

Chatham News + Record

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CHATHAM VOTES 2020

Chatham voters approve sales tax by a little, malt beverage sales by a lot in primary referenda

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Chatham County voters easily approved a malt beverage referendum, allowing the “on-premises” sales of malt beverages at places like tap rooms and craft beer breweries with tasting rooms in unincorporated areas,

and narrowly passed a local quarter-cent sales tax in Tuesday’s primary election. The malt beverage issue passed by a wide margin, with about 74 percent of those casting ballots in Chatham voting “for” it. But the controversial sales tax issue — with those voting early favoring by

a comfortable margin — was extraordinarily close, passing by just over 600 votes. A total of 51.33 percent (11,859) voters cast ballots “for” the quarter-cent sales tax, while 48.67 percent (11,244) voted against it.

The sales tax

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in October 2019 to put the “Article 46” issue on the March primary ballot. In the 2007 state budget, the N.C. General Assembly enacted a number of stipulations, including giving counties the option to “levy a local sales and use

tax at a rate of one-quarter percent.” Article 46 is the section in state law where the rules for this tax are outlined. No county in North Carolina is required to have an Article 46 tax. The state statute says boards of county commission-

See **VOTERS**, page A3

racism

IN CHATHAM COUNTY | PART 2

Looking at race: What role has monument played in Chatham?

‘To me, that Confederate statue represented racism’

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

Editor’s note: In the conclusion this week to a two-part series about race relations and the state of racism in Chatham County, we talk with local observers about where we are — including ongoing conflicts in Chatham County over the removal of the Confederate monument in Pittsboro — and where we could be headed, as well as the one thing our interview subjects say needs to occur to make Chatham, as one interviewee put it, a “more harmonious and welcoming” county.

On August 23, 1907, a monument to “Our Confederate Heroes” — the copper statue crafted in a Durham factory in the likeness of a Confederate soldier — took what onlookers that day likely considered to be its permanent place, atop a granite pedestal a few paces from the front entrance of the Chatham County Courthouse.

The positioning was prominent: in the center of Pittsboro, itself the seat of Chatham County government.

And positioned there, the north-facing Confederate soldier — erected the same year John Wayne was born and the first electric ball was dropped in Times Square on in New York City on New Year’s Eve — would stand for the next 112 years. It was a silent but steadfast witness to more than 100 years of history including women realizing the right to vote, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement and wars from the “War to End All Wars” through the Cold War and into the War on Terror.

The statue had been standing in place for 14 years on Sept. 18, 1921, the date of death listed for 16-year-old Eugene Daniel, Chatham County’s last lynching victim. Daniel would likely have seen the statue after being abducted from Pittsboro’s jail to New Hope Township, where he was hanged.



CN+R Staff Illustration by Jason Justice

A burgeoning “national movement,” however — as former Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller called it — would bring the long-standing statue down late last year.

Only a matter of time

“There were always citizens when I was mayor who complained about the monument,” Voller said.

But neither the mayor nor Pittsboro commissioners, “other than getting on

IS PUBLIC OPINION ON CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS SHIFTING?

See page A7 to read more about this discussion.

a soapbox, had no actual legal authority to get involved,” according to Voller. The

See **RACISM**, page A14

1ST PLACE - COMMUNITY COVERAGE

CN+R wins 19 awards

Paper takes eight 1st place prizes; cited for excellence

CN+R STAFF REPORT

RALEIGH — The Chatham News + Record has earned 19 awards, including eight first-place finishes, at the N.C. Press Association’s Annual News & Editorial Awards Contest.

The awards — which included first place for best community news coverage — were presented in the category recognizing small community newspapers across North Carolina for 2018-19 during the NCPA’s annual award dinner Feb. 27 in Raleigh.

The News + Record also received honors in the contest’s “General Excellence” category, which recognizes overall excellence in newspapering across the state of North Carolina.

News + Record Publisher/Editor Bill Horner III — who along with partners Kirk Bradley and Chris Ehrenfeld acquired the newspaper from the Resch family in late 2018, making this the “new” News + Record’s first entries in the annual NCPA awards — said he was proud of the work the newsroom had done in order to make the past year so successful.

Six News + Record staff members and a CN+R stringer received prizes at

See **AWARDS**, page A7

CHATHAM VOTES 2020

Dasher edges out Hancock in Democratic commissioner primary for District 2

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

After facing some tight margins in early results, an incumbent Chatham County Commissioner escaped his party’s primary.

Gaining 54 percent of the vote, Democrat Mike Dasher won the right to face Republican Jimmy Pharr in the November general election to represent District 2 on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners by defeating challenger Katelin Hancock.

After the results were tallied, Dasher said he was grateful for the support of Democratic and unaffiliated voters.

“My common sense approach to governing and my commitment to

doing what’s best for the county clearly resonates with a lot of folks who want to see Chatham move forward,” he told the News + Record. “And together, we’ll continue to.”

The vote saw more than 14,300 people participate in a primary that picked the Democratic nominee to represent the southeastern part of Chatham County in November’s election. District 2, which includes the Town of Pittsboro, the Moncure area and the majority of Jordan Lake, is the most populous of the county’s five commissioner districts with 12,864 people, 2,290 of which identify as African-American or Hispanic/Latinx. All county voters decide

See **COMMISSIONER**, page A3

What to know about COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Editor’s note: For a closer look at what it’s like to be in the epicenter of the coronavirus scare, see a special report from News + Record contributor Buck Ryan on page A6.

Headlines and social media have been filled in recent weeks with talk about the coronavirus and COVID-19, but what do you need to know? Here’s a quick look at the latest on the viral infection and what it means for Chatham County.

What is COVID-19?

According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 is the shorthand for the “most recently discovered coronavirus,” meaning it’s the latest in a line of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe respiratory illnesses. All coronaviruses are transmitted between animals

and people, and COVID-19 is believed to have begun in Wuhan, China, in December.

The WHO says common symptoms include “respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties,” and “in more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.” COVID-19 has a death rate of around 2 percent, and around 1 in 6 people who get the virus become seriously ill.

What’s happened since the spread?

According to the March 2 situation report from the WHO, there are nearly 89,000 confirmed cases and more than 3,000 deaths related to COVID-19. The United States was home to more than 100 reported cases, and two people died in Washington state over this past weekend from COVID-19 — the first

See **VIRUS**, page A6

IN THE KNOW

Robert Morgan returning as Town of Pittsboro’s interim manager. **PAGE A6**
Chatham leaders bemoan lack of control at legislative breakfast. **PAGE A8**

Siler City commissioners approve Marsh Auto Parts expansion. **PAGE A11**

Three students take prizes in J-M’s 3rd annual ‘Sing and Play.’ **PAGE A12**



CHATHAM VOTES 2020

Price, Thomas will compete for 4th Congressional District seat in November

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

In the first primaries for the Fourth Congressional District to feature Chatham County since 2014, incumbent Rep. David Price of Wake County earned the Democratic nomination, while Durham businessman Robert Thomas clinched the Republican candidacy, with 95 percent of precincts reporting as of press time.

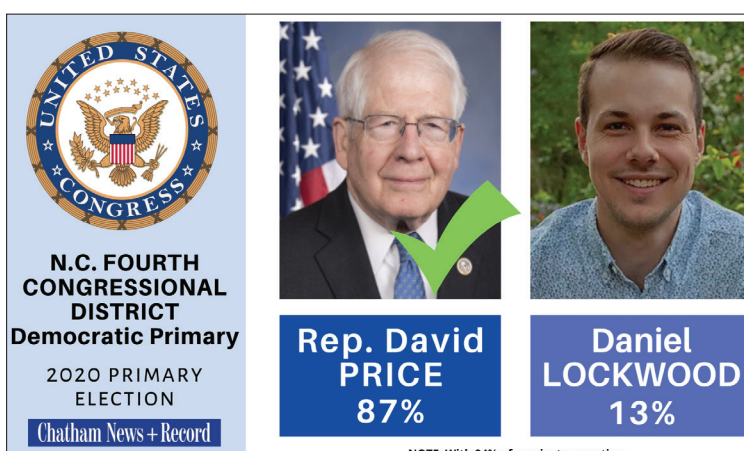
The district was redrawn late last year and moved Chatham out of the 6th District and split the county between the 4th District, covering the majority of the county, and the 13th District in the far west. The new 4th District also includes Orange, Durham, Granville and Franklin counties, as well as portions of Wake and Vance counties.

Chatham has been represented in full by U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R-Greensboro), who is not seeking re-election, since 2016.

For Democrats, Price earned nearly 87 percent of the vote ahead of challenger Daniel Ulysses Lockwood. Price got 87 percent of Chatham's voters as



Graphic by Zachary Horner



Graphic by Zachary Horner

well.

Price has occupied his House of Representatives seat since 1997 after previously holding the position from 1987 to 1995. A former professor of political science and public policy at Duke University, Price said he hoped to be able to support all Democrats in November.

"I'm grateful for the strong support I received in tonight's primary election from constituents new and old," he said in a statement. "They sent

a resounding message: we must keep fighting against the reckless and divisive policies of Donald Trump.

"If we want a future with accessible affordable housing, affordable health care, a clean environment and strong public education, we must elect Democrats up and down the ballot. I look forward to running an energetic campaign that supports this team effort."

Republicans chose Thomas with 48.6 percent of the vote. He

edged out Debesh Sarkar (22.8 percent), 2018 nominee Steve A. Von Loor (17.1 percent) and Nasir A. Shaikh (11.5 percent). Thomas won nearly 52 percent of the GOP votes in Chatham.

A Durham resident who most recently worked as a residential real estate appraiser, Thomas advocates for stronger protections at the U.S.-Mexico border and "the right to keep and bear arms," while saying there "must (be) some rational limitations" to weapon possession.

He also states three priorities: working on immigration, trade and drug prices.

In Price's last Chatham County election, 2014, he got nearly 65 percent of the vote against Republican Paul Wright in the county and nearly tripled Wright's total across the entire district.

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VOTERS:

Continued from page A1

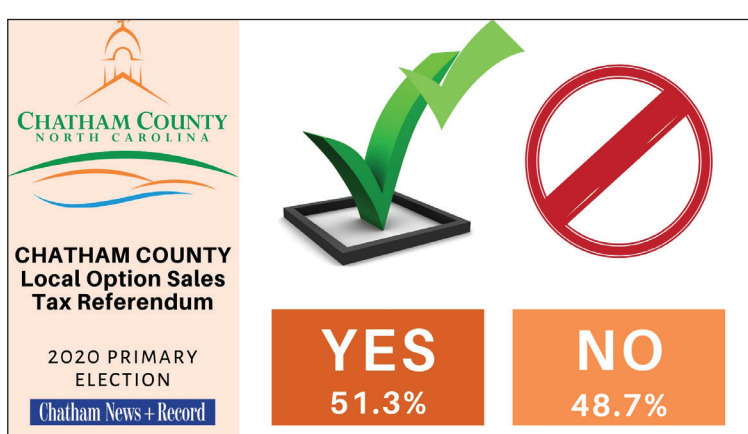
ers "may, by resolution and after 10 days' public notice," put this tax into effect. Prior to Tuesday's election, 42 of North Carolina's 100 counties had this levy in effect.

During the November 2018 election, 20 counties had an Article 46 referendum on the ballot. Just four passed: Graham (62.4 percent for), Moore (58.8 percent for), Stanly (50.8 percent for, passed by 368 votes) and Swain (54.3 percent, passed by 445 votes) counties.

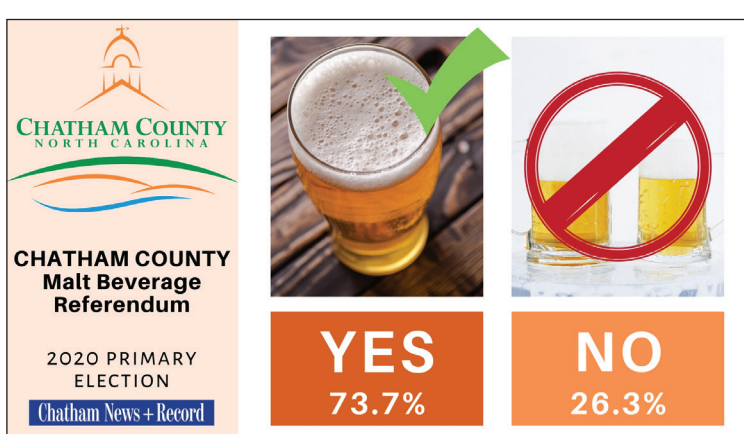
The local option sales tax applies to anything normal sales tax applies to except for unprepared food like groceries or gas purchases. With the tax in effect, anyone going through a drive-thru for a cheeseburger would pay the tax, as would someone who went to Lowe's Hardware to pick up a hammer and some nails. But on a trip to Piggly Wiggly for your weekly grocery trip, or stop by a BP to fill your car's gas tank, the tax wouldn't be charged.

The State of North Carolina has a 4.75 percent sales tax effective statewide. Counties can enact additional sales taxes to generate additional revenue. Currently, Chatham has 2 percent in additional sales tax. With its passage, that 2 percent sales tax simply increases to 2.25 percent.

Prior to Tuesday's vote, Chatham's 6.75 percent sales tax rate was tied for the lowest



Graphic by Zachary Horner



Graphic by Zachary Horner

in North Carolina, along with a majority of North Carolina's 100 counties. Alamance County is the only neighboring county with a similar rate.

Lee, Moore and Randolph counties have all enacted Article 46 and have 7 percent sales tax rates. Wake County has not enacted Article 46, but has a 7.25 percent rate. Durham and Orange counties, which both have the Article 46 option, have sales tax rates of 7.5 percent.

The Chatham commissioners passed a resolution in October stating they would like the funds to be used for education, agriculture/land banking, affordable housing and parks and recreation purposes. This is by far the most diverse of surrounding counties. Most included school construction or education debt in their resolutions. Orange County allocates half of its revenue for economic development incentives and the other half for public schools capital projects.

A report from the N.C. Department of Revenue stated that Chatham could have received an additional \$1.6 million in 2017 if the tax had been in place that calendar year.

Malt beverage vote

Prior to Tuesday's vote, restaurants, hotels, breweries and other establishments were allowed to sell beer and other malt beverages like lager, ale, porter and other brewed or fermented beverage for on-premises consumption within the Towns of Pittsboro and Siler City. But in the county's unincorporated areas, the rules are a bit different — current regulations allow sale at hotels and motels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters and convention centers. So places like Town Hall Burger & Beer in Briar Chapel, if they have a Malt Beverage Permit, can sell beer.

With its passage, the referendum expands those rights

to places like craft breweries and tasting rooms. Examples of those include House of Hops and Fair Game Beverage Company in Pittsboro. But those types of establishments could not exist in unincorporated areas as of now.

The Town of Pittsboro has allowed these types of sales since 1971, and the Town of Siler City authorized on- and off-premises sales of both malt beverages and unfortified wine this past November. But those votes were not sure things — 53 percent of Siler City residents voted yes for malt beverages and 54 percent voted in favor of the unfortified wine referendum.

After the Siler City referenda, Oasis Open Air Market Owner Jackie Adams said she felt the change would "put Siler City on par to make headway in social and economic endeavors as other small successful N.C. towns have done already." North Carolina ranks 7th nationally for the number of breweries that brew and sell craft beer in the state

with craft beer sales creating an economic impact of \$2 billion annually, according to the Brewers Association. The industry also creates about 12,000 jobs and \$300 million in annual wages in the state. It's seen a boom in recent years, going from 45 such breweries in 2010 to 260 in 2018.

Asked about the countywide referendum prior to Tuesday's vote, Chatham Economic Development Corporation President Alyssa Byrd said not only would the referendum create "consistent" rules across the county, it would improve quality of life in the area.

"Bottle shops and craft breweries are most often locally-owned small businesses, and frequently serve as community gathering spaces," she said. "This is a good opportunity for the expansion of both new and existing businesses."

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COMMISSIONER:

Continued from page A1

the candidates and representatives for all five districts in Chatham.

Dasher-Pharr is not the only competition for Chatham County Commissioner later this year; current Chair Karen Howard, a Democrat, will square off with Republican Jay Stobbs to represent District, which covers northeast Chatham.

Originally from Ohio but now a Pittsboro resident, Dasher spent 2019 as the chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Perhaps most notably, he was the public face of the board's decision to remove the Confederate monument in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro. In a News + Record questionnaire published last month, Dasher said he wanted to "continue the important work we're doing to move Chatham County forward."

"My three years as a commissioner have allowed me to build solid relationships with my colleagues and other elected officials, with community leaders, and with residents across the county," he told the News + Record in February. "I know the processes and procedures for getting things done. I've proven that I'm willing and able to do

the work required to bring about real progress."

In the run-up to Tuesday's vote, Dasher defined his goals for his next term — if he wins the primary and defeats Republican Jimmy Pharr, who faces no primary opposition, in November — as continuing to work off established foundations, like the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan and common values among board members like "good, safe schools," "quality affordable housing" and "a responsive and effective county government."

"I believe government generally — and local government especially — allows us the ability to do things together that we can't do individually," Dasher said then. "When we pool our resources (through taxes), we can pay teachers and build schools, we can provide emergency and human services, we can protect our natural resources and determine appropriate land uses. I think Chatham County does an excellent job of doing those things and more in an efficient, effective and transparent way."

Hancock, a Chatham County native who now lives in Apex, is an Assistant Banquet Manager at the J.B. Duke Hotel in Durham.

Multiple attempts by the News + Record to reach Hancock — from both her campaign phone and work phone, multiple email addresses and Facebook messages to her campaign's page — during the campaign cycle generated no

response.

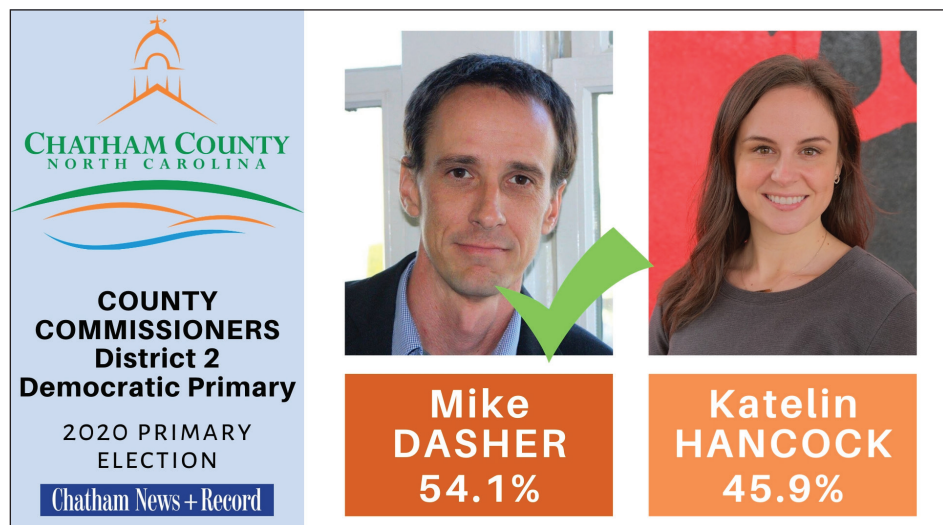
What was public about her prior to Tuesday's vote was limited and relatively unspecific. Hancock's Facebook page — "Katelin Hancock for Chatham County Board of Commissioners" — includes the slogan "For Chatham, From Chatham." The biography section said she was a Chatham County native who has a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from East Carolina University. N.C. State Board of Elections records indicate that she currently lives in Apex and voted in the 2012 and 2016 Democratic primaries.

Public knowledge of her platform was more or less limited to a January 30 post

on the Chatham Chatlist forum and a short Q&A in the Chatham County Line monthly newspaper. On the Chatlist post, Hancock boasts of not being a "career politician" and having "no ties to private special interests."

"I want to see progress in Chatham but I don't want lifelong citizens left behind," the post stated then. "I want to see modern options for goods and services in our city centers. I want to implement changes that will attract businesses with emphasis on the environment and support the community's needs."

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



Graphic by Zachary Horner

OAKMOSS ATTIC

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Botanical Skin Care • Artisan Perfumes • Bulk Botanicals
CBD • Herb Classes • Books + Zines + Oracle Decks • Natural Fiber Home Goods • Handcrafted Jewelry • Local Pottery

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VIEWPOINTS

The shade of speed is distinctly gray

Some years ago, I conducted an unscientific driving experiment. For an entire week, I adhered strictly to posted speed limits.



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

If a sign allowed 55 miles per hour, that is the speed at which I drove; if 35, then 35 miles per hour it was; and so on.

The experiment was every bit the chore it sounds like, and why precisely I ever thought to undertake it, I've forgotten. I know I didn't do it to make people angry. But I remember my conclusions at the end of my self-imposed week of "letter of the law" driving: It makes other motorists mad when you drive strictly according to posted speed limits.

All week I found myself positioned on roadways in front of people wanting to go faster. Certainly, and I'm not a mind-reader, clairvoyance wasn't required of me to understand the tailgating, the champing at the bit to pass me. And when these hapless tailgaters could (if they could) pass me, they did so frequently with discernible distaste for my slow speed. Again, no supernatural skills needed: I could tell from the gusto with which, engines revving, they made their passing moves.

And often when they passed, I noticed them eyeballing me, perhaps to see if there was some observable defect in me (or maybe in my slow car) to explain why I was being so annoying.

Understanding that for every rule there is an exception, inherent in my conclusion that many motorists are angered by slower drivers is the notion — and though my experiment

involved no actual science, I'm convinced I'm correct — that most drivers don't obey posted speed limits, which are often treated as speed suggestions, if not outright ignored.

I live proudly by the axiom that rules were made to be broken, but the same does not apply to laws.

This lesson I learned when I was young, being handed my first speeding ticket at the tender age of 18. And a valuable lesson it was, having to go represent myself in court. Surrounded in a courtroom by people accused of all varieties of crime — the traffic scoff-laws sat elbow-to-elbow with wife-beaters, drug-users and miscreants of many stripes, courtrooms being a great equalizer — I understood that court wasn't a place I wanted to be.

But traffic laws can be interesting. Some seem set in stone (one does not, for example, merely slow down

at a STOP sign and expect to get away with it, if observed by an officer of the law) while others appear (like speed limits) more nebulous, or at least open to some degree of interpretation.

There's a common belief — fostered, I assume, from years of evidence to support it — held by many of us that police officers will allow some wiggle room where speed is concerned. And officers of the law do appear, thankfully, to use some discretion where speed laws are concerned. I'd not want to meet the trooper who would ticket a driver for the transgression of a single mile-per-hour over a posted limit.

But how much wiggle room is allowed?

Is there a sweet spot, a magic number? Is it 5 mph over? Or 10?

The question goes back to my driving experiment of a few years ago, which —

for kicks — I repeated over the course of a few days (I couldn't sustain a full week the second time around) not long ago.

The results of my second social experiment — again involving little if any actual science — were in line with my first: I met with many tailgaters, many drivers impatient to pass, some angry looks.

Even law enforcement officers appeared eager to pass and put distance between themselves and the guy (me) adhering to the precise demands of the law, and I completely understand that.

I've now concluded two field tests, conducted several years apart, and from both draw the same conclusion: traffic regulations are posted for all of us to see in black and white, easily discernible letters and numbers; but how we treat them, and how they are enforced is, like so many things in life, a gray area.

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

When 'cherry-picking' can make a difference in a loved one's life

Literary critic Stanley Fish identifies a theory known as "fragmentation" by which a specific passage, paragraph, or even a single sentence is isolated from the rest of the document. As a fragment, these selected words may contract or subvert the overall meaning found in the larger text. Readers may be familiar with the idea of fragmentation as "cherry-picking" a Bible verse, meaning plucking a verse out of its context and using it in an argument. This mode of interpretation is generally frowned upon.

Yet the truth is that we all interpret through a form of fragmentation. Biblical scholar Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza noted that everyone has "a canon within the canon," meaning we all have our favorite verses in the Bible that we value more than others.

I know that people of good faith are divided over social issues. Some select certain verses to make an argument, while others cite different passages. Evidence for either side can be found with the pages of scripture. Sadly, many churches resemble the partisan divides that we see in our country's politics. This fragmentation of the Bible often fragments communities, splitting churches and denominations.

What if, before we cited a Bible verse, we honestly considered our motives for quoting that passage? How do we think that the person we are addressing will hear those words? What do we hope will happen as a result? Long ago, Augustine of Hippo said, "Anyone who thinks to have understood the scriptures, but cannot by that understanding build up the double love of God and neighbor, then that person has not yet succeeded in understanding them."

A few years ago, a parishioner lay dying in the hospital. Her body was riddled with cancer and she had elected for palliative care, sometimes known as "comfort care." But she was not comforted. She agonized over this painful decision.

Imagine my surprise when I walked into her room the very next day and found my friend sitting upright in bed with a beaming smile! She told me that, just before I had arrived, a doctor had come to check on her. And this doctor shared a Bible verse: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

I recognized that verse as Philippians 4:6. I was also wary about cherry-picking this scripture for her at this particular time. "Do not be anxious" may be good advice, but it might seem flippant, as if you are not acknowledging a person's feelings. Furthermore, I had been praying for healing with this parishioner for over a year. To imply that she should now be thankful seemed inconsiderate, if not downright spiritually abusive.

The parishioner shared the whole story of the doctor's visit. Upon entering the room, the doctor had sat on the bed, held my friend's hands, and listened for almost an hour as she poured out her anger, anxiety, and heartache. Only when my friend had felt like a dry creek bed did the doctor speak, sprinkling the words of the Bible. And so, the fragment known as Philippians 4:6 was spoken with support, care and love. May we all speak with the intention of doing the same.

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



What's in a name for our best friends?

Names, it's been said, are among the most important parts of our lives. They are, in part, our identity and security, our personality; who we are and how we look at life.

Of course, there are exceptions to that rule but I'd just as soon be named Ima Stink-bottom and go through life trying to find out.

Many parents go to great lengths and effort to find just the right name for their little bundle of joy while others just sort of throw something at the baby and hope it sticks.

Some names are from family, others from the world around us. The "Bob" I carry — somehow short for "Robert" — is in memory and tribute to my uncle of the same name who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II, and my middle "Joseph" has been worn by men before and after me. For a period of years, many were the ladies named after Shirley Temple when she ruled the silver screen. I've been told my father-in-law just liked the name but maybe that's the genesis of where it came from for my better half.

Some names and arrangements can be sort of cute. For instance, I've written here before of my acquaintance Raymond Dennis Ator who, when he would sign documents or otherwise introduce himself, would come across as Ray D. Ator

Then there was James Arthur Conley Knight, whose initials

spelled the word "Jack," which, of course, became his nickname.

Other names and their arrangement can border on the downright funny, unless it's you and your name, while others can be, shall we say, almost obscene. The story is told, or maybe it's urban legend, of the Hogg sisters in Texas, twins who were given the first names of "Ima" and "Ura."

My mother, bless her saintly soul (except when she had a mischievous twinkle in her eye), loved to tell the story of the twin girls born to the Terry family, who lived in her neighborhood. Their parents, being a bit financially embarrassed, asked the good doctor to name their new arrivals as a token of their thanks for his services, seeing as how it might be a month of Sundays and some Saturdays before he got any cash. Pausing hardly a moment, he determined their names would be "Datun" and "Disen." No doubt the latter of the two endured some second looks and had some opportunities in life as she moved along.

I say all this to point out that the names we bestow upon our pets is also significant. Some of those can be unique, as in the owner of the two-pound chihuahua who named him "Killer" and the fellow who owned the cat and just named her "Cat."

There are those who say — even study at great length and write great papers and books and conduct studies — the pets we have are mirrors of our own being. That may or may not be true. I'll admit that in the past I've lived (I started to say "owned" dogs, but I don't think you own dogs, I think they own you) with, and still do live with, dogs who like to lie in the sun and pace themselves

I say all this to point out that the names we bestow upon our pets is also significant. Some of those can be unique, as in the owner of the two-pound chihuahua who named him "Killer" and the fellow who owned the cat and just named her "Cat."

through life. I can identify with that but I'm not sure what it says about me with the dog who liked to run in circles...oh wait, now I understand.

The other day I ran across one of those news articles about dogs and cats, this one on what we name them. It said, in part, that names once most used — like "Fido" for dogs and "Fifi" for cats — are now out. Today the preferred choices are human names: "Max" is first for both dogs and cats. Other dog names in the Top 10 include Buddy, Molly, Maggie, Jake and Rocky. That same list for cats includes Lucy, Oliver and Chloe.

Reading that article did me proud because, for once in my life, I was ahead of the curve. Through the years we've owned some great dogs and they've all, with the exception of a German Shepherd who was intellectually challenged, had people names — Charlie, Butch, Ralph, Lewis, Russell, Clara and Ellie come to mind.

And throughout it all, our two children, the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house, named Fluffy and Spot, have been very happy with the names.

Chatham News + Record

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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

A STILL-POTENT SYMBOL

Public opinion shifts on Confederate emblems, monuments

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

Public opinions on Confederate monuments on public property and opinions on Confederate symbols have shifted over the years.

Elon University conducted a survey late last year of nearly 1,500 North Carolinians, finding that a “solid majority” believe public monuments to the Confederacy should remain in place. The Elon poll found 65 percent — about two-thirds — of those polled favored keeping Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property including parks, city squares and courthouses. Thirty-five percent favored removing them.

“While we found a substantial majority do not want the monuments removed from public property, we found an

even larger majority who support efforts to add context through historical plaques” Jason Husser, an associate professor of political science and director of the Elon University Poll, said in a press release from Elon on the survey’s findings.



Brooks



Voller

The Elon survey, conducted last Nov. 4-6, also asked for opinions “about a range of Confederate monuments and symbols,” Elon reported. North Carolinians surveyed were split in their reactions to seeing the Confederate flag — 44 percent said they have “neither a positive nor a negative reaction,”

‘Those people flying the flag? It just shows who they are. But when you look at the overall county, I think most people in Chatham want things done correctly.’

LARRY BROOKS, *president, West Chatham NAACP*

and 20 percent said they have a positive reaction. “There is recognition that different races may respond to these symbols differently,” Elon pollsters concluded.

Views on Confederate symbols have shifted over the years, though differences of opinion on the symbol’s contemporary implications remain.

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research conducted a 1991 poll on what the Confederate flag symbolized to the public at the time, finding “the vast majority of whites thought that the flag was a symbol of Southern pride, while a majority of blacks thought it was

a symbol of racism.” In 2000, when South Carolina removed its Confederate flag from the Capitol (placing it instead on Statehouse grounds), a CBS News poll found 45 percent of the public thought the flag should be removed, with 42 percent saying it should stay in place. In 2011, a Pew poll found only 9 percent of the country had a “positive reaction” to seeing the flag, 30 percent had a negative reaction and 58 percent had neither. The same 2011 poll found that 14 percent of Southerners displayed the Confederate flag in their home or office, car or clothing.

The renewed presence of Confederate flags in

and around Pittsboro in the ongoing public disagreement over the removal last year of the “Our Confederate Heroes” monument from Chatham County courthouse property in Pittsboro has stirred renewed consideration of the flag and its meaning.

On November 20, the day after the monument was removed in Pittsboro, members of the League of the South, a Southern/White Nationalist group, posed for photos where the monument had stood, holding Confederate flags. Most Saturdays since, protest groups of varying sizes have gathered in Pittsboro.

Confederate flag-waving protesters numbering about 20 were positioned on February 15 outside the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, while inside a panel of UNC history professors discussed the Civil War and its lasting

impacts today.

Flag-bearing protesters, and counter-protesters, continue to convene with their opposing messages in Pittsboro three months after the statue’s removal.

“The [Confederate] flag and the waving of the flag and what it means in its totality is far more hurtful and offensive than perhaps the monument was,” said Randy Voller, former Pittsboro mayor.

Larry Brooks, president of the West Chatham NAACP, lives in Bear Creek and drives past a prominently-displayed Confederate flag flying atop a flagpole in sight just off of U.S. 421.

“People are people and sometimes they just represent for themselves,” Brooks said. “Those people flying the flag? It just shows who they are. But when you look at the overall county, I think most people in Chatham want things done correctly.”

Pittsboro hires interim manager

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners voted at a special meeting last Friday to appoint Robert Morgan as the town’s interim town manager, replacing Bryan Gruesbeck.

Morgan served as Pittsboro’s interim town manager in 2012, when then-manager Bill Terry retired prior to Gruesbeck’s hiring. Morgan’s contract is for five months, but there is an option to make it either shorter or longer depending on the amount of time his services are required. Gruesbeck, who’d been town manager for seven years, resigned from the position in January at the request of Pittsboro’s town board.

Morgan holds a bachelor of arts degree

in government from the Christopher Newport

College of the College of William and Mary. During his career, Morgan worked for multiple municipalities over

the course of his career including serving as assistant city manager in Greensboro, town manager in Carrboro, town administrator in Farmville, and various roles for the City of Durham including assistant director of general services. Since retirement, Morgan has served several municipalities when in a leadership transition such as Elon and Greensboro.

Morgan said his first steps included attending the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners March

7 retreat to “get a better idea of the board’s priorities.” He will also be sitting down with each of the department heads to learn about their responsibilities and needs as well.

“I was interim for a couple of months several years ago,” Morgan said. “I got to know the town and really enjoyed working here.”

Morgan is looking forward to working with the town staff.

“We’re going to have to work together to get it done,” Morgan said. “And to make it as easy and productive as possible.”

With the interim position filled, the town board will move into the process to find a permanent town manager.

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



Morgan

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AWARDS:

Continued from page A7

the ceremony.

“I’m so proud and thankful for all of our award winners,” Horner said. “Their commitment week in and week out is making a difference in Chatham County.”

The entire staff was the recipient of first place in the division in two major categories — Best Community News Coverage and Best Newspaper Appearance & Design. The staff was also recognized with a third place finish in the Best Website category.

“We won first place in six of the major reporting categories in this past year’s contest, and two of the three awards given in three of the major individual reporting categories,” Horner said. “I’m especially gratified about our team winning first place in Community News Coverage — which is a reflection of the quality and volume of

reporting we do in Chatham County — and in newspaper Appearance & Design, which recognizes the work we did in re-designing the newspaper to make it more attractive for readers and advertisers.”

The News + Record’s individual winners:

- Horner won four awards — first place for Best E-newsletter (shared with recent UNC-Chapel Hill graduate Alexis Allston, for the newspaper’s “chatham brew,” which is emailed to more than 2,000 readers each Monday), first place for Sports Feature Writing, second place for News Enterprise Reporting and second place for Serious Columns.

- Reporter Zachary Horner won four awards — first place for News Enterprise Reporting, first place and third place for News Feature Writing, and second place for Religion & Faith Reporting.

- Managing Editor Randall Riggsbee won two awards — first place for Best Story Lede and third place for General News

Photography.

- Reporter Casey Mann won two awards — second place for Election/Political Reporting and third place for Sports Feature Writing.

- Photographer David Bradley won two awards — first place for Best Multimedia Project and third place for Sports Photography.

- Advertising Designer Jason Justice won second place for best Small Ad.

In the General Excellence category, the News + Record received third place honors, meaning it was ranked by judges as the third-best overall newspaper among small weeklies across the state of North Carolina. Only that category’s winning newspaper, The State Port Pilot of Southport, received more first place awards (nine, versus the News + Record’s eight) in this year’s contest in the small community newspaper division. The Wake Weekly finished second in General Excellence.

More than 350 journalists from across the state attended the ceremony, held at Raleigh’s Marriott Crabtree.

Chatham County’s Robert Reives II, who represents the county and portions of Durham County in N.C. House Dist. 54, and Rep. David Lewis of Harnett County, kicked off the awards ceremony with remarks about the importance of the media and a free press. Reives was introduced by Horner III, a former N.C. Press Association president who’s serving on the NCPA’s board of directors, as well as on the board of the N.C. Press Foundation.

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At legislative breakfast, county leaders bemoan lack of local control

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It became a common theme throughout last Friday's county legislative goals breakfast: Why don't we have more control over our own area?

Leaders from Chatham County government and the municipalities of Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston met with State Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Durham) and State Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham), the county's representatives in the N.C. General Assembly, to discuss the various legislative goals and hopes each of the jurisdictions had. Others involved included representatives from the Chatham Economic Development Corporation and Chatham County Schools.

The refrain throughout several parts of the day could be summed by Reives: "When you have people making decision at the state level about local areas, they just don't know that experience there. Government works best at your lowest levels."

That influence of state government on local affairs, most of it negative, popped up throughout the discussion in multiple areas.

Broadband

A common frustration particularly among county officials in recent years has been the lack of quality broadband internet service throughout Chatham. County Manager Dan LaMontagne said Chatham's government would like to see the removal of barriers put in place "that prevent counties from initiating and/or

providing assistance for projects and services that would deliver broadband services to citizens."

LaMontagne said that even the federal government now recognizes that Internet service providers have been misleading officials and consumers for years by incorrectly reporting the number of people covered. He and Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson said it's important to think of broadband as a "utility" like water and sewer and electricity.

"We all need to be coalescing around the issue," said County Commission Chairman Karen Howard. "It's completely nonpartisan, and the people that are hurting the most are the people who don't have a voice to access the powers that do. Comprehensive coverage everywhere in the state... (is) an issue of equity."

Reives said the legislature has "enough votes" to repeal a law that prohibits local governments from setting up their own internet systems or working with private providers to do so, but the legislature's leadership isn't on board. The City of Wilson already had a system like that in place before the law was passed.

"They got upset that Wilson was innovating," Reives said. "And now they've stopped everybody from doing that. And the thing is that nobody in Raleigh is willing to admit that we've done something stupid. It's just a frustration for me."

Local control of planning

Another topic of discussion: how the state government has created numerous regulations and new rules that cause burdens on local govern-

ments.

"Local voters may want greater stream buffers or common sense regulation of oil and gas exploration," the meeting's legislative goals document stated. "Yet, state legislation has taken aim at reducing local control over these issues. Increasingly, legislation deters us from regulating high-impact or risky land uses, creates confusion between local and state agencies and adds more confusion to land use regulations."

These types of regulations include limiting the types of projects requiring environmental impact statements, expanding the definition of "agricultural use or agrotourism" to include uses "totally unrelated to agriculture" and requiring all building inspections to be done within two business days of request.

"A lot of mandates have been put down on local governments on this topic," LaMontagne said. "We've been prevented from enacting legislation and changing rules. These are things that the local voters should have a say in how this community handles those issues here in their home."

Property tax base

Another change in recent years, according to Thompson, is a growing number of exceptions and exclusions to property tax levies, which he said "shift(s) the tax burden to an increasingly shrinking number of individuals."

For example, the state government put in place a "builders' inventory exemption." This means the property value of a project in progress only takes into account what's been completed — a change that reduced Chatham's tax base by more than \$27

million in assessed value in 2018.

"In places like Chatham County and other areas where you have rampant residential development, we can't get revenue from that improvement immediately," Thompson said. "The burden on schools and (the Chatham) Council on Aging, it needs to be served, and sometimes they're major capital expenses and we can't collect revenue to help offset that cost."

School calendar

A final lengthy portion of the discussion is flexibility for public school calendars, a regular request from Chatham County Schools and the Chatham County Board of Education. Public schools are not allowed to begin their school year until the Monday closest to August 26. That late start, Superintendent Derrick Jordan said at the meeting, means students' high school classes don't align time-wise with community college classes they may be taking.

The reasoning given for the late start date in recent years is a push from coastal communities who don't want to give up the vacation time, but Mark Hall, the provost for Central Carolina Community College in Chatham, called that reasoning "asininary."

"This is one of those topics I get really passionate about," Hall said. "It blows my mind that decisions about education seems to be about some slight economic benefit to some counties. Having grown up on the coast, it's not real. It's not legitimate."

Many pieces of legislation have been proposed in recent years providing flexibility and exceptions

for individual counties — Reives sponsored such a bill last year for Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties — but little headway has been made.

"Even if it is an economic boon for areas, I hear loudly and clearly from the folks in Chatham County that they desire to have the flexibility," Jordan said. "If it's decided that in Chatham County what we've been doing works, I'm fine with that. But what I've been hearing so far is that it doesn't work."

What to do

Both Reives and Foushee stressed that it was important for local officials to not only continue to have the discussion internally but reach out to elected leaders in other counties. Foushee specifically referenced her frustration with legislators who used to be county or city leaders and their actions when in state government.

"It's amazing how you can be a county commissioner and take a position at the state level and forget about the issues you had to resolve as a commissioner or a council person," she said, "totally forget how local government operates, or to get to a point where it doesn't matter how local government operates because you didn't like it when you were there."

Reives said the issue with certain topics has become "loyalty to the leadership in Raleigh." Republicans have held the leadership positions in both chambers of the General Assembly in recent years, but Reives, the Deputy Democratic Leader in the House, said

this emphasis on loyalty happens to both parties.

"We've gotten to a point now on both sides where there gets to be this loyalty to a person who's in place," he said. "For me, it's kind of like church. I go to church to worship God. I don't go to church to worship the person who's telling me about it. You can appreciate your leadership, but you shouldn't be so loyal to them that you forget what's important."

Wrapping up the meeting, Howard said she was "extraordinarily grateful" for the work and cooperation done with Chatham's legislators.

"Not every community has the kind of access to their representatives that we have," she said. "I'm grateful for all of you being co-conspirators in making Chatham County a great place to live. We're all working for the same people in the same place and have the same goals for them."

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



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Pittsboro board increases funds for sewer line permit

Board voices concerns over delays

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners has appropriated an additional \$48,500 to expand a contract with The Wooten Company, which is assisting the town in securing a permit for the construction of a sewer line to Sanford.

The process, which began in 2016 to address the town's need for more capacity and reduction of nutrient flow into the impaired waters of Robeson Creek, has battled delays ever since, resulting in Pittsboro's wastewater treatment plant nearing capacity — sparking concerns from the board that a moratorium on new users may need to be implemented.

The Wooten Company, a nationwide engineering firm with an office in Raleigh, was first engaged for the Sanford Forcemain Project in October 2016 to revise documents required for a revolving loan fund by the N.C. Dept. of Envi-

ronmental Quality's Division of Water Infrastructure. Over the past few years, the company has been awarded nearly \$1.7 million in contracts to manage the project, pay permitting fees and conduct easement negotiations. These funds, according to Heather Meacham, the town's finance director, would be replaced by the revolving loan fund once the town receives those funds.

The most recent appropriation, made in a vote of Pittsboro commissioners last week, is in response to comments from the Division of Water Infrastructure, requiring a fourth revision of the town's Engineering Report/Environmental Information Document (ER/EID) report, according to Paul Messick, the town's attorney who is serving as town manager in an interim capacity. This report must now include a "secondary and cumulative impacts document" for potential development that may occur, including all of Pittsboro and Chatham Park, if the town is allowed to install a sewer line and pump its wastewater to the City of Sanford's Big Buffalo Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to The Wooten Company's contract amendment.

The requirement for a

"secondary and cumulative impacts" document was not required nor mentioned in any Division of Water Infrastructure comments from the original, revision one or revision two of the Environmental Information Document, according to the contract amendment. In addition, the contract amendment notes that the third revision had been initially approved, which would typically be sufficient to move forward in the process. The additional requirement was made because of concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the town board discussion on the additional appropriation, several commissioners voiced concerns about the delay. Commissioner Michael Fiocco stated his frustration with the Division of Water Infrastructure and "their continued delays in getting this project under way." Fiocco commented that the town, Chatham Park and the Division of Water Resources, another department at N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, all came to a settlement about riparian buffers and stormwater control measure tracking.

"At the time, I questioned as to why DWI wasn't signing,"

Fiocco said. "And the answer was DWI would be in lock-step with DWR. This facility will take effluent out of this watershed and we're being delayed."

Fiocco noted that the town's wastewater treatment plant's lack of capacity will affect the town's "ability to make economic development happen." Fiocco also lamented that "Fish and Wildlife" has "refused to meet with the town" and "refused to return phone calls" making the project "virtually impossible to complete."

Commissioner John Bonitz said he wanted to "echo Commissioner Fiocco's concerns," adding he's "not happy" about the additional money the town is spending. Bonitz did state that he thought the town would not be in this situation "if our stormwater policies within the planned development district with Chatham Park were more straightforward."

Fiocco noted that the Division of Water Resources was "more attune to dealing with stormwater and thought it to be a very acceptable plan," adding that the Division of Water Infrastructure has "nothing to do with stormwater."

According to the N.C. Dept.

of Environmental Quality's website, the Division of Water Resources is responsible for ensuring "safe drinking water in accordance with federal requirements, issues pollution control permits, monitors permit compliance, evaluates environmental water quantity and quality, and carries out enforcement actions for violations of environmental regulations." While the Division of Water Infrastructure "provides financial assistance for projects that improve water quality."

The News + Record has, for the last three months, been requesting documents and comments from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Infrastructure regarding the town of Pittsboro's Sanford forcemain project. Officials have promised the documents, but as yet haven't delivered them.

A timeline for the next revision and the Sanford Forcemain Project will likely be on the agenda for the town's next regular board of commissioners meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Pittsboro Town Hall.

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

MARCH: COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Colorectal cancer: it can be prevented

BY RAVIKANT VARANASI, MD, AGAF

Pinehurst Medical Clinic - Pittsboro

If you had a 5 percent chance of developing a potentially fatal disease, and you could reduce this risk, wouldn't you?

Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, with about 50,000 people losing their lives annually. Screening could prevent approximately 60 percent of these deaths. Despite

this, however, about one out of every three people is not up to date with colon cancer screening.

Over the last several years, celebrities like Katie Couric and Will Smith have brought attention to the importance of a colonoscopy. It is now common to see commercials on television featuring a talking Cologuard® box with arms and legs sitting on a toilet. But even with the increased awareness, many people would prefer to avoid the subject of colon cancer prevention.

For the past 20 years, March has been designated as National Colorec-

tal Cancer Awareness Month. So really, there is no better time to talk about the importance of colon cancer screening.

As awful as colon cancer is, the good news is that it can be prevented. Most colon cancers begin as polyps, small growths on the inside surface of the colon. Polyps come in different shapes and sizes, and they have different microscopic characteristics. Certain polyps, called adenomas, have the potential to turn into cancer over several years.

It is important to know that colon polyps seldom cause any symptoms.

Even though a person may feel well and apparently be in good health, a colon polyp could be growing and silently transforming into a life-threatening malignancy.

Fortunately, getting screened can significantly reduce your risk of getting colon cancer. Because it usually takes several years for a polyp to turn into cancer, colonoscopy with colon polyp removal (polypectomy) can very effectively prevent this type of malignancy. Additionally, timely diagnosis of colon cancer is essential, as treatment of early-stage colon cancer offers a greater than 90 percent chance of survival five years after the diagnosis.

No one will argue that getting a colonoscopy is fun or exciting, and most people hate going to the doctor's office. But after the 20-minute exam is over, many patients marvel about how easy the procedure was and how they should have never worried about it in the first place.

In preparation for the procedure, you drink a clear liquid diet the day before, culminating with two doses of a laxative the evening before and morning of the examination. While this is usually the most disagreeable part of the process, it is also

the most important. The cleaner your bowel preparation is, the better your colon examination will be. There are several different bowel preparations available and you can discuss the options with your doctor. Do not allow fear or dread of the cleansing process to increase your risk of dying from a preventable disease.

Since the procedure is done while you are sedated, the exam itself is painless and basically feels like a short nap.

In addition to the cleanliness of your colon, another critically important factor that determines the quality of your colon examination is your doctor. Each doctor who performs colonoscopies should be aware of his or her ADR, or adenoma detection rate. This doctor's "report card" is the rate at which one or more precancerous polyps are found during a screening colonoscopy in patients 50 years and older. Current standards suggest a minimum ADR of 30 percent for male patients and 20 percent for female patients. Don't be afraid to ask your doctor what his or her ADR is, as a higher ADR means a higher quality colonoscopy. Wouldn't you want your house inspected by someone who is likely to

find a preventable problem, so you don't have to make costly repairs later? Your colon health should be no different. Studies have shown that for every 1 percent increase in a physician's ADR, the risk of colon cancer decreases by 3 percent for the patient over the next year. If you are going through the process of getting a screening colonoscopy, it is vitally important the exam be done right.

The American Cancer Society recently recommended that all individuals aged 45 and older get screened for colon cancer. You might need a screening exam at a younger age if you have a family history of colon polyps or cancer, a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, or other medical conditions. Your personal medical and family history will determine when and which type of colon cancer screening test is best for you. Additional information can be found online at websites for the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, colorectal cancer awareness (www.screen4coloncancer.org).

If you haven't done so already, talk to your doctor about getting screened for colorectal cancer. It is an easy, safe, and proven way of reducing your chance of dying from a very common and preventable disease. Having a colonoscopy will give you peace of mind. And it may just save your life.

Dr. Varanasi is a fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association and is accepting new patients at his office locations in Pittsboro and Pinehurst. To make an appointment, call 919-292-6110.



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Continued from page A10

STEPHEN KEITH DORSETT



August 5, 1961 - February 27, 2020
Stephen Keith Dorsett, 58, passed away on Thursday, February 27, 2020. He was born on August 5, 1961 in Chatham County to the late William Earl Dorsett and Linda Culberson Dorsett of Siler City, NC. Keith obtained his BS and Masters in Mechanical Engineering from NC State University. Keith was employed by Western Electric and remained with the company his entire career, as it restructured to Lucent Technologies, then General Dynamics.

In his free time, Keith enjoyed relaxing in his recliner, with one of the cats on his lap, while he read the daily newspaper, worked the crossword, and watched TV. He especially enjoyed rooting for his team, the Wolfpack. Reading mystery novels, fishing, traveling, and good food were also favorites, but Keith's real passion was listening to music, especially live performances. In conversation, he would often say, "You know, there's a song about that."

Keith shared his life with his high school sweetheart, best friend, and wife of 34 years, Annette Phillips Dorsett, at their current home in Greensboro. He is also survived by his mother, Linda Dorsett, brother, Mitch Dorsett, and niece, Addie Dorsett, all of Siler City, NC. His family also includes his mother-in-law, Jeanette Campbell Phillips, and late father-in-law, Gurney Lewis Phillips, of Siler City, NC, and sister-in-law and her husband, Jo and Joe Lockwood, of Raleigh, NC.

The family sincerely appreciates the outpouring of love, support, and prayers from family and friends. A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Rocky River Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 4436 Siler City Snow Camp Road, Siler City, NC. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Keith's honor to the Youth Scholarship Program through High Lonesome Strings Bluegrass Assoc, P.O. Box 482, Pleasant Garden, NC 27313, or to SPCA of the Triad, P.O. Box 4461, Greensboro, NC 27404, www.TriadSPCA.org.

Fare you well, fare you well
I love you more than words can tell
Listen to the river sing sweet songs
To rock my soul
- Robert Hunter

TAYLOR OWEN POWELL



Mr. Taylor Owen Powell, 21, passed away Friday, February 28, 2020 in Durham, NC.

Taylor was born in Wake County, March 3, 1998, to Mrs. Billie (Bowles) Powell and the late John Anthony (Tony) Powell. He was a hard worker in construction and was loving to his family and loyal to his friends. This world is a sadder place for having lost Taylor (our Taterbug), but it is much better off with having him in it. He will be terribly missed!

In addition to his father, Taylor is preceded in death by his grandparents, Billy and Leatha Bowles.

He is survived by his mother, Billie of the home; his sister, Hannah Powell of Siler City; his girlfriend, Hannah Jones of Chapel Hill, NC; grandparents, Carolyn M. and John A. Powell of Cedar Point, NC; his uncle, Steve Bowles of Apex, NC; his aunt, Sherron Lebo of Cocoa, FL; along with many cousins and numerous, close friends.

The family will receive friends and guests from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2020, at Donaldson Funeral Home, 396 West St., Pittsboro, NC 27312.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating your generosity to the Powell family.

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

Arrangements by Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation.

Siler City approves Marsh Auto Parts expansion

Community concerns resulted in split vote

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of Commissioners approved a rezoning request for Marsh Auto Parts in Siler City following a three-hour discussion on Monday.

Members of the community adjacent to the property, which is located on Eleventh Street (U.S. Hwy. 64) and Greensboro Avenue, spoke out at Monday's meeting with concerns about the current operation and its plans to expand, resulting in a split vote by the board.

Marsh Auto Parts purchased and opened its facility in 1963. As the operation grew, so did the size of the storage yard on the property for vehicles. As early as 1969, minutes from Siler City board meetings reflect residents of the Lincoln Heights community, which is adjacent to the property, complaints of mosquitoes and pests because of the facility.

Earlier this year, Marsh Auto Parts requested the rezoning and conditional use permitting of an adjacent property to use for auto delivery and processing. The reason for the request was mainly due to the anticipated "super street" updates to Eleventh Street that will be constructed by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation. That project will include a median with turnabouts along the corridor, which the Marsh's believe would make deliveries more difficult.

Throughout the public hearing process, neighbors of the facility have raised concerns about mosquitoes and the appearance of the facility to the board of commissioners. At Monday night's meeting, residents also brought a petition signed by nearly 30 residents and members of the Holy Trinity Church, which also borders Marsh Auto Parts, asking that the board "honor our wishes and not allow any more property in our community to be rezoned for the purpose of expanding a junk car lot."

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek noted that a petition was entered in the Siler City minutes from 1971 about problems with mosquitoes.

"For 40 years, the residents

have been dealing with this problem of mosquitoes," Cheek said. "It's about time the board takes action."

In response, Siler City's Planning Director Jack Meadows suggested the town contract with Catherine Deininger, Director of Bio-cenosis, who works with the town on projects involving "environmental management," to conduct a study of the area to identify the source of the mosquitoes and make recommendations as to how reduce their breeding habitats.

Dr. Kate Scott, owner of Chatham Veterinarian Service — which is adjacent to the property — spoke to the board not only about the mosquitoes, but the appearance of the storage yard behind her facility.

"Whatever they do [in terms of fencing and buffers] should not take away from the aesthetics of my business," Scott said. "I run a very professional business and I need my neighbor to look good. I want it to be very specific about what is going to happen here. And it should not devalue my property. My business is as important as any other business."

Lincoln Heights resident Jimmy Pugh also spoke to the board asking "is this what you want to see when you open your door or go to church?"

"It's time for the commissioners to give us some consideration," Pugh said. "Don't we have any rights at all? It falls on you. It's your legacy. We can't enjoy ourselves outside... we can't enjoy the fruits of our labor. Look inside yourself. Would you want to be in this position?"

Kimberly Pugh, who lives and owns several homes in the Lincoln Heights community also spoke to the board noting that financially, Marsh Auto Parts pays \$7,000 in taxes while she pays \$2,500 on her three properties. She said that with "all those people in that neighborhood, that's a considerable amount of money."

"From a financial standpoint, you need to listen to the residents," Kimberly Pugh said.

She also noted that from a "marketing standpoint," the storage yard is "quite unsightly."

"If they were being a good corporate citizen, they would have put up a better fence in 50 years," she said. "But it's black plastic, for 50 years it's been black plastic. I don't think what were asking for is some-

thing unattainable. We just want to enjoy our property. I implore you to say 'no.'"

Marsh Auto Parts' co-owner Jimmy Marsh addressed the board saying, "Marsh didn't create mosquitoes, God did."

Marsh said that he has started speaking with a few members of the community to discuss planting trees to obstruct the view and has paid to have a drainage ditch cleaned out to allow flow of water. He also noted that over the 50 years the company has been in operation, it has donated \$230,000 to the town's fire and police departments, the food pantry and local churches. Co-owner Steve Marsh also addressed the board, reiterating much of what his brother said, adding that he had been working with a horticulturist with the Chatham County Agricultural Extension to deploy mosquito reduction techniques which are now in use at the facility. The Marshes also agreed to allow an expert on their properties to conduct the mosquito study.

Throughout the discussion, several commissioners made the point that the re-zoning and the mosquitoes were two different issues.

"I don't know if this application [for re-zoning] affects the mosquitoes," Commissioner Lewis Fadely said. "I think we're talking about two different issues."

"I'm still trying to figure out what fencing and mosquitoes have to do with this re-zoning issue," Commissioner Bill Haiges said.

"I think by doing the study, we can eliminate the mosquitoes on the property that's about to be re-zoned," Cheek said.

"We're not looking at the issues we need to be looking at," Commissioner Cindy Bray said, noting agreement with Fadely and Haiges.

After the lengthy discussion, the re-zoning request was passed by a 5-2 vote, with Cheek and Commissioner Tony Siler dissenting. Fadely then made a motion to approve the conditional-use permit, but added that the conditions include the Marshes allowing the expert on their property for the mosquito study and to adhere to the study's recommendations. That motion passed unanimously.

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

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Three local students take prizes in Jordan-Matthews' 3rd annual 'Sing and Play'

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Three local students took top prizes last Wednesday in "Sing and Play '20," the 3rd annual student music competition at Jordan-Matthews High School. From auditions through the showcase concert, the event is designed as an educational experience for young musicians and a benefit concert for JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation.

Audience members voted Oliver Vang of Moncure School as best performance in the elementary division after his rousing vocal rendition of "Into the Unknown" from the film "Frozen II."

Ari Carrillo Ibarra of Chatham Middle School topped the middle school competition with her performance of "Take Me to Church," a song written and recorded by Hozier.

And in the high school competition, Luz Borraro of Chatham Charter School took the prize for her vocal performance of "The Chain," a song written and recorded by Fleetwood Mac.

While "Sing and Play" is open to instrumental and vocal acts, all 16 students in this year's showcase competition performed vocally, though some accompanied themselves on piano, guitar or ukulele. The winner of each division received a \$50 prize.

Greg Burriss, a musician who directs the annual competition, believes "Sing and Play" is a valuable experience for all student musicians — even those who don't make it onto the concert stage.

"It's always inspiring to



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Winners of 'Sing and Play '20' were, from left, Luz Borraro of Chatham Charter School, Ari Carrillo Ibarra of Chatham Middle School and Oliver Vang of Moncure School, all celebrating with concert host Lindley Andrew.

see the talent and enthusiasm of young musicians in our showcase concert," he said. "But we also are happy that so many can experience the entire process that musicians go through regularly to perform, including auditioning in a supportive environment, in front of accomplished musicians."

Rose Pate, president of JMArts, said she loves to see the support and cooperative spirit among all of the contestants. "Even though this is a competition, the students

backstage were cheering the other performers," she said. "Watching them dance and lip-sync to everyone's songs showed just how much they all love music. I'm so glad we are able to give students from all over our area this chance to perform."

All money raised by the competition will be used by JMArts to provide opportunities for high school artists, including those participating in its third-annual New York Arts Adventure. That trip scheduled over spring



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Elementary school winner: Oliver Vang of Moncure School.

break gives upperclass musicians, actors and visual artists an opportunity to explore one of the world's great cities, experience the very best in the arts, and gain new perspectives and experiences that will influence their lives and work.

Students this year will have the opportunity to learn from Broadway actor and Tony Award nominee Andy Grotelueschen, noted graffiti writer Leaf and Washington Post theater critic Peter Marks. Other opportunities to interact with world-class artists are still being arranged.

Musicians from Chatham County and across the state were eligible for "Sing and Play." Contestants in the showcase concert were selected by Burriss and musician



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

High school winner: Luz Borraro of Chatham Charter School.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Middle school winner: Ari Carrillo Ibarra of Chatham Middle School.

Joseph Walden during auditions in early February.

Pate expects "Sing and Play" to return next year with registration for auditions opening sometime around December 1. JMArts is already looking at possible dates for next year's competition, which is likely to be held once

again in mid- to late-February.

More information about "Sing and Play" and other arts events scheduled this season is available at jmarts.org. Photos from this year's auditions and showcase concert are online at facebook.com/JMHSArts.

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JUST RELEASED: FIRST RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN CHATHAM PARK

Chatham Park, in partnership with Fresh Paint by Garman Homes, announced that public pre-sales for their first residential homes will begin on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Widely anticipated in the marketplace, purchase appointments will be available via invitation only, on a first come, first serve basis.

"The ultimate goal of Chatham Park is to create, what our future residents will consider to be, the perfect community..."

The homes, aptly named The Cottages, will range from 828-1,397 sq. ft., with single story and two story plans, and be priced from the low \$200's. With names like "Hot Chocolate," "Apple Pie" and "Chicken Noodle Soup," the home plans offer unique, simple, nostalgic comfort to homebuyers.

"We're building to deliver an experience-rich, simplistic lifestyle," says Rebecca McAdoo, Division President of Fresh Paint by Garman Homes.

The size and style of these homes are a direct response to a larger consumer trend showing that more people are desiring smaller homes in order to enjoy greater peripheral benefits, such as walkability and a greater sense of community. All of the Cottages will be walking distance from historic downtown Pittsboro and across the street from a new 10 acre town park, being built by Chatham Park, and Thales Academy school.

"The Triangle marketplace has never seen a home product like this. We are proud to be working with Preston Development Company on the Chatham Park project and believe that this up and coming community is the perfect place to showcase our new offering," adds McAdoo.



"The ultimate goal of Chatham Park is to create, what our future residents will consider to be, the perfect community and the perfect place for them to call home. That means doing things differently than they've ever been done before," says Vanessa Jenkins, Executive Vice President of Preston Development Company, who is developing Chatham Park. "The Cottages will be the first of many unique neighborhoods here that will cater to niche lifestyle groups, such as minimalist living and artist studios, in order to create a community energized by an expansive diversity of perspectives and talents."

To receive an invitation for a purchase appointment, interested parties will need to add their name to The

Fresh Paint by Garman mailing list at <https://www.freshpaintbygarman.com/communities/pittsboro/chatham-park>.

The Cottages will be move-in ready by October, 2020 and available for viewing at the Triangle Parade of Homes next fall.

To learn more, contact Fresh Paint by Garman Homes at 800.560.1160, SayHello@GarmanHomes.biz or visit their website freshpaintbygarman.com.



Visit us at ChathamPark.com



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On behalf of the families of Chatham County and Chatham County Schools, we extend a sincere appreciation for the involvement of the following community agencies and vendors for their contribution to Family Fest 2020.

En nombre de las familias del Condado Chatham y de las Escuelas del Condado Chatham, extendemos un sincero agradecimiento por su participación a las siguientes agencias comunitarias y proveedores por su contribución al Festival Familiar 2020.

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Golden Bulls end run by Lady Chargers in third round on Saturday in Fayetteville

BY DON BEANE
 News + Record Staff

FAYETTEVILLE — A poor shooting third quarter spelled doom for the Northwood girls here in Fayetteville on Saturday evening as E.E. Smith knocked the Lady Chargers from the 3A NCHSAA state playoffs with a 57-41 defeat.

The third round, East Bracket loss ended the Northwood season at 22-6 while E.E. Smith (29-1) advances into the East Regional semi-finals to battle Wilson Hunt.

In the first half the Lady Chargers played the Golden Bulls even as the two teams battled to a 13-all tie after one before Smith went up 26-24 at the break.

Tekeyah Bland had six points in the first for Northwood while Hannah Kanapkey added a trey, Bland three points, and Caitlin Bailey three more in the second.

Amiah Savage had four points and Miya Giles-Jones three in the first for Smith, and Ke'Onna Bryant four and Savage three in the second. "Tonight really is about



Northwood's Caitlin Bailey (4) blocks the offensive effort of Person High's Gabby Jones in Pittsboro Feb. 27.

1 bad quarter and the third quarter really did us in tonight, and this has been somewhat of a theme this year," said NW coach Cameron Vernon. "We have struggled at times coming out of the

half but we give E.E. Smith a lot of credit, their pressure and athleticism was not like anything we have faced this year. Also their ability to attack the offensive boards also contributed to their success.

But the biggest stat to me is we sent them to the line 43 times. That's the most we have sent a team to the foul line in my 11 years as a head coach. I am not saying this either to question any calls because we fouled them. We really struggled with their speed and used out hands too much."

Vernon also commended the Golden Bulls for their efforts on the boards and at the charity stripe, also keys in the E.E. Smith win.

"Also on their offensive boards they were right underneath the basket for put backs and we fouled to stop that," noted Vernon. "So they did an outstanding job of attacking us and getting to the line to shoot 30-43 (70%)."

In the decisive third quarter Natalie Bell sank a trey for the Chargers but the locals managed just five points altogether and were outscored 16-5 all told. Savage had six points while Tamia Morris chipped in five for the Golden Bulls.

Jones would add five in the fourth and Morris three more as the hosts outscored Northwood 15-12 in the final frame to seal

the 57-41 win. Bailey had four for the Chargers in the fourth.

It's always hard to end the season and this was no exception for Vernon with this years team which was resilient and battled through a lot of adversity with the loss of several key players to injuries early on.

"As disappointed as we all our for our season to end tonight I told the girls there is so much to celebrate - a conference championship, 22 win season, and trip to the Sweet 16. We as a coaching staff were truly blessed that they allowed us to join them on their journey this season. Our senior class of Jy Smith, Hannah Kanapkey, Caitlin Bailey and Chandler Adams will be sorely missed because of their leadership they exhibited this year. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching them for the last 3-4 years."

Bland led Northwood with 11 points while Bailey chipped in seven points and six rebounds, and Gianna McManaman three assists.

Savage paced all scorers with 17 points for the Golden Bulls while Morris added 11 and Giles-Jones nine.

Chargers conquer Colts to advance to the Final Eight

BY DUCK DUCKSON
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — And then there were eight.

Deuce Powell poured in a season-high 29 points to lead three Northwood starters in double figures while Cape Fear never held an advantage the entire evening as the Chargers earned a trip to the Elite 8 round of the NCHSAA state basketball playoffs for the first time in nearly a decade by corralling the Colts 72-55 in third-round action of the 2020 Men's 3A East Championships Saturday night in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

While 11th-seed Cape Fear closed out the 2019-20 campaign with a record of 19-6, third-seed Northwood extended its unbeaten string to nine games in a row to improve to 26-2 and will next host a familiar foe in 10th-seed Southern Durham (22-5) Tuesday night in a fourth-round matchup, with the winner advancing to the Final Four. The Big Eight 3A Conference rival Spartans, who finished a game behind the Chargers in the final league standings, handed Northwood one of its two losses this year.

The Chargers' last venture this far into the state playoffs occurred back in the 2010-11 season when they progressed all the way to the title game before suffering a 58-56 loss to East Rutherford.

Joining Powell in double-digit scoring on Saturday evening were Jalen McAfee-Marion and Alex Snively with 13 points each as Northwood connected on 54 percent (23-of-43) of its shots from the field and held a 23-21 advantage in rebounds while turning the ball over 10 times.

Treymane Parker notched 20

points and R.J. McDonald collected 18 for the Colts, who shot 41 percent (20-of-49) from the floor while committing 14 turnovers.

"Our defense helped us get off to a fast start as it creates a lot of our offense," noted Chargers' coach Matt Brown.

"While we took better shots tonight than in our last outing, we still need to clean up on the defensive glass and do a better job denying second-chance opportunities. One aspect I was pleased with this evening was the play of Jack Thompson, who boxed out well on the boards and took some charges, as well as the effort given by guys like Justin Brower and Troy Arnold coming off the bench to give us quality minutes on the court while not turning the ball over."

Cape Fear coach Alphonza Kee remarked his team was hampered by early foul trouble, while Northwood's senior leadership allowed them to control the pace of the game.

"They did a good job pressuring the ball and not letting us get in our offensive sets," said Kee. "They contested our shots well and were aggressive around the rim, getting a lot of effort points off the boards."

"I thought their guards were able to maintain the tempo they wanted while penetrating the lane for good looks at the basket or knowing when to dish off when the shots weren't there."

McAfee-Marion's jumper from the right side and three-pointer from the right wing helped the Chargers jump out to a 7-2 advantage in the first two minutes of play before the Colts fought back to pull within 11-10 on a Shaun Ross layup with 4:13 left in the opening period.

Powell and Aaron Ross then combined for six unanswered



Northwood's Aaron Ross (0) comes around the block of Terry Sanford's defense for a shot on goal during the opening seconds of their second round state playoff game Feb. 27.

points to swing the momentum back in Northwood's favor, and the Chargers went on to forge as much as a 29-18 advantage following Powell's turnaround bucket in the lane with 2:21 remaining in the first half.

But Cape Fear would mount another comeback prior to inter-

mission, outscoring its host 12-5 to close the gap to four following a Chase Hawkins trey from the right corner with 23 seconds remaining until the break.

Cape Fear sliced its deficit to two on two occasions in the third stanza, the last time at 38-36 on Parker's layup with

5:26 to go in the frame before three Powell hoops ignited a 17-6 quarter-ending Northwood run that put the contest out of reach, and the visitors from Fayetteville could never reduce the Chargers' advantage under double figures the remainder of the contest.

Knights headed to 1A Western Regional semifinals, avenge loss to Jackets

BY DON BEANE
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jason Messier could do little but smile after his Chatham Charter boys basketball team stunned everyone across the Tar Heel state on Saturday evening in Siler City with a 58-40 beat down of Hayesville in third round action of the 1A NCHSAA state playoffs.

And who could blame him, no one gave the Knights a chance against the top-seeded Yellow Jackets out of the Smokey Mountain Conference.

The excuses were many: Hayesville had drilled Chatham Charter deep in the mountains 68-55 a year ago, Chatham Charter hasn't played anyone this season and the 1A Central Tar Heel Conference is weak, the Knights had no one to stop 6-foot-7 Jake Mctaggert, the most popular of many.

But in the end it was Messier's troops

that proved the naysayers wrong, again.

Much like the previous two playoff wins, Chatham Charter started fast and led from start to finish in improving to a gaudy 31-1 on the season while advancing to the 1A Western Regional semi-finals to battle powerful Lincoln Charter (27-2) who crushed Community School of Davidson on the same night. Chatham Charter and Lincoln Charter were scheduled to face off on Tuesday, March 3 over in Denver which is located in just off the shore of Lake Norman in northeastern Lincoln County.

For Messier, it's the same ole story, just a different team in round four.

"Our team is really taking being overlooked to heart, they hear things, are told what is said on message boards, and I think it's really made them determined and given them a lot of incentive to show that they have a really good basketball team," Messier said. "Obviously we will be underdogs on the road,

and should be, Lincoln Charter is the No. 1 seed and won a state title in recent years. But this group, the one thing I'm sure of is that they will go compete and play hard. That's just what they do.

The defensive end is where Chatham Charter has excelled in the playoffs, and Saturday night was no exception as the Knights held Hayesville to 40 points after the Jackets entered scoring 77 per contest.

"Our guys have bought in to always playing defense, that's something you can always do, even when your shots aren't falling," noted Messier. "We've really turned up the intensity in the playoffs, that has been the key."

That showed early as the Knights held the Jackets to just five points in the opening period to go up 9-5 after one.

Chatham Charter erupted for 18 points in the second to pull in front 27-19 at the break. Trevor Golden had five points in the period while Jordan Ham-

ilton added four and Ryan White a trey.

The smothering 2-3 zone by Chatham Charter did the rest by holding Hayesville to just 10 points in the third and 11 in the fourth. The Yellow Jackets had sliced the deficit to 43-29 entering the final stanza before the Knights erupted for 24 points to put the visitors from Clay County away.

"I thought for the most part we did a good job controlling Mctaggert including on the boards," added Messier on the talented Hayesville center who's expected to be one of the top tight end prospects in the nation in the 2022 class. "He closed with 15 points and 14 rebounds but we made him work for everything, especially Jordan and Trevor down low."

Hayesville (25-4) also received 13 points from Hayden McClure.

A balanced Chatham Charter attack

See **KNIGHTS**, page B2

Lady Chargers gallop past Rockets to advance to third round of state playoffs

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Out-scoring Person 20-9 in a pivotal second quarter, Northwood opened up a 28-16 halftime advantage and went on to maintain a double-digit lead for most of the second half en route to galloping past the Lady Rockets 54-41 in the second round of the NCHSAA 2020 Women's 3A East basketball state playoffs Thursday night in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Advancing to the third round of post-season competition for the first time since 2015, the sixth-seed Lady Chargers won their 13th consecutive game to improve to 22-5 for the year, including a 14-1 mark at home. Northwood traveled to Fayetteville Saturday evening to face third-seed E.E. Smith (28-1), while 22nd-seed Person ended its season at 16-9.

Chandler Adams recorded a game-high 14 points for the Lady

Chargers, while TeKeyah Bland and Natalie Bell tallied 13 apiece, with Bell tossing in four three-pointers. Northwood connected on 36 percent (14-of-39) of its field goal attempts and held a 26-24 advantage in rebounds while committing 15 turnovers.

Aaliyah Williams fired in four treys to lead the Lady Rockets with a dozen points, while Aaliyah Jones notched 11 and Nydriya Marnar added 10. Person shot 30 percent (13-of-43) from the floor while turning the ball over 22 times.

"We knew Person wanted an up-tempo game looking for a lot of transition points, and early-on we weren't patient with the ball and took quick shots," said Lady Chargers' coach Cameron Vernon. "But once we settled down we began to utilize our height advantage to get the ball inside to Chandler and TeKeyah, who dominated in the paint while managing to draw fouls and get to

the line. Our defense also did a good job handling Person's high pick-and-roll attack after the first quarter to force them into taking outside shots while curtailing their fast break opportunities."

Lady Rockets' coach Jay Carmichael said that after getting off to a good start his team had trouble trying to contain Northwood's inside game.

"Their size bothered us in the lane and we gave them too many open looks around the basket while letting them control the pace of the game," Carmichael said. "When they weren't hurting us inside they hit some three-pointers in the first half that let them establish a good lead, and even though we held our own offensively in the second half we couldn't overcome the advantage they built before intermission."

Person dashed out to a 7-2 lead midway through the initial period before the Lady Chargers closed the stanza with a 6-0 spurt to seize the



Northwood's Natalie Bell (5) passes through the defense of Person's Alexzia Thompson in the second round of the state playoffs Feb. 27 in Pittsboro.

Staff photo by David Bradley

advantage for good on an Adams charity toss with 1:07 left in the first quarter.

Following a pair of Adams layups and Bland's put-back off the right baseline that helped Northwood fashion a 15-8 lead with 6:40 remaining in the second period, the Lady Rockets trimmed their deficit to four less than two minutes later on a Jones foul shot and Alexzia Thompson's jumper in the lane.

But two Bland free throws and back-to-back Bell treys from the right wing in the next minute-and-a-half allowed the Lady Chargers to expand their advantage to 23-11 prior to the winners maintaining a 12-point lead at the break.

After Person pulled within 32-23 on Kayleigh Clarke's lane jumper with 1:54 to go in the third quarter, Northwood rebuilt a 12-point advan-

tage (36-24) by the end of the frame on the strength of two foul shots each by McKenna Snively and Adams.

The Lady Rockets once again closed to within nine at 44-35 on a Williams three-pointer from the right corner with 3:55 remaining to play before Bell's trey from beyond the top of the key a minute later sparked a 10-6 game-ending run by the Lady Chargers.

Powell's miracle trey lifts Northwood over shocked Terry Sanford in second-round of state playoffs

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Deuce Powell wasn't about to let Northwood's dream season end in a nightmare Thursday evening in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

The senior forward buried a three-pointer from the right corner as time expired to lift the Chargers to a thrilling 56-54 come-from-behind victory over a stunned Terry Sanford team in a second-round NCHSAA 2020 Men's 3A East basketball state playoff contest.



Northwood's Jack Thompson (20) takes the rock through the defense of Terry Sanford High School in the second round of playoffs for the state championship in Pittsboro Feb. 27.

Staff photo by David Bradley

Stretching its winning streak to eight games, No. 3 Northwood raised its overall record to 25-2 and will now entertain 11th-seed Cape Fear (19-5) Saturday night in a third-round matchup, while the 19th-seed Bulldogs ended their season at 18-7.

The Chargers led for 31-plus minutes before Quay McMillan's conventional three-point play with 44.7 seconds remaining gave Terry Sanford its first advantage of the night at 52-51.

Following Jalen

McAfee-Marion's jumper off the right baseline seven seconds later that reclaimed the lead for Northwood, the Bulldogs answered with Davis Molnar's layup off the right baseline to regain the advantage at 54-53 with 12.7 seconds to go.

The Chargers' Jack Thompson then missed a layup in the closing moments, and in a scrap for the rebound the ball was swatted into the backcourt, where Northwood's Alex Snively chased it

down as time appeared to have run out, setting off a wild celebration by Terry Sanford.

However, the officials ruled Chargers' coach Matt Brown had called a time-out with 1.2 seconds left and requested that amount of time be put back on the clock.

When play resumed with Northwood looking to inbound the ball at midcourt, McAfee-Marion heaved a long pass to deep in the right corner, where Powell made the

catch and launched his game-winning shot as the Chargers' bench erupted in jubilation while the Bulldogs looked on in disbelief.

"I'll count this win as a blessing," Brown said. "I thought we played hard and defended well for the first 28 minutes before we almost let the game slip away. Both teams shot well down the stretch, but they went to man coverage in the fourth quarter, something we hadn't seen in awhile and it threw us off. We gave up too many offensive rebounds which led to a lot of their second-chance points, and that's one area we need to clean up."

Powell finished with 17 points and McAfee-Marion totaled 12 for the victors, while Snively and Thompson contributed 10 apiece.

Molnar led Terry Sanford with 13 points, while Kyron Kelly and McMillan chipped in a dozen each.

Although Terry Sanford shot 44 percent (20-of-45) from the field compared to Northwood's

37 percent (17-of-46), the Chargers won the battle of the boards by a 27-18 margin and went 18-of-24 from the charity stripe, while the Bulldogs made five-of-10 attempts from the line. Northwood committed 17 turnovers, whereas Terry Sanford turned the ball over 20 times.

Bulldogs' coach Karl Molnar said that while Powell ended up hitting the deciding bucket, he felt Northwood really won the game in the first half.

"Obviously I'm proud of our guys making a comeback after battling uphill all night," said Molnar. "I thought both teams started out slow, but Northwood got hot in the second quarter to open up a 13-point lead at intermission. Their defense kept us back on our heels most of the night, never letting us get into any kind of offensive rhythm until six three-pointers in the fourth quarter finally got us going. We gave ourselves a chance to pull it out at the end, but we don't spend much time in

practice on how to defend shots with 1.2 seconds on the clock."

Despite only connecting on three-of-15 field goal attempts in the initial stanza, the Chargers built a 9-6 advantage behind treys from Snively and Powell before Thompson and Powell combined for 10 second-quarter points as Northwood surged to a 27-14 lead at the break.

Following back-to-back lay-ups by Yates Johnson and Cooper Barco to begin the third period that drew Terry Sanford within nine, the Chargers closed out the frame with a 9-4 run to take a 12-point advantage into the final eight minutes.

But the Bulldogs then managed to unleash a furious offensive assault over the course of the fourth quarter, fueled by two three-pointers apiece from Kaylor Keys and McMillan coupled with single treys by Molnar and Johnson, to catch up with and eventually surpass Northwood, setting the stage for Powell's dramatic game-clinching hoop.

Chatham Charter powers past Cherokee 76-58 in second round action

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Chatham Charter outscored Cherokee 23-11 in the opening quarter here on Thursday night in Siler City and never looked back in a convincing 76-58 triumph over the Braves in second round action of the 1A NCHSAA state playoffs.

Chatham Charter improved to 30-1 overall in the west bracket win while Cherokee closes the season at 18-10.

"It was a great win, our kids played very tough defensively and on offense we moved the ball around well the entire night," said Knights coach Jason Messier. "We controlled their three-point shooters for the most part as well as them leaking out on fast breaks. We gave up some of both, but it was limited."

Offensively, the inside tandem of 6-foot-5 senior Jordan Hamilton and 6-foot-4 junior Trevor Golden simply destroyed Cherokee in the paint, combining for 47 points and 23

rebounds. Hamilton had 24 points and 15 boards for the Knights while Golden chipped in 23 points and eight more rebounds as the hosts outrebounded the Braves 39-to-17 in the contest.

"That was a big key, controlling the glass," said Messier on his club, which also saw Connor Murphy chipped in 13 more boards to go with seven points, two assists and three steals. "Sometimes that's difficult especially on those long rebounds against a team like Cherokee who's game is perimeter oriented. But tonight we did a good job of it."

The in excess of a four hour bus ride appeared to affect Cherokee early as the Braves fell behind 9-0 at the outset and saw the deficit grow to 23-11 after one period of play.

Sterling Santa Maria would score eight points in the second and Don Bradley added three more as the Braves closed the deficit to 29-24 with 40.9 seconds left until the intermission.

After the Knights re-

sponded with a free throw by Hamilton, the Braves turned the ball over and Hamilton was fouled when heaving up a shot at the buzzer from just inside the midcourt stripe. Hamilton made all three foul shots with all the players off the court to extend Chatham Charter's lead back to 33-24 at the break.

With the stifling defense of Chatham Charter, the cold shooting continued for Cherokee in the third period as the Braves put up just 12 points including four by Bradley, and a trey each from Santa Maria and Jordan Arkansas. Hamilton answered with eight points down low and Ryan White added five more including a trey to keep the hosts in a double digit lead most of the frame.

Golden had 10 points for the Knights in the fourth and sank a perfect 6-of-6 foul shots down the stretch. Cole Milholen chipped in six points in the final period, Amir Mapp six and Hamilton four as Chatham Charter pulled away in the waning minutes.

Santa Maria poured in 10 points in the final stanza and Arkansas added five including a three-pointer but Cherokee could never get the lead under nine points at 62-53 with 2:53 remaining following a Santa Maria driving hoop.

Cherokee suffered 17 costly turnovers from the field and was only 5-of-17 from behind the arc.

White added 10 more for the Knights in the triumph while Milholen and Mapp chipped in six apiece.

Santa Maria led the Braves with 24 points and Bradley chipped in 11.

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

was paced by a game-high 18 points from Hamilton. The 6'5 senior also chipped in six rebounds, three assists and one steal.

Connor Murphy added a great game and was all over the court, collecting 12 points, four boards, two assists and

five steals while Golden added 10 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and three steal in an outstanding performance. Rounding out the the scoring for the Knights was White and Cole Milholen six points each, Amir Mapp with four, and Clay Griffin with two. Milholen added two assists and a steal from the point and the senior turned the ball over just twice for the Knights who had 11 as a team and shot 54% (21-of-39) from the field.



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Record-breaking season comes to a close for Chatham Charter girls down in Edenton

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

EDENTON — A record-breaking season for the Chatham Charter girls basketball team came to an end on Saturday night down in eastern North Carolina as Edenton Holmes used runs in the second and fourth quarters to pull away from the Knights for a 63-41 victory in third round action of the 1A NCHSAA state playoffs.

Chatham Charter coach Jennifer Dameron saw her club close at 27-4. Dameron, a shoe-in as

the Coach of the Year in the 1A Central Tar Heel Conference, witnessed her team shatter the win record with the 27 victories in the sixth year of the program. The previous high had been just 12 in 2015-2016 season.

On Saturday in Edenton, Chatham Charter battled fiercely but Holmes won every quarter including 16-13 in the first, 17-9 in the second, 11-9 in the third, and 19-10 in the fourth.

Morgan Lineberry led the Knights with 16 points while Rebecca McGaughnea chipped in 12, Tamaya

Walden six, and Lillian Jones five.

McGaughnea also added 11 boards, one assist and four steals in the loss while Lineberry chipped in eight rebounds, Walden four rebounds, three assists and four steals, and Olivia Cheek four rebounds and four assists.

The Aces improved to 23-6 with the win and move to battle Bishop McGuinness.

On Thursday night in Siler City in second round action it was Chatham Charter pounding Tarboro 62-46.

The Lady Knights pulled

out to an 11-5 lead after one period before taking a 25-18 lead at the half.

Entering the fourth quarter with a 43-34 advantage, Chatham Charter outscored Holmes 19-12 in the closing stanza to pull away for the easy win.

Lineberry had 24 points, 12 rebounds and three steals to pace the Knights while Walden chipped in 14 points, five boards, six assists and seven steals. Also, McGaughnea added 10 points, 11 rebounds, an assist and two steals for the locals while Jones

chipped in eight points, eight boards, an assist and one steal, and Cheek four points, three rebounds and two assists.

Tarboro closed the season at 15-13 overall.

Chatham Charter opened the state playoffs on Tuesday in Siler City and trounced the Gates County Red Barons 66-47.

The locals used a 25-6 spurt in the first quarter to take control from the outset and then outscored the visitors 19-10 in the second to go up 44-16 at the intermission.

From there the Knights cruised in taking the easy

triumph.

McGaughnea had 19 points, 11 boards and an assist in the win while Lineberry chipped in 18 points, 14 rebounds, four assists and a steal to the Chatham Charter cause.

Walden also added 11 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and a steal in the win while Jones and Taylor Brewer chipped in six points each with Brewer adding two boards, two assists and three steals and Cheek two points, four rebounds and four assists.

Gates County, hailing from Gatesville, closed the season at 10-14.

Second half surge leads to opening round win for Lady Chargers

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As they say, there's no place like home.

After fending off a scrappy Southern Alamance team to carry a four-point advantage into halftime, Northwood outscored the Lady Patriots 14-7 in the third period to open up a comfortable lead before pulling away down the stretch to claim a 50-35 victory in first-round action of the NCHSAA 2020 Women's 3A East basketball state playoffs last Tuesday in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Winning their 12th game in a row while improving to 13-1 at home and 21-5 overall, the sixth-seed Lady Chargers moved on to 22nd-seed Person (16-8) Thursday evening, whereas 27th-seed Southern Alamance finished 9-16 for the year.

Te'keyah Bland tossed in 20 points for the victors, while Natalie Bell and McKenna Snively chipped in eight each. Northwood connected on 41 percent (19-of-46) of its attempts from the field while turning the ball over a dozen times.

Alyssa Jacobson topped the Lady Patriots with 16 points as Southern Alamance shot 38 percent (12-of-32) from the floor and held a 27-18 edge in rebounds, but it wasn't enough to offset 25 turnovers.

"I wasn't pleased with our defense

the first half as we gave up too many drives inside while allowing Southern Alamance to box us out on the boards,"

said Lady Chargers' coach Cameron Vernon. "But I thought we came out and set the tone for the rest of the night in the first four minutes of the third quarter when we went from a zone defense to man-to-man, pressuring the ball to force turnovers while moving our feet to not let them beat us to the basket. We also got better rotation on our help-side defense, while offensively we had good ball movement in the second half that forced them to chase us as we looked for good shots."

Lady Patriots' coach Amy Sarratt stated after keeping the game close in the first half, her team's drop-off on offense along with its inability to handle Northwood's press after intermission paved the way for the Lady Chargers' triumph.

"They picked up their defense in the second half and forced us into making bad passes, while we just couldn't convert on offense," Sarratt said. "Rebounding was a big key that kept us in the game the first half, but Northwood did a much better job on the boards after the break and didn't give us many second-chance opportunities."

After Jacobson's turnaround bucket in the paint gave Southern Alamance its only lead at 4-2 with 5:28 left in the initial stanza, Bland's jumper in the lane

followed by Rae McClarty's midcourt steal and layup a minute later put the Lady Chargers ahead to stay.

Behind a pair of Bell three-pointers from the right wing, Northwood surged to a 16-7 advantage with 1:29 remaining in the opening frame prior to a Jacobson charity toss and Brianna Gallagher's jumper from the right side that drew the Lady Patriots within six at the end of the period.

Following Jacobson's trey from the right wing that pulled the visitors from Mt. Hermon within 21-20 with 3:39 to go in the first half, the Lady Chargers countered a Lacy Mills foul shot with baskets by Bell and Jillian McNaught to forge a 25-21 lead at intermission.

Gianna McManaman's three-pointer from the left wing to begin the third quarter sparked a 7-2 Northwood run that boosted the winner's advantage to 32-23 midway through the stanza, and after Caitly Russell's layup trimmed Southern Alamance's deficit to 36-28 with 1:20 left in the period, Hannah Kanapkey's trey from the left corner with 25.7 seconds on the clock sent the Lady Chargers into the final quarter with a 39-28 lead.

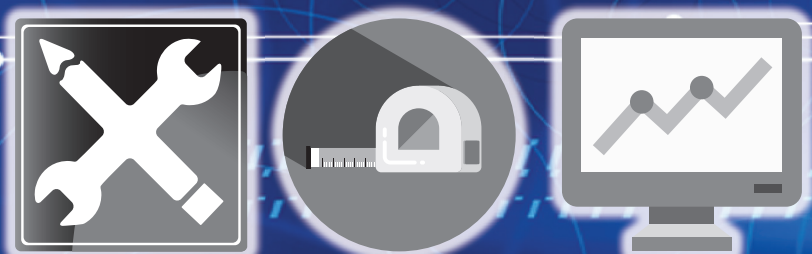
Northwood then never let its advantage dip below double digits the rest of the night while fashioning its largest lead at 48-30 on a Chandler Adams layup with 3:55 remaining to play.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Te'keyah Bland goes for a layup against Person High in their state playoff championship game Feb. 27 in Pittsboro.

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Pivotal fourth quarter run sends Northwood past East Chapel Hill in state playoff opener

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After East Chapel Hill narrowed a 14-point third-quarter deficit to two at the start of the final period, Northwood reeled off nine unanswered points to regain control and held the Wildcats in check the rest of the way to collect a 63-57 triumph in opening-round play of the NCHSAA 2020 Men's 3A East basketball state playoffs last Tuesday in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Defeating their Big Eight 3A Conference rivals for the third time this season, the third-seed Chargers extended their current win streak to seven games and climbed to 24-2 overall while preparing to host 19th-seed Terry Sanford (18-6) Thursday night in a second-round clash, whereas 30th-seed East Chapel Hill concluded the year with a record of 11-15.

Jalen McAfee-Marion led four Northwood starters in double figures with 17 points, Alex Snively contributed 15, including a trio of treys, Aaron Ross notched 13 and Deuce Powell added 12 as the Chargers shot 40 percent (21-of-52) from the field while turning the ball over 11 times.

Will Tyndall registered 20

points and Miles Merriweather added 11 for the Wildcats, who connected on 48 percent (24-of-50) of their attempts from the floor and held a slight 28-27 margin in rebounds while committing 15 turnovers.

"East Chapel Hill played us tough in both our earlier games with them so our plan tonight was to pressure them early and get stops while creating turnovers," said Northwood coach Matt Brown. "I thought Jalen had an outstanding game scoring, rebounding at both ends of the court and defending, while he and Aaron hit some key free throws late, combining to go 11-of-12 at the line down the stretch."

Wildcats' coach Ray Hartsfield said he was proud of how his squad competed in the second half after finding itself trailing by 11 at intermission.

"After Northwood had a few runs in the first half we found some energy in the third quarter to speed things up while taking good shots and getting stops on defense to cut the difference to two and give ourselves a chance to pull out a victory," Hartsfield said. "But then we didn't get the stops we needed in the fourth quarter, while Northwood did a good job knocking down free throws to

extend its lead far enough out that we couldn't catch up."

Following the first five minutes of play the teams were deadlocked at 7-all before the Chargers seized the advantage for good on a Ross trey from the left corner with 2:20 to go in the initial period.

After a Merriweather foul shot cut the lead to two with 1:56 left in the quarter, McAfee-Marion's midcourt steal and windmill dunk gave Northwood a 12-8 advantage at the end of the opening stanza.

Back-to-back Snively three-pointers two minutes into the second period spearheaded a 13-5 Chargers' run to boost their lead to 25-13 with 3:54 remaining in the first half prior to East Chapel Hill closing the gap to 28-21 on Charles Stanley's layup with 1:32 left until intermission.

But Northwood then answered with a 6-2 quarter-ending spurt, climaxed by Jack Thompson's jumper from the right wing at the horn, to forge a 34-23 advantage at the break.

After McAfee-Marion's put-back in the lane increased the Chargers' lead to 41-27 with 5:23 to go in the third frame, the Wildcats narrowed the difference to 44-39 on James Riley's conventional three-point play

with exactly two minutes remaining in the period before Justin Brower's drive off the left baseline at the horn sent Northwood into the final eight minutes up by seven.

Following Tyndall's three-pointer from the left wing and Merriweather's layup to start the fourth stanza drew East Chapel Hill within 46-44 with 5:50 to go in the contest, Ross and Powell combined for seven consecutive points during the Chargers' 9-0 burst as the winners' advantage grew to 55-44 with 2:08 remaining.

"After opening up a double-digit lead at halftime we didn't finish plays in the third quarter, didn't take good shots and gave East Chapel Hill too many second-chance opportunities that aided in their comeback," Brown said, "but this senior-heavy group knows what it take to win and didn't panic when the score got close in the fourth period."

After a pair of McAfee-Marion charity tosses stretched Northwood's lead to 63-51 with 37.2 seconds left, Tyndall tallied all of the Wildcats' points during a 6-0 game-ending run on two free throws, a put-back in the paint and one off the right baseline to account for the final spread.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Jalen McAfee-Marion rises for a layup Feb. 27 past the defensive efforts of Terry Sanford High.

State playoffs swing through Chatham



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter co-captain Connor Murphy lets one fly over the heads of the Highland School of Technology's defensive line in their Feb. 25 game in Siler City.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter's Taylor Brewer (5) comes in for a layup in the fourth quarter Feb. 25 in Siler City past Gates County defenders.



Chatham Central's Nik Wilson (32) tries to make space against Northwest Halifax defenders late in the teams' state playoff game in Bear Creek Feb. 25.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Chandler Adams (23) shoots over the heads of the defense of Person High in the squads' Feb. 27 game in Pittsboro.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter's Jordan Hamilton (42) snags a rebound from a Highland School of Technology defender Feb. 25.

Chatham Charter's 64-44 win leaves Highland Tech feeling low

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Connor Murphy pumped in 15 points and Jordan Hamilton added 14 as Chatham Charter dominated Highland Tech early and often enroute to a convincing 64-44 triumph in opening round action of the 1A NCHSAA state playoffs.

The West Bracket win raised the Knights record to 29-1 on the season while the visiting Rams from Gaston County close at 7-18.

"We started very fast and came into tonight with a lot of intensity and focus," Chatham Charter coach said Jason Messier after the win. "Defensively we were aggressive, and that played into our offensive game with some easy baskets early."

The result was a commanding 23-6 lead after one period of play before the locals used a 16-9 spurt in the second to take a commanding 39-15 advantage into the intermission.

Chatham Charter outscored Highland Tech 13-10

in the third to pull in front 52-25 before settling for the 20-point win.

Also reaching double-figure scoring for the Knights was Trevor Golden with 11 points while Ryan White chipped in 10 while Cole Milholen added five and Clay Griffin four. White sank a pair of treys for the locals while Golden added another.

Hamilton closed out an all around great game with 14 boards, eight assists and two steals while Murphy added six rebounds, an assist and two steals.



Photo courtesy of Central Carolina Community College

Members of the Central Carolina Community College golf team are pictured, left to right: Carter Fuquay, Lee Bass, Robert Langley and Justin Jarrett.

Bear Creek's Fuquay, CCCC golf preparing for spring season

CN+R STAFF REPORT

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College golf coach Jonathan Hockaday is looking forward to the spring season.

"This group has a chance to win some tournaments if we play well," said Hockaday.

Members of the

CCCC golf team are Lee Bass of Dunn (Triton High School), Carter Fuquay of Bear Creek (Chatham Central High School), Justin Jarrett of Mocksville (Southwestern Randolph High School), and Robert Langley of Sanford (Southern Lee High School).

2020 spring schedule: March 1-2 — at Sandhills

CC Tournament (Longleaf Golf Club, Southern Pines); March 21-22 — at Johnston CC Tournament (Pine Hollow Golf Club, Clayton); March 29-30 — CCCC Cougar Classic (Quail Ridge Golf Club, Sanford); April 17-18 — at Regionals (Quail Ridge Golf Club and Whispering Pines Country Club, Whispering Pines).

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CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hiring people, Fortnite slips and the coronavirus

Two weeks ago, I made a reference to the U.S.



ZACHARY HORNER
Corner Store

version of "The Office," which is far and away my favorite TV show ever. I hope to make more references in the future. Truthfully, "The Office" taught me a few things about businesses and how they work prior to ever really learning about business. Among them:

- The importance of customer service for local businesses, especially when you can't compete price-wise with big box/chain stores
- The meaning of the terms "downsizing" and "human resources"
- And what to do when

your boss writes a movie screenplay and you find it while he's out on a sales call with his boss

That last one is a very specific situation, but it's important to learn that. Here are this week's items...

How companies are hiring

Something I've noticed perusing business newsletters and news in recent weeks is how companies are hiring workers and how that's changed.

The Body Shop, a UK-based cosmetics and skin care company, will begin utilizing an "open hiring" policy beginning this summer, according to a report in The Morning Brew e-newsletter. By this summer, the report says, "potential employees at all of The Body Shop's retail stores will only need to meet three criteria: 1) authorized to work in

the U.S. 2) can lift over 50 pounds and 3) can stand for eight hours. Drug tests and background checks will be removed from the application process; jobs will be doled out on a first-come, first-serve basis."

The Body Shop's distribution center first tried out the policy last year, and employee turnover dropped from 43 percent in December 2018 to 16 percent in December 2019. The company also said productivity improved.

The News & Observer reported late last month that a large portion of companies in the Research Triangle Park area are becoming more willing to train their own tech workers. There were more than 28,000 job postings in the IT field in December, a 10.8 percent jump from last year according to the N.C. Tech Association. In 2017, IBM's RTP

location began a 12-month apprenticeship program that, according to the story, has provided coding and cybersecurity instruction to more than 200 employees without advanced degrees and has hired around 90 percent of them. Additionally, one survey found 46 percent of Raleigh-area chief information officers were "willing to be more flexible on skill requirements and provide training to new hires."

Fortnite bringing in less revenue

I've written about Cary-based Epic Games and its flagship offering Fortnite in this column many times. It's my attempt to keep up with what the kids are doing these days.

And what are they doing? Well, it seems like they might be playing a little less Fortnite. January revenue from the game hit its lowest level

since November 2017, according to a report last week. The popular shooter game, launched in 2017, has seen monthly revenue drop below \$100 million since last September, but is still the reigning top-grossing online video game of the year.

Business tips re: coronavirus

It seems that everywhere you turn, there's news about coronavirus, or COVID-19, officially. In response, a task force was created within North Carolina's state government. Last week, that task force released some tips for businesses to help deal with potential spread:

- Practice good hand hygiene and encourage your employees and patrons to take common-sense precautions to protect themselves from the spread of respiratory illnesses
- Review your poli-

cies and procedures for remote or teleworking where possible

• Cross-train employees for key functions so that daily schedules can continue relatively uninterrupted by potential employee absences

• Review absenteeism policies to make sure employees are not being encouraged to come to work if they are sick

• If you have not already, establish a relationship with your local health department and communicate with them if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19

In this week's edition of the News + Record, I have a story on the virus and how Chatham County is responding.

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

Won't somebody think of the puppies?

I think everybody can agree that dogs are too good for us broken, damaged humans. We're just lucky they take pity on us, and share their



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

lives with us. I mentioned in my very first column for you, Gentle Reader, that I love dogs.

Yeah, I didn't want to scare you, but I really, really love dogs. Most of the time I like them way more than humans. War, natural disaster, and famine is tragic, but a puppy with a limp? I dissolve into a puddle of my own tears.

Petey and I are on the same page when it comes to our canine friends (although his love is a little more stoic, like a rigid New England farmer: "Aye pup, you're a good boy"). Our entire marriage we've either had a dog, or been in that heart-breaking, hopeful intervals when you've lost



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A big batch of dog treats.

one pooch and slowly become ready for a new pup.

Growing up was the same way. We almost always had dogs, which for a nomadic Coast Guard family is quite a bit more complicated.

Harry was our first dog as a married couple. We saw him in a pet store in a mall in Virginia. He'd been there at least a month and had outgrown the largest cage. He spent his days crouched in a too

small crate and tortured by children visiting the mall.

We knew, even back in the 80s that the dogs sold in pet store very often came from puppy mills. So we'd never get a puppy from a mall pet store. Except.

Except this dog was in an intolerable situation, and his future looked bleaker every day. Petey and I agreed, we couldn't sleep at night if left



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Crowley's cookies.

this puppy in these dire circumstances and went home.

He rode home on my lap.

For the first three weeks, when not eating or outside, he hid under our bed. We'd go in every once in a while and gently talk to him, hopefully letting him know he was safe and home.

He was sweet, gentle, and affectionate with us. We adored him.

Pumpkin Peanut Butter Dog Treats

Dry ingredients:
2 1/2 cups flour
1 cup self-rising cornmeal
1 cup oats
Pinch of salt

Wet ingredients:
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup oil
2 eggs
1/3 cup peanut butter (approx)
1/3 cup canned pumpkin (approx)

Put dry ingredients into bowl of mixer. Add wet on top. Mix until it forms dough ball and comes away from the sides of the bowl. Knead on kitchen counter a few times until it is a nice neat ball. Cut in half. Roll out first, lay on parchment lined cookie sheet and score into 1 inch squares (I use a pizza wheel). Repeat with other half on second cookie sheet. Cook 10 minutes at 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Spin pans 180 degrees and switch racks. Bake 10 more minutes. Turn off oven and allow the biscuits to cool in oven until crisp and hard. Store in airtight container.

But he was a ghost. He was petrified of almost everything and everybody everywhere else. I had two photos of Harry. They're both of his caboose — as he ran away. But most of all, he was afraid of people. The most our friends saw our vanishing Chow Chow was his south end, as he was

fleeing north. They took to calling him, "Scary Harry." My recipe this week is the favorite of hundreds of dogs. I came up with the recipe for our dogs. Our vet now gives it to dog owners looking to make their own dog food. So, to all the dogs I've loved before, I give you:

Local Girl Scout earns Gold Award for creating education program

CN+R STAFF REPORT

APEX — Erica Hollis, a Northwood High School senior, has earned the Girl Scouts' Gold Award for her work to create an interactive special education program to teach seniors a variety of basic technological skills to ensure they can stay connected in today's modern world.

Hollis earned the Scouting honor by creating the Youth

Engaging with Seniors Technology Workshops, which were conducted at North East Baptist Church and Pruitt Health — Carolina Point Rehabilitation center, both in Durham.

During the workshop, Hollis taught the participating senior citizens various skills, such as how to create an email account, how to send group texts, and more.

Hollis said she hopes her workshop has

helped seniors learn the skills needed to stay connected in today's world and is excited that the Youth Ministry at North East Baptist Church will be continuing the workshops in the future.

The Gold Award is "the mark of the truly remarkable," according to a spokesperson for Girl Scouts - North Carolina Coastal Pines.

The award is "earned by a high school Girl

Scout who works to address an issue she's passionate about in a way that produces meaningful and lasting change," a press release from the regional Girl Scout organization said. "Whether it's on a local, national, or global level, Gold Award Girl Scouts provide innovative solutions to significant challenges."

Lisa Jones, chief executive officer, Girl Scouts — North Carolina

Coastal Pines, said Hollis addressed an important issue through her recent work.

"Gold Award Girl Scouts don't just change the world for the better, they change it for good — and Erica embodies everything this achievement stands for," said Jones. "Erica addressed an issue that's important to her—technological literacy—for her Gold Award, and we congratulate her on this momentous accomplishment."

Hollis is the daughter of Alan and Shellarnetta Hollis and she is a senior at Northwood High School in Pittsboro.

Currently in Girl Scout Troop #1581, led by Kris Mayfield, Hollis has been involved since 2006.

In addition to Girl Scouting, Hollis volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, the N.C. Food Bank, and Urban Ministries. She is also an active member of North East Baptist Church, where she participates in the youth ministry, youth choir, youth praise team, and serves as a youth usher.

By earning the award, Hollis has "become a community leader," according to the Scouting organization. "Her accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set her apart." A challenging feat, earning the Girl Scout Gold Award requires the Scout to demonstrate significant leadership, planning, networking and organizational skills, as girls



Submitted photo

Erica Hollis, a Northwood High School senior, recently earned the Girl Scouts' Gold Award for her work to create an interactive special education program for seniors.

spend, on average, one to two years working to complete their projects.

Girls must follow the steps of identifying an issue, investigating it thoroughly, getting help and building a team, creating a plan, presenting your plan, gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others.

Since the council unification in 2007 through 2018, 698 Girl Scouts have earned Gold Awards as a result of their efforts to transform an idea and vision for change into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching impact.

Girls and families interested in learning more about the Girl Scout Gold Award may visit www.nccoastalpines.org.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

David Stellhorn, 49, of Chapel Hill, was charged February 21 with resisting a public officer and driving while impaired. He was issued a written promise with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Santaniqua Adams, 26, of Moncure, was charged February 23 with larceny by an employee. She was issued a written promise with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Brittany Hoover, 34, of Pittsboro, was charged February 23 with simple assault and damage to personal property. She was issued a written promise with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Cindy Lupek, 34, of Pittsboro, was charged February 23 with simple assault. She was issued a written promise with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Ronald Perry, 23, was charged February 24 with obtaining property by false pretense, identity theft, financial card fraud, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, felony possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Perry was issued a written promise with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Caitlin Bell, 22, of Bahama, was charged February 24 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$25,000 bond with a March 19 court date in Durham.

Ricky Greeson, 48, of Siler City, was charged February 24 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,500 bond with a March 30 court date in Asheboro.

Andrew Pease, 37, of Pittsboro, was

charged February 25 with obtaining property by false pretense. Pease was issued a written promise with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Justin Haith, 22, of Bennett, was charged February 25 with possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, felony possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Pamela Johnson, 51, of Pittsboro, was charged February 25 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$2,000 bond with a March 3 court date in Raleigh.

Mia Bolunger, 18, of Bear Creek, was charged February 27 with failure to appear on charges of disorderly conduct at a school and simple affray. She was held under a \$200 bond with a March 10 court date in Siler City.

Cherice Underwood-Hazley, 38, of Greensboro, was charged February 27 with failure to appear on charges of having an expired registration card/tag and driving while license revoked. She was held under a \$300 bond with a March 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Robert Patterson, 53, of Siler City, was charged February 27 with assault on a female. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a March 24 court date in Siler City.

Tiffany Murdock, 21, of Siler City, was charged February 27 with simple assault. She was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a March 24 court date in Siler City.

Eduardo Vasquez, 21, of Siler City, was charged February 27 with failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired and driving while license revoked. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a March 12 court date in Asheboro and a March 31 court date in Siler City.

Mason Lupek, of Pittsboro, was charged February 27 with obtaining property by false pretense. He was held under a \$25,000 bond with a March 30 court date in Pittsboro.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stephanie Caviness, 37, of Bennett, was taken into custody February 24 on a charge of failure to appear in Montgomery County. She was held under a \$12,000 bond with a March 26 court date in Troy.

Michelle Powers of Siler City was cited February 26 for a safe movement violation on East Cardinal Street in Siler City.

Cornelio Juarez of Siler City was cited February 26 for no operator's license on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Quintisha Scotton of Siler City was cited February 26 for failure to yield right of way in an intersection on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Taylor Clark-Odee of Siler City was cited February 27 for failure to yield right of way in an intersection on East Third Street in Siler City.

Walter Watkins IV of Siler City was cited February 27 for failure to reduce speed

on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Guadalupe Rodriguez-Miranda, 25, of Bear Creek, was charged February 27 with simple assault. She was released on a written promise with a March 24 court date in Siler City.

Robin Craven of Siler City was cited February 28 for expired registration card/tag and expired inspection on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Ella Milliken of Siler City was cited February 28 for failure to stop steady at a red light on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Santiago Paulino Jr., 19, of Siler City, was taken into custody February 29 on an order for arrest from Orange County. He was held under a \$300 bond with a March 9 court date in Hillsborough.

Randy Jones of Las Vegas, Nevada, was cited February 29 for failure to reduce speed on East Eleventh Street in Siler City.

Nicholas Hollander, 26, of Siler City, was taken into custody March 1 on 11 orders for arrest from Chatham County. He was held under a \$200,000 bond with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Kevin Cifuentes of Siler City was cited March 1 for driving while impaired-alcohol/drugs, driving while license revoked, hit and run and leaving the scene of property damage and failure to stop at a duly erected stop sign on East Raleigh Street.

Timothy Person, 40, of Siler City, was cited March 2 with resisting a public officer. He was given a March 30 court date in Pittsboro.

Chatham couple charged with hosting cockfighting exhibition at New Hill residence

CN+R STAFF REPORT

NEW HILL — The Chatham County Sheriff's Office arrested a New Hill couple on February 23 regarding allegations of a cockfighting operation.

Margarita Juarez, 33, and Jesus Ibarra, 32, both of New Hill, were charged with felony cockfighting and misdemeanor cruelty to animals in connection to a bust at the pair's Old U.S. Highway 1 residence.

Deputies responded to allegations at the site and, on arrival, encountered a cockfighting exhibition in progress and multiple individuals fled the scene. Additional staff members were requested to assist with processing the scene, including securing animals and towing more than a dozen vehicles as evidence for further investigation.

After obtaining a search warrant, deputies confiscated dozens of animals, "many of which were sick or injured,"

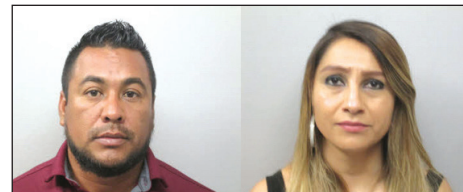
according to a sheriff's office press release. The agency also said it worked with members of Guilford County Animal Control, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and several veterinarians from NC State College of Veterinary Medicine to evaluate the medical condition and specific needs of the animals seized from the property.

"Our staff appreciates the hard work and partnership of these organizations as we examine this case," said Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson. "All animals connected to the investigation are considered living items of evidence and are not available for adoption at this time."

Juarez was released on a written promise to appear March 30 in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro. Ibarra was assigned a \$2,500 bond with the

same court date. Both individuals are under orders not to possess or acquire any animal of any kind as a result of the charges against them.

Any member of the public with information regarding the investigation is encouraged to call the Chatham County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 919-542-2911.



Jesus Ibarra and Margarita Juarez

Siler City seeks outside help for Third Avenue closure

Town seeking engineer to assess Mountaire request

BY CASEY MANN News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of Commissioners decided on Monday night to seek out the assistance of an engineer who specializes in traffic flow and design to assist in assessing Mountaire Farms request to permanently close a portion of East Third Street in front of its facility.

In October 2018, Mountaire Farms — the Delaware-based poultry processing company which built and operates a plant on East Third — requested the town consider closing the road to "increase safety" around the property, according to a letter sent to the town by Rose Law Firm, which represents Mountaire in the matter. Since that time, town staff has been working with Mountaire and the N.C. Dept. of Transportation to address concerns in the proposal before the board considers whether to issue a resolution declaring the town's intent to close the road.

Mountaire is proposing to close the road and redirect traffic to North Avenue to Eleventh Avenue through a new access it would construct. Mountaire noted previously that 50 percent of its truck traffic would also be using North Avenue.

Most recent comments from board members

involved the closures impact on area businesses, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation's intention to create a "super street" on Eleventh Street and the impact on North Avenue.

After a presentation to the board by Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows, the board was still apprehensive about the proposal. Responding to a question from Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek, Meadows noted that he had been approached

by several "transportation" firms willing to review the plans on the town's behalf at a cost of between \$2,900 and \$3,500. Commissioner Bill Haiges said that the road closure would be "such a huge change" for the town and felt that hiring an outside firm was "probably prudent."

"I'm not a traffic engineer," he said. The board directed Meadows to seek out more information from the firms to consider who to engage in the process.

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

Angie Brigham | Bennett School

Grades/subjects you teach: Third grade
E-mail address: abrigham@chatham.k12.nc.us
Date, place of birth: Sept. 8, Lexington
Education (high school & college attended, degrees): Faith Christian School; Elon University, Bachelors Degree
Brief work history: Two years at Chatham Academy, seven years at Robbins Elementary, 18 years at Bennett School
Honors/awards: Two-time teacher of the year at Bennett School
Hobbies/interests outside of educating: Reading, walking, spending time with my two girls
Family: Husband and two daughters



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Angie Brigham, shown working with her students at Bennett School, has been named 'Teacher of the Year' twice.

What led you to a career in education?: I always wanted to be a teacher. Played school all the time when I was little. My mother was a preschool teacher.
Who were your favorite teachers as you went through school, and what did you learn from them?:

Has becoming an educator been all you expected it would be?: Yes
How has education

changed since you were a student?: A lot more is expected from students.
What "makes your day" as an educator?: When something "clicks" with a student and they are so proud of their accomplishments.

What's working in schools today?: Meeting the needs of individual students, small group lessons and incorporating a lot of technology.
What's not working?: Students are being tested too much.

What's your favorite memory of your first year in education?: Teaching non-readers how to read.
Best piece of advice for other educators?: Get to know your kids, and let them know you.
For students?: It's OK to make mistakes and ask for help.
For parents?: Encourage and support your child, but don't give them an easy out.
What about your job would most surprise your friends who are not educators?: How much time is spent on school work outside the classroom. There is never a dull moment in the classroom.
If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?: Always do your best work even when no one is watching.
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?: Kind.
Favorite movie about school or education: "The

Breakfast Club."
How would you summarize your philosophy as an educator?: I believe an outstanding teacher accommodates the academic, social and emotional needs of their students. The classroom experience is exciting and memorable for the students. Being a teacher requires a lot of patience, good communication skills, problem solving and the ability to motivate students. It requires thinking outside the box, lots of hands-on-learning and hours of thoughtful planning.
What five things must every educator know?: Have a positive attitude, good relationship with students, consistency, clear expectations and teach different learning styles.
What's special about your school?: Teachers collaborate and share ideas.
Most unusual question you've ever gotten from a student?: Did you help out during the Civil War?

Steer: learning to write out loud

BY DAVID BRADLEY
 News + Record Staff

"To thine own self be true," said Polonius in Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Gaines Steer, a local member of the National Association of Personal Historians, and raconteur, would agree. But who are we?, he asks. What makes us who we are? Some would say that we are a collection of memories, that we look back into the past to really know who we are. As for Steer, he uses his self-written memoir as a touchstone, a guide to his students in the process of finding themselves. His journey is documented in "A Story Worth Tellin,'" a work that shares the joys and sorrows of his life in 100 chapters — two divorces, time in the National Guard, and his life growing up in Greenwood, S.C., combine with joys on the farm, raising children, and his business, "The Last Unicorn."



Staff photo by David Bradley

Finding your inner voice is what Gaines Steer is all about. His writing workshops are designed to introduce the concepts of the art of creative writing, finding the unique perspective of each writer and assisting them in finding the stories to be told.

These new writers discover that writing is an art form.

"When you discover the art form unique to you, it's damn exciting," Steer said.

The writing process for Steer involves remembering the past through writing prompts. These are more than 50 memory ticklers that Steer employs, such as the pets that you had over the years, tough times or the music played in the home. All of these can bring back associated memories.

One of Steer's clients involved in writing a memoir now, Carmen Hogan, was using prompts and an outline when she began her work. She had stopped work on the project, but went back to work on her memoir with assistance from Steer. She's been working with him now for several months. Hogan feels that Steer's inspiration may do the trick, she said. She thought it would take about a year.

"Now I feel like I finally got some help to get it finished, or to the point where I am happy with it," Hogan said. "People say they will write a book, but writing a book is a lot harder than people realize."

Steer added, "It helps to have a wordsmith to get

energy in writing, quotes, construction and energy."

Hogan is using Steer's guidance in writing her memoir. She decided to write one after a traumatic medical incident that changed her whole life. The incident created a dramatic short term memory loss. Her therapist suggested that she write a memoir, starting with one paragraph a day.

"I started out and next thing I knew I had seven pages," she said. "I'm more about words [now] than analysis. It's been cathartic."

Part of Gaines' seminar is to access the real "you," whoever that may be, and to write in your authentic voice. It's the discovery of your voice that makes your memoir unique. Steer worked on his memoir for about 10 years and published it in 2007. The voice came first.

"If you want to try and publish before you find your writer voice, you'll become a boring writer without that," he said.

Hogan added, "There is a difference between telling a story and writing a story, and one thing I learned is anyone can tell a story, but writing a story is a completely different ballgame."

Photographer David Bradley can be reached at david@chathamnr.com.

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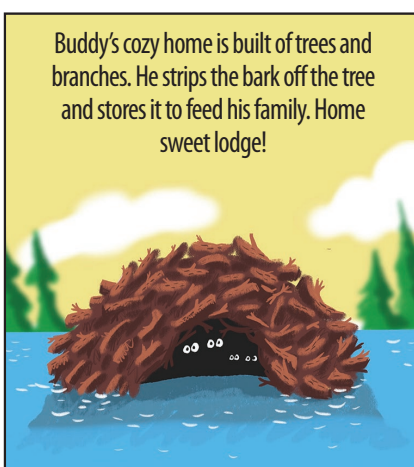
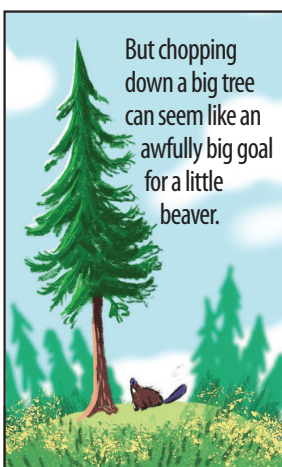
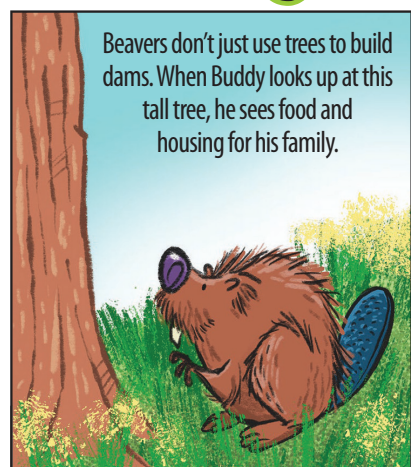
Kid Scoop Together: Busy Beavers!

Busy beavers chewed some words from this list of fun beaver facts. Replace the words to find out some amazing things about beavers.



Buddy B. Beaver's Goals

Buddy shows us how to reach a big goal by breaking it down into smaller steps.



Be Like Buddy: How to Reach a Goal

Sometimes there are things you want in life that are not possible right now. For example, maybe you want to buy something that is expensive. If you are serious about that purchase, make buying it a **goal**.

In order to reach that goal, be like Buddy. Make a list of small steps or small goals that would help you reach your big goal.

EXAMPLE: Angie wants to buy a new coat. The coat costs \$50.

Angie decides that instead of trying to earn \$50 all at once, she will make ten goals that will help her reach her big goal. She makes a goal of earning \$5. If she earns \$5 ten times, she will reach her big goal of \$50!



Extra! Extra!
Busy Builders
Beavers are builders. Look through the newspaper for examples of things people build. What are the kinds of jobs people do to build things?
Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

ANGIE'S GOAL: Earn \$50 for a new coat!

- Mowed the lawn: \$3.00
- Made my bed: \$0 (Mom expects me to do this every morning!)
- Walked the dog: \$2.00
- Took out the trash: \$1.00
- Did the dishes: \$2.00

How can Angie earn \$5? Put a check in the box next to each of Angie's jobs. If you checked the right boxes, they add up to exactly \$5.

If Angie can earn \$5 per week and save the money, how long until she will have enough money to buy the coat?

MY GOAL: _____

JOBS I CAN DO TO EARN THE MONEY:	HOW MUCH I CAN EARN:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

HOW LONG UNTIL I REACH MY GOAL? _____

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you put these mixed-up beaver facts in the correct order?

- are powerful swimmers that can swim
- the second largest in the world. Beavers
- shut to keep water out. Transparent inner eyelids
- underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- When a beaver swims underwater, its nose and ears
- built-in swimming goggles!
- Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and
- close over each eye to help the beaver see like

Double Double Word Search

EXPENSIVE PURCHASE EARNING EYELIDS TOPPLES RODENT BEAVER STREAM LODGE WATER BITES BARK SWIM GOAL TREE

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.

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A KID'S GUIDE TO DRAWING CARTOON ANIMALS
By Vicki Whiting - Illustrated by Jeff Schinkel

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS
This week's word: SAVE
The verb **save** means to keep or store something for use in the future.
Jeremy plans to **save** his allowance for three weeks to buy a gift for his sister.
Try to use the word **save** in a sentence today when talking with friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Build a Sentence
Select a headline from today's newspaper. Expand the headline into a longer, complete sentence by adding adjectives and other words. Diagram your sentence to show all of the parts of speech.

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

Do beavers ever get tired of chewing on trees?
ANSWER: GNAW!

Write On!

How I Earn Money
How do you earn money? Do you do chores? What kind of jobs do you do?

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CHATHAM CHAT | DANA HAVEN, CHATHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Chatham's reference librarian serves as teacher, CCCC liaison and more

Dana Haven grew up in a military family and took her first library job when she volunteered at a military base library in Florida during her high school years. She went on to work in public libraries and ultimately decided to move to Chapel Hill to pursue a master's degree in library science at UNC after earning bachelor's degrees in English and psychology from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida.

"During my graduate studies at UNC, I worked in the Geological Sciences Library and the E-Resources Department in Davis Library," she says. "My academic and public library experience were a good fit for the Reference & Instruction position at Chatham Community Library, a joint-use public and community college library. I started working at Chatham Community Library right before the new building officially opened in 2010, so I'll be celebrating 10 years this fall, as will the library itself!"

Haven lives in Chapel Hill with her husband and daughter. This week, we spoke with her about her role at the library.

What does your role as Reference and instruction librarian entail?

My role is fairly wide-ranging, but it broadly includes research assistance, digital and information literacy instruction, collection development, and technology assistance. I work with public patrons as well as community college students, so patrons come to the Reference Desk with a variety of information needs, from learning how to create an email account to finding peer-reviewed resources for an assignment, and that helps keep my work interesting. I've also been involved with the technical aspects of several recent library projects,



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Dana Haven, the reference and instruction librarian for Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro.

including self-serve print stations, wireless printing, and the Chatham PASS program, a partnership between Chatham County Public Libraries and Chatham County Schools that automatically provides K-12 students with public library accounts.

How has a library's traditional role as the "home" for research changed with the internet and the fact that, with a smartphone, most of us have libraries in our pockets?

The role of Reference Librarians has certainly evolved over the years, especially with the rapid growth of online content, and one thing we do less of these days is answer simple questions that can easily be found online. We're helping patrons with more complex questions and, increasingly, we're showing people how to do something rather than how to find something. We spend a lot of time these days teaching people how to use and troubleshoot technology. We see all sorts of devices at the Reference Desk, and I feel as though we've become tech experts by necessity!

In the age of the internet

and easy access to information, some may wonder whether a library's information services are as vital as they once were. During the last fiscal year, our staff logged more than 16,000 reference transactions, and it's clear that patrons still need help locating and evaluating information, despite (and sometimes because of) the vast amount of information available at our fingertips these days. It's often assumed that everything is available online, but there's a lot of information that hasn't been digitized, or is just not freely accessible. We can help patrons locate this information, whether that means searching for articles in library databases or requesting materials through interlibrary loan. Our ultimate goal is always to connect people with the information they need, whatever form that may take.

You serve as liaison between the Chatham Community Library and CCCC, on whose campus the library is located. What does that role entail?

Chatham Community Library is unique in that we're one of three branches in the Chatham County

Public Library system, and we also serve as the library for the Chatham campus of Central Carolina Community College. My main role as liaison to CCCC is supporting students and faculty through reference services and information literacy sessions. I also help to ensure that the college material in our collection is up to date and adequately supports the college's programs. Being located on the CCCC campus puts us in a position to collaborate with departments such as the Human Resources Development program, which has provided employment assistance sessions in the library's computer lab, and NC Works, whose coordinators have taught classes on job searching and creating résumés. I've also worked with the Academic Assistance Center to provide research skills workshops for students outside of formal instruction sessions.

What's included in your role in instruction?

One of my roles is overseeing our public computer classes, which are taught by reference staff. Last year we offered 32 classes on a wide range of topics, helping 239 par-

ticipants learn how to use a computer and navigate the internet, use Microsoft programs such as Word and Excel, collaborate using Google Apps, and download free library eBooks through OverDrive.

Digital literacy classes such as these help provide community members with the skills they need to apply for jobs, conduct research, and communicate with others online. We've had patrons come back to tell us that the skills they learned at the library helped them secure jobs or connect with friends and family, and it's always so rewarding to hear about the impact that libraries and library programs can have on people's lives.

My instruction role extends to Central Carolina Community College as well. I teach information literacy classes for students on the Chatham campuses, as well as early college students and high school students who are earning college credit through CCCC. I also serve as the online librarian in sociology courses, ensuring that distance education students receive similar information literacy instruction and research support to those in seated courses.

Along with formal classes, we also provide a lot of informal, one-on-one instruction at the Reference Desk every day. We teach people how to use the library catalog and online resources, navigate job websites, find their next read, print tax forms, download eBooks, and much more.

What resources or services does the library offer that someone might be surprised to learn about?

We have such a great variety of programs and services at Chatham County Public Libraries. Most people probably know that the library provides free

computer and Wi-Fi access, a wealth of children's and adult programs and, of course, plenty of reading material! What people tend not to know as much about is all of the amazing online resources they can access with their library accounts. Many of our online resources are available through NC LIVE, which is a collection of over 100 databases and other curated resources that all North Carolina library patrons can access for free with a library card. NC LIVE contains resources such as Mango Languages for interactive language learning, NoveList Plus for reading recommendations, Auto Repair Source for repair and service guides, and Films on Demand for educational and documentary films. We also have an ever-growing collection of downloadable books, audiobooks, and magazines available through OverDrive.

If you're interested in researching your family history or our local history, check out our Local History & Genealogy (LHG) collection, which includes family histories, church histories, troop lists, census records, and more. You can also access records from across the country and around the world through our genealogy databases: African American Heritage, Ancestry Library Edition, and HeritageQuest. Our dedicated genealogy volunteers provide one-on-one assistance by appointment. In addition to our LHG collection, our North Carolina collection includes titles covering all aspects of the Tar Heel State.

Reference staff are happy to speak with you about any of these resources. Call us at 919-545-8086, chat with us online (look for the orange tab in the corner of our website), or visit us at the Reference Desk to learn more.

Council on Aging receives Duke Energy storm resiliency food supply grant

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — Duke Energy has awarded the Chatham County Council on Aging a \$5,000 Storm Resiliency Food Supply Grant that will help the local agency offer meals to its clients during weather emergencies.

A formal check presentation took place February 6 at the Council's Eastern Chatham Senior Center, with Indra Everett, District Manager of Government & Community Relations at Duke Energy

presenting the grant award to the members of the Council's Board of Directors.

"We are grateful to Duke Energy for their generous grant, which will help the Council provide frozen and shelf-stable meals to homebound seniors who cannot presently be served on one of our 12 Meals on Wheels routes," said Dennis W. Streets, director of the Council on Aging. "The grant also helps us offer these meals — and thus food security — in the case of a weather emergency."

For more information on the Chatham County Council on Aging and its services to seniors, visit their website at www.ChathamCOA.org, or call its Eastern Center at 919-542-4512 or its Western Center at 919-742-3975.

The Chatham County Council on Aging is a nonprofit organization celebrating more than 45 years of serving seniors and their families. Its goal is to help older adults remain living safely at home and stay healthy and active in the community.



Submitted photo

Duke Energy presented a \$5,000 storm resiliency food supply grant to members of the Chatham County Council on Aging's Board of Directors Feb. 6 at the council's Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro.

Worth knowing. Worth reading.

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Registration Deadline: March 20, 2020

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April

- 14 Archery
- 20 SilverArts Drop Off
- 25 Opening Ceremony
- 25 Track/Field
- 25 Football & Softball Throw
- 27 Golf
- 27 Croquet
- 28 Disc Golf
- 28 Swimming
- 28 Women's Singles/Men's Doubles Tennis
- 29 Men's Bocce
- 29 Men's Singles/Women's Doubles Tennis
- 30 Horseshoes
- 30 Bowling
- 30 Mixed Doubles Tennis

May

- 1 Women's Bocce
- 2 Cycling
- 4 Mixed Doubles/Singles Pickleball
- 5 Basketball Shoot & Corn Hole
- 6 Men's/Women's Doubles, Pickleball
- 7 Table Tennis

For More Information:
Liz Lahti, 919-542-4512 • liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org

Pittsboro approves next stage of Mosaic

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners has unanimously approved the final plat and individual lots for Phase 1A of Mosaic, a 226-acre and \$500 million mixed used development currently under construction on Russet Run across from Northwood High School in Pittsboro.

The town had previously approved the project's preliminary plan in

August, but the development process mandates a review of the "final plat" was also required.

The first phase will include a 114-room hotel, movie theater, a live performance theater, as well as space for tenants which include Town Hall Burger + Beer, People's Coffee, EDGE Aveda Day Spa, CMG Financial and UNC Urgent Care. There will also be apartments and condominiums available. The anticipated "open date" for Phase 1 is this fall.

According to Pittsboro Town Planner

Victoria Baliff, no "significant" changes occurred between the preliminary approval in August and the final plat presented at the board's Feb. 24 meeting, where the final plat was approved. There were questions from the board to Mosaic's developer, Kirk Bradley — a part of the ownership group for the News + Record — for clarity.

For example, Bradley noted that he had purchased additional land adjacent to the project to ensure it would fulfill the "open space" requirements in the

Chatham Park Elements, noting that it could not be allocated for any other project's open space requirement. Bradley also noted that the engineering plans were designed to try to "capture" as much run-off from the impervious surfaces of the development. The site will also include a bus stop for Chatham Transit and several electric car charging stations.

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

Pet of the Week: SIRI



Photos courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Siri, a beautiful 1.5-year-old with a big heart! When Siri first arrived at the Animal Resource Center, she was a very timid and reserved dog. However, after spending a little play time with staff members, Siri blossomed into a playful canine with a loving personality. Siri is very calm and attentive to her humans, soaking up cuddles and affection at every opportunity. She lights up whenever staff take her on walks or bring out toys for playtime, proving she is still a pup at heart. Visitors often comment on Siri's attractive coloring and warm personality. Siri would do best in a peaceful household that balances outdoor activities with lots of doggie snuggles and belly rubs. She is spayed and available for same day adoption! For more information on how to meet or adopt Siri, swing by the office at 725 Renaissance Drive or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an animal resource officer.

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Polar Plunge!



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and his wife Annette always begin the Polar Plunge by being the first to plunge or leap into Jordan Lake. More than \$14,000 was raised for the N.C. Special Olympics at this year's event, sponsored in part by the sheriff's office.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Sheriff Mike Roberson, dressed up as a 'bounty hunter,' poses with Morgan Simmons (middle, with Bryan Henry of the Special Olympics) who raised the most money as an individual at Saturday's Polar Plunge.



A group of 'plungers' emerge from the frigid waters of Jordan Lake during Saturday's event. Team Central was made up of (from left) Chatham Central Student Resource Officer Herbie Stubbs, Kaitlyn Barrows and Allison Bender.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham Library hosting writing, Women's History Month events

Chatham Community Library will host a "Writing Out Loud" workshop with local resident and author Gaines Steer at 2 p.m. on March 7 in the Holmes Meeting Room. This introductory seminar will focus on the art form of creative writing as storyteller and on finding your writer's voice. Steer holds a Master's Degree in Community Leadership and Development from Springfield College and is a member of the North Carolina Writers' Network and the National Association of Personal Historians. This event is free and open to the public. For questions about this program, please contact Steer at gainesunicorn@gmail.com.

In celebration of Women's History Month, the library will host a presentation by North Carolina's Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green at 1 p.m. on March 21 at the Holmes Meeting Room. Green's discussion, "Culture and Personal Experience Inform a Writer's Work," examines oral traditions in her own family. Reading from her poetry, she discusses stories, icons, and idioms as a way of preserving the history and culture of her community, and invites the audience members to recognize their shared humanity.

A native of Orange County, Jaki Shelton Green has been active in North Carolina's literary and teaching community for more than 40 years. She has written eight books of poetry, one play and co-edited two poetry anthologies. She was a 2014 N.C. Literary Hall of Fame inductee and the recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2003. Upon her selection as the state's Poet Laureate, Gov. Roy Cooper is quoted as saying, "Jaki Shelton Green brings a deep appreciation of our state's diverse communities to her role as an ambassador of North Carolina literature." Ms. Green is the first African American and third woman to serve as North Carolina's ambassador for poetry and the spoken word.

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events

in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8. In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month.

Copies of Shelton's books will be available for purchase and signing. This event is free and open to the public. Funding for this program comes from the continued support of the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Blackberry & Blueberry Production Workshop set

The Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension will offer a Blackberry & Blueberry Production Workshop as part of its Enhancing Sustainability Series from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference

Center in Pittsboro. This workshop is an all-day event that will provide research-based info to market growers and gardeners.

- Agenda:
- Blackberry Production — Gina Fernandez — Extension Specialist, NC State University — Site selection and prep, high tunnels, varieties, planting, fertility, irrigation, pruning and training, harvesting
 - Blueberry Production — Bill Cline — Extension Specialist, NC State University — Site selection and prep, varieties, planting, fertility, irrigation, pruning, harvesting
 - Pests of Blackberries & Blueberries — Hannah Burrack — Professor and Extension Specialist, NC State University — Primary pests + integrated pest management
 - Diseases of Blackberries & Blueberries — Sara Villani — Plant Pathologist, NC State University & Bill Cline — Extension Specialist, NC State University — Primary diseases + integrated pest management
 - Postharvest Handling — Penny Perkins-Veazie — Professor, NC State University — Handling and storage of blackberries and blueberries
 - Pollination — Debbie Roos — Agriculture Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension — Primary pollinators of blackberries and blueberries
 - Small Fruit Resources — Debbie Roos — Agriculture Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension — Plant nurseries, production guides, websites, etc.
 - Q & A Panel
- Advance registration is required for this workshop. The registration deadline is March 10. Call 919-542-8244 or email debbie.roos@chathamnc.org if you have questions. Visit growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/01/register-now-for-blackberry-blueberry-production-workshop/ for more details and to register.

— CN +R staff reports

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