unique time,” he says. “You know as you move through your town or area that you’re the only one protecting the public. It’s an honorable task and makes you feel good. It’s what you want to do but still it takes away from your wife or husband and family.

“It is a time of joy but also a dangerous time. We’re not guaranteed tomorrow.”

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.



Visit us at ChathamPark.com and MosaicAtChathamPark.com

Rampant runs pave Wheatmore victory over J-M girls in C-T Tournament second round action

Carrboro's Brooke Fields blocks Jordan-Matthews' Ellia Wright in Siler City Dec. 17. The Bears clawed the Jaguars to improve their season record to 2-8.

Staff photo by David Bradley



BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — Huge runs paved the way for giant Wheatmore win over the Lady Jets of Jordan-Matthews.

The Lady Warriors opened both halves with big scoring bursts to first seize and later maintain control in overpowering J-M 49-28 in consolation round action on the second day of the 29th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament at Asheboro High School Saturday afternoon.

Defeating Jordan-Matthews for the third time in seven tourney meetings, Wheatmore lifted its overall record to 7-4, while the Lady Jets dropped to 2-8 for the season.

The Lady Warriors placed three starters in double figures, led by Taylor Comer's game-high 16 points. Kylie Biggs and

Kara Comer contributed a dozen points each for Wheatmore, which connected on 47 percent (22-of-47) of its field goal attempts while only committing nine turnovers.

Avery Headen notched 12 points to lead J-M, which shot just 26 percent (11-of-42) from the floor but out-rebounded the Lady Warriors 29-16 despite turning the ball over 20 times.

"We came out a little flat and fell behind 5-0 at the outset before finally settling into our game by running the offense and getting aggressive on defense, which allowed us to run off 12 straight points and take command," remarked Wheatmore coach Pete Kilcullen.

"Playing solid defense is a big key for us, as our goal is to convert turnovers into run-outs and easy transition baskets. It also helps when you get balanced scoring by putting three players in double figures."

Lady Jets' coach Charles Byrd commented his team never developed any consistency in its game.

"Our guards didn't do a good job penetrating gaps this afternoon and we were very stagnant offensively," said Byrd.

"Wheatmore played a lot harder than us and was much more aggressive on the floor. One positive we had was the good job we did on the boards, but they really hurt us with their transition game."

Headen's jumper from the right wing and three-pointer from the left side got Jordan-Matthews off to a 5-0 start in the first four minutes of the initial stanza before the Lady Warriors closed out the opening period with 12 unanswered points to forge a seven-point advantage after one quarter.

Following Ellia Wright's

See **GIRLS**, page B3

Moore cans career-high 39 in CC loss to Eastern Randolph

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Michael Moore poured in a career-high 39 points, but it wasn't enough to offset three Eastern Randolph starters in double figures as the Wildcats seized the advantage for good at the close of the first half and never let Chatham Central regain the lead while clawing their way to a 70-68 non-conference triumph over the Bears last Monday night in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium.

Earning a split in the season series, Eastern Randolph halted a three-game losing skid in climbing to 3-5 for the year, while Chatham Central had its five-game win streak come to

an end in falling to 6-3 overall.

Jah'Morie Wilson topped the victors with 19 points, Cade Snotherly tallied 17 and Osiris Ross added 12 as the Wildcats connected on 22-of-41 (54%) of their field goal attempts and held a 25-23 rebounding advantage while committing 13 turnovers.

Lucas Skertich joined Moore in double figures with 18 points for the Bears, who shot 23-of-47 (49%) from the floor while turning the ball over 14 times.

"Energy, enthusiasm and effort were the keys to our victory tonight," stated Eastern Randolph coach LaShawn Robinson. "We controlled the things we could by keeping our

See **MOORE**, page B2



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central co-captain Luke Skertich (10) shoots a long one through a crowd of Eastern Randolph players Dec. 16 in Bear Creek. The Bears lost the game, 70-68.

Snotherly sizzling hot as Lady Cats cruise past Bears

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — If Eastern Randolph was looking for a torchbearer last Monday night against Chatham Central, the Lady Wildcats found a sizzler in Brecken Snotherly.

Snotherly fired in five three-pointers in the first half to help Eastern Randolph open up a seven-point lead at intermission before the visitors from Ramseur pulled away after the break en route to scorching the Lady Bears 61-42 in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium.

Completing a sweep of their non-conference season series, the Lady Wildcats raised their overall record to 5-3, while Chatham Central lost for the fifth time in nine outings.

Amya Brooks came off the bench to contribute 15 points for the winners, who shot 40 percent (20-of-50) from the floor while turning the ball over 20 times.

Danielle Vaughn tossed in 17 points to lead the Lady Bears, who connected on just 22 percent (12-of-54) of their field goal attempts but held a 37-32 advantage on the boards while committing two dozen turnovers.

"Brecken did a good job in the first half finding holes on the perimeter against Chatham Central's man defense and really lit it up from the outside to give us an early spark," said Eastern Randolph coach Brett Snotherly.

"We get a lot of offense off our defense, which forced a number of turnovers or steals that led to some easy transition

baskets," the coach said. "Even though we were a step behind at times tonight in our man-to-man defense or we weren't always in the right spot, I still felt like we were in control for most of the game. While we missed some close shots that would have allowed us to extend our lead, one of the big keys for us was Amya's play off the bench. She ran the floor well with her quickness and gave us a lift on defense with her aggressiveness."

Lady Bears' coach Lynda Burke related poor shooting and lapses in defense proved costly from the outset.

"Our man defense could not stop Snotherly in the first half, but I thought we controlled her better when we went to a zone in the second half," remarked Burke. "Offensively we missed too many easy shots while we didn't have good ball movement in the first two quarters. We did a good job holding our own in rebounding, but we have to take better care of the ball and improve getting back on defense against teams that transition well."

Following Brooks' fast break layup that gave the Lady Wildcats a 5-4 advantage with 3:09 left in the initial stanza, Snotherly drained three treys to fuel a 15-4 quarter-ending run that put Eastern Randolph up 20-8 after one period.

A pair of Vaughn three-pointers over the first three minutes of the second frame ignited a 12-2 Chatham Central burst that drew the Lady Bears within two prior to Snotherly tallying eight of

See **SIZZLING**, page B2

How 'bout them Cowboys?

Whether at a football watch party, at work, or just walking



DON BEANE
Sports Editor

season that phrase echoed all around the nation.

After Sunday afternoon, well, all you hear is crickets.

The Cowboys, with the NFC East title on the line, went to Philadelphia and laid an egg, losing 17-9 to drop to 7-8 on the season while the Eagles moved to 8-7.

In reality, the 2019 Dallas Cowboys proved exactly what they are, an average football team. Nothing more, nothing less.

They take after their coach, Jason Garrett, a solid coach with sort of All-American, Johnny Appleseed looks, and a former Dallas Cowboys quarterback.

Garrett admittedly is a top-of-the-line person, just a great guy. But he has about as much fire in him as a lit match in the middle of a hurricane.

And that's exactly how the Cowboys played all season long, going 1-7 thus far against teams with a winning record entering the final week of the regular season.

To be fair, Garrett had one shot to win the Super Bowl, but an injury to Tony Romo

derailed that chance. Current quarterback Dak Prescott came in that season as a rookie, and led the Cowboys into the playoffs where they lost a tough one to Green Bay. The irony was that a then-healthy Romo probably would have won that game, but Garrett couldn't replace Prescott at that point due to his solid play. It's almost like the old saying goes — good guys finish last — when it comes to Garrett.

Prescott against the Eagles on Sunday mirrored his coach and the season: average. The Mississippi State graduate was 25-44 for 265 yards with no touchdowns and no interceptions, compiling a paltry quarterback rating of 74.5 percent. It was another mundane performance from the fourth-year quarterback.

Star running back Ezekiel Elliott, who has seemed to never be in tip top shape this season after a big pay day in the offseason, chipped in an average performance with 47 yards on 13 carries, a 3.6 average per rush.

And the story goes on and on for the Cowboys on Sunday, just an average, uninspired effort.

The biggest question now is what does Dallas owner Jerry Jones do, specifically with Garrett who he's seemed to have held on to for way too long?

I think this time Jones may actually make a change, one that is long overdue.

Let me say first, I don't think the Cowboys' overall talent is great. I just don't. They have some nice playmakers on offense,

See **COWBOYS**, page B3



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central point guard Kailey Green completes a fast break in the third quarter of play Dec. 16 against Eastern Randolph in Bear Creek. The Bears' loss dropped their season record to 4-5.

Reigning C-T champ SWR dominates Jordan-Matthews in tourney opener

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — If Jordan-Matthews girls basketball coach Charles Byrd never heard the last name Maness again it would probably too soon. That may a bit extreme, but at least on Friday night against reigning champion Southwest Randolph in opening round action of the 29th annual

The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational basketball tournament at Asheboro High School, it rang true. Heaven Maness pumped in 23 points while Ashton Maness added 14 points and Alexis Maness eight to ignite Southwest-ern Randolph (11-0) to a 77-36 demolition of Jordan-Matthews (2-8) in the final contest of the day . In quest of a three-peat

at the prestigious event, the Cougars rolled up an 18-8 advantage after one period of play to take control of the contest. SWR struck fast out of the gates when Jordan Claborn sank a short basket in the paint before Avery Headen connected on a driving shot to tie the game at 2-2. With the game knotted at 6-5, the Cougars would go on an 8-0 run to open things up

a bit when at 14-5 before Tyrel Brooks scored for the Jets to stop the bleeding momentarily. Heaven Maness scored on a fast break late in the stanza and Kassidy Glasgow sank two charity tosses to give Southwest Randolph the 10-point lead heading into the second period. Southwest Randolph blew the game open in the second with a 16-0 run that

sent the Cougars up 38-14 at the intermission. Heaven Maness had six points in the run while Alexis Maness contributed four. In the second half, the Cougars continued to control the action as the favorites built the lead to a high of 52-16 at the 4:07 mark of the third period behind a 6-0 ignited by four points from Ashton Maness, a pair of foul shots from Brooke

Springer, and a basket from Carley Everhart. Makayla Glover powered in a three-point play late in the frame but the Lady Jets trailed 63-28 entering the fourth. Wright had four points in the final stanza for Jordan-Matthews but it was far from enough as Southwest Randolph cruised to the 77-36 triumph. The Lady Jets were led by 16 points from Wright.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews’ Camden Fuquay aims for two late in the fourth quarter in Siler City Dec. 17, against Carrboro’s T.K. Paisant. The Jets’ 17-point loss dropped their season record to 4-5.

Carrboro torches Jordan-Matthews in 87-70 win

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — While Jets are known for their high-flying capability, it was the Carrboro Jaguars who turned on the after-burners in the second half and soared to an overwhelming 87-70 non-conference victory over Jordan-Matthews on John Phillips Court last Tuesday night. Placing four starters in double figures, Carrboro evened its overall record at 4-4, whereas J-M stumbled to 4-5 for the year while now surrendering at least 80 points twice in the same season for the first time since the 2009-10 campaign. T.K. Paisant tossed in 32 points to lead all scorers, while Ethan Stutts contributed 15 in addition to Tim Rogers-Neal and Jared Porter finishing with 10 apiece for the Jaguars. The victors shot a blistering 57 percent (30-of-53) from the floor and dominated the boards by a 31-20 margin while turning the ball over 20 times. Huston Causey topped Jordan-Matthews with 20 points while Camden Fuquay registered 16 and Lanice Hedgepeth added 10. J-M connected on 38 percent (21-of-56) of its field goal attempts while committing 17 turnovers. “I thought our success tonight stemmed from sharing the ball and finding T.K. inside for easy buckets,” stated Carrboro coach Justin Batts. “Early on we attacked well in the paint while our press defense led to some transition baskets. But in the second quarter we let J-M back in the game by allowing them to penetrate the lane while we were not doing our assignments on defense.” “In the second half we stopped giving up the middle, became more aggressive on the glass and contested their shots better while our shooting accuracy really improved.” Jets’ coach Rodney Wiley stated he knew the Jaguars wanted to run so the goal was to press to slow them down.

“But we got caught up in their style of play, forcing the tempo up and down the court, while Paisant caused us match-up problems all night as he can drive inside or shoot from the perimeter,” said Wiley. “They also hurt us on the boards with their size advantage and they had five guys who can really shoot the ball. We ran into some foul trouble in the second half and got away from playing together while committing too many mistakes that they turned into easy transition points.” Luke Riggs’ three-pointer from the right wing midway through the opening stanza allowed Carrboro to forge an early 10-4 lead before the Jaguars continued to pull away over the remainder of the quarter behind five points from Rogers-Neal to end the period holding a 22-11 advantage. Timothy Eubanks’ turnaround hoop off the right baseline, three-pointer from the right side and layup – all in the first 71 seconds of the second quarter – got Jordan-Matthews within six prior to J-M using a 9-3 burst to draw even at 27-all following two Hedgepeth free throws with 2:59 to go in the initial half. But Paisant’s conventional three-point play 12 seconds later put Carrboro back in front and the Jaguars went on to carry a 34-31 lead into intermission. After Porter’s trey from the right corner gave Carrboro a 44-40 advantage with 5:21 remaining in the third stanza, back-to-back three-pointers by Causey and Jayden Davis capped an 8-0 Jets’ burst that put Jordan-Matthews up by four with 4:04 left in the frame before Paisant tallied 10 points during a 14-4 quarter-ending run that thrust the Jaguars ahead for good. An 8-0 Carrboro surge to begin the fourth period elevated the winners’ lead to 66-52, and with Stutts and Paisant combining for 17 points over the last eight minutes the Jaguars maintained a double-digit advantage the rest of the way, with the final score representing their biggest spread of the evening.

MOORE:

Continued from page B1

turnovers down, taking care of the ball and hitting free throws when we needed to. Cade Snotherly gave us some great senior leadership this evening. His shooting, passing and hustle on defense gave us the spark we’ve been looking for.” Chatham Central coach Robert Burke remarked several factors contributed his team’s loss. “We didn’t hit enough three-pointers, we didn’t defend well on the block and we relied on two guys to do most of our scoring,” said Burke. “Number 10 (Snotherly) had a tremendous game for Eastern Randolph with his directing the offense and rebounding. They were more effective in the paint and did

a better job hitting their outside shots while we gave them too many open looks at the basket.” Neither team had more than a three-point advantage throughout a back-and-forth first quarter that concluded in a 14-all standoff. The second period featured a dozen lead changes, with the Bears grabbing their final advantage at 32-30 as Moore’s three-pointer from the left corner with 18 seconds remaining in the first half before Landon Collins answered with a trey from behind the top of the arc with six seconds on the clock to give the Wildcats a one-point lead at intermission. Chatham Central managed to forge three ties over the first five minutes of the third period prior to Snotherly’s three- pointer from the left wing with 2:56 to go in the stanza that put Eastern Randolph

ahead to stay at 41-38. The Wildcats extended their advantage to 51-44 on Wilson’s conventional three-point play with 51 seconds left in the third quarter before Moore’s dunk nine seconds later closed the gap to five entering the last eight minutes. Another Wilson conventional three-point play coupled with Snotherly’s trey from the right wing to begin the fourth quarter gave Eastern Randolph its biggest lead at 57-46 with 6:21 to go in the contest prior to the Bears battling back to narrow the difference to 66-63 following Moore’s inbounds layup with 31 seconds to play. Wilson then sank four-of-six foul shots in the time remaining to offset a pair of Moore free throws and three-pointer from the left wing as the Wildcats hung on for the win.

Sandlappers tame Tar Heels in 2019 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — One of the highlights of the high school football season in the Carolinas is the annual Shrine Bowl, pitting the top players from North and South Carolina against one another to raise money annual for the Shriners Hospitals. The 83rd rendition of the Shrine Bowl took place in Spartanburg, S.C., on Saturday afternoon at Gibbs Stadium on the campus of Wofford College. And for the first time since 2014, the South Carolina Sandlappers tasted victory with a 28-17 decision over North Carolina. Jalin Hyatt, a 6’2, 180-pound wideout from Dutch Fork High School sparked the South Carolina win with a spectacular performance that included six catches for 197 yards and two touchdowns for the Tennessee-see signee. Hyatt, who personally outgained an anemic Tar Heel offense that managed just 173 total yards in the contest, was named the MVP of the contest and caught touchdowns of 23 and 72 yards, the latter on a split screen to the right in the third quarter of action. South Carolina amassed 411 yards in total offense in the game as two East Carolina signees, running back Rahjai Harris of Byrnes and quarterback Mason Garcia of Carolina Forest, finished with 95 yards rushing, scoring the final touchdown on a 23-yard run, and 153 passing

yards and a touchdown, and 60 rushing yards and a score respectively. The Harris 23-yard scoring run on the victory clinching drive capped an 85-yard march late in the fourth period. Hyatt caught a 23-yard scoring pass from Mikele Collard in the opening period to give South Carolina a 7-0 lead before North Carolina stormed back with 10 unanswered points in the second quarter to go up 10-7 at the half. The Tar Heels scored the 10 points on an intentional grounding penalty-turned-safety and a punt blocked by North Carolina’s Shane Whitter (Burlington Williams) which was scooped and returned by North Carolina’s Ja’Qurious Conley for a touchdown before a two-point conversion run. Conley, from Northside High School out of Jacksonville, is a North Carolina signee. But in the third quarter, Hyatt flipped the momentum in favor of the black and red clad Sandlappers, taking a split screen pass to the right sidelines by Garcia, avoiding a Tar Heel defender, and sprinting up the sidelines untouched to paydirt and a 14-10 South Carolina lead. North Carolina wasn’t finished, however, as the Tar Heels retook the lead at 17-14 when quarterback Javondre’ Paige (Greensboro Page) and receiver Ray Grier (Belmont South Point) connected on a 28-yard skinny post for a touchdown. Grier is another UNC signee playing in the event. In the fourth quarter, Garcia capped off a five-

play, 39-yard drive after rushing in a one-yard touchdown. The Sandlappers took the lead for good at 21-17 before adding the late scoring jaunt by Harris to ice the 28-17 victory. Lee County’s Desmond Evans, the top player in the state of N.C. for the 2020 class and a UNC-signee, led the Tar Heels’ defense. Only three of the top 12 players from the state of North Carolina in 2020 participated in the game, a disappointing percentage indeed. In addition to Evans, Clemson signee Mitchell Mayes, an offensive lineman from Leesville Road, ranked No. 5 overall, played as did Conley, the No. 7 overall ranked player. South Carolina now leads the overall series 45-34-4, though the series had tilted into the favor of the green and gold Tar Heels during the past 15 years after the contest was pushed back a week to accommodate the NCHSAA state championships. North Carolina owns an 8-7 record overall in that span.

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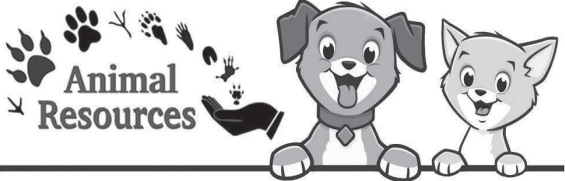
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Lady Jets fend off Jaguars' late surge to prevail 43-38

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — With a lack of early offense often causing Jordan-Matthews to face an uphill battle the rest of the night, Lady Jets' coach Charles Byrd has preached to his team all year about the importance of getting off to a fast start.

So on Dec. 17 J-M answered his prayers by taking an aggressive stance against Carrboro from the outset, building a 12-point halftime advantage which it expanded to as much as 20 points at the beginning of the fourth quarter before holding off a late surge by the Lady Jaguars to capture a 43-38 non-conference victory in Frank N. Justice Gymnasium.

Snapping a seven-game losing streak, Jordan-Matthews improved to 2-7 for the season, whereas Carrboro sustained its seventh loss in eight outings.

Ellia Wright registered 18 points and a dozen rebounds while Makayla Glover chipped in 10 points for the Lady Jets, who shot 27 percent (16-of-59) from the floor but commanded a 42-31 advantage on the boards to help offset 26 turnovers.

Madison Wieboldt topped the Lady Jaguars with 13 points as the visitors from Orange County connected on 25 percent

(15-of-59) of their field goal attempts while turning the ball over 19 times.

"I think our girls did a great job getting to the basket tonight," said Byrd. "We utilized our forwards on the blocks, which gave the guards an opportunity to attack the rim. I feel like the ladies let off the gas mentally in the fourth quarter after taking a big lead as our intensity level dropped defensively and we suffered six turnovers in a row to let Carrboro back in the game. But I was proud how they recovered and held on down the stretch, which shows me they are learning to deal with adversity."

Lady Jaguars' coach Sheremy Dillard remarked her team didn't change its approach on offense or defense throughout the contest, but the big difference was their shots just wouldn't fall in the initial half.

"You're not going to win when you only hit two-of-28 (seven percent) of your attempts from the field in the first half," explained Dillard. "We had the same looks at the basket in the second half and finally got shots to fall while our defensive pressure eventually caused some late turnovers, but the hole we created early was simply too big to climb out of."

J-M jumped out to a 9-0 advantage in the opening

three minutes of play while Carrboro could only connect on one-of-12 of its attempts from the floor in the first period as Jordan-Matthews fashioned an 11-3 lead after one quarter.

The Lady Jets increased their advantage to 17-4 on Wright's inbounds layup with 3:47 left in the second stanza before the Lady Jaguars whittled their deficit down to 20-8 at intermission.

Following Wieboldt's lane jumper that closed the gap to 24-16 with 5:47 to go in the third period, Avery Headen and Glover combined for the last eight points in a 10-2 quarter-ending spurt that gave the winners a 16-point lead entering the final eight minutes.

After J-M stretched its advantage to 38-18 on a pair of Wright free throws a minute-and-a-half into the fourth period and still maintained a 41-23 lead following Jasmine Scotten's layup with 3:59 remaining, Carrboro began capitalizing on Jordan-Matthews' mistakes to reel off 13 unanswered points and pull within five with 1:43 left in the contest.

But the Lady Jets would then use solo free throws by Wright and Headen to counter a layup by the Lady Jaguars' Riley Croasmun in the closing seconds to seal the triumph.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews' Ashlyn Ray makes the play on a fast break up center court last Tuesday against Carrboro's Jameeah Purefoy-Thaxton in non-conference action.

2019 NCPREPS ALL-STATE FOOTBALL TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Jefferson Boaz - East Surry
RB - Will Shipley - Weddington
RB - Quinton Cooley - Southern Nash
WR - Muhsin Muhammad - Myers Park
WR - Jhari Patterson - AC Reynolds
WR - Ja'hari Mitchell - Shelby
OL - Jonathan Adorno - Rolesville
OL - Mitchell Mayes - Leesville Road
OL - Malik McGowan - Charlotte Catholic
OL - Anthony Carter - Butler
OL - Seth Williams - Statesville

DEFENSE

DL - Desmond Evans - Lee County
DL - Payton Page - Dudley

DL - Davin Vann - Cary
DL - Stephen Sings - Vance
LB - Power Echols - Vance
LB - CJ Tilman - Richmond County
LB - Trenton Simpson - Mallard Creek
DB - Durell Johnson - Mountain Island Charter
DB - Devan Boykin - Ragsdale
DB - Cameren Dalrymple - Wallace Rose Hill
DB - Ja'Quirious Conley - Northside-Jax

SPECIAL TEAMS/ATHLETES

ATH - Breon Pass - Reidsville
K - Joshua Karty - Western Alamance
P - Luke Lassiter - West Johnston
KR/PR - Stephen Gosnell - East Surry
LS - Spencer Triplett - Shelby

GIRLS: J-M v.s. Trinity

Continued from page B1

jumper from the left wing that drew J-M within 14-12 with 3:31 to go in the first half, Wheatmore responded with Taylor Comer's conventional three-point play, Kara Comer's mid-court steal and layup plus Biggs' put-back in the lane at the horn to surge to a nine-point lead at the break.

With Jasmine Scotten recording the Lady Jets' only points of the third stanza on a jumper off the left baseline and a rebound bucket in the paint, the Lady Warriors proceeded to outscore Jordan-Matthews 15-4 in the frame to carry a 36-16 advantage into the last eight minutes.

After a layup and free throw by Makayla Glover got the Lady Jets within 17 at the start of the fourth period, Wheatmore never let J-M edge any closer the remainder of the contest and equaled its biggest lead of the day at 49-26 following Taylor Comer's three-pointer from the right wing with 1:44 to play prior to a Wright foul shot with 34.7 seconds remaining that accounted for the final margin.

Jordan-Matthews will now face Trinity at 1 p.m. Monday afternoon in a match-up to decide seventh place, while the Lady Warriors will meet Eastern Randolph at 2:30 p.m. Monday for fifth-place honors.



Research Triangle's Elliott Klappenbach and Eli Griffith (32) guard the basket against the efforts of Chatham Charter's Jordan Hamilton in a Dec. 17 game in Siler City.

Staff photo by David Bradley

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COWBOYS:

Continued from page B1

but tight end Jason Witten needs to get back into retirement, and the wide receivers are meh, at least outside of Amari Cooper.

The defense is solid, but again, certainly not at the top of the NFL.

But there is enough talent for a new coach to come in and get more out of this team, which would have made them the NFC East champions this season, and earned a bid into the playoffs.

Discipline, toughness, fire and some innovation on both sides of the ball would certainly make this club a dangerous playoff contender.

The question is, does

Jones go the NFL route in the coaching ranks, or the collegiate route? And if it's the NFL angle, a previous head coach or does he look at coordinators.

Let's start with the college coaches and some names that I feel will be kicked around at Cowboys Headquarters. Urban Meyer heads the group as a surprise candidate who's also being rumored with the USC job. Meyer just wins, is a motivator, is very organized and detailed, and a guru with the special teams while also having obvious connections with Elliott.

Lincoln Riley, current Oklahoma head coach and former East Carolina offensive coordinator, is also a top candidate. Riley has made a big splash with the Sooners and is an offensive genius of

sorts, while also growing up just three hours away from Dallas.

Don't laugh at this one, but Jim Harbaugh could be a name surfacing. His game is better suited for the NFL, which was proven by his narrow miss of a Super Bowl title with the San Francisco 49ers. Harbaugh and the Michigan fanbase have a tumultuous relationship which could aid the cause if approached by Jones.

From the NFL head coaching ranks, Sean Payton, McCarthy, Bill Cowher, and Ron Rivera all are names being mentioned that are viable. Payton and McCarthy have won Super Bowls with the New Orleans Saints and Green Bay Packers respectively, and are at the very top of the list, while

Cowher is obviously a long shot, and Rivera a heck of a coach, but maybe not as big a splash as Jones needs to make. Payton, McCarthy and Cowher would be the big fish in the coaching search.

Coordinator wise, all eyes are on John McDaniels, offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots. Annually he's approached by NFL franchises, and annually turns them down, leaving many to believe he's next in line when Bill Belichick steps down.

So all eyes are now on Dallas and Jerry Jones to see what happens next. Maybe Santa will bring Cowboys fans a new coach as a top of the line gift, they've been waiting since 1996 for one, and the patience is wearing thin.



Staff photo by David Bradley
Chatham Central's Riley Lagenor, (12) is on the path for points Dec. 16 past Eastern Randolph's Osiris Ross and Kaeman Marley (5).



Staff photo by David Bradley
Rebecca McGaughnea of 9-2 Chatham Charter sails the ball high over the defense of Research Triangle last Wednesday in Siler City.

Giving it all on the court



Jordan-Matthews' Maggie Thornton pushes through the defense of Carrboro's Ananya Saravanan (5) on the way to the basket early in a Dec. 17 game in Siler City.
Staff photo by David Bradley

Eastern Randolph's Delonte Glover, Osiris Ross, and Landon Collins, (23) block the path of Chatham Central's Lucas Skertich Dec. 16 in Bear Creek.
Staff photo by David Bradley

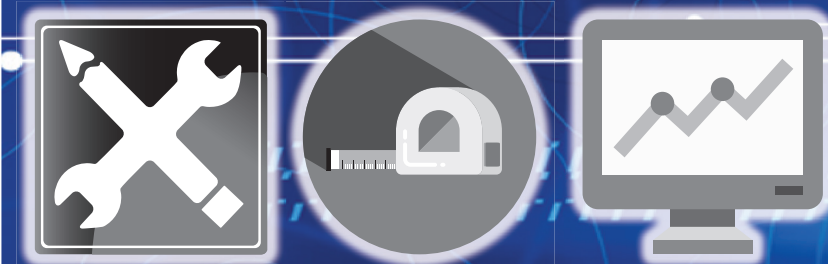


Staff photo by David Bradley
Chatham Central's Kailey Green goes for two past the defense of Eastern Randolph in Bear Creek during a game earlier this month. The Bears fell, 61-42.



Connor Murphy of undefeated Chatham Charter makes a quick run around Research Triangle's Barry Marrow in a game Dec. 17 in Siler City.
Staff photo by David Bradley

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Central Carolina Community College names honor students

President's List, all A's in all classes, registered and completed at least 12 semester hours, and received no incomplete grades

Alamance County: Courtney Dante Bullock, Payton Michael Doss, Bryan Douglas Muller.

Buncombe County: Catherine Elizabeth Ragan.

Chatham County: Wendy Bacilio Vico, Samantha J Bader, Daniel MacKay Beaton, Alexander Jones Blackburn, Anthony Frank Borelli, Megan Elizabeth Bowers, Tamar Carbajal Ibanez, Holly Elizabeth Coble, Dalton Tyler Crews, Sharon P Crump, Makayla Christine Gangemi, David V Haman, Kristan Veronica Hawkins, Baron Eliot Hoffman, Helena Helms Hysong, Rebecca Faith Jordan, Abigail Grace Kraska, Zolan Lee Krontz, Nathan S Lamont, Sharon Renee Martin, Roxanne McDonough, Jefferson Cole Milholen, Nicholas Arsenio Moffitt, Connor Jackson Murphy, Abigail Kathryn Owensby, Kristin Michelle Paul, Anna Louise Pickens, Krista Jo Ritter, Kerri Elizabeth Rogers, Jenna Marie Rohaly, Zachary Carlton Rollick, Hannah Leigh Seitz, Deelen Nicole Shehee, Caleb Nathaniel Sirry, Carolyn Elizabeth Stevens, Amanda Tishana Louise Usary, April Leah Watts, James Michael Williams.

Cumberland County: Domingo Lomeli Campos, Xavier Anthony Figueroa, Crystal M Hair, Tyler Danielle Harness, Margaret Theresa Harps, Constance Hofwegen, Taylor Lynn May, Tabitha Dietria McLaurin, Annamarie Musso, Ryan Scott Nelson, Isabella Audrey Rose.

Durham County: Derrick Lamont Jeffries, Aaron Kienow.

Guilford County: Katherine Hayley Curry, Jeanine Fields Meers.

Harnett County: Caleb Daniel Adams, Mindi Deann Avery, Amaya Lanae Bell, Mason M Bradford, Mackenna Faith Brown, Megan Elizabeth Burkes, Megan Burrell, Julia Michelle Cummings, Derrick Dew, Erica Johnson Dodson, Lauren Danielle Faircloth, Elisabeth Finch, Mikaylee Elizabeth Flowers, Erik Patrick Henriksen, Ivan Hernandez-Morales, Rosemary Schuh Hilliard, Kristin Kelly Ivey, Colin Garrett Licari, Catherine F. McDaniel, Sativa Lasheya Monroe, Cris Andrew Nystrom, Lydia Ariel Oglesby, Sarah Ann Ongley, Kylie Michelle

Payne, Leroy Perez-Reyes, Brenda Plancarte, Elizabeth Carolina Rodriguez, Wilma Vaneza Rodriguez-Diaz, Amary Lauren Ryder, Eric Sauer, Michele Lin Shaw, Veronica Latrice Shaw, Antonette Ellen Simmering, Anna E South, William Taft Stevens, Hunter Cameron Thomas, Tracey Lynn Thomas, Kassie Mason Walton, Christopher Robert Westerberg, Stephen Dale White, Daughtry Reid Williams, Lena Mae Williams, Jerry Talon Womack, Regan Woodall, Kilvet Augusto Zalavarria.

Lee County: Cristina M Axberg, Julian Banguera Torres, Ivy Marie Benson, Stormy Lynn Benson, Marcos D Bernal, Bertha Marshelle Brown, Frederick Cruz Bunao, Jeffrey Kevin Bunnell, Citlally Campos Aldana, Oscar Candelario Jose, Gabriela Maribel Cerna, Robert Contorno, Gina Cook, Angela Dawn Crowder, Alexander Lacy Diekhoff, Braxton Lawrence Diekhoff, Asya Renee Earle, Stephanie Lauren Ehlers, Abby Kathryn Faulk, Jasper Cole Garner, Priscilla Gijon, Geraldine Villegas Gray, Nicole Gray, Ethan M. W. Gurwitch, Jazmine Nicole Gutierrez, Rachael Hatfield, Peter Eugene Austin Hedges, Howard Clay Henderson, Seth Womble Hoyle, Mackenzie Layne Hulsey, Brenda Marie Hutchins, Addie Kinsley Raye Johns, Sandra Marie Johnson, Trayton Anthony Johnson, Quintin Jones, Sandy Lee Jones, Lewis Kyle Lankford, Gadisse Lee, Brittany Nicole Legg, Lauren Love, Lisette Macedo Hernandez, Miranda Grace Manfredi, Melissa Ann Marcum, Nayelly Benitez Martinez, William Tyler Mayhew, James Kareem McCurry, Jordan Ervin McKay, Caleb John McLandsborough, Alisha Christine Neal, Thi Cam Nguyen, Jocelyn Nieto, Lacy Heineken Oakley, Heather Elyse O'Quinn, Michael Scott Parnell, Cheyenne Haylee Patterson, Parker Elizabeth Phillips, Patrick Ian Pierce, Joel Patrick Reeves, Jacqueline Reyna, Brannon Scott Rhodes, Alfonso Mejia Rincon, Mackenzie Catherine Roche, Carmen Gray Schoolcraft, Jordan Ashley Schwab, Thomas Franco Selem, Olivia G Shaw, David Z Smoak, Peyton Elizabeth Sprouse, Alexis Shane'l Spruiell, Sierra Jo Swartout, Yanelly Marissa Torres, Brian Quang Tran, Samuel James Truelove, Madysen Danyelle Tuck, Alexis

Jordan Tyson, Brenda Lee Walker, Tristian Ray Williams, Jacob R Wilson, Payton Hayley Winchell, Matthew Paul Zannini.

Moore County: Courtney Lynn Beers, Britney Shaquanna Bell, Sean Andrew Bergesen, Anthony Mark Biggs, Mayra Blancas Rebollar, Holly Elizabeth Carthen, Brynn Elizabeth Davis, Damion Davis, Bryanna LaChelle Graham, Megan Elizabeth Hayes, Alicia Michelle McLeod, Alyssa Yasmin Montanez, Randolph R Norris, David Paul Peters, Breanna Nicole Potter, Stephanie Mullins Sellers, Lena Shoffit, Robert Alvah Strickland, Deidra Wells.

New Hanover County: Laura Hatvany George.

Orange County: Bayan Dadressan, Erdem Veli Ekinci, Tim Henry Frei, Emma Rebecca Stapleton, Aki Takemoto, Teresita Mae Wasileski, Krista Faith Westervelt.

Randolph County: Julissa Martinez Moreno, Cordell Hayes Wanless.

Robeson County: Isabelle Christine Karis.

Rockingham County: Kaitlyn Ann Walker.

Sampson County: Hannah Erin Edge.

Wake County: Trevor Brown, Shaune Leslie Cameron, Nancy Corley, Rebecca Jennifer Dillon, Stefani Flores Vega, Jonathan William Herndon, Haley Jennings, Joshua Johnson, Lisa Waynick Kim, Nicole Debra Long, Kirsten Renee Loveless, Jordan Elizabeth Mangum, Anna Elizabeth Morgan, Scottlee Daniel Peterson, Austyn Nicole Poole, Rachel Stern, Kim Claire Taylor.

Out of State: Matthew James Coveyou, Amanda Marie Hollis.

Dean's List, a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, registered and completed at least 12 semester hours, and received no grade lower than a C, with no incomplete grades

Alamance County: Cassie Ann Crutchfield, Logan D Doss, Lauren Taylor Lloyd.

Alleghany County: Kelsey Brianna Lyall.

Chatham County: Yoana Aguirre-Morales, Michaela Albright, Emma Alvarez, Kennedy Deaton Andrews, Allison Nicole Armstrong, Scott Allen Bratcher, Rachel Elizabeth Brookshire, Krystle S Brown, Conner Elizabeth Bussey, Miranda Paulette Butler, Celene Elizabeth Carmona, Mason Leigh Clark, Harrison Gunter Fogleman, Roman Martin Furze, Jennifer

Marie Gibson, Hannah Nicole Ginn, Marlene Lizzett Gomez, Stephanie Wrenn Hackney, Jaylin Featherston Harris, Sarah Marie Hoffman, Autumn Paige Holt, Sara Isabella Jackson, Adrianna Marie James-Rizzi, Alison Jane Jordan, Joshua William Kolb, Carson Wade Lamb, Tamia Lanae Lipford, Kaleigh Marian McDonald, Alexander James Meredith, Mackenzie Erin Mize, Jose Ivan Ortiz Islas, Stephen Lane Perry, Cassie Elizabeth Rickman, Linsey Nicole Rimmer, Catherine Jimenez Rojo, Thomas Emerson Russell, Dylan Harrison Sirry, Ashley Taylor Smith, Rickey Nicholas Stone, Crystal Wall Vanderford, Lyle Kenyon Wesner, Robert Thomas Wheeler, Ryan Bruce White, Sarah Gabrielle White, Cameron Thomas Wiedholz, Kandace Brooke Wright.

Craven County: Zakary Thomas Walker.

Cumberland County: Austin Decosta, Rian Elizabeth Kuhns, Heather Monique Swenson.

Dare County: Lauren Kay Daniels.

Durham County: Hanna Elizabeth Allen.

Greene County: Khalicia Ann Lee.

Guilford County: Bianca Christensen.

Harnett County: Jose Heriberto Alvarenga, Andrea Re'nee Ashford, Kaitlyn Sarrah Barbour, Benjamin A Baucorn, Kevin Benson, Carmen Mercedes Bradford, Shelley Allis Butler, Yaritza Y Calderon, Robert Ashley Capps, Joseph Michael Capra, Carleigh Jo Champion, Kimberly Cortes, Helena Marie Crews, Valeria Lizeth Ramirez Cruz, James Christopher Culbreth, Kayla Nicole Dawkins, Montine Elliott-Vance, Tia R Evans, Carson Alen Gannon, Destiny Hope Glosson-Thomas, Margaret Elizabeth Godwin, Sharon Laynette Graham, Damian Lynn Gregory, Rebecca Thornton Grisett, Luz Maria Guerra, Joseph Robert Hair, Lanesha S Harris, Vanessa Julia Harris, Ashley Marie Huck, Anna Maria Hunnicutt, Jesyka Hope Jensen, Makayla R Keefe, Nicole Ashley Kida, Cullen Joseph LeBrun, Catherine Michelle Lynn, Liria Rosa Mateo, Cynthia Rose McChristian, Nakiya Au'shae McDougald, Jamecia Tra'veal McNair, Gilda Mitchell, Andre Xavier Morgan, Briana Dawn Mullen, Elizabeth Claire Parker, Michaela Ann Pierce,

Soledad Pozos Martinez, Lori Katherine Radnoczi, Samantha Leigh Rucker, Dylan Wade Salmon, Amanda W Sanders, Kayla Jaleesa Stange, Christopher John-Louis Stewart, Alma Tavera, Elena Abigail Velez, Breanna Nichole Vincent, Kye-lynn M Wagner, Russell S Wampler, Christopher Rayshawn Webb, Morgan Renee Wheeley.

Hoke County: Jason Lee Smith.

Johnston County: Justin Bernard Adams, Caroline Aleah Benson, Sarah Elizabeth Byrd, Nicole Barefoot Parker, Jessica Lynn Pomey.

Lee County: Kevin Matthew Alderson, Javier Alvarado, Elijah Amra, Karina Avila, Taylor Baile, Jonathan Josue Baires, Rhyann Paul Baker, Mathew Anthony Bell, Diamond Alexcia Tatiy Bethea, Emily Ann Bogan, Xiomara Elizabeth Bonilla-Vasquez, Morgan Kelly Bridges, Lindsey Lynette Brown, Elizabeth M Bucaro Vasquez, Madison Elaine Bullard, Jacob Aaron Canady, Kennedy Janna Clayton, Jennifer Thomas Coggins, Jasmine Kion'te Coney, William Joseph Cooper, Tiffany R Cox, Zachary Morgan Daniel, Trevonnite Davis, Angel Enrique Diaz, Abigail Carley Dowdell, Megan Elizabeth Duhon, Samantha Lynn Dzienisiewicz, Reid Allen Elders, Sarah Doris Fox, Rueben Garcia, Benjamin Chafin Gaster, Ernest Paul Gizoni, David L Green, Emily Harrison, Brittany Rose Hatt, Baylee Jordyn Heath, Karmisha Grace Hernandez Luciano, Thomas Clarke Hincks, Shana Marie Jackson, Cassidy Lynn Kellam, Kaitlyn Rackley Kelly, Alexandra Krikava, Diana Kubiliene, Minerva Laureano, Courtney Renee Maness, Denise Perez Marquez, Lacey Taylor Marshburn, Gabriele Matarese, Kayla Nicole McCarrison, Claire Leeella McDonald, Dana Cheryle McLean, Princess Shahera Medina, Adelina Josephine Mejia, John Christopher Mendez, RaeAnne Grace Noel, Jordan Allen Norris, Trey Alston North, Kenzie Jayde Oldham, Keila Nayeli Olea, Santana Maria Olinger, Nathan Michael Timmy Paul, Justin Joseph Pedley, Katherine Melissa Perez, Meliza Odalys Pineda-Vasquez, Hannah Elizabeth Platt, Eden MacKenzie Pruitt-Harris, Deborah Ann Puckett, India Tierra Richardson, Rodrigo Rios, Ruby Rios, Fair Rojas Ramirez, Jil-

lissia Shae Ross, Thomas Kellam Rouse, Brennan Tadhg Ryan, Samantha Sama, Roxana Tomasita Sanchez Ochoa, Justin M Shrader, Diane Denise Smith, Misael Benjamin Solorzano, Daniel Carlton Sproul, Lewis Edward Stewart, Nathaniel Glenn Tatman, Noah Thomas, Sabrina Annette Tillman, Stephen James Tribold, Cameron Mitchell Tyndall, Zane Alexander Walker, Tina Marie Wall, Macie Layne Watson, Whitney Nicole White, Jacob Lee Willard, Christina Elizabeth Williams, Jasmine Susan Williams, Jean Patterson Williams, Stephanie Morgan Woody, Isaac Peyton Yarborough, Claudia Zaligan-Grana-

Moore County: Kalli

Nicole Allen, Tammy Cross Bellamy, Sean Alan Blackburn, Lucas Owen Cannady, Christopher Marc Castro, Jasmine Vega Gaytan, Keith Orlando Hall, Krista Maili Hobbs, Kristie June Lassitter, Catherine Elizabeth Marsh, Breanna Lynn Matalucci Wilson, Jackie Alton McAdoo, Harley Brooke McClung, Ashley Charmaine McGeachy, James Douglas Paul, Nia Ysabel Smith, Toshebia Yolanda Snipes, Brandi Nicole Snow, Morgan Marie Stephens, Mollie Len Tallant.

Nash County: Ashley A Williams.

New Hanover County: Jessica Wolfe.

Orange County: Rose Alma Connor, Andrew Crawford Conte, Mimi Christina Dixon, Cody Dixon Griffin, Keenan Ronald Hall, Blake Christopher Hirth, Jacquelyn Taylor Kelly, Gabrielle Alena Miller, Thomas Polster, Bryce Douglas Tricas.

Randolph County: Nancy Almanza-Quiroz, Ashton Elizabeth Holt Bristow, Brittani Torie Gray.

Sampson County: Aaron Joshua Flake, Kasandria Yvonne Williams Sanders.

Wake County: Rebecca Rees Anderson, Alicia Elena Aviles, Carolyn Broedel, Tommy Burns, Katelyn Grace Everette, Kristi Nicole Fuller, Lauren Michelle Greenspahn, Mailyn Greig-Ratz, Julie Anne Johnston, Ashley Kerill, Tyler Smith King, Joseph Henry Knight, Jannessa Don Moore, Adam Jonathan Nixon, Katrina Jean Page, Katherine Pena, Lori J Seaverson, Cody Layne Snead, Nina Christine Talarlo, Malick Agregna Tchakpedeou, Shannon Marie Tucker, Jamie Everest Turner, Ian Andrew Washburn.

Chatham Charter names honor students

CHATHAM CHARTER SCHOOL FIRST QUARTER

A HONOR ROLLS

Grade 3: Mary Bednar, Addilyn Talbott, Shealynn Boatner, Joshua Hayes

Grade 4: Mary-Maxton Andrews, Nora Baxter, Wyatt Branson, Hadley Brewer, Ethan Cheek, John Cheek, Kara Culberson, Kaitlin Hussey, Maddax Judson, Isaiah McSwain, Ryder Murphy,

Annie Scheidt, Abigail Semrad, Leah Smith, Rhett Wood

Grade 5: Jackson Bare, Andrew Bednar, Isaac Hayhurst, Davis Rhodes, Caroline Trageser, Aaliyah Walden

Grade 6: Alleigh Brower, Eli Christenbury, Michael Clark, Kaitlyn Evans, Madilyn Fields, Isaac Harris, Kynzie Jordan, Katherine Parks, Adam Reese, Kaylee Root, Tannin Scheidt, Remas

Shreef, John Spillman, Dylan Stout, Madeline Teague, Victoria Vaughn, Tyson White

Grade 7: Lilyanna Byrd, Addyson Foushee, Paul Fuller, Beau Harvey, Noah Hayhurst, Alyssa Hussey, Ryan Jones, Zane Morgan, Hunter Murphy, Halle Rodriguez Montes

Grade 8: Jasmine Chan, Haley Culberson, Mackenzie Crossman, Avery Ensell, Aniya Martin, Mason Powell, Elizabeth Spillman

Grade 9: Natalie Baisley, Rebecca Brookshire, Silas Christenbury, Kyllian Coble, Mattie Crowder, Addison Elmore, Austin Greene, Hannah Hubbard, Lillian Jones, Olivia Jones, Emma Kois, Lillian Milholen, Hailey Pelletier, Cedric Schwartz

Grade 10: Samantha Andrews, Allyson Bare, Taylor Brewer, Mackenzie Brooks, Lorelei Byrd, Olivia Cheek, Emery Eldridge, Brooke Garner, Sarah Gullion, Ashlyn Hart, Teigan Hayhurst, Caleb Kolb, Brandon McKoy, Thomas O'Hara, Adelia Rickman, Collin Semrad, Sarah Shireman, Sarah Smith, Parker Snow, Emily Stecher, Casey Wanless, Molly Wilson

A/B HONOR ROLLS

Grade 3: Lucy Crossman, Stella Hamilton, Lucy Kidd, Kolsen Metz, Lily Phillips, Caiden Rott, Emma Suggs, Kagan Walls, Harrison Baxter, Emmanuel Canales, Jackson Clark, Aireanna Morrow, Anderson Paige, Nathan Paschal, Lillian Pike, Brayden Richmond, Louis Spillman

Grade 4: Bryson Adelman, Summer Blanton, Raegan Breitenstein, Chloe

Callihan, Addison Daniels, Kylie Glover, Madalyn Hussey, Faith Kidd, Niyah Lemons, Jalen McSwain, Bryson Minnich, Weston Rickman, Finnley Smith, Liam Thompson, Peyton York

Grade 5: Ella Baxter, Madilyn Bozzo, Elijah Coleman, Cole Cooper, Kevin Kincaid, Dakota Livermon, Allie McLeod, Margaret Moody, Jase Nicks, JoAnna Rone

Grade 6: Peyton Burke, Emily Cheek, Samantha Devinney, Tyler Franklin, Jackson Golden, Jessica Griffin, Taylor Hussey, Savannah Jones, Abby McPherson, Olivia Meza, Autumn Pate, Jerry Phillips, Andrew Poock, Brison Sellers, Sophie Shiflett, Judy Shreef, Olivia Steele, Jacob Stover

Grade 7: Ryleigh Ackerman, Kenzie Barnett, Sasha Blackmon, Cody Bowman, Sawyer Bowman, William Burris, Reece Callihan, Zachary Cartrette, Noah Coleman, Jordyn Garner, Carmen Hefner, Sarah Hicks, Austin Hill, Abigail Irby, Brennan LaVelle, Eli Lindley, Ashlyn McGowan, Brayden McLeod, Aliyah McSwain, Conner Poe, Cole York, Lindsey York

Grade 8: Keeley Allen, Aidan Allred, Evan Burke, Ava Coore, Sarah Belle Fuller, Alexandra Hamilton, Dasiah Lowery, Edward McGaughnea, Meredith Reed, Ariana Rivera Romo, Brianna Siler, Lucas Smith, Colton Todd, Chase Toy, Paul Trageser, Gracie Trogdon

Grade 9: Kinzey Callihan, Emerson Clark, Kaden Coble, Owen Crutchfield, Tabitha Felch, Ethan Franklin, Adam Harvey, Kinley Lamb, Seth Lindley, Christopher Majors, Cameron McMillan, Julia Moore, Margaret Parks, Alison Perez Hernandez, Benton Thomas Pickens, Ashlee Rains, Calley Suits, Cameron Turner, Tamaya Walden

Grade 10: Jayden Carnegie-Snipes, Emily Flores, Alexis Hayes, Landon Hussey, Serenity Jones, Taylor Jones, Matthew Mullins, Kristiane Perry, Hayley Rakes, Olivia Sellers, Dana Szpunar, Grace Trogdon, Savannah York



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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Stephen Garcia, 27, of Siler City, was charged December 17 with felon stalking, cyberstalking, misdemeanor stalking and violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

Jack Wyman, 39, of Pittsboro, was charged December 18 with identity theft, elderly exploitation, obtaining property by false pretenses, accessing computers, counterfeiting/forgery, uttering and larceny of chose in action. He was held under a \$15,000 bond with a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

John Foltz Jr., of Broadway, was charged December 18 with two counts of communicating threats and misdemeanor stalking. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 8 court date in Sanford.

Maya Aizhulova, 19, of Cary, was charged December 18 with failure to appear on charges of simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance. She was held under a \$200 bond with a February 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Gary Louk, 50, of Sanford, was charged December 18 with failure to appear on charges of assault on a female. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a February 25 court date in Raleigh.

Carlos Gonzalez, 22, of Siler City, was charged December 18 with sale/delivery of a Schedule II controlled substance,

possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was held under a \$100,000 bond with a January 6 court date in Chatham County.

Charles Browning, 52, of Pittsboro, was charged December 18 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a February 5 court date in Beaufort.

Millard Castevens, 52, of Bear Creek, was charged December 19 with possession of methamphetamine and probation violation. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Francisco Vasquez, 40, of Siler City, was charged December 20 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$200 bond with a January 15 court date in Pittsboro.

Derrick Cheek, 40, of Sanford, was charged December 21 with sexual battery. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a January 28 court date in Siler City.

Rubiel Meza Torres, 39, of Ramseur, was charged December 21 with assault and battery and breaking and entering. He was released on a written promise with a January 28 court date in Siler City.

Jose Acosta, 26, of Gulf, was charged December 22 with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a stolen

firearm and assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 6 court date in Chatham County Superior Court.

Jasmine Dominguez, 25, of Gulf, was charged December 22 with assault with a deadly weapon and simple assault. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jocelyn Diaz of Siler City was cited December 17 for no operator’s license on Kent Road in Siler City.

Uriel Catalan of Siler City was cited December 17 for no operator’s license and failure to stop at a duly erected stop sign on Kent Road in Siler City.

Taylor Cole, 20, of Reidsville, was charged December 18 with simple assault. She was released on a written promise with a January 14 court date in Siler City.

Dillon Moore, 20, of Reidsville, was charged December 18 with simple affray. He was released on a written promise with a January 14 court date in Siler City.

Francisco Vasquez, 40, of Siler City, was taken into custody December 19 on a charge of failure to appear from Chatham County. He was held under a \$500 bond with a January 7 court date in Siler City.

Ralphon Owens, 28, of Browns Summit, was taken into custody December 19 on a charge of injury to personal property from Guilford County. He was released on a written promise with a January 22 court date in Greensboro.

Connie Brewer, 28, of Staley, was summoned December 20 on a charge of misdemeanor larceny. She has a January 14 court date in Siler City.

Giovanni Nava, 23, of Siler City, was charged December 22 with resisting/delaying/obstructing a law enforcement officer and driving while license suspended. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a January 7 court date in Siler City.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Gregory Hatley of Garner was cited December 17 for a yield violation on N.C. Highway 42 in Goldston.

Fatimata Diallo of Cary was cited December 17 for failure to reduce speed on O’Kelly Chapel Road in Pittsboro.

Angela Reynolds of Siler City was cited December 17 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Benjamin Peters of Pittsboro was cited December 18 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Jaime Navarro Pajaro of Chapel Hill was cited December 20 for failure to reduce speed on Lystra Road in Pittsboro.

Health department program seeks to eliminate, reduce asthma triggers

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

According to the 2018 Chatham County Community Assessment, 1 in 9 Chatham adults and teens say they have asthma, along with more than 1 in 6 middle schoolers.

The Chatham County Public Health Department is trying a new tactic to help those people, particularly children, stay healthy.

The Asthma Intervention Program provides free supplies and health counseling to help families and children eliminate or reduce asthma triggers within the home. Michael Zelek, the division director for Health Promotion and Policy within the Chatham health department, said the numbers in the CCCA — as well as what he described as “an uptick” of emergency department visits in the county due to asthma last year — cause the department to look at ways to help residents. The program is specifically aimed to help children up to 17 years of age with poorly-controlled asthma.

“This is something of concern for us,” Zelek said, “given the health-related complica-

tions related to asthma, which can lead to a rise in emergency department visits, and highlights the importance of programs to manage asthma and reduce environmental triggers.”

The program works like this: a team from the health department will meet with interested families and work together to identify asthma triggers. Common triggers include cigarette smoke, dust, mold and allergens. Once those triggers are identified, the health department can help provide a plan as well as several items — such as allergen-free mattress and pillow covers, mops, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and a green cleaning kit — to push back.

Zelek said that because asthma is “likely caused by both environmental and genetic factors,” as well as the various triggers, pairing medication with initiatives like the Asthma Intervention Program is an effective approach.

“The goal of the Asthma Intervention Program is to control asthma among Chatham’s youth who are at risk of asthma attacks,” he said. “Because environmental triggers in the home are often the cause

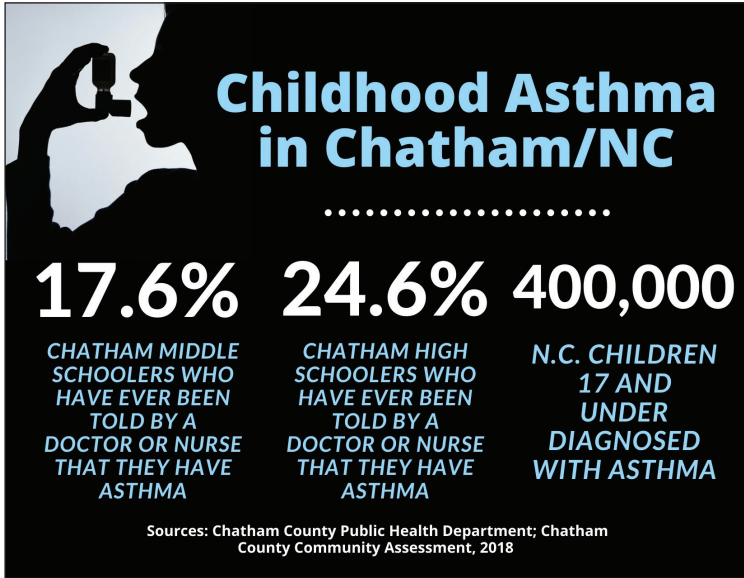
of asthma symptoms, the kits distributed through the program include supplies aimed at addressing these triggers.”

Asthma is the leading chronic illness among children and adolescents in the United States and one of the leading causes of school absenteeism, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The state Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2011 that asthma was the leading cause of children not going to school in North Carolina.

Nellie Benitez, an outreach worker with the Public Health Department, cited the effect on a child’s academic performance as one of the reasons why this program was necessary.

“Children with asthma may miss school or not be able to participate in physical activity,” Benitez said. “Through this program, we can provide education to families to identify and control asthma triggers so the children can grow up healthy.”

Zelek said nine families have received kits and that the department is working to raise awareness of the program to serve more families. He emphasized that the Asthma Intervention Program isn’t about



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

shaming people, but helping them.

“We’re hoping that getting the word out and raising awareness of this opportunity will increase participation,” Zelek said. “This is a voluntary program that is not meant to be punitive or cast blame, but rather work with residents to make their homes healthy environments for their children.”

To learn more information

about the program or start taking the steps to receive a kit, contact Public Health Nurse Elizabeth Fridley at (919) 545-8388 or elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org. More information can also be accessed at chathamnc.org/asthma.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Zach-HornerCNR.

Could tiny homes be the solution for affordable housing and mental health inclusivity?

BY MOLLY WEISNER
Our Chatham

It’s a Friday, and something big is happening to make way for something little. The site for Tiny Homes Village, a community of affordable tiny homes for those with mental health challenges, will begin its groundbreaking.

The site is located on the grounds of The Farm at Penny Lane in northern Chatham County. The village aims to include 15 tiny homes at around 400 square feet each to provide housing opportunities for those on a fixed income, veterans or residents with health issues.

Surrounding the houses will be a clubhouse for classes and other activities. Thava Mahadevan, founder and CEO of XDS Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Chatham that aids individuals with disabilities, is the founder and director of the Tiny Homes Village and has been working in the intersection of human services and mental health for years.

But for Mahadevan, who experienced homelessness as a refugee from Sri Lanka 30 years ago, the project is personal.

“I really understood the importance of how much housing can play into somebody’s mental

health, as well as the fact of having some security,” Mahadevan said.

He added that this drove him to look for a more specialized solution to the affordable housing crises.

Ultimately, those who will qualify to live in the Tiny Homes Village will pay, on average, \$250 to \$300 for rent, or around one-third of their monthly income.

Mahadevan said the small size of the houses keeps costs low for residents. He also said Hobbs Architects, PA, which is a partner on the team, has been helping design houses to keep each below \$50,000.

Five of the village’s 15 total homes will also be reserved for veterans with chronic health conditions.

Though groundbreaking for the site will be this month, the whole process is divided into four stages: conceptual development phase, the permitting phase, the horizontal construction phase of infrastructure and the vertical construction phase.

Mahadevan said the property that will be the Tiny Homes Village was bought from Chatham County in 2009. Mahadevan said that the total mortgage at the time for the land and the houses for the future village was around \$300,000.

He said affordable housing was a need in Chatham, so the decision to locate the site there was intentional.

Chatham County has a higher median price of homes, growth in home prices and cost per square foot than Durham Metro and Wake County, according to Zillow.

Residents are slated to move in at the project’s completion in 2021. The homes will come with a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room.

The project also relies on grants for its construction. A \$1 million grant from the Oak Foundation awarded to the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work will help push the timeline forward.

The UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health (part of UNC School of Medicine), UNC School of Social Work and the nonprofit organization Cross Disability Services (XDS Inc.) have been working to develop the community.

The development, which is considered a demonstration project, also hopes to be replicated in other parts of the state. The team will look to assess what works in the community once it’s inhabited, what can be improved and how residents are served.

Amy Blank Wilson,

co-director of the project and an associate professor and social work researcher at the School of Social Work, will be the primary researcher on the Tiny Homes Village.

In 2015, Wilson met Mahadevan, who told her that he was interested in having some research embedded in the development of the community. But that wasn’t initially the plan.

“Initially, our goal wasn’t to create generalizable knowledge,” Wilson said. “It was to use research to inform the design of the village. And we did that.” Mahadevan said the research will be published, and there will also be a cookbook of sorts published to help share the findings and successes of the project.

At the groundbreaking, several speakers, including Mahadevan and Wilson, helped host the ceremony. Attendees could also tour the model tiny home and talk to the team about the project.

“Every step of this project, we’ve been amazed and humbled at the interest people have in what we’re doing,” Wilson said.

Our Chatham is a project of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media’s Reese News Lab, and a strategic partner of the News + Record.

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

Angela W. Cotton | Bonlee Shool

Grades/subjects you teach: K-8 exceptional children instructional assistant

E-mail address: acotton@chatham.k12.nc.us

Place of birth: Chatham Hospital, Chatham County

Education: Chatham Central High School, Central Carolina Community College, currently attending Ashford University obtaining bachelor's degree in exceptional children specialized instruction (scheduled to graduate in 2021)

Brief work history: Employee of Chatham County Schools for 20 years

Honors/awards: Chatham County Schools Bus Driver of the Year in 2009 and 2017; first place among Chatham County Schools bus drivers in the 2018-19 North Carolina School Bus ROADeo; second place among District 2 bus drivers in the 2018-19 North Carolina School Bus ROADeo.

Hobbies/interests outside of educating: reading; cheerleading coach at Bonlee School

Family: mother of four



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Cotton reads with a small group of her students.

children, wife of Warren Cotton

What led you to a career in education?: Volunteering in the schools, and working in a preschool setting.

Who were your favorite teachers as you went through school, and what did you learn from them?: My first-grade teacher here at Bonlee School — Mrs. Janet Buckner at the time, Mrs. Walters now — who set time aside to work with a student who was behind in learning, who made ev-

ery child feel special and that they are the same in her classroom. Mrs. Etta Foushee, my seventh- and eighth-grade teacher here at Bonlee, taught me to never give up on my education. There was continuous praises from her on everything I accomplished in her classroom. She let students be students, did not nitpick at every little thing you did. She had a sweet, strict environment.

Has becoming an educator been all you expected it would be?: Yes.

How has education changed since you were a student?: The times have changed a lot over the years. I remember getting out of school at 2:25 p.m., and the high school went from six periods to semesters.

What “makes your day” as an educator?: The smiling faces, their excitement to tell me what they learned.

Best piece of advice for other educators?: Patience is the key, make your classroom feel welcome and let the students



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Angela W. Cotton, who teaches at Bonlee School.

know that it is all right to ask questions on the lessons.

For students?: Ask questions, ask me to repeat when you need something shown twice to make sure you understand — it's OK.

For parents?: Help your children become successful not only in academics but also in life; raise your children to be respectful, productive citizens.

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. Amazing. (Those are actual words from my cheerleaders). Sweet. Strict. Very good bus driver.

What five things must every educator know: Diversity, cultural awareness, the learning level of students, watch what you say on social media and do not touch a student inappropriately.

What's special about your education space at your school?: Students are welcome to Mrs. Campbell's and my room to calm down without being questioned about what happened.

What's special about your school?: I grew up in the old building here at Bonlee. The environment is still the same — students come first. With needs outside of the classroom, Bonlee finds ways to reach out and help families who need help with their children.

CHATHAM CH@T | DIANE FAISON-MCKINZIE

Bringing the ‘Spirit of Harriet Tubman’ to life

Winston-Salem native Diane Faison-Mckinzie will perform “The Spirit of Harriet Tubman,” a one-woman play about the life of the most famous “conductor” of the Underground Railroad, at 2 p.m. on Jan. 5 at Pittsboro Presbyterian Church. The performance is sponsored by the Chatham Community NAACP. A retired teacher, Faison-Mckinzie has been performing as Tubman since 1988. A graduate of N.C. Central University in Durham, she has also studied at Longwood University and the University of Virginia.

How did the idea for “The Spirit of Harriet Tubman” start?
I got the idea when I was still teaching in the 80s. Every year teachers were asked to come up with activities or projects for Black History Month. I didn't want the students to do the same old boring written reports about a famous black person in history. I decided to research famous black people in history in the library. As I was searching the shelved books, a book fell to the floor. It was the life of Harriet Tubman. As I read those printed



Submitted photo

Diane Faison-Mckinzie

words about Harriet, I knew that this was the person I would portray, by speaking as Harriet to my students. The next day as the students came to my classroom they saw and heard Harriet Tubman. To this day those students, now in their

forties, still remember me as Harriet and the story of who she was. They are now bring their children to see me perform.

You connect with Harriet Tubman in a lot of ways... can you talk about that?
I connect with Har-



Submitted photo

Faison-Mckinzie in costume as Harriet Tubman

riet because she was a “soldier” fighting for freedom for her people. My connection is that I was also a “soldier” for my people in the 60s. As a very young Black girl in

Winston-Salem fighting for my people's civil rights being involved in non-violent protests.

How has the recently-released film “Harriet”

impacted you, your work, and requests for your performances?

I had the privilege of seeing the Harriet Tubman film, and enjoyed it. The film indulged in theatrical enhancements that indeed made the film interesting. The film starts with Harriet as a grown married woman, and my performances start with Harriet as a child. Other historical facts in the film were nuggets of interest that will be including in some of my future performances. Requests for my performances as a result of people seeing the film, as of yet, has not seemed to be a catalyst to inquire about my performances.

What can people who see you perform expect to experience, and learn, from what you do?

As result of seeing my performance, it is my hope that the audience will experience a feeling that the are actually seeing the “talking, walking and breathing” Harriet Tubman. I strive to make my audiences feel pain, love, and even humor. The audience will learn the strength, determination, and the faith in God that Harriet possessed.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hours for Chatham County government offices through the holidays

PITTSBORO — Chatham County government follows the holiday schedule of the State of North Carolina. This means that most County offices, other than public safety and related essential functions, will be closed for the winter holidays December 24-26, 2019 and January 1, 2020.

Please note the following exceptions and special operations/instructions:

Animal Resources

Chatham County Animal Resources is closed December 24-26. For animal-related emergencies, please call 919-542-2911.

Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging is closed December 24-26. The Council's Centers will be open on December 23 and December 27 but not providing meals or group activities. Individuals may come to use the fitness rooms or do other independent activities (puzzles, etc.). The Council

already provided frozen/shelf-stable meals to those who need them.

Parks & Recreation

All Chatham County parks close at 3 p.m. on December 24 and will be closed on December 25. The parks are open on December 26 and January 1.

Solid Waste & Recycling

The Solid Waste & Recycling main office will be closed December 24-26. All 12 Collection Centers will close at 2 p.m. on December 24 and will be closed December 25. The centers will be open as usual December 26 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The main office will open at 7 a.m. December 27.

The Solid Waste & Recycling main office will be closed January 1. All 12 Collection Centers will be closed January 1. The main office and collection centers will open at 7 a.m. Jan. 2.

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

Solid Waste & Recycling will take live (or formerly living)

Christmas trees during regular business hours at its main facility, 28 County Services Road, Pittsboro, free of charge from December 27, 2019 – January 10, 2020. After that, there will be the usual \$2.00 minimum to dispose of the trees, just like regular yard waste.

Siler City government buildings, campuses to be tobacco-free in 2020

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners updated the Town Ordinance on Health and Sanitation to prohibit tobacco products on town property except in designated areas.

The updated tobacco-free ordinance defines tobacco products as any product containing or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to cigarettes; e-cigarettes; cigars; little cigars; snuff; and chewing tobacco. A tobacco product excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco

dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Beginning January 1, 2020, the use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, will be prohibited on or inside property that is owned, leased, or maintained by the town. This includes any town vehicle, town buildings, and town property, including the Siler City parks.

The town manager shall have the authority to designate tobacco use areas for yown facilities, except for all Parks and Recreation buildings and grounds, which shall remain tobacco free.

To read the full Town Ordinance go to www.silercity.org

Chatham Community Library offering free computer classes in New Year

PITTSBORO — Learn a new skill in the new year at Chatham Community Library! The library is offering a series of free computer classes in January and February. You can find a description of each class, including topics covered and

prerequisites for attending, by visiting www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses.

Drop-in Computer Assistance: 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8

Getting Started with eBooks: 3, 3:30 or 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15 (30-minute, one-on-one sessions)

Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1: 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29

Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5

Drop-in Computer Assistance: 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12

Intro to Facebook: 3-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20

The Drop-In Computer Assistance sessions (January 8 and February 12) do not require registration. For all other classes, space is limited and you must register in advance. Register online at the address above. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org.

All classes take place in the computer lab at Chatham Community Library, 197 NC Hwy 87 N in Pittsboro, on the campus of Central Carolina Community College.

— CN+R staff reports

Despite Rey of sunshine, ‘Rise of Skywalker’ is a bloated star bore

The “Star Wars” universe is built on rivalries. The light and dark sides of the Force. The Empire versus the Rebel Alliance (or whatever the new substitute sides are called). Hayden Christensen and acting. The latest conflict pits fans of director Rian Johnson’s iconoclastic interpretation of the “Star Wars” milieu versus those those who regard it as an affront to the series’ longstanding lore.

“Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” the purported final chapter in the space opera, returns “Force Awakens” director J.J. Abrams to the helm. With that also comes the return of several favorite Abrams devices: MacGuffins, lens flares, Keri Russell, etc. However, the much-reviled (by some) notion that Abrams jettisons every narrative that Johnson introduced in “Last Jedi” is nonsense. Indeed, for all the clash of filmmaking styles between the two filmmakers, the most essential narrative element in “Rise of Skywalker” is the through line connecting the entire latter day trilogy: the defining relationship between newest last Jedi hope Rey (Daisy Ridley) and petulant emo Skywalker spawn Kylo Ren (Adam Driver). Their love-hate tête-à-tête remains front and center in “Rise of Skywalker,” even amid some mind-numbing periphery. For all the

film’s bluster and bloat, its insistence on culminating with this pairing — and all it signifies — proves a firm foundation. Everything else around it, on the other hand, is less than stellar. The film begins with the abrupt return of Emperor Palpatine, whose voice has suddenly been heard throughout the galaxy (no clue of how or why) and caused alarm with both Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher) and Kylo. How abrupt, you ask? Well, it’s in the opening crawl, so we’re left to just accept that a key character apparently killed in “Return of the Jedi” is suddenly back with no build-up or explanation. It seems Palpatine forged a couple of horcruxes, so Kylo finds one that leads him to the Sith planet of Exegol (I thought the Sith homeworld was Korriban, but it’s best to not go down that or any other rabbit hole). There, a withered Palpatine is kept animated by caretakers and a contraption of tubes. Kylo, now Supreme Leader of the First Order, plans to slay this potential rival, but Palpatine woos him the Sith throne and seemingly hundreds of Star Destroyers lying dormant beneath the planet’s icy surface, which Palpatine unearths and pledges to something he calls the Final Order.

A few questions. Where did this immense fleet of ships come from, and how/why have they been hidden all this time? Where did the crew manning these ships come from? Why hasn’t this fleet been used before now? And no, it shouldn’t be incumbent on me to digest some “Star Wars” anthology or Reddit thread in order to make sense of it all.



Photo courtesy of Lucasfilm

Daisy Ridley stars in ‘Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker.’

Meanwhile, Leia sends Rey, Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), Finn (John Boyega), Chewbacca, BB-8 and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels, given his best part in a long time) on their own Palpatine scavenger hunt. Their journey takes them on a “Star Wars” revue, including an aging Lando Calrissian (Billy Dee Williams). They hopscotch planets looking for the other horcrux, which they can only find using inscriptions on a hidden Sith dagger, which they can only translate using... you get the picture. Old “Star Wars” favorites pop up, and there’s a climactic space battle to save the galaxy (match) once the Resistance (and the audience) suddenly discovers that the Final Order’s fleet is somehow equipped with guns capable of destroying a planet, a la the Death Star. Huh?

While the rest of the film frantically tries to shove as much as possible into an imperfect vessel, Rey and Kylo continue

their inevitable rendezvous, commensurating and even dueling via the Force projection phenomenon Johnson introduced in “Last Jedi.” Their journey ends at Exegol, where the real conflict at the heart of this third trilogy culminates. Rey and Kylo represent the dyad of the Force — one virtue of this film trilogy is that the light side of the Force is depicted as co-equal with the dark, contrary to previous “Star Wars” films that always depicted the dark side as more powerful.

Yet while one character is ostensibly good and the other evil, they really occupy shades of gray between the two extremes represented in the previous trilogies. Both arrive in “Force Awakens” pining over relics of the past. Kylo worships his grandad Darth Vader’s mask, which Kylo refashions for himself, while Rey lives in the wreckage of past battles that dot the Jakku landscape.

STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

GRADE: B –
DIRECTOR: J.J. Abrams
STARRING: Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Carrie Fisher, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Anthony Daniels, Billy Dee Williams, and Ian McDiarmid
MPAA RATING: PG-13
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 22 min.

She dreams of glory, and it’s notable that she, like Kylo, dons her own mask, briefly putting on an old rebel fighter helmet. But although they arrive with contrasting motivations, they ultimately champion a desire to cast off the old guard and transcend the past. It’s partly why Kylo kills Han Solo in “Force Awakens” and Snoke in “Last Jedi.” It’s the ultimate effect of Rey’s sojourn to Luke Skywalker on Ahch-To in “Last Jedi” and, now, confronting Palpatine, the ancient

Dark Lord of the Sith. “The Rise of Skywalker” is a fan-focused paean to “Star Wars” mythmaking. It’s largely simplistic and derivative, i.e. standard-issue Abrams. But just as Luke once saw a glimmer of good in his lost father, there’s a subversive core to this triumvirate that Abrams introduced and Johnson advanced. But you need to block out the congested, carbon-copied clamour. “Rise of Skywalker” almost succeeds in spite of itself. Almost.



Submitted photo

Winners of Sing and Play ’19 celebrate with master of ceremonies Sydney Suits. Selected as winners by audience vote were, from left, Jennifer Trejo Benitez from Jordan-Matthews High School, Buck and Maggie Thornton from Chatham Middle School, master of ceremonies Suits and Jack and Jillian Dixon from Silk Hope School.

Registration opens for third annual ‘Sing and Play’ musical competition

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Registration is now open for Sing and Play ’20, the third-annual musical competition scheduled for February at Jordan-Matthews High School.

Sing and Play highlights musical talent in separate competitions for elementary, middle and high school musicians. Vocalists and instrumentalists who are students in a North Carolina public, private or home school may register through Jan. 28 to receive an audition appointment and perform either as an individual or in an ensemble of up to four musicians.

Acts selected during auditions on Feb. 4 will participate in the Sing and Play ’20 Showcase Competition on Feb. 20, where audience members will select the winner in each age-based competition. General admission to the showcase is \$5 per person. Each of the three winning acts receives a \$50 cash prize.

Rules and registration information are available online at JMArts.org/events/.

“It’s such a pleasure to be part of Sing and Play each year,” said Greg Burris, who returns as director of this year’s competition. “To see these young people learn and grow through this process brings all of us a lot of joy. Sing and Play gives these young performers a chance to experience the audition process and to perform in front of supportive mentors. It’s a wonderful educational opportunity.”

Sing and Play ’19 winners were Jack



Submitted photo

Jennifer Trejo Benitez, now a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, won the Sing and Play ’19 high school competition back in February. She recently performed on stage as the Witch in the school’s production of ‘Into the Woods.’

and Jillian Dixon of Silk Hope School, Buck and Maggie Thornton of Chatham Middle School and Jennifer Trejo Benitez of Jordan-Matthews High School.

Sing and Play is produced by JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation. All proceeds from the event are used by JMArts to help high school artists thrive. More about the foundation and competition is available online at JMArts.org.

Here’s who’s in for Chatham’s 2020 elections

CN+R STAFF REPORTS

The three-week filing period for the 2020 elections in Chatham County concluded Friday. Every race bar one will be contested and there will be three primaries.

Here’s the list of candidates for the March 3 primary and November 3 general elections.

U.S. House of Representatives District 4

- David E. Price (D) - incumbent
 - Daniel Ulysses Lockwood (D)
 - Debesh Sarkar (R)
 - Steve A. Von Loo (R)
 - Robert Thomas (R)
 - Nasir A. Shaikh (R)
- Note: The Democratic and Republican primaries will be held on Tuesday, March 3.

U.S. House of Representatives

District 13

- Ted Budd (R) - incumbent
- Scott Huffman (D)

N.C. Senate District 23

- Valerie P. Foushee (D) - incumbent
- Tom Glendinning (R)

N.C. House District 54

- Robert T. Reives II (D) - incumbent
- George T. Gilson Jr. (R)

Chatham County Board of Commissioners District 1

- Karen Howard (D) - incumbent
- Jay Stobbs (R)

Chatham County Board of Commissioners District 2

- Mike Dasher (D) - incumbent
 - Katelin Hancock (D)
 - Jimmy Pharr (R)
- Note: A primary between Dasher and Hancock will be held on Tuesday, March 3.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners District 5 (Unexpired Term)

- Andy Wilkie (R) - incumbent

Chatham County Board of Education District 1

- Melissa Hlavac - incumbent
- Timothy Winters
- Ryan Armstrong

Chatham County Board of Education District 2

- David M. Hamm - incumbent
- Dennis R. Lewis

Pet of the Week: GODIVA



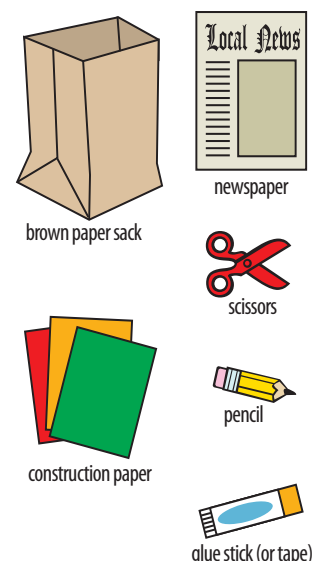
Submitted photo

The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office would like you to meet Godiva, a 2-year-old tabby who is a natural when it comes to nurturing those around her. She has a big heart and once adopted a stray kitten to raise as her own. Godiva’s five biological kittens quickly found homes, and now it’s her turn to find a human to love! She spends most of her days sleeping in her fluffy bed, waiting for someone to come by to pet or snuggle her. She enjoys being scratched under the chin and playing with jingly cat toys, and would do well in a home with or without other pets. Don’t miss the chance to claim this deserving feline for your own! For more information on how to meet or adopt Godiva during the ongoing \$20 Cat Adoption Special, swing by the office at 725 Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an animal resource officer.

Kid Scoop Together Party Hats

It's almost the year 2020! Make some silly New Year's Eve party hats with your family.

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Roll the paper bag down a few inches to create a brim.
2. Cut out long strips of newspaper and construction paper.
3. Roll the strips around a pencil to make them curly and bouncy. Tape or glue the ends of the strips to the top of the bag hat.
4. Cut out pictures and comic characters from the newspaper and paste them on the hat.
5. Cut out words and letters from the newspaper and paste them on the hat to create phrases such as:
 - Happy New Year!
 - Welcome 2020!
 - Peace on Earth
6. Wear your zany New Year's Eve hat proudly!



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **PERSONAL**

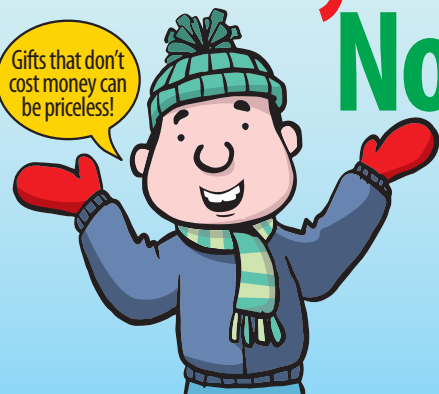
The adjective **personal** means relating to or belonging to a person.

Sophie added her own **personal** touches to the cookie recipe.

Try to use the word **personal** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

No Money for Holiday Gifts? No Problem!

Gifts that don't cost money can be priceless!



Giving gifts doesn't have to cost money. What really touches people's hearts is when you take the time to think about them and come up with an idea that is personal and from the heart. That's priceless!

Helping Hands



1. Trace your hand on a piece of paper. Construction paper works great because it is a little bit sturdier and colorful.



2. Carefully cut out the hand tracing and decorate it using stickers, crayons, markers, sequins and glitter.



3. On the hand shape, write something you could do to help the person that you are giving the hand.



4. Get more paper and make more helping hands. Make one for everyone in your family!

Helping Hands Ideas:

- ☐ take out the trash
- ☐ wash the dishes
- ☐ sweep the porch
- ☐ walk the dog
- ☐ scrub the tub
- ☐ carry the groceries
- ☐ read a story
- ☐ play a game
- ☐ take a walk together
- ☐ vacuum the living room
- ☐ make breakfast
- ☐ help fold laundry

Don't Throw Out the Newspaper!

Newspaper (especially the colorful comics pages) makes great gift wrapping paper! Remember to recycle it after the gifts have been opened.

FREE BOOKS!

Your local library has books you can check out for free. Pick a book you think someone will enjoy, check it out and then wrap it!



Remember: They have to return it! You could help them by returning the books. This solves the problem of wondering what to do with books when you are done reading them!

Snowman Bookmarks

Carefully paint and decorate a wooden clothespin or popsicle stick to create a great present the readers on your list will use again and again!

Find the bookmark that's different from all the others.



Extra! Extra! Caring People

Look through the newspaper for pictures and stories about people doing kind things for others. Write a letter to the editor about someone you know who shows kindness in your community.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Give the Gift of Art

Use your markers, crayons or paint. Create a work of art for family members to treasure. Maybe do a family portrait, or a drawing of something you like to do together. Or it could be something delightfully imaginary. Families LOVE artwork from their children.

You can make a colorful frame for your artwork with popsicle sticks, paint and glue.

How many differences can you find between these two drawings?



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Match each group of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa symbols on the right with the same four symbols, in the exact same position, on the large grid below.



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Double Double Word Search

DECORATE
BOOKMARK
PERSONAL
ARTWORK
FAMILY
CREATE
WRITE
TRACE
HEART
COLOR
PAPER
MONEY
GIFT
PLAY
READ

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

The Holidays in the News

Cut out words and pictures from the newspaper that show what the holidays mean to you. Use these words and pictures to write a story explaining how they show the meaning of the holidays.

Standards Link: Social Science: Compare customs between cultures.



What is red, white and blue at Christmas?

ANSWER: A red candy cane!

Write On! Holiday Laughs

Make a list of your favorite holiday jokes and riddles. Read them aloud to your friends!



Chatham YMCA

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR SALE: 7.65 Acres - Located approximately, 5 miles from Siler City, near Stockyard. Would be great for pasture land, and/or Residence. Can be split into smaller tracts, as well. Call: 336-588-2497 for more information., N14,tfnx

HOUSE FOR SALE

BRICK RANCH HOME with attached carport; Excellent condition, new roof, new heat exchanger, White Oak hardwood floors, ceramic tile bathroom, masonry fireplace with gas logs. Great neighborhood, large lot with outbuilding. One mile from Siler City city limits. \$129,000, 919-548-1593. D19,26,2tp

FSBO/GREAT LOCATION, \$280,000 Ranch style house, 1816 sq ft, 23.4 acres, 3BR, 2BA, double carport, porch, deck, sun room, living room w/ fireplace w/gas logs, storage building/workshop, pasture. Located 6.5 miles S from Siler City. SOLD AS IS. 919-663-3243 after 5:30 p.m. D12,19,26,J2,4tp

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2000 sq ft reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650.Jn15,tfnx

MOBILE HOME RENTALS

FOR RENT, 3 BDRM S/W homes in Siler City, 12 month lease. No pets. rent-siler.com, 919-742-1250. S19,tfnx

RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS - Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 – 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, My2,tfnx

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry, Section 8 accepted. \$460/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. J3,tfnx

FARM EQUIPMENT

DAVID BRADLEY, 2-WHEEL TRACTOR - Museum quality with implements, \$500, 919-548-2943, D19,26,2tp

FOR SALE

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www. JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, Au15,tfnx

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, Au15,tfnx

SERVICES

HENDRICK SERVICE, Lawn Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, drive way pipe, cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, J10,tfnx

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. J3,tfnx

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! M8,tfnx

CARPENTRY WORK – all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnx

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HELP WANTED

MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST I (Asheboro Location) - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking a Member Service Special-

ist I for the Asheboro Office. Successful candidate will preferably have at least three months of related experience. To apply go to https://www.randolphemc.com/careers. Apply by Sunday, January 19, 2020. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or veteran status. D26,J2,9,16,4ttc

TOWN of PITTSBORO PUBLIC WORKS Department is currently seeking applications for a Public Utility Worker 1, Meter Reader. - The Meter Reader is responsible for reading water meters and keeping track of their use by recording appropriate information. A Meter Reader inspects meters for damages or defects. Requires a high school diploma - The employee in this position will also work on a team responsible for the installation, repair and maintenance of water and sewer utilities when needed. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Locates and repairs leaks and breaks in main supply lines. Maintains hydrants and valves. Diagnoses electrical problems on control panels and pumps. Monitors lift stations for proper operation. Diagnoses and repairs sewer problems. Assists in traffic control at work sites. - Applicant must have the ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations at a level commonly associated with the completion of high school or equivalent. - Salary is dependent on level of qualifications and experience. - Contact: Town of Pittsboro, PO Box 759, Pittsboro NC 27312, 919-542-4621. Download applications at: http://pittsboronc.gov/under the employment opportunities link. The Town of Pittsboro is an Equal Opportunity Employee. D26,J2,1tc

HIRING ALL SHIFTS - CNAs, PCAs, Med Techs, Under new ownership. Competitive pay, insurance and vacation. Apply at Coventry House in Siler City. O17,tfnx

CNA - PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN VILLAGE is hiring CNAs, all shifts. Apply in person, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 1825 East St in Pittsboro. O3, tfnx

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Need extra money? CNAs needed immediately for private duty cas-

es in Chatham County. Please call 919-545-2011. Au22,tfnx

MISC

COX DISTRIBUTORS, Rainbow water-filtered vacuums. Sales, service and supplies, 919-548-4314. Also available, Rada Cutlery, N7-D26,8tc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT SOUTHERN North Carolina Chatham County The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **ROBERT SOUTHERN** of Chatham County, North Carolina (19 E 545) hereby notifies all persons having a claim against said Estate to present them on or before the 6th day of March 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 5th day of December, 2019. Kathryn Southern O'Brien Estate of Robert Southern c/o Hatch, Little & Bunn, LLP PO Box 527 Raleigh, NC 27602 D5,D12,D19,D26,4tc

NOTICE OF SALE State of North Carolina County of Chatham **ACE SELF STORAGE**, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 44A, shall conduct a Public Sale of the Units listed below at its facility located at 105 East Fifth Street, Siler City, NC at 11 a.m. on January 10, 2020. We reserve the right to withdraw any units from the sale. All sales will be cash to highest bidder. B14, Cindy Alston; B-21D, Alber to Vicente; B-3E, Tara Downing; B-12, Caroline Brewer; B-7B, Wesley Harris, B-35, William Matthews; B-3B, Aaron Shull; B-3A, April Williams. D12,D19,D26,J2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 581 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor

of the Estate of **WILLIAM DEWEY PHILLIPS** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 13, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 12th day of December, 2019. Doris Phillips DiMeo, Executor 26 North Hillcrest Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 D12,D19,D26,J2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED, as Executor of the Estate of **DENISE ALLEN COLLINS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before March 16, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 11th day of December, 2019. Estate of DENISE ALLEN COLLINS JACOB T. COLLINS, Administrator 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, N. C. 27344 (919) 663-2533 D12,D19,D26,J2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **SYLVIA HESPETH WILLIAMSON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of March, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons,

firms and corporation indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 19th day of December, 2019. Barbar D. Kirby, Administrator CTA 192 Foster Lane Pittsboro NC 27312 Eric W. Hinson, Attorney at Law 1709 Legion Road, Suite 229 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517 D19,D26,J2,J9,4tc

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE 19 SP 195 North Carolina Chatham County Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by Kristin Brianne Walls to Francis B. Simkins, III, Trustee(s), dated the 31st day of August, 2017, and recorded in Book 1944, Page 0651, in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in

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Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.

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the City of Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on January 2, 2020 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamnc.org and click on Jobs



Youth F.I.R.S.T. Program Assistant

This position entails responsibility for the direct service and development of the Youth F.I.R.S.T. program of Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC.) All operations will be managed and implemented according to established best practices in the mentoring field, with emphasis on the requirements for the Youth F.I.R.S.T. Program. These include all operations related to the implementation, growth and development of the volunteer mentoring and lunch buddy programs.

Reports To: Youth F.I.R.S.T. Student Support Specialist and Program Director
Hours: Part Time - 25 hours/week
Rate of Pay: \$14.50/hr.

General Duties: Help sustain and grow the Youth F.I.R.S.T. program through community engagement, volunteer recruitment of mentors and lunch buddies, data management, and consistent communication with students, schools, and families. Capacity Building (professional development, communications/marketing)

Skills and Qualifications:

- Great communication skills: written and verbal
- College degree preferred
- Bilingual in Spanish preferred
- Reliable transportation
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Valid North Carolina driver's license and insurance preferred
- Strong technology skills using Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel)
- Previous experience in case management preferred
- Ability to work across teams and with multiple stakeholders (supervisor, parents, teachers, principal, community volunteers)
- Passionate about and committed to kids
- Accountable and dependable
- Relationship builder and excellent communicator
- Self-motivated with drive to make a difference
- Pass required criminal and driving checks.

Interested candidates to should submit a resume and cover letter detailing why the candidate is qualified for the position.

Interested candidates to should submit a resume and cover letter detailing why the candidate is qualified for the position. Submissions should be made via email to CISCC@cischatam.org by December 31, 2019.

EOE

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919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGt.com
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of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: Lying and beginning the Town of Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows: All of Lot 57 in Harmony Hills Subdivision, Phase 2, as shown on a map recorded in Plat Book 2006, Pages 295-297, Chatham County Registry, to which map reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at 1605 Duet Drive, Siler City, North Carolina. Property Address: **1605 Duet Drive, Siler City, NC 27344** Tax ID # 0084250 Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in NCGS §45-21.23. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that

party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by NCGS §7A-308(a) (1). The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in

any way relating to this such condition expressly are disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of

termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE c/o Hutchens Law Firm LLP P.O. Box 1028 4317 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311 Phone No: (910) 864-3068 https://sales.hutchenslawfirm.com Case No: 1289060 (FC.FAY) D19,D26,J2,J9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GERRY BRAXTON YOW North Carolina Chatham County All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **GERRY BRAXTON YOW**, deceased, are notified to exhibit them to John Walter Yow Sr., Administrator of the decedent's estate on or before March 20, 2020, c/o Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for the Estate, at 129 East Tryon Street, P. O. Drawer 1529, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278, or be forever barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Administrator. This the 19th day of December, 2019. John Walter Yow Sr., Administrator of the Estate of Gerry Braxton Yow. COLEMAN, GLEDHILL, HARGRAVE, MERRITT & RAINS-

FORD, P.C. By: Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for Estate 129 East Tryon Street PO Drawer 1529 Hillsborough, NC 27278 (919) 732-2196 D19,D26,J2,J9,4tc

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE Aqua North Carolina had a discharge of untreated wastewater to an unnamed tributary of Brook's Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin on December 17, 2019. Approximately 103,000 gallons were released near Chapel Ridge Dr. due to a lift station electrical failure. Aqua discovered the spill at 10:30 AM on December 17, 2019. Additional personnel were dispatched immediately to assist with clean-up at the site. Mitigation efforts were completed within five hours of notification of the spill. This notice is required by NCGS 21, Ch. 143.215C. For more information contact Joseph Pearce, Director of Operations, at (919) 653-6964. D26,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS North Carolina Chatham County The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT J. HILTON**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 26th day of March, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 26th day of December, 2019. Adam D. Lazovik, Executor Estate of Grace French Lazovik c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tc

2019. **GREGORY HILTON, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF ROBERT J. HILTON** Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 612 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **WILEY GLENN HALEY** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 26, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 26th day of December, 2019. Edward C. Haley, Executor 1938 Piney Grove Church Road Siler City, NC 27344 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **GRACE F. LAZOVIK**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 26th, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 26th day of December, 2019. Adam D. Lazovik, Executor Estate of Grace French Lazovik c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tc

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BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Keel is resigning his post after three years on the job to take a similar position in Lee County. His last day in Chatham County is Jan. 10; he starts in Lee County as its parks and recreation director on Jan. 13. Keel told the News + Record he had accepted the new position after "a lot of consideration." "In the end it came down to what was best for me and my family," he said. "I call Lee County home and to be the parks and recreation director in your hometown is something special." At the same time, Keel had reservations. "I hesitated even putting in my application because I love Siler City and everything is going so well here," Keel said. "I couldn't ask for more support from my staff, Town Manager, Board of Commissioners, Mayor Grimes and the Siler City residents. I would say that most of my success here has been from the overwhelm-

ing support from all angles." Keel said he went into the recreation field because of the impact that it had on him growing up and he wanted to have a similar "positive impact on others." When he was first hired in his role in Siler City, he said his goals were to rebrand the department and build on existing athletic leagues. "The initial changes were tough because change is tough for any community," he said. "There was a lot that needed to be corrected but I focused on changing the perception of the Siler City parks and recreation department first, which led to all the successes we have had today." Keel said that the key to those success was "getting buy-in" from staff, advisory board members and volunteer coaches to make small changes allowing participant to see the benefits. "After the small changes, participants welcomed the big changes," he said. Keel felt his greatest accomplishment in Siler City was "building the department from the ground up" including increasing participation



Submitted photo

Siler City Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Keel announced his resignation after accepting the position of Lee County's Parks and Recreation Director last week.

in recreational sports and new recreational opportunities such as the Spring Chicken Festival, Supper with Santa, Easter Egg-stravaganza, Fall-O-Ween, Pickleball, Homeschool Recess, Mini Masters Art Camp and Aquatic programs. "These are all new within the past three years and have continued to grow," he said. He viewed his role as a "fixer," using his skills to "restructure the parks and recreation department to enhance the quality of life for our citizens." And his accomplishments were noticed by the town. "Joseph's time with the town has been full of accomplishments and he has been instrumental in moving the parks and recreation department forward," Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch said. "Some of the major accomplishments include the completion of the renovation and updates at the Bray Park aquatic facility, Ernest Ramsey Gym, Earl B. Fitts Community Center, the new modern playground equipment at all the parks and the addition of three fields at the Bray Park Sports Complex including expansion and growth of athletic programs. The entire departmental staff put Siler City on the map making the cover page of the N.C. Association Magazine 2018 Winter edition, among many other achievements." "Every single park has seen a total remodel, athletic leagues and programs are filling up before the deadlines,

Ernest Ramsey Gym has been remodeled and of course the \$1.2 million Bray Park Aquatic Facility renovation," Keel said. "These are all things that our Siler City residents can be proud of." "Lee County is fortunate to be gaining someone with a wealth of knowledge concerning Parks and Recreation and Joseph will certainly be an asset to their organization," Lynch said. Keel will be replacing John Payne, Lee County's long-time parks and recreation director. Lynch said Siler City will begin the process of hiring a new director in the hopes to have someone in place within a few months. In the interim, the town's Athletics Programs Supervisor Jack Clelland will take over the role of director. "The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department is on a path that will continue to offer excellent facilities, programs and quality of life for the community," Lynch said. "Many things have been accomplished while Joseph [Keel] was parks and recreation director and with this transition, we are looking forward to what the future holds under new leadership." "It gives me great honor to know that I'm leaving Siler City is great position," Keel said. "Siler City has become a professional parks and recreation department that is recognized throughout the state."

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What the vote to impeach Trump means for North Carolina politics

BY FRANK TAYLOR
Carolina Public Press

The U.S. House of Representatives, including 13 members from North Carolina, voted to impeach President Donald Trump late Wednesday.

As was mostly the case nationally, North Carolina's congressional delegation split along party lines.

Carolina Public Press takes a closer look at impeachment and the votes of each North Carolina member of Congress, as well as how it could affect their political futures in 2020.

To impeach a president

Impeachment of a president functions much like an indictment of an ordinary individual on serious criminal charges. In this case, the House considered two articles of impeachment against Trump and voted to impeach on both – abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

The vote was similar on each charge, with two Democrats crossing party lines to oppose the abuse-of-power charge and three opposing the obstruction charge. One independent member of Congress voted to impeach on both articles, and one Democrat, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, voted present on both articles. A few members of Congress also did not vote.

While ordinary citizens are entitled to a trial by juries of their peers, a president constitutionally is tried by the U.S. Senate, with conviction requiring a two-thirds supermajority, which would currently be 67 votes.

That's a high threshold in the 100-member Senate. In recent years, neither major political party has had a majority of that size. Trump is the third president to be impeached, though the first Republican. No president has ever been convicted.

Like the others impeached chief executives, predictions suggest the Senate, controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, won't have the votes to convict him. An open question, however, is how voters across the country will respond to an impeached president and incumbent members of the House and Senate on the ballot in 2020.

To impeach or not to impeach: how the NC delegation voted

North Carolina currently has 13 members of the House of Representatives based on the 2010 census, the ninth-most of any state. This will be reassessed following the 2020 census, so the number will change for the 2022 elections.

While that would normally be the next time elections would be conducted with new districts, litigation over what courts have called hyperpartisan gerrymandering forced the creation of new congressional districts for 2020.

As a result, many of the North Carolina House members deciding on impeachment Wednesday will also be facing a new political map for next year. Some have decided not to



run again. Others are running in substantially new districts whose voters are not necessarily familiar with or politically inclined toward the incumbents.

As a result, the impeachment vote has the potential to loom large in the minds of voters in these new districts in 2020.

The state's House delegation is currently made up of 10 Republicans and three Democrats. Predictions are that the new map will favor a shift toward more Democrats, but some districts may be fairly competitive and politically unpredictable, with potential surprises on both sides.

DISTRICT 1: Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-Wilson, who has represented District 1 since 2004, voted to impeach.

Butterfield has filed to seek re-election next year in District 1. Republican Ethan Baca has also filed.

The northeastern district had a strong Democratic edge under the old maps. It lost areas of Durham and Granville counties while gaining areas of Nash, Wayne, Greene, Wilson and Pitt counties on the new maps.

The new District 1 is still expected to favor Democrats, but by a much smaller margin than before.

DISTRICT 2: Rep. George Holding, R-Raleigh, who has represented District 2 since 2013, voted against impeachment.

Holding has indicated he will not seek re-election in 2020, which previously had a strong Republican edge but will now have a modest Democratic edge. The central district lost many areas outside Wake County in the new map design, while adding more of Raleigh.

Filed to run for District 2 so far are Democrats Monika Johnson-Hostler, Deborah Ross and Andrew Terrell; Republican Alan Swain and Libertari-

an Jeff Matemu.

DISTRICT 3: Rep. Greg Murphy, R-Greenville, who won a special election in September, voted against impeachment.

Murphy has filed to defend the seat in 2020. So far, Democrat Daryl Farrow has filed to challenge Murphy.

District 3, which includes the state's central and northern coastal counties and adjacent inland areas, was heavily Republican under the old map and is expected to be about equally Republican under the new one, which made few changes to this district.

DISTRICT 4: Rep. David Price, D-Chapel Hill, who has represented District 4 since 1997, voted for impeachment.

Price has filed for reelection, as have Republican challengers Dabesh Sarkar and Steve Loor.

District 4 was heavily Democratic under the old map but now is expected to lean only slightly Democratic. The central district lost Raleigh but picked up additional suburban and rural areas in the new map.

DISTRICT 5: Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-Winston Salem, who has represented District 5 since 2005, voted against impeachment.

Foxx has filed for re-election, as have Democrat David Wilson Brown and Constitutionalist Jeff Gregory.

District 5 was previously moderately Republican but is now expected to be heavily Republican.

The old District 5 stretched from the state's northwestern mountains to the western portion of the Piedmont Triad. It has been largely reconfigured, eliminating the Winston-Salem area and picking up southwestern Piedmont counties, including Gaston and Cleveland.

DISTRICT 6: Rep. Mark Walker, R-Greensboro, who has represented District 6 since 2015,

voted against impeachment.

Walker has announced that he will not seek re-election in the district, which was heavily redrawn and no longer includes his residence. A strong Republican district previously, the new District 6 is now expected to be strongly Democratic.

The Piedmont Triad district lost rural areas to the east and picked up all of Guilford County and the Winston-Salem portion of Forsyth County.

Filed candidates for District 6 include Democrats Bruce Davis, Rhonda Foxx, Ed Hanes Jr., Kathy Manning and Derwin Montgomery; and Republicans Lee Haywood and Laura Pichardo.

DISTRICT 7: Rep. David Rouzer, R-Benson, who has represented District 7 since 2015, voted against impeachment.

Rouzer has filed for reelection. Democratic challenger Mark Judson has also filed.

The district, which includes areas between Raleigh and Wilmington, was strongly Republican under the old map and is expected to remain about equally Republican under the new one, despite some changes in the rural portions of its territory.

DISTRICT 8: Rep. Richard Hudson, R-Concord, who has represented District 8 since 2013, voted against impeachment.

Hudson has filed to seek reelection. Also filed is Democrat Patricia Timmons-Goodson.

District 8 was modestly Republican under the old map but now is expected to lean only slightly Republican. The horizontal district runs east from Concord and lost rural areas while picking up Fayetteville and surrounding areas in the new plan.

DISTRICT 9: Rep. Dan Bishop, R-Charlotte, who was elected to represent District 9 in a September special election

following irregularities in the 2018 election, voted against impeachment.

Bishop has filed to seek re-election. Democrat Harry Southerland has also filed.

District 9 was modestly Republican under the old map and is expected to remain about equally Republican under the new map. The district, which runs along the state's central border with South Carolina, lost Fayetteville and picked up additional rural areas in the Sandhills following redistricting.

DISTRICT 10: Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-Denver, who has represented District 10 since 2005, voted against impeachment.

McHenry has filed to seek reelection. He faces primary challenges from David Johnson and Ralf Walters. Democrat David Wilson Brown has also filed.

District 10 was strongly Republican under the old map and is expected to be about equally Republican under the new map. The district was heavily redrawn. Previously, it stretched between Charlotte's western suburbs and Asheville. The new District 10 runs from areas west and north of Charlotte to the Virginia line.

DISTRICT 11: Rep. Mark Meadows, R-Sapphire, who has represented District 11 since 2013, voted against impeachment.

Meadows announced Thursday that he will retire from Congress, and no other Republicans had filed as of Wednesday afternoon. Democrats Steve Woodsmall, Gina Collias, Moe Davis and Michael O'Shea had filed, as had Green Party candidate Tamara Zwinak.

District 11 was heavily Republican under the old map and is expected to be about equally Republican under the new map. This is despite substantial changes in the district, which lost some central mountain counties but picked up most of Asheville and nearby rural areas.

DISTRICT 12: Rep. Alma Adams, D-Charlotte, who has represented District 12 since 2014, voted to impeach.

Adams has filed for reelection. Republican Bill Brewster has also filed.

The district was heavily Democratic and is expected to remain heavily Democratic with the new map. Its territory changed only slightly, with the inclusion of some additional areas of Mecklenburg County.

DISTRICT 13: Rep. Ted Budd, R-Advance, who has represented District 13 since 2017, voted against impeachment.

Budd has filed for reelection and did not face any opposition as of Wednesday afternoon.

District 13 was previously moderately Republican but is now expected to be strongly Republican. The district lost Greensboro and picked up central suburban and rural areas between the Piedmont Triad and Triangle.

Students blend together

Dad and me! The Virginia Cross Elementary School art and music exhibition offered a duet by father Jexter Aguiluz and his son Prince singing 'One Call Away.' The music was one piece of the group of students singing international and Christmas music at the school recently.

Staff photo by David Bradley



International dance by some of the students at Virginia Cross Elementary brought Phillipino traditional dance music to life recently in Siler City. The children, dancing to the song 'Subli,' wore hand-made costumes sewn by Jacqueline Aguiluz in two days for the 20 children.

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Students blend together
The art exhibition showed work by all 600 students at Virginia Cross Elementary School earlier this month. This mosaic is an example of the work of some 1st grade students.

Staff photo by David Bradley