

Chatham News + Record

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Disconnected by a pandemic: Chatham's broadband issues glow brighter during COVID-19-induced orders

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

CARRBORO — Kaan Ozmeral was about 17 miles from his office Thursday morning as he tested students in one of his math classes.

He wasn't in the same room as them, or in the same county for many. Instead, he was parked outside Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, sitting in his car on his laptop, with a test answer key scribbled on a piece of paper beside him.

Ozmeral teaches multiple math classes at Central Carolina Community College's Pittsboro campuses. On a normal workday, he'd have access to both his students and the campus' internet connection. But with in-person classes canceled,

campus closed and all work being done online, he had to find a different way to connect.

Why?

His home in northeast Chatham has no internet because service providers won't come there.

"It's a new neighborhood with nice houses," Ozmeral said. "It's not in the middle of nowhere. It was surprising. I had my house built and it finished a year ago. When I moved in, I was like, 'Oh, I don't have internet.'"

According to BroadbandNow.com, which measures internet connections and speeds across the country, 86.5 percent of Chatham residents have access to internet download speeds of 25 megabits per second and 82.7 percent of the county has access to some kind of coverage.

That may sound like a lot, but at least 90 percent of residents in each of Chatham's neighboring counties — Wake, Moore, Lee, Orange, Alamance and Randolph — have that kind of high-speed service available.

Chatham's high-speed broadband service, or relative lack thereof, has been a talking point among local elected and economic officials for years. But the spread of COVID-19, moving school classes online and stay-at-home executive orders have made that deficiency much more visible.

Education gaps

On February 28, Chatham County leaders participated

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Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Kaan Ozmeral, a mathematics instructor at Central Carolina Community College, works from the parking lot of the Weaver Street Market in Carrboro. Ozmeral lives in Chatham County, but homes in his 'new-ish' neighborhood don't have access to internet service.

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD: 'THE DEMAND IS SKYROCKETING'

Farmers' markets spring into action, despite pandemic



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Opening day of the farmers' market at Fearrington Village drew more than two dozen vendors and socially-distancing customers eager to purchase fresh produce, meat, breads and more.

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Jason Butler arrived at the opening day of the Chatham Mills Farmers' Market — his sixth year taking part as a vendor — he didn't have much to display to sell to potential customers.

That doesn't mean he came empty-handed.

Butler, who owns Red Roots Farm in Silk Hope, arrived on that sunny,

chilly morning two Saturdays ago with a couple of large coolers full of salad mix, spinach, radishes, scalions and lots more already bagged and pre-sold from orders made in advance online — a new wrinkle for farmers' markets in the age of COVID-19.

"It's already paid for," he said, pointing to the coolers on the ground behind his booth on the lawn in front of Chatham Mills just north of Pittsboro. "And it's packaged and waiting

for them. All our customers have to do is step right up and get it — and we don't have to do transactions. No money changes hands. They just come and pick up their stuff."

For the dozens of local farmers who take part in Chatham County's farmers' markets, the chief obstacle to success typically is weather and its impact on growing and attendance at the markets. But thanks to the coro-

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Web to table? Farmers ease fears

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

Farmers are used to working in the dirt.

But toiling and tilling in cyberspace?

As COVID-19 continues its grip on Chatham County, some local farmers — particularly those who participate in local farmers' markets — have been working quickly to adjust to offering their produce online.

Farmers traditionally sell wholesale to retailers, directly to restaurants, at farmers' markets and through programs like CSA — Community Supported Agriculture — which connect farmers to residents who buy memberships to receive a box of fresh produce each week during the growing season. But since restaurants have stopped in-room dining and as farmers' markets (and their customers)

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

While not all farmers are embracing online stores, those who are say there are both challenges and opportunities for the platform.

OUTBREAK AT LAURELS

Chatham's senior care facilities in COVID-19 spotlight

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Editor's Note: Just prior to this edition going to press, the Chatham County Public Health Department announced the county's first COVID-19-related death, a Laurels of Chatham resident. For more information and the latest on COVID-19 in Chatham County, visit chathamnewsrecord.com.

One of the first major reports of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, in the United States centered around Life Care Center of Kirkland, a long-term care and nursing facility in Washington State. An April 2 Washington Post report said the facility was tied to 40 COVID-19-related deaths, and 129 residents, staff and visitors were infected with the virus.

Now, Chatham County has its own senior care facility reporting an outbreak. After two early reports citing six positive COVID-19 tests from the Laurels of Chatham skilled nursing facility late last week, the Chatham County Public Health Department dropped bad news Sunday morning: a total of 57 individuals who either work at or live in the facility have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the county said in a press release.

And then, one resident — who was already in "declining health," according to the facility — became the county's first COVID-19-related death.

After UNC Health, the county health department and the facility conducted universal tests on Friday, the numbers came back, and county Public Health Director Layton Long indicated it was no surprise.

"We anticipated that universal testing at the facility would reveal more positive cases, and we remain concerned for the staff, residents and their families affected by this outbreak," Long said. "While COVID-19 is highly infectious, especially in congregate living facilities, we remain focused on limiting the spread of the virus. We will continue to work closely with The Laurels of Chatham to do everything possible to contain this outbreak."

The CDC says "older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes" are more likely to develop "more serious complications" from COVID-19, and North Carolina's reported numbers

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Local financial planners: Hold steady in market investments during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

As the American stock market began to take a nose dive in the latter part of February, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, financial planners in Chatham County were encouraging their clients to hold steady to their long-term plans.

Now that the markets have begun to rebound after reach-

ing low points around March 23, they're encouraging the same thing.

"With the market decline, people will be tempted to change their investment strategies," said Laura Clapp, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Siler City. "But they need to keep in mind that most of their financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, are long-term in nature — a lot longer-term

than the shelf life of the coronavirus. If investors have established a long-term strategy that's appropriate for their needs, they should stick with it, no matter what today's headlines are."

Ben Birken, a Chatham resident who works for Woodward Financial Advisors in Chapel Hill, used an analogy to describe what he's been advising his clients.

"If you think about a roller

coaster, the worst thing you can do at the scariest part of a roller coaster ride is take off your harnesses and stand up," Birken said. "Reacting on a panic mode when things are going poorly or things are going well typically doesn't lead to good outcomes."

So really, these advisors' advice didn't really change.

"That's always our message, whether it's short-

term temporary decreases in value, which happen way more often in a year than people give credit to," Birken said. "You just forget about it because over the course of a year things fade from memory."

That's it. No complex advice for selling off certain stocks, picking up new ones, rearranging some investments. Just stay

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IN THE KNOW

Q&A: County manager talks budgets, operations, finding positives. **PAGE A7**

Siblings sifting through barn on family farm find election relic. **PAGE A11**

Sports: Northwood baseball star Austin Brice back home — for now. **PAGE B1**

CCCC facing same educational challenges as many during COVID-19. **PAGE B5**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures due to coronavirus. Verify with organizers prior to events.

ON THE AGENDA

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 20 at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center 1192 U.S. Highway 64 Business West in Pittsboro. Due to mass gathering restrictions as outlines in the Governor’s Executive Order 121, the public will not be allowed to physically attend. However the meeting will be live-streamed at TajTalk.com If there are any residents that had planned to address the Board during Public Input at the April 20th 6:00 p.m. meeting, we ask for those residents to e-mail their comments to Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray at lindsay.ray@chathamnc.org by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020. The Clerk will present those comments during the Public Input Session on the agenda at the meeting, and comments will be recorded in the minutes. The public hearings previously scheduled on Williams Corner will be postponed to a future

meeting.

CANCELLATIONS

- **Town of Pittsboro**, all town advisory boards meetings are canceled. In order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from the COVID-19 virus and slow its spread, Please monitor the town’s website at pittsboronc.gov for additional notifications and alerts.
- **Chatham County Council on Aging:** Both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pickup supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website: chathamcoa.org.
- **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: https://chathamhistory.org.
- **Chatham Community Library:** Closed to the public at this time.
- **State Employees Credit Union (SECU)** branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only, Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment.
- The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** will be closed for shopping and donations until further

notice.

• The Chatham County Council on Aging - the **2020 Senior Games and SilverArts competition** will be postponed until further notice. Please check the Chatham County Senior Games website at https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/senior-games/ for updates. Once the new event calendar has been finalized, we will send an event confirmation email and letter, by mail to all parties.

THURSDAY

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

ALSO HAPPENING

• The **Chatham Arts Council’s 18th annual ClydeFEST**, (Clyde Jones artist) is taking a creative spin this year to keep the community safe amid COVID-19. ClydeFEST-to-Go will take the place of this year’s event. Community members are invited to pick-up critter cut-outs between April 18 and 25, decorate them, then post pics via social media under: #ClydeFestToGo. Help us bring some joy during this pandemic. Spread the word about #ClydeFestToGo. The Chatham Arts Council will place cedar critter cut-outs (with a few art supplies) at two locations in the county, which are due to remain open: Chatham Market-

place in Pittsboro and the Oasis Market in Siler City. Community members are encouraged to pick up their critter on their essential weekly grocery runs, April 18-25 and embellish it with paint, markers, glitter – anything to make a unique piece of art. The virtual event will culminate on April 25 when participants post photos of their critters via social media under the #ClydeFestToGo.

• JMArts hosted a **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

• **SECU tax preparers** are on hand in all locations across the state to answer questions and complete and electronically file 2019 federal and state income tax returns for members who are eligible to participate in our Low-Cost Tax Preparation Program now through tax season. Qualifying members can have both federal and state tax returns prepared and filed for a flat fee of only \$75.00.

• **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is seeking groups – corporate, school, neighborhood, etc. – to volunteer on their Siler City

build sites. Build days are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. For more information, visit chathamhabitat.org/volunteer, or email rachelh@chathamhabitat.org

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

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

• **Meals on Wheels drivers** are needed in Chatham County. Regular and substitute drivers are needed. We are looking for individuals or teams to deliver meals as a regular driver for our routes. Meals are delivered between 10:30 a.m.

and 12 noon. Routes take about an hour. Substitutes will likely deliver 1 to 2 times per month. Contact Allison Andrews with Chatham Council on Aging, phone: 919-542-4512, ext. 226. Allison. andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org.

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

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

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

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

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



NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Pursuant to NCG 105-322, the Chatham County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

Purpose of the Meetings

To hear, upon request, any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Chatham County, with respect to the valuation of such property, or property of others, and to fulfill other duties and responsibilities as required by law.

Time of Meetings

The Board will convene for its first meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020. The Board will adjourn for the purpose of accepting requests for hearing Real Estate Appeals at its last meeting on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 12:00 pm. Meetings will begin promptly at 10 am in the Appraisal Department located in the Agriculture Center located at 1192 US64W Buisness in Pittsboro.

Requests for hearing must be received no later than the final adjournment which is scheduled for Friday, May 15th at 12:00 pm.

In the event of an earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper and online at www.chathamnc.org.

The schedule for the hearing of appeals which were timely filed will be posted at the office of the Assessor, serving as Clerk to the Board; and will also be provided to individuals and organizations that have requested notice pursuant to NCGS 143-318.12.

All requests for hearing should be made to:
**Karen Jones, Assisant Clerk
to the Chatham County Board
of Equalization and Review
PO Box 908, Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-8211**

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GLOW

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in a breakfast with the county’s state legislative members — Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham) and Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Orange). After discussing the need for a school construction bond, talk turned to needing more broadband internet access in rural areas.

“We are lacking that in many areas,” County Manager Dan LaMontagne said. “It’s extremely valuable to our students. Their homework is increasingly online. This is really a needed utility throughout the state.”

Thirteen days later, Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order closing all of North Carolina’s public schools for two weeks, a period later extended to May 15. This required schools to continue their education online — moving homework from “increasingly online” to completely online in a matter of days. Speaking to the News + Record last week, LaMontagne rebuffed suggestions of prophecy, but held firm to his position.

“I’d say it couldn’t be more true right now,” he said. “This is just a prime example of that. Who knew that this would be the way our students are trying to learn and coming into the close of the semester?”

Chatham County Schools and Central Carolina Community College, which has three campuses in Chatham County, have moved all classes online, and each institution is finding that some students are having a hard time completing assignments and staying in touch with teachers.

CCCC Chatham Provost Mark Hall said the college moved modems in its buildings to windows in order to provide internet connection to students and faculty who park in parking lots. Others, he said, are using the Wi-Fi at Lowe’s Hardware in Pittsboro.

“(Students) don’t have internet or all they have is DSL,” Hall said. DSL, which utilizes existing telephone lines, provides a lower bandwidth and less powerful connection.

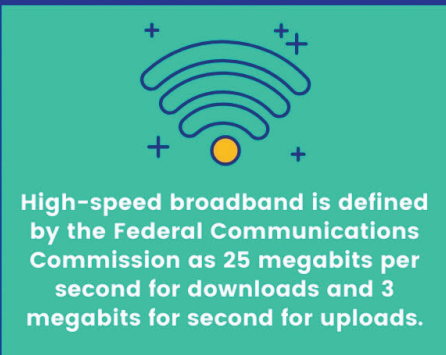
“Some providers have a better infrastructure than others,” Hall continued. “The way we live and work these days and learn, it’s essential to have broadband internet to do that in an efficient way. It’s going to get hot soon — it’s not fun to sit in parking lots and use Wi-Fi.”

Tripp Crayton, the principal at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, said 18 percent of his students — around 90 people — don’t have internet access at home and thus have to use paper packets to learn. That prohibits timely feedback, if feedback is given at

High-Speed Broadband Connectivity in Central NC

Despite its proximity to counties with high-level high-speed broadband coverage, Chatham lags far behind its neighbors. The following percentages measure the area of the respective counties with access to high-speed broadband.

Wake:	99.9%
Alamance:	99.3%
Durham:	99.2%
Lee:	98.9%
Randolph:	98.2%
Orange:	97.6%
Harnett:	97.0%
State:	95.2%
Moore:	94.1%
Chatham:	86.5%



Source: BroadbandNow.com

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

all. The district has been handing out internet hotspots and laptops, but those hotspots use cell service, which is not always reliable.

“Just because a kid has a hotspot doesn’t mean they get equal access as those who have full internet,” Crayton said. “Hotspots can be slow. It counts on a student having cell service on their phone.”

Education is an area in which equity and each person getting the same experience is not only paramount but enshrined in state law — N.C. General Statute 115C-1 says that public schools should provide “equal opportunities...for all students” to align with Article IX of the state constitution. Amanda Hartness, the district’s assistant superintendent of academic service and instructional support, says internet “inequities” has been CCS’ “biggest challenge” during COVID-19.

“We do have students and staff who aren’t getting the same experience,” she said.

Wanting to fill the gap

A little more than two years ago, the N.C. League of Municipalities released a report entitled “Leaping the Digital Divide” which chronicled the need for public investment in broadband connection, particularly in rural areas.

“Few people today question that broadband has become essential infrastructure, fundamental to commerce, education, health care and entertainment,” the report stated. “Nonetheless, more than two decades into the digital revolution, many areas of North Carolina lack access to adequate broadband service, and even densely-populated areas can lack the kinds of internet speeds needed for business to thrive.”

Chatham County is one

of those areas. According to BroadbandNow.com, a database of internet speeds and access rates across the United States, only 82.7 percent of Chatham has access to high-speed broadband coverage, compared to 95.2 percent of the state. The Town of Siler City has 79.4 percent total coverage and 10 providers, and Pittsboro has 85 percent and 12, respectively.

And what Chatham already has does not rank highly. CenturyLink is one of Chatham’s major providers and, according to BroadbandNow, its average speed statewide is 30.2 megabits per second. That’s less than a third of the speed of AT&T Internet (99.5 MBPS) and less than half of what Charter Spectrum provides (71.6 MBPS).

It’s not that CenturyLink is unable to provide quick service in Chatham. In March 2018, the company announced it would be offering speeds of “up to 1 gigabit per second” to residents in the soon-to-be-built Chatham Park and up to 10 gigabits per second for businesses in the development.

“We are excited to expand our fiber network in Chatham County, the sixth-fastest growing county in North Carolina, so we can enhance Chatham Park with a powerful network that delivers exceptional broadband service,” Erik Genrich, senior director for the southeast region of CenturyLink, said in a press release. “We look forward to working closely with Chatham Park and other forward-thinking developers who understand the value of reliable and fast connectivity.”

Since internet service providers are private businesses, they are by no means required to provide connection to all residents, but officials have criticized them for providing inaccurate information to the Federal Communications Commission and local governments. This article utilizes FCC-collected data, which uses census tracts instead of individual houses and plots of land to determine service rates, making it possible that service capability is actually smaller than reported. A note from the North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office, which also tracks service capability, states that broadband being within an area does not necessarily mean the entire area is covered, but that ISPs “may not necessarily offer that service everywhere in the block.”

During the Feb. 28 legislative breakfast, county leaders asked for state legislators to push for more accurate reporting — including “the telecoms report(ing) all addresses served and the speed of service,” according to the meeting’s agenda packet — to give a better picture of real service.

Internet as a utility

What’s required, according to LaMontagne, is re-framing the discussion around internet not as a luxury, but a needed utility like water and electricity, and COVID-19 is displaying that.

“It’s the old days of telephone,” he said. “Back when telephones first came out, that’s how you got emergency services.

You needed a telephone in every home. Internet is that way now. Everybody knows that. They need internet service. It is in my mind, absolutely utility, but it’s not being treated as one yet.”

The League of Municipalities report echoed LaMontagne’s sentiments.

“High-speed broadband is now fundamental to commerce, education and health care in North Carolina,” he said. “It is essential 21st-century infrastructure, and as with roads and bridges, communities that are not adequately connected to the larger network cannot and will not succeed economically.”

The economic benefits that come with better internet access and speeds are one of the key selling points of a common plea for rural areas: getting the local government involved in providing broadband for residents.

Blair Levin is a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization in Washington, D.C. He wrote the introduction to the “Leaping the Digital Divide” report, arguing that public investment was a must. More broadband in areas, he said, was connected to higher per capita gross domestic product, higher revenues for home businesses connected to high-speed connections and improved property values.

“If a community wants to thrive in the economy and society of the decades to come, it needs a network capable of carrying that kind of traffic,” Levin wrote. “There is no silver bullet that works for every community. But there is a bullet that can kill every community — doing nothing.”

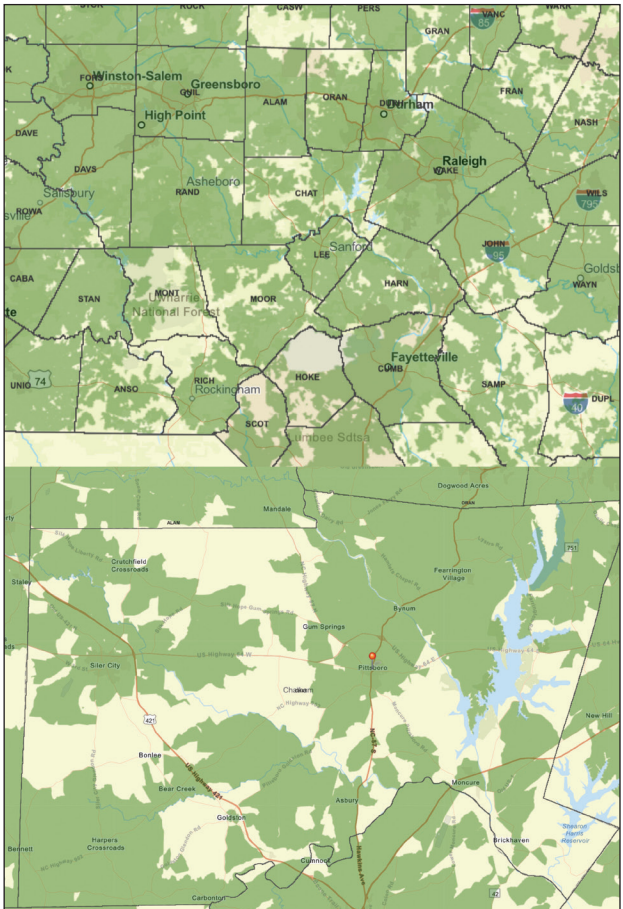
Chatham County wants to do something. The county’s website — which does not normally serve as an advocacy tool — states that the county government “shares the concerns of many residents who have limited or no access to broadband service.”

“This situation is not acceptable and we continue to work on this issue,” the website states. “The bottom line is that there are few real incentives for cable and telephone companies to expand coverage in rural areas. The State of North Carolina also has substantially restricted what counties can do in partnering with broadband providers.”

Hurdles to jump

Only one government entity is in the broadband internet business — the City of Wilson, a little more than 80 miles from downtown Pittsboro. In 2007, Wilson began building its own fiber system after the area’s cable provider declined offers to buy its services in the area and partner with the city to update its network.

According to Greenlight Community Broadband, the city’s publicly-owned service, that private provider then sought support for state legislation to prohibit Wilson’s efforts. Such legislation eventually passed, but Wilson was grandfathered in with some limitations — they couldn’t go past the Wilson County line, despite the county providing electrical services to six counties, and if a private provider began offering services in a market, the



Screengrabs courtesy of N.C. Department of Information Technology

The areas shaded in green show areas in North Carolina with broadband service of 25 megabits per second for download and 2 megabits per second for upload, according to FCC data which, according to the NC Department of Information Technology ‘might not reflect actual service available at your physical location.’ Chatham County has several empty spots and lags behind its neighbors.

City would have to shut down its network in that area. That happened with the nearby town of Pinetops, which went from near-top-level speed of 1 gigabit per second for downloads to 50 megabits per second when a private provider came in. One gigabit translates to 1,000 megabits.

The 2011 legislation has proven to be a roadblock to further municipal broadband services or even allowing counties and cities to participate with private companies in offering services to residents. In a 2019 report entitled “Municipal Broadband Is Roadblocked or Outlawed in 25 States,” BroadbandNow’s Kendra Chamberlain wrote that North Carolina’s laws “make it exceedingly difficult for public entities to deploy broadband services to residents.”

Chatham officials discussed this legislation and their desire to see it changed at the February 28 breakfast.

“We all need to be coalescing around the issue,” Chatham County Commission Chairman Karen Howard said at the meeting, referring to county-level government officials in the central North Carolina region. “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 at that meeting that there is appetite to change in the state legislature, but Raleigh’s power players are not on board.

“This is a problem that can be solved immediately,” Reives said. “You’ve got enough votes in the Senate and enough votes in the House to basically repeal the Wilson bill. But you can’t get leadership. This is one of those issues that this isn’t partisan. It’s kind of ridiculous that you’re allowing legislators to sit there and think, ‘We don’t ought to do this right now,’ because everybody’s hurting.”

That leadership includes House Speaker Tim Moore (R-King’s Mountain) and Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham). According to the N.C. State Board of Elections, Berger and Moore’s campaigns each received \$4,400 from the AT&T PAC out of Raleigh in the first quarter of 2020. In the second half of 2019, Berger received \$3,000 from the CenturyLink Employees PAC and \$5,400 from the Charter Communications NC PAC, while Moore was the beneficiary of a \$2,500 donation from the CenturyLink Employees PAC and \$5,400 from the Charter Communications NC PAC.

On the other hand, Reives, the Deputy Democratic Leader in the N.C. House received \$250 from the CenturyLink Employees PAC in the second half of 2019.

What Chatham can do

Right now, what Chatham County can actually do turns out to be very little. There’s a lot it wants to do, LaMontagne said. Not necessarily starting its own broadband service, but providing the infrastructure to encourage private ISPs to extend access to more rural areas.

“We’d like to be able to provide our vertical assets, so towers, water tanks, things like that to the providers,” LaMontagne said. “We’d like to be able to install fiber, fiber-optic cable, and let that be leased out to different internet service providers. We would help with the capital expense of getting it out to these rural areas. There’s any number of options for that we could look at for this. That’s just the simplest to me, is just let us help get the providers to provide those services out into those unincorporated, these rural areas that are unincorporated.”

He said that he hopes COVID-19 and the number of people working from home with poor or no internet, utilizing hotspots or driving to parking lots, will “push us over the edge” in this conversation.

Chatham County Schools has already taken a step toward improving its service on its own. The school board agreed a contract last March with Charlotte-based Conterra Ultimate Broadband to lay 88 miles of fiber optic broadband throughout the county, connecting to all of the district’s 19 current locations and two future spots.

Keith Medlin, Chatham County Schools’ director of technology and communications, said at the time it would provide better service for the schools and that the county government may be able to take advantage too.

“This gives us a long-term contract and speeds that won’t have prices that change,” Medlin said. “This is a core part of the first step we can take to help attract a vendor to lay this much fiber within Chatham County. It will give the county an opportunity to do a separate negotiation.”

At the time, LaMontagne said the county was anticipating a few facilities being connected to the fiber and saw the whole line as infrastructure laid for a service provider in the future.

Until then, Ozmeral, who lives in northeast Chatham in a “new-ish” neighborhood, will need to drive somewhere else to do his job while COVID-19 is in play.

“I sit in a parking lot all day with my laptop and my phone and my books,” he said. “I’m making it work. It’s been nice weather so it’s been nice sitting.”

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

USDA- Farm Service Agency Notice of Availability Poultry Facility Construction Final Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the poultry facility construction located at Chatham County Tax Parcel number 89650 and Pin Number 8637 00 60 2361 and Tax Parcel number 77500 and Pin Number 8636 00 68 7932. The primary objective of this activity is to construct 4 additional poultry houses on the 15.12 acre property.

FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through May 15, 2020. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at the FSA office located at 3230A Presson Road Monroe, NC 28112. Comments should be submitted to Suzanne Simpson at 3230A Presson Road Monroe, NC 28112 or by email at suzanne.simpson@nc.usda.gov.

VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

The pandemic has revealed some cracks. It also reminds us of Chatham’s dire need for better broadband

Whenever it is that we look back in our rear-view mirrors at the age of COVID-19, it’s becoming starkly obvious we’ll do it from a different place, a different perspective.

The world will have changed in many ways. We might not, as Dr. Anthony Fauci has suggested, shake hands as often — or at all. We might be more friendly to our neighbors. We might keep just a little more toilet paper on hand than normal. Grocery delivery may become more the rule and less the exception. There may be fewer movie theaters and more streaming of entertainment content, fewer restaurants but more of them offering curbside service. Social distancing in some forms may still exist, and no doubt the lingering pain from the economic gut-punch that we’re seeing, and will see, will exist for some time.

The pandemic has exposed a lot of cracks in our collective systems — not just in health care, but in other places that

are lower-priority in our lives. But one area previously exposed is one that COVID-19 laid absolutely bare in Chatham County: our comparatively woeful access to broadband.

As detailed in a story in this week’s edition, our access to dependable, quality internet connection lags behind our neighbors. Yes, 86.5 percent of Chatham residents have acceptable internet and 82.7 percent have access to some level of connectivity. But in each of Chatham’s neighboring counties, those numbers are in the 90s, and often the high 90s.

The local deficiency created, and is creating, pinch points for our schools and businesses. It’s been, as the story says, a “talking point” in Chatham for some time. Some key elements to recognize as you drill down on the issue:

- 18 percent of students at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City don’t have internet access at home, stemming from the fact that less than 80 per-

cent of the Siler City area has access to high-speed broadband coverage (compared to 95.2 percent of all of North Carolina).

- Internet “hotspots,” devices which use cell signals to provide boosted web access, aren’t reliable in some parts of the county.
- The “speed” or bandwidth of some of Chatham County’s major internet providers is a fraction of that provided in surrounding counties.

“We are lacking that in many areas,” County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record. “It’s extremely valuable to our students. Their homework is increasingly online. This is really a needed utility throughout the state.” And according to Amanda Hartness, the district’s assistant superintendent of academic service and instructional support, internet inequity has been CCS’ “biggest challenge” during COVID-19. She says: “We do have students and staff who aren’t getting the same experience,” an inequality that

creates additional and unnecessary gaps in learning.

Broadband services, according to a report from the N.C. League of Municipalities, “has become essential infrastructure, fundamental to commerce, education, health care and entertainment. Nonetheless, more than two decades into the digital revolution, many areas of North Carolina lack access to adequate broadband service, and even densely-populated areas can lack the kinds of internet speeds needed for business to thrive.”

This isn’t about good access to Netflix or your Amazon Prime account. It’s about inadequate access across all of Chatham County for those who need it for essential day-to-day living. To fix it, the discussion about that access needs to be re-framed — to see broadband access not as a luxury, but as a utility, just like water and electricity, in the words of County Manager Dan LaMontagne.

Local officials, including Chatham’s legislative delegation, are working the problem

— making it a priority in part because it’ll help Chatham’s economic fortunes as well. A report from the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization in Washington, D.C., pointed out the correlation between better broadband and higher per capita gross domestic product, higher revenues for home businesses connected to high-speed connections and improved property values.

“If a community wants to thrive in the economy and society of the decades to come, it needs a network capable of carrying that kind of traffic,” the report’s author wrote. “There is no silver bullet that works for every community. But there is a bullet that can kill every community — doing nothing.”

Check out the story this week, which begins on page A1, to see what Chatham County is doing and to understand the significance of this issue. Its importance can’t be underestimated.

Signs of the times abound, even in an antique book

I understand the wisdom of not judging a book by its cover, but the maxim aside, it was precisely the cover of “Ill Wind,” a novel by James Hilton, that caught my eye about 10 years ago as I rummaged through a bin of books at a swap shop.

Although I’ve never read “Goodbye, Mr. Chips” or “Lost Horizon,” I knew Hilton to be the author of those popular novels and I recognized his name on the cover of “Ill Wind.” But Mortimer Snerd could just as well have been the author, for all I cared. I was drawn to the little volume for very superficial reasons.

Fresh from a bindery 88 years ago, the paperback was in remarkably good condition when we crossed paths and, though I wasn’t keen on actually reading it, the aesthetics of the old book were irresistible to the book collector in me, so I claimed it, took it home, and introduced it to the rest of the volumes in my ever-growing collection. (It’s not considered hoarding if you admit you have a problem, is it?)

I came across that old acquisition a few days ago when, with extra time at home, I began to undertake the massive job of sorting through the many stray books I’ve given a home to over the years, organizing them and arranging them and, most importantly, culling the ones I’ll never touch again.

Recognizing the spine, I remembered the moment we met in that swap shop a decade earlier. This time, with the book shelved and its cool 1930s cover concealed, it was the two-word title alone that caught my eye.

Ill wind.

Hilton may have lifted that pairing of words from Shakespeare, but whatever his inspiration, those two words capture a feeling that’s gnawed at me for the last few weeks.

There’s been a lot of wind, for one thing. The month of March, the idiom tells us, “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” but a blustery and troublesome March bled into an equally blustery and blighted April, and there’s something in these windy days of spring 2020 that hasn’t felt right.

First, there was pollen, and a lot of it, carried by those winds — that’s normal for this transitional time of year; but what isn’t normal, of course, is the silent and invisible threat of something more sinister than pollen, which we’ve come to know as COVID-19, coronavirus.

I’m not prone to hysterics, and the steps I’ve taken to reduce exposure during this pandemic have been, I think, reasonable and fact-based. I haven’t yet resorted, say, to wearing aluminum foil hats. I’m still waiting for the science on that headgear.

But unclear guidance on the use of face masks — I’ve read we should be wearing them when we’re out and about; but does that mean when we’re in a grocery store, around other people, as well as when we’re in the relative safety of our back yards? — has left me wondering if I’m doing something risky and dangerous when I go for a walk, or check the mail, or spend 15 minutes sunning on the back deck, without a mask.

The strong winds of late haven’t eased my mind much. I can’t help, every time I step out into the swirling outdoors for whatever benign and routine reason, that the strong winds of recent weeks may be blowing about something bad.

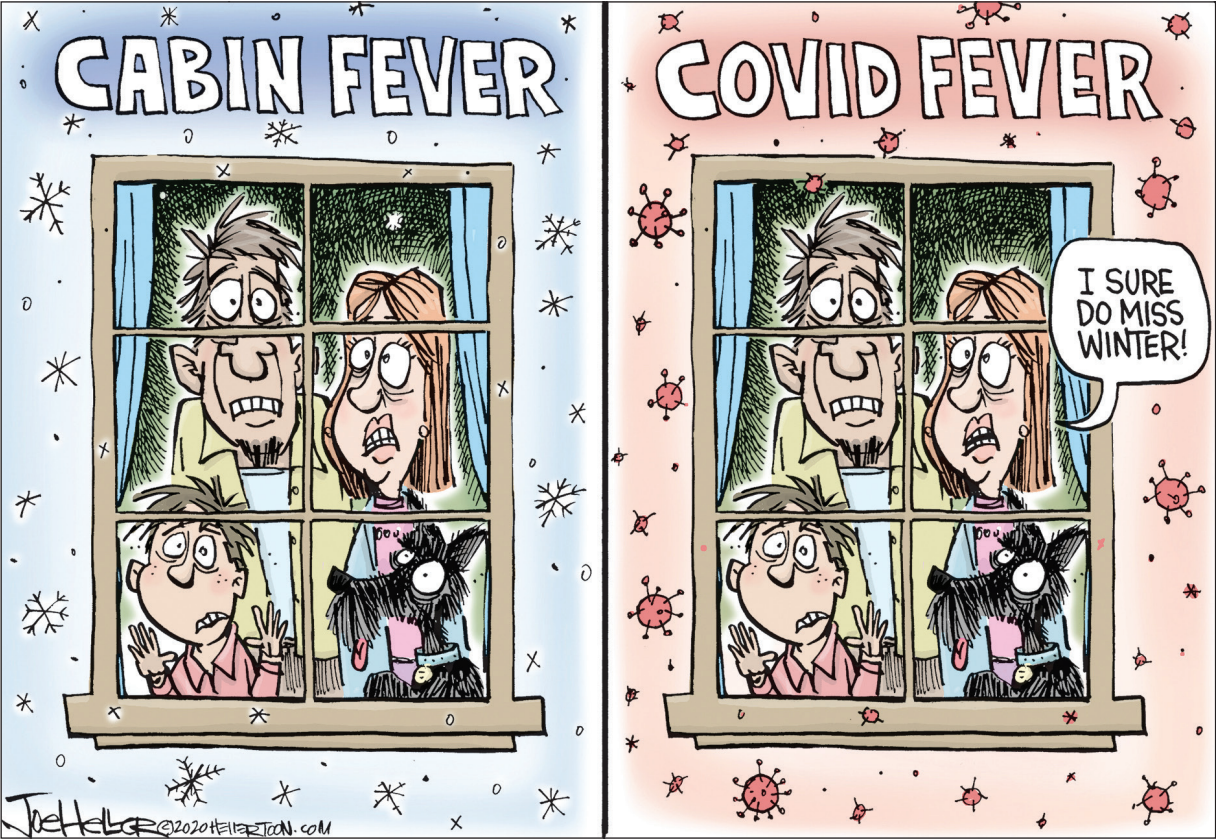
Wind, I suppose, is like a lot of things in that a bit of it — like the gentle winds that blow around us when we’re kicked back and comfortable on a beach — is a good thing, but too much of it — the property- and life-threatening winds of a hurricane, for example — isn’t.

Spring winds — winds of change — usually carry a freshness, as if they’re sweeping away the cobwebs of winter, but I’m not feeling that in these recent winds.

Maybe I’m overthinking something as ordinary and natural as wind, or maybe, as odd as everything feels these days, I can’t help but see signs of the times everywhere I look, even in the title of an antique book.



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects



Knowledge that faith exists is what makes life meaningful

Long ago and far away when I was a mere lad, my Mama was fond of saying, among other things, that there was a “big difference between faith and knowledge.” Usually she then would cite some example, most of which I either was unaware of or did not understand, to prove her point.

BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

Since those carefree days of boyhood, I have come to understand some of the examples Mama spoke of, at least the ones I can remember, but of even greater value is that now I understand the meaning of her proverb. That does not mean, however, that I am the best at practicing one over the other, especially the faith one.

Call it a character flaw or an example of my humanity but I don’t always have the patience to practice faith. That is why, for example, I may turn to the back of the book after a few pages at the front, to see how the thing turns out.

It may also explain why sometimes I cut in on someone’s conversation, anxious to move it along because I have something profound to say or point out and I don’t want to forget whatever it is. I really am trying to do better at not doing that but I don’t always follow through. Sometimes when really trying to listen to other folks I don’t say anything at all and then that’s perceived as not caring. It can be tough to be a listener.

And how many of us these days are trying to balance faith that the virus plaguing our nation and world will one day, soon, we hope, come

under control?

All that is said to say something about faith in general, especially at this time of year. “Faith” is an encompassing word with many different meanings. Faith in what...or in whom...and by whom and what for — those are just a few possibilities. It takes faith when you’re down to believe that one day you’ll be up. It takes faith to go out on a limb or to go against popular opinion if you’re convinced you’re right. It takes faith to wait on other folks to do whatever when you’re pretty sure you can do it better. In a nutshell, the list can be endless.

Please don’t get me wrong; I’m not putting down faith or suggesting we not have it. I’m just admitting sometimes it’s easier to have it than at other times. For example, I wouldn’t find it hard to have faith, without looking, that it is not snowing on July 4 even if my entire family tried to tell me otherwise. But in mid-January, after it’s been 10 below for a week and I haven’t peeked out the window for a couple of days, if someone told me we were having a blizzard and asked if I believed them I might find it hard not to sneak my own look-see just to make sure.

This time of year, the resurrection of Jesus, is, of course, for the Christian church, the apex of faith. Baseball has the World Series, football has the Super Bowl and college basketball has March Madness (except not this year thanks to the virus). The church has Easter; we’ve just celebrated it, although in different ways than usual. It’s when men and women of faith (there’s that word again), if they will, take a look at what they say guides them in their outlook on life all year and, indeed, all of their lives.

The Book that’s such a big part of that Easter faith tells us we ought to help one another and bear each other’s burdens and learn from one another. And I do have enough faith to believe that when that comes about that it is a help to us in our own struggles.

Some time ago, my better half and I were at an event at which a young man who hails from this area spoke of his Christian faith, of how it had turned his life around for the better, and of how he had sensed he needed to exercise his faith by stretching beyond his comfort zone. Doing that would require a big step of faith, even a leap into the unknown, and that’s not the most comfortable place for most of us.

Long story short is that the young man did that, took that leap, and is moving along in his ever-expanding and growing adventure of life and faith. As I listened to his story, it reminded me of a chapter in my story when, years ago, the place I found myself was no longer a satisfying place and I, along with my family, took a leap of faith.

Sometimes even today, as I reflect on that several-years-ago adventure, I marvel at it all, but...and it’s a big but...there is this benefit of such a step of faith: never have I felt “more alive” than when I was at that place then.

Forgive the rambling, dear reader, and suffice it to say what I’m trying to say is that sometimes, maybe even most times, “faith” trumps “knowledge” as the more important road map on the journey of life. May your faith map be clear enough to get you not to where you may be headed at the moment but to the place you should be headed for all time.

And remember, keep the faith... just not to yourself.

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.

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

What is a ‘good’ explanation for the coronavirus?

The biblical story of creation as found in the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis is neither a scientific essay nor a proof text. It is a poem — a hymn to the goodness of God. God pronounced creation “good” because God is good and, out of that generosity, willed all that is into being. With that in mind, we might ask, so, what the heck happened? Why are things not good? It is tragic enough to endure the coronavirus outbreak in NYC; imagine a refugee camp or a prison.

“Why” is a question that comes to mind. What, then, is a “good” explanation for the coronavirus? You and I both know that, in the aftermath of any tragedy, the usual suspects trot out their “explanations” involving God’s punishment and the so-called End Times. They might cite isolated Bible verses. Yet, as biblical scholar N.T. Wright recently claimed, it is not the Christian calling to explain suffering; it is our calling not to explain it! Not knowing how to explain tragedy is

deeply biblical. This is called lament. The Bible’s rich history of lament is primarily found in the Psalms. Questions, like “Why, God?” and “How long, O Lord?”, are left to hang in the air...on purpose! And why is that? Here’s a timely anecdote: providing an answer is like replying to an e-mail — hit “send” and be done with it! But not knowing invites you to stay on the line. You stay in the relationship. As followers of Jesus, specif-

ically last Friday when we read the account of the crucifixion, we understand the last words of Jesus principally as lament. As Jesus hung on the cross, he let the question hang in the air — My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? We refer to the Friday before Easter as “good” not because Jesus provided any answers, but because he is The Answer: his death and resurrection embody our belief that, finally when all is said and done, there is nothing in life or even in death that can separate us from

the love of God. And so, as people of faith in God’s goodness and love, let us allow the questions hang in the air. As the old hymn puts it, “Where you there when they crucified my Lord?” Faith keeps us in relationship with God. And that is very good.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and author of “Gently Between the Words: Essays and Poems.” He is currently working from home with his wife and three children.

Will COVID-19 changes be lasting?

Robert Heinlein — the author of pathbreaking science-fiction works such as “Starship Troopers,” “The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress,” and “Stranger in a Strange Land” — was a man of wit and insight. In this strange new land we inhabit, one of terrifying viruses and government lockdowns, one of Heinlein’s maxims strikes me as particularly relevant. “Don’t ever become a pessimist,” he said. “A pessimist is correct oftener than an optimist, but an optimist has more fun, and neither can stop the march of events.” I find myself tempted by both sensibilities. The deadly disease itself as well as the massive costs of battling it make pessimism seem like a safe bet. North Carolina is plummeting into a sharp recession, one that will slam households, businesses, and governments hard. If the lockdowns continue for months, the chances that the recession will be “V-shaped” and in our rearview mirrors by the end of

the year will fade, replaced by the likelihood of a devastating economic depression. Some analysts are already looking past the immediate crisis and forecasting long-term changes to our economic lives. For example, some suggest that when restaurants reopen, there will be fewer tables and fewer patrons. To remain viable, restaurants will have to be pricier, more exclusive, so eating out will be more the luxury it was two generations ago instead of the common experience of the common person. Others suggest that we will have to adjust to permanently higher levels of unemployment, both because of changes in business structure and because of the disincentive effects created by higher minimum wages and more-generous public assistance. Some say there will be a turn away from international supply chains, resulting in higher prices and lower standards of living over time. There are pessimistic scenarios for both Left and Right to chew on. Progressives, remember your decades of activism in favor of mass transit? Great. Now forget it. High-density living and travel by bus or train appear to be risk factors for COVID-19, and

presumably for other nasty pathogens. After the crisis, people will want to spread out more and drive their own social-distance-mobiles. Or so the argument goes. Conservatives, remember that pro-growth tax cut Congress passed a few years ago? Great. Now forget it. Because there has been no serious effort to constrain federal spending, we were already piling trillion-dollar-deficits on top of a heap of federal debt. Now, the deficit will be multiples of that. The federal tax burden will have to rise a lot to avoid fiscal meltdown and its consequences. Or so the argument goes. These are far from implausible scenarios. You can probably think of many more. But I don’t think they fully capture our present moment. Consider the fate of freedom. In the short run, most people will accept lockdowns as an imperfect response to a poorly understood threat. But they will not long accept the government’s suspension of their fundamental rights to visit their families, to work, to travel, and to worship. A turn to socialism? That ship hasn’t just sailed. It has lurched erratically into the harbor, spring multiple leaks, and turned upside-down. I

think people will see clearly through desperate progressive attempts to use COVID-19 to indict our traditional institutions of limited government and free enterprise. They can see countries with single-payer health plans and more powerful central governments suffering both higher deaths-per-capita and larger economic dislocations than we are. What may prove lasting are the bonds of family, neighborhood, and civic association that have formed and strengthened during the crisis. Also lasting may be a greater respect for the dignity and importance of work, all work, from medical professionals, innovators, and inventors to truck drivers, logisticians, technicians, and cashiers. Of course, I may only be applying Heinlein’s maxim. It is more enjoyable to be an optimist. The truth is, however, that Heinlein was mistaken. Over the course of our history, it has been the optimists whose predictions tended to be more accurate. Here’s hoping for a repeat.

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

LETTERS

More innovative research needed

TO THE EDITOR:

As I write this, there are more than 3,600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of North Carolina. This disease’s rapid and untraceable spread throughout our country demands we put our support behind the biopharmaceutical industry. Their work demands that we make sure nothing stands in their way to continue the innovative research that will result in a vaccine or treatment. Our nation leads the world in medical research and discoveries; this work has never been in higher demand and stands to save lives and ease the pressure being put on our frontlines. As a Registered Nurse, the increasing number of patients at our hospital is disheartening. I fear this number will continue to climb until we have better treatment options, and eventually, a vaccine, with which to prevent COVID-19’s spread all together. Countless current and future patients would benefit from the research being done in search of a treatment for COVID-19. Companies are stepping in to help patients by setting low prices for insulin, giving prescribe medication to folks who have been laid off and most importantly, accelerating clinical trials. I encourage our lawmakers to put their politics aside and stand with the biopharmaceutical industry in their efforts to curb the COVID-19 crisis. North Carolinians are depending on it – there is hope in the future of innovative research.

Jessica Brown
Bear Creek

A cure for the isolation and a troubled marriage

What is the big news in North Carolina? For some it is not the bad news that the coronavirus has shut us up in our homes for weeks and weeks and undercut the economic lives of so many. It is, instead, the good news that, starting on April 21, with the release of Lee Smith’s latest book, “Blue Marlin,” there will be something to ease the discomfort of our confinement. “Blue Marlin” is short, about 120 pages, each filled with Smith’s warm and sympathetic story-telling gifts and characters who reach out and remind us of people we knew growing up. Smith confesses in an afterword that for all the stories she has ever written, “this one is dearest to me, capturing the essence of my own childhood — the kind of unruly, spoiled only child I was; the sweetness of my troubled parents, and the magic essence of Key West, ever since January 1959, when these events actually occurred.” Smith then explains that not all the events in her book happened. The book, she says, is “autobiographical fiction, with the emphasis on fiction.” She explains, “I can tell the truth better in fiction than

nonfiction.” In the book, the “Lee Smith-like” character, Jenny, age 13, discovers her small-town lawyer dad — think Atticus Finch — is having an affair. Soon everybody in town knows. Her dad moves out of their home. Her depressed mom seeks treatment at a hospital in Asheville. Jenny is sent to stay with her mom’s cousin Glenda in South Carolina. Jenny fights this placement. Glenda is tough and deeply and out-front religious. Soon Jenny feels at home, adjusting and then thriving under Glenda’s no-nonsense orderliness. Meanwhile, her parents decide to try to put their marriage back together on a trip to Key West. When they pick up Jenny at Glenda’s, Jenny brings a white New Testament that Glenda gave her, a necklace with a cross that Jenny stole from Glenda’s daughter, and a growing interest in Jesus and boys. Riding to Key West in the back seat of her dad’s new Cadillac, Jenny begins a list of good deeds she will do on each day of their monthly trip “which ought to be enough,” she thought, “to bring even Mama and Daddy back together.” But the question is, will the time in Key West do the job? Things get off to a good start. Their hotel, the Blue Marlin, is a positive, not just because of its swimming pool and water slide. The motel is full of a movie

crew, including actor Tony Curtis. “Mama and I were crazy about Tony Curtis,” says Jenny. Both were big movie fans and read the fan magazines together. About Curtis, they “squealed together.” Then they learn Cary Grant is part of the movie’s cast, and things are off to a good start. Jenny settles into Key West. She walks the streets, visits the old Catholic church, reads the texts in the graveyard, gets to know a group of strippers, and does her good deeds every day. Still she asks whether they were working: “My parents were endlessly cordial to each other now, but so far they had never slept in the same bed. I knew this for a fact. I checked their room every morning.” To find out whether Tony Curtis’s help and Jenny’s good deeds can bring about real marital reconciliation, you will have to read the book. But here is a clue from Smith’s afterword. After the real trip to Key West to help her real parents’ troubled marriage, Smith writes that the Key West cure worked. “Mama and Daddy would go home refreshed, and stay married for the rest of their lives.”

D.G. Martin hosts “North Carolina Bookwatch,” at 3:30 p.m. Sundays and at 5 p.m. Tuesdays on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and other times.

Chatham News + Record

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We needed a little Easter this year

Pastors will tell you they count on a full church at Christmas and Easter Sunday. Except for this year. As we re-read the old story of those who discovered an empty tomb on that day of Resurrection, this year we will be discovering empty churches. Who knew we would be giving up church for Lent? Easter Sunrise is one of my favorite services of the year. We look forward to gathering on the Neuse riverfront, as members of the three churches in Arapahoe gather to greet the dawn. There’s something glorious about watching the

sun rise up over the water while singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.” After the service we gather in the Camp Don Lee dining hall for a breakfast of eggs, bacon, grits, homemade biscuits and fruit. Let me tell you there are more than a few hallelujahs heard from those leaving. But not this year. Worship includes the scriptures, messages, music, candles and communion, but equally important is community. Try hard as we might, online worship just doesn’t provoke the same experience. Some pastors are innovating. On Palm Sunday my pastor wife, Lib, gathered those on our street to read the Matthew scripture of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem. Then she then led us, waving branches, in a parade — with the obligatory 6 feet of separa-

tion — to the top of the street. I’ve read of other services where the pastor stood on a front porch or sidewalk and preached, then neighbors sang, again careful to keep their distances. There are more than few complaining of cabin fever and we hear expressions of depression, anger and fear growing daily. You can seek help by clicking on the following URL from the NC Department of Health and Human Services: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/managing-your-overall-health. But other ways to deal with these issues are to take a walk or you could FaceTime or Zoom a family member or friend. In one neighborhood someone got a boombox, turned up the volume and invited neighbors to dance in their respective driveways. In

New York they open apartment windows and sing each afternoon at a prescribed time. Get creative! How well are we doing staying home? Not too good, according to Unacast, the leading transparent and contextualized location data platform. They’ve been tracking our mobility based on our cellphone location. Overall, they gave North Carolina a D- for staying in place. Watauga County did the best, scoring an A-. Dare, Jackson and Swain counties received a B. Buncombe, Durham, Mecklenburg and New Hanover got a B-. Clay, Orange, Pitt, Polk and Wake scored a C, three counties got C-, and there were 60 with a D or D- score. A total of 24 counties flunked. Health experts repeatedly say the best thing we can do to defeat COVID-19 is to separate

ourselves from others. A report released Monday predicted that our state could see 250,000 cases of coronaviruses by the end of May, down from an earlier projection of 700,000. Look for a continuation of the stay-home orders and we might even see curfews, as some communities have imposed. These are hard times that leave us questioning when life might return to some sense of normal. The hard truth is that it might take years. Surely this year, with all the sickness and death, financial loss and uncertainty we need some good news. We needed the Resurrection Story this Easter.

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

MARKETS

Continued from page A1

navirus pandemic, with social distancing now the norm, with all vendors and most customers wearing protective (and mostly hand-made) face masks, and with other tight restrictions in place, the weekly gatherings — including the Tuesday afternoon market in Fearington Village and the Thursday afternoon event at Main Street Station in Pittsboro — definitely have a different look and feel this year. More vendors, like Red Roots Farm, for example, are allowing customers to purchase goods online (see accompanying story) to minimize physical contact.

One thing, though, hasn't changed: the up-close — in a manner of speaking — opportunity for customers to purchase an array of fresh vegetables, fruits, meats and other offerings directly from the source.

These three markets, two of which observed their opening days in the last two weeks, operate on a regular schedule: Chatham Mills on Saturdays, Fearington on Tuesdays and the Pittsboro Farmers' Market on Thursdays which is open year-round. Many local vendors take part in two or more of the three Chatham markets, as well as markets outside Chatham, including Carrboro and Chapel Hill. And as they work the markets and the buyers in attendance, there's a common theme at each.

Fresh.
“Well, you know, our big advantage is the number of hands that have touched what we have,” Butler said. “I go out and I harvest this stuff. I wash it. I package it. I've got one woman who works with me. Two hands have prepared it and it comes right to the market and it goes right to you. It doesn't go through a big distribution, like everything at the grocery store. We feel really good about our local food sources here and I think a lot of customers are glad to have us.”

Opening day for Chatham Mills was relatively quiet — just five vendors and a trickle of customers in the first couple of hours, most of them regulars checking out the early-season selection. Market administrator Cheryl McNeil said as the season progresses and more vegetables and meat are ready to come to market, the number of vendors and buyers will grow.

That was the case for James Jacobs of Twelve Oaks Farm in the Asbury area of Chatham County, who was selling for the first time at Chatham



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cathy Jones of Perry-winkle Farm shows off flowers for sale at the Fearington Village Farmers' Market. Jones and Mike Perry have been displaying at that market since it opened in 1991, and on opening day were selling eggs, arugula, garlic and more.

Mills.

“I try to focus on making a good quality product,” said Jacobs, who was selling jars of incredibly-tasting dill pickles, stewing in a juice that included apple cider vinegar, garlic, bay leaves and whole black peppercorns. “It's sort of my whole niche. And even on my business card, you can see it's an old-school house, which is the house I live in. It's a colonial-style house; it has that sort of ‘yes-ter-year’ aspect. It's sort of going back to a time when everybody would get produce and get all their processed foods from local people. And that's the reason I sell at farmers' markets.”

Jacobs, who has a commercial kitchen in his home, says he does most of the growing, all of the processing — including salsas that will soon ready for sale — and most of the distribution by himself.

Chatham Mills' McNeil said that like Jacobs, many vendors there are farming using sustainable or organic practices. She touted the beautiful location, the accessibility of Chatham Marketplace and the adjacent Pickle Jar restaurant and — despite being one of the smallest, if not the smallest, Saturday market in the Triangle — the variety: vegetables, meat, eggs, plants and even craft vendors on some Saturdays.

A few days later, at the opening day of the Fearington Village Market, the crowd was decidedly larger — more than two dozen vendors and a steady stream of mask-wearing customers honoring the six-foot social-distancing guidelines while vying to

figure out who was selling what, and for how much.

Sheila Stevens of Sanford was among them. She frequents farmers' markets in Lee County, is a member of the Sandhills Farm to Table program in Moore County and has purchased from Chatham farmers before, but on this Tuesday was making her first in-person trip to Fearington.

Her foray there was a positive one.

“I was very impressed with the variety of veggies this early in the season,” she said. “And most of the farmers and bakers let you order and pay ahead of time. I really like that.”

Stevens purchased butterhead lettuce and spinach from Ben Shields at In Good Heart Farm of Pittsboro — ordering and paying in advance — and reported later that they were “delicious!”

“The prices were fair, similar to grocery store, but much better products,” she said. “I also bought flowers and plants that are lovely and priced exactly what I thought I should pay, especially since two were brand new colors.”

Another Fearington vendor, Noah Thompson — who works 40 acres at T-5 Farms with his father Randy in southern Alamance County — was offering beef, pork, strawberries, a variety of sweet potatoes, eggs and lots more.

The family has taken part in the market there for a decade. Thompson called the family's farmers' market operation “a small scale-type deal.” Their strawberries are “always a big hit, anywhere we go,” he says. On this Tuesday afternoon, many potential customers come looking for chicken.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

T5 Farms offers naturally grown produce, meat and eggs. The Thompson family farms 40 acres in southern Alamance County.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Ben Shields of Pittsboro's In Good Heart Farm answers questions about his inventory at the Fearington Village Farmers' Market.

“Which we don't [have] today,” he says. “I've heard people having a hard time finding chicken at grocery stores. I've had at least five people already ask about chicken. I told them we'll have plenty of chicken next week. And come summer growing season we'll have tables full of obtained varieties and produce.”

Across the way, Cathy Jones and Mike Perry of Perry-Winkle Farm in North Chatham were scurrying about filling orders and helping a steady stream of customers. They were present at Fearington's very first market back in 1991 and have been there ever since. This opening day, they're on hand with eggs, arugula, garlic and more.

While many vendors are now marketing online, Perry-Winkle Farm is, in many ways, a throwback. They don't have a website and their social media presence is scant — “Hey, we're on Instagram now!” Jones says enthusiastically in between helping customers — and, outside farmers' markets, their neighbors and regular customers know they can still come to the farm, pick produce from a shelf

and leave money behind.

The couple acquired a part of an old dairy farm in the late 1980s and today farm 33 acres, raising “happy chickens” for eggs and plenty of produce, flowers and herbs. They display at farmers' markets all around the area and — it's clear from spending any time observing their booth — have their share of fans.

Perry-winkle's regulars and new customers share a common desire, according to Jones.

“The demand for local food is skyrocketing,” she said.

Still, with the number of COVID-19 cases still growing, she wondered aloud whether their “loyal, loyal customers” would feel safe to come out during a pandemic.

Many have, but there's definitely a difference this year — something she's been seeing at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, where Perry-winkle Farm has a booth each Wednesday and Saturday.

“You know, the shoppers just don't hang out with us as long as they used to,” she said. “That's the thing I miss most. I mean, today's our first time seeing folks for a few months, so I miss being

CHATHAM'S FARMER MARKETS

Chatham Mills
8 a.m. - noon Saturdays @ at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro, 480 Hillsboro St.
Web: <http://www.chathamillsfarmers-market.com>

Fearington Village
4-6 p.m. Tuesdays @ Fearington Village (follow signs when entering off U.S. 15-501)
Web: <https://fearingtonfarmersmarket.com>

Pittsboro Farmers' Market
3-6 p.m. Thursdays @ Main Street Station, 287 East St.
Web: <http://pittsborofarmersmarket.org>

All the Chatham County farmers' markets have implemented the following practices:

- Spacing between vendors has increased to allow customers to spread out. Customers are asked to maintain a space of at least six feet between themselves and another person, and only one person at a time is allowed in the booth space
- Many vendors encourage their customers to pre-order and pre-pay to reduce time spent at the booth and avoid money handling; it also prevents that crush of people at the opening bell when people crowd in to get first dibs on their favorite products — if you pre-order, you can come at any time during the market hours to pick up your purchases
- Customers are not allowed to touch items on the table but asked to point to what they wanted
- Sampling of vendor products is suspended
- Market vendors wear gloves and designate one person to handle money only and another to handle product
- Vendors and customers are encouraged to wear face coverings/masks
- Read more at: <https://growing-smallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/04/chatham-county-farmers-markets-open-the-2020-season-with-new-social-distancing-policies/>

able to hug customers.” There is no hugging, of course. But fresh food, straight from local farms? Plenty to go around.

ONLINE

Continued from page A1

practice social-distancing, more and more farmers are choosing to adapt by adding an online component.

Kristin Bullpit of Copeland Springs Farm at The Plant in Pittsboro has sold produce from her local farm operation at the farmers' market in Apex and a mini-market in Briar Chapel. But after pandemic restrictions led to the cancellation of those markets, she added an “online ordering” element to her website.

She's joined a growing trend. Kristen Scheckelhoff of Red Roots Farm in Silk Hope has been using an online store for several years now to sell non-produce promotional items like t-shirts and shopping bags, as well as CBD oils. The farm sells its produce at farmers markets in Chatham County and, prior to COVID-19, to several local restaurants.

“This year, given the increased demand for no-contact payment options, we've expanded our online store to include produce,” Scheckelhoff said.

James Jacobs of Twelve Oaks Farm, in Chatham's Asbury community, sells his processed canned goods, including pickles and salsas, at farmers' markets in Chatham County. He's one of a number of local farmers who have taken advantage of classes offered by local N.C. Extension agent Debbie Roos to learn how to pivot to e-commerce.

Roos has been hosting workshops using the Zoom online meeting platform to teach farmers how to create a free online store. In two workshops late in March, more than 400 farmers learned from Roos how to create an online store, and Roos said she is open to doing more workshops

if interest continues to grow.

Jacobs started the process to create an online store two weeks ago and expects to have it up and running by the end of April.

“It really is the new frontier for farmers to sell their products,” Jacobs said.

The transition to online stores has its own challenges.

“The website isn't exactly what I need as it's geared toward restaurants, but I think I've worked it out,” Bullpit said. “The real challenge is getting people used to pre-ordering and adjusting planning. When orders come in, I need to harvest, clean and package the produce. I don't want to do it too early or do too much. If no one orders, I don't have an outlet without the farmers market.”

Scheckelhoff said opening up to online orders made inventorying difficult.

“It's challenging to keep track of inventory, since we don't know the exact number of radish bunches or heads of cabbage that will be harvestable until we go out in the field to actually harvest them,” she said. “And since we typically harvest produce the morning of market, we're constantly worried about over-selling something through pre-sales, so we end up under-estimating quantities for the online store. We update the store with our best guess the day before a farmers' market (three times a week), and have to scramble to update the inventory if we find we're long or short on something.”

Accepting online orders is far less personal than face-to-face sales at farmers' markets, according to Jacobs.

“Probably the biggest challenge is connecting the current customer base to the website,” he said. “Many customers really enjoy going to the markets and spending time with the farmers that produce the goods.

Although early into the season, I noticed some frequent visitors to the market have shown up towards the end of the market and missed out on produce due to pre-sales.”

Bullpit said she's seen a “big increase” in interest from people wanting to source their food locally. And farmers are working hard to adapt to the demand even with the challenges of converting to online stores.

Jacobs echoed that sentiment.

“It's great that I have seen a reasonable amount of new comers to markets and those interested in growing some on their own produce since the ‘stay at home’ order has been in place,” he said. “Since the ‘just in time delivery’ has been disrupted in a way, those that adapt to new practices and ways of acquiring food will be best set for the future. The longer the current measures are in place the more people will be set in a habit of not going back to the way things were. We make habits and those habits make us.”

Bullpit thinks buyers will adjust.

“I think people will be used to it and will like it,” she said. “It will make planning easier once we work through it. Farmers are always working, but they are working really hard now with all these changes.”

“We'll definitely continue to use an online store platform going forward, but once the pandemic is over, I doubt we'll continue to update the produce list three times a week and take pre-orders for every market,” Scheckelhoff said. “It adds a lot of time to our market prep every week, and we're a small operation — two farm owners and one part-time employee — so we're always short on time.”

As the farmers continue to work and produce through the pandemic, the changes they



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

As farmers continue to grow food during the coronavirus outbreak, many, like Kristin Bullpit of Copeland Springs Farm in Pittsboro, are moving to online store platforms to sell their goods.

are making now are helping to sustain both their farms and the sales to the customers.

“The costs and challenges associated with the online store have definitely been worth it, though,” Scheckelhoff said. “It's a great feeling to head to the farmers' market knowing that you've already sold a certain amount of produce; that guarantees it's worth the drive and reduces some of our anxiety over deciding how much to harvest and when.”

There will be mistakes, Bullpit pointed out.

“We all need to be flexible,” she said. “We are all learning as we go and everyone is working really hard to get food to people. We really appreciate people who appreciate what we grow.”

Jacobs thinks that this may fundamentally change how society views food production.

“I understand not everyone is able to afford the prices that

local goods come at,” Jacobs said. “There is a problem when you can go back 75 years and find most products could be regional and affordable. With pricing now available by most farmers who have now offered some online ordering I ask you to compare with what local distributors are offering. You might be surprised the cost is not much different. It is an issue also considering the importance of food and that so much of it comes from places not within the continental U.S.

“When a crisis hits whether it be natural or man-made; self-reliance as a nation becomes ever so clear,” he said. “We have one of the most diverse landscapes of any nation in the world that can produce about every type of produce consumed in the United States.”

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

Q&A: Chatham county manager talks how COVID-19 is affecting budgets, county operations, finding positives

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne appeared a little more casual during his April 7 Zoom chat with the Chatham News + Record: no tie, no jacket. Then again, it's a whole different world for many people right now. But don't interpret that he's relaxed.

LaMontagne chatted with the News + Record about county operations, preparations for next year's county budget and the positives he's taking from this time with COVID-19 affecting the county.

The following is an abridged transcript of the interview, edited for clarity and length. For the full video, head to facebook.com/ChathamNR, and the full transcript is available at chathamnewsrecord.com.

Has anything you've experienced in your nearly 20 years of working in local government prepared you for what you're experiencing now?

Nothing like this before. This is definitely a unique situation, unprecedented for me. The changes that we're having to make and how we're having to adapt to doing business in this landscape is unlike anything I ever imagined we would do, frankly. So pretty tricky times for everybody — really tough for the economy, tough for our small businesses, for all the employees out there. So I'm just looking forward to looking back at this.

What has been the biggest difference for you in your job before COVID-19 to now?

What I would say the biggest change with this is the way we've had to

limit our face-to-face contact with the public. Never in a million years, in all my years of public service, would I have thought that we would agree to limit how much face-to-face time we had with the public. But that is of critical importance right now. I mean, that's something that I need to do for the public and I need to do for my employees, our staff here. It's a scary time for the public. So that was obviously necessary, but it was a really difficult decision to make to do that.

However, I gotta say, I'm really proud of the way the staff have stepped up. We continue to provide services that are really critically needed for everybody here, especially in hard times like we're having now. We're just adapting to this new way of doing it and really stepping up and still providing those services, but just doing it in a very different way than I ever imagined we would. So we're learning a lot.

Is there a kind of attitude or overarching goal/strategy that you guys are carrying into this time for how you conduct business as local government, how you serve residents?

Well, the word of the day for all of this has been "adaptation." We really are just adapting and I think that is the best description of how we're having to deal with this situation. We know these restrictions are so different than we've had before. So we need to adapt, and I've left it to each department, they know their customer base the best. I wanted to know from each department how to adapt your services to still provide the services that you have to. Granted, for parks, we can't open play the playgrounds,

right, so we can't offer all the services. But most all of our services are still being offered, but just in a different way.

I know you guys are working on the budget pretty much as soon as you put the budget from the previous year to bed and working on projections and all that — and we're going to have a new wrinkle in it this year with the sales tax, which we'll get to — but how has this affected the process of budget preparation, and then revenue projections, not just for this year currently, that you take into the next year's budget before next year and for what you guys might bring in?

That is a really good question. I wish I had a crystal ball to know how it's gonna work out. The tough part for me is this was looking to be a great budget here. And now the last quarter of this, our sales tax revenues, which is a significant portion of our budget that's just going to fall off our last quarter. We think that April, May, June are going to be really tough for sales tax revenue. So that takes a hit in this year, but we were planning for next year and now we're looking at some of these revenue projections that we're getting from the (N.C.) League of Municipalities and (N.C.) Association of County Commissioners.

This is all unprecedented. So having a good idea of when the economy will bounce back from this, and how Chatham County would be different than the rest of the state, is still yet to be seen. I just don't know. When we hit this peak of cases and start to come down the other side, we still need to maintain the social distancing and all these mitigation strategies that we have in place to keep it from rebounding.

We certainly don't want to see another peak hit mid-summer, so we have to maintain that. So the big question is, when are we able to get back to business as usual? Just don't know when that's going to be.

I'm really hoping that all the smart people in the whole world working on vaccines, working together, will come up with a vaccine soon. That would be a wonderful thing if we can see that sooner than later, or at least treatment for some of these severe cases, to keep this the intensive care unit surge from happening, then I'll think we'll start to see some relaxing from that.

But it's just really impossible to know. So we're certainly being conservative about next year. We don't know if this continues through January or we have another resurgence in the fall. That could really change a lot of our estimates for revenue.

The sales tax options was slated to go into effect in October, which would affect next year. First of all, is that still scheduled to have that on the books in October?

So right now it is. The board has already asked the voters to vote on it, and the voters voted to approve it. So the next step is to just move forward with initiating that initiating that tax. Then we get it to the (N.C.) Department of Revenue, and like you said, that could be October 1 would be the earliest that it would be implemented. Right now we're still in that schedule. Who knows what October will look like at this point? I'm hoping that October is a lot better than we are right now. That certainly is everyone's hope, I'm sure. But right now, the intention is to keep moving along unless I hear different from the board of commissioners.

One thing I know you guys have talked about, both from the county level and the commissioner level,

of wanting to see change at is broadband access. Are you seeing this become more of an issue right now and what can be done?

I'd say it couldn't be more true right now. This is just a prime example of that. Who knew that this would be the way our students are trying to learn and coming into the close of semester? It's really crazy to think how much we're depending on that now. We were talking about Chatham County here, but there's other parts of North Carolina, other parts of this country, they're dealing with this same problem. This is a not just Chatham County issue, not just North Carolina issue, it's a national issue. Rural broadband, things have to change. And in North Carolina, we're being held back by legislation by the big providers, and it's very discouraging, and I'm hoping that a situation like this will really get the legislators to look at that.

I had a conversation last week with (N.C.) Representative Robert Reives (II) (D-Chatham). And we were talking about just that, and he said that they're really pushing in Raleigh. This is an opportunity to see this difference. Changes need to be made to really change the way we're handling rural broadband and open it up for local governments to do a little bit more, help provide this service out there.

Think of all the teleworkers. Now so many people that need to work from home, they shouldn't be (at work). They're in a vulnerable population that demographics is vulnerable to this. They shouldn't they don't need to be at work. I've got people that are working because they can't work at home. They're coming into the office. That being said that we are keeping our offices as safe as we can. We're practicing social distancing, cleaning surfaces and washing hands and keeping our distance from people from each

other even in the office. We're fortunate to be able to do that.

But yeah, rural broadband is something that we've been talking about this for years, and we've been trying to get these changes to happen the legislature. I'm hoping this is the thing that really pushes us over the edge.

Has there been anything that you've taken from this last month or so or changes that you've made that you think the county might want to carry on into the future after this is all done? Anything new that you guys have tried or had to do that's like, "Oh, this is actually pretty good"?

It's really solidified our staff. I feel like everybody is solidified in this working together that I've always pushed, departments working together. And it's a great time for them to meet each other, do good things for the county in a different way. So I think a lot of that will continue on. That's a lot of things we preach around here a lot. The Leadership Academy that we have gets everybody working interdepartmental, just across departments. This is kind of one of those exercises has been really an unexpected positive from that, but good stuff that's happening.

By no means do I mean to downplay the health issues that a lot of people are facing. I want to make sure I point that out. My heart goes out to a lot of people who are suffering through a lot of this and a lot of people who are out of jobs right now. We know that, I know that, and I feel for those people very deeply for what's going on. But we do try to find the positives on our side of how we're finding good things to do from this. It's nice to look for that silver lining.

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

Chatham commissioners to meet April 20 under different circumstances

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will still hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 20, but it will look very different.

The meeting had been slated to include public hearings on both the Williams Corner development and borrowing for an upgraded radio system, but the Williams Corner hearings will be postponed again, and no one from the public will be allowed to attend. However, residents will still be able to submit public comment, and the meeting will be live-streamed through livestream on TajTalk.com, and any residents who wanted to share a public comment can submit them to Board Clerk Lindsay Ray at lindsay.ray@chathamnc.org by 4 p.m. on April 20.

Because of restrictions on mass gathering implemented by Gov. Roy Cooper — banning all gatherings of more than 10 people — "the public will not be allowed to physically attend the meeting," according to an April 8 news release from the Chatham County government. The board will vote to postpone the hearings on Williams Corner "to a future meeting," and those who signed up to speak will "automatically be moved to the new meeting date."

A public hearing will be conducted on proposed borrowing to "construct and buy new communication towers, radio equipment, generators, etc. to enhance the County's public safety and emergency communication system." The



county is in the process of securing around \$18 million of borrowing the county is slated to do to pay for upgrades to its emergency communications and radio system. The county already received more than \$2.3 million in grant money from the North Carolina 911 Board.

Mike Reitz, the county's emergency communications director, explained to commissioners last May the need for an overhaul to the system.

"The current infrastructure is at the end of life," Reitz said. "The current system is just out-dated, doesn't provide good safety measures for responders. We have challenges every single day with communicating."

Those wanting to comment on that borrowing may contact Ray at her email by the previously stated date and time.

Kara Dudley, the county's public information officer, said the county is trying to "find a balance with conducting necessary business... while minimizing the time we are gathered together."

"We are allowing

residents to provide their comments through email for the radio project, because we anticipate a reasonable number of comments that we can read aloud to the Board that evening," she said. "Since we expect a large number of residents to provide their input on Williams Corner, we want to ensure enough time for all interested parties the opportunity to speak. We will provide that opportunity for them at a future BOC meeting."

Additionally, the borrowing for the radio system upgrade is time-sensitive, county officials said. Ray told the News + Record that the public hearing must be held this month in order that the borrowing plan can go to the state's Local Government Commission for approval in May. Williams Corner, she said, is not under the same "time constraint," and the UNC School of Government and Attorney General have said to "postpone any business that is not critical."

The full agenda will be available at chathamnc.org/BOCmeetings on April 16.



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OBITUARIES

THROOP CRANE BROWN, JR.



Throop Crane Brown, Jr., 77, of Snow Camp died of natural causes on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Mr. Brown was born in New Haven, Connecticut on November 1, 1942, the son of Throop Crane Brown, Sr. and Helen (Hoadley) Brown. Throop began collecting stamps at the age of four and became a serious philatelist by the time he was twelve. He enjoyed many years with the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and also serving as a Scout Master. He graduated from Dartmouth University in 1964, where he studied history and spent time mountaineering and rock climbing. He received an MA in History from Ohio University and served as an Army officer. He was an enthusiastic traveler. One of his first expeditions was to Newfoundland and Labrador on an archaeological expedition. In later years Throop traveled with his wife, Karen, including trips to Uruguay and Costa Rica. He made a trip to Egypt, which was a lifelong dream. He loved the ocean, sea life, and beach combing on the Outer Banks. In 1970, he decided to pursue his lifelong interest in stamps as a career and became a full-time philatelist. After working first as an auction describer and appraiser, he advanced to senior positions as catalog editor and auction manager. In 1992 he launched his own company, Connexus Stamp Auctions. In addition to his full-time work with Connexus, he continued to do appraisal and describing work for other auction houses on a contract or consulting basis. He has written over 250 stamp auction catalogs. In the past 49 years Mr. Brown has done many hundreds of appraisals. Many consisted of simply making cash offers for material someone wished to sell. A goodly number were done for more formal reasons, which include estate resolutions, divorce settlement, insurance, and revenue/tax purpose.

Mr. Brown's professional society memberships include the American Philatelic Society, Dealer Life Member (1970), the American Stamp Dealer's Association (1989), the American Revenue Association, and the North Carolina Postal History Society

He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Karen (Sheaffer) Brown; one daughter, Dr. Sandra Brown of Santa Cruz, CA; and one step-son, David Sheaffer and wife, Aubrie of Wilmington, NC; granddaughters, Ada Lynn Sheaffer, and Sarah Driscoll Larkin.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Chatham County Animal Rescue, PO Box 612, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

MICHAEL E. WEST



Troy: Michael Edward West, a devoted husband, respected teacher, coach and all-around kind soul passed away on April 6, 2020 in Pinehurst. Mike was someone you could not only trust with your heart, but who also treated you with kindness and patience no matter who you were.

Mike had a unique sense of humor that would make everyone smile. He had a one-of-a-kind relationship with his students and colleagues. His demeanor put everyone at ease. He was a father figure, role model, and mentor to all and affectionately referred to his students as his "kiddiepoos."

Mike grew up in the quiet town of Norwood, NC and attended South Stanly High School. He was a football standout, track and field star and record-setting weight lifter. He went to Lees-McRae College on a football scholarship and transferred to Appalachian State University where he finished his degree in Physical Education and Health. While there he began his coaching career at a local high school as a defensive coordinator. He followed his parents' footsteps as an educator and coach.

In 1992, he started his teaching career at East Montgomery Middle School. He also taught and coached at East Montgomery High School, North Moore High School, and was most recently employed at West Montgomery Middle School where he coached football, wrestling, and track.

Mike is survived by his wife Shana, father Bill, brother David and family, sister Amy and family, sister-in-law Tina and family and many close friends. He is preceded in death by his mother Joanne. Mike will be dearly missed but his legacy will continue.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the family is requesting that you visit our website to make your condolences. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association or the Montgomery County Humane Society.

Online condolences may be left at www.phillipsfh.com. For inquiries, please contact Jim Morris at 910-690-0949.

The West family is being served by Phillips Funeral Home in Star.

BARBARA JEAN LOTT

Mrs. Barbara Jean Lott, 77, of Pittsboro, passed away Friday, April 3, 2020 at her residence.

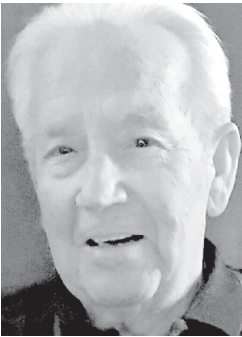
Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

BARBARA MARIE (DOUGLAS) AARON

Barbara Marie Aaron, 66, of Durham, passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at her residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DEWITT BARNHILL GRIFFIN



DeWitt Barnhill Griffin was born on November 24, 1927 in Spencer, NC. He was raised in Phoebus, VA and graduated from Hampton High School.

He served in the U.S. Army, 399th Evac Hospital, during the Korean War. He was a member of the VFW and Siler City American Legion Post 93.

For most of his life he was a retail manager for Rose's, and later, Wood's dime stores. While managing the Wood's store in Wadesboro, NC, he met and married the love of his life, Betty Sue Gathings Griffin. They had two children. The family moved to Siler City in 1968, where he managed the Wood's store for many years. He later owned and operated the Friendly Shopping Center on W. 3rd Street.

The family joined the First Baptist Church shortly after moving to Siler City. He was a member of the Rachel Allred Sunday School class and sang in the choir. He also sang in the Sandy Creek Baptist Association Jubilee Choir. DeWitt lived his life as a devout Christian, unwavering in his faith and service to the Lord. He was even tempered with a kind, compassionate heart, which was evident in his love for both people and animals, and his genial sense of humor.

He was involved in Siler City's downtown revitalization efforts and was a member of the Siler City Lions Club, where he held many positions and participated in fundraising activities for the club's charitable activities.

Peacefully, DeWitt passed away at his home on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 while being attended to by both of his children. He is preceded in death by both of his parents, John William Griffin and Eula Barnhill Griffin Swatts, his stepfather Arthur Swatts, his brother David Edward Griffin, and his wife of 51 years, Betty Sue Gathings Griffin. He is survived by his son David D. Griffin of Siler City and his daughter Nancy S. Griffin of Asheboro, NC.

He was laid to rest beside his wife in Anson Memorial Park, Wadesboro, NC. We hope to have a celebration of life service in the future.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, the Siler City Lions Club, or the ASPCA

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

NAT HARPS JOHNSON

Nat Harps Johnson, 95, of Siler City died Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at Chatham Hospital, Inc.

Mr. Johnson was born in Harnett County on January 26, 1925, the son of William Howard and Carlotta (Harps) Johnson. Nat was a veteran of the Korean War and a member of Loves Creek Baptist Church. He retired from S&H Oil Company after 29 years of service. Nat was preceded in death by his wife, Naomi Smith Johnson, daughter, Brenda Tucker Wright, and granddaughter, Penny Wright Erbland.

He is survived by nieces, Patricia Wall Poe (David) of Siler City, Ann Smith Zumbach (Scott) of Atlanta, GA, Cynthia Rayle Lathrop (Jesse) of Hayesville, Bunnie Dark Osborne (Allen) of Fayetteville, Patrice Rummage of Pleasant Garden; and nephew, Gordon Rayle, Jr. (Jo) of Greensboro.

Friends registered condolences Thursday, April 9, 2020 from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A private graveside service was held with Rev. Kenny Black officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Loves Creek Baptist Church, 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City, NC 27344.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff of Coventry House and Chatham Hospital for their excellent care.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

LUTHER ISSAC LOTT, SR.

Mr. Luther Issac Lott, Sr., 78 of Charlotte, formerly of Pittsboro passed away on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Hospice House of Huntersville.

Professional Services

Entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

JOHNNIE DARRELL THOMAS

Johnnie Darrell Thomas, 81, of Broadway, passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at his home.

A private graveside service will be held.

He was born in Lee County on June 26, 1938 to the late Johnnie C. and Roena Cox Thomas. Mr. Thomas retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after a long career in the United States Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Lorace Jones Thomas; son, John Matthew Thomas of Broadway; daughter, Stephanie Thomas Green of Sanford; and one sister, Sandra Thomas Shope of Sanford.

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

STEVEN RANDAL BROWN

Steven Randal Brown, 36, of Bear Creek passed away on Monday, April 6, 2020.

Due to the current COVID-19 mandate, a private graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2020 at Chatham Memorial Park in Siler City.

Steven was born in Lee County on July 11, 1983. He attended Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church and was a truck driver for Caviness Farms Grading, Inc. Steven was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Randal "Randy" Brown.

Survivors include his mother, Jeanette (and Roy) Stinson of Siler City; daughter, Lyric Racine of Pilot Mountain; brother, Randy Creason of Siler City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lyric Racine Education Fund, c/o Jennifer R. Brown, 2389 Old Westfield Road, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

HELENA (MCIVER) EDWARDS

Helena McIver Edwards, 88, of St. Albans, NY, passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at WakeMed Hospital in Cary.

A graveside service for immediate family was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11, 2020 at St. Paul AME Zion Church in Sanford.

JAMES "DANNY" KENNEDY, SR.

James "Danny" Kennedy, Sr., 79, of Robbins passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at his residence.

Due to the current COVID-19 mandate, a private family graveside service will be held at 2 P.M. on Sunday, April 12, 2020 at Kennedy Family Cemetery with Rev. Robert Kidd presiding.

Danny was born in Cumberland County on October 5, 1940 to Nora Elizabeth Hussey Kennedy and James Tracy Kennedy. He attended Putnam Friends Church and was a dry wall contractor. His parents and sister, Velon Hussey, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Clara Mae Maness Kennedy; daughter, Patricia Morgan of Eagle Springs; sons, James Danny Kennedy, Jr. of the home, Billy Ray Kennedy of Robbins; and three grandchildren.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

DAVID RAY WILLETT

Mr. David Ray Willett, 76, of Sanford passed away on Friday, April 10, 2020 at his residence.

A graveside service was held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at White Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Dr. Calvin Sayles officiating.

Mr. Willett was born February 16, 1944 in Lee County to Charles David and Ruth Gwyn Willett. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a sister, Jeanette Kelly.

Survivors include his wife, Dianne Buchanan Willett; son, Brian Willett of Sanford; daughters, Kristi Oldham of Sanford, Paula Cassidy of Carthage; sister, Elaine Carter of Sanford; and six grandchildren.

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

KATIE RENEE TRIPP

Katie Renee Tripp, 31, of New Hill, passed away on Sunday, April 5, 2020 at her residence.

Wake and services were held from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

TAMARA MARIE PERCELL WIMBLEY

Tamara Marie Percell Wimbley, 58 of Cameron passed away on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with interment following at Tempting Congregational Church Cemetery.

CLARA LEE DAVIS COX

Clara Lee Cox, 100, passed away Friday, April 10, 2020 at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Lee County in Sanford.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford. Interment followed at Love Grove AME Zion Church.

SHIRLEY HERBERT

Shirley Herbert, 53, of Cameron, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at her residence.

Services Entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

— CN + R staff reports

Pittsboro student joins Agriculture Future of America Student Advisory Team

Sarah Thomas is motivated and determined to make a positive impact on the world. As a junior at Virginia Tech studying dairy science, the Pittsboro native is off to a good start.

From internships and work experiences to leadership and volunteer opportunities, Thomas pursues experiences that set her apart from her peers and prepare her to pursue a career in agriculture and food. Most recently, she was selected as an Agriculture Future of America Student Advisory Team member.

AFA is a leader and professional development organization for collegiate leaders and young professionals. Providing leader

development, intern support and scholarships, AFA seeks to be a catalyst in the preparation of a new generation of agriculture leaders. Thomas and her fellow team members serve as AFA's student voice, providing direction to the organization and its programming.

"So often, I see many of my peers sell themselves short on their ability," said Thomas. "AFA essentially eliminates that gap between students and industry leaders so that students may discover and act on their passion. AFA highlights those opportunities and encourages students to take advantage of them."

Thomas and the other nine team members were selected through a competitive application process.

"As an AFA student leader, I hope to be part of that community that spreads the word of opportunities to other fellow young agriculture enthu-

siasts. The world of agriculture is so intertwined, and it is my hope to be a catalyst in someone else's journey," Thomas said.

A major component of the Student Advisory Team's responsibilities is the planning and delivery of the 2020 AFA Leader Development Program, specifically AFA Leaders Conference. Held Nov. 5-8 in Kansas City, Missouri, this event is AFA's core leader development program and over 800 delegates from across the nation will be selected to attend. The Student Advisory Team kicked off the planning of Conference in January and continued it during a meeting with AFA's Board of Directors at the end of February.

"I value my relationship with AFA because of the connections and opportunities it has provided for me," Thomas said. "For example, I was able to connect with Cargill at the

2019 AFA Leaders Conference and was offered an internship with them just a few short weeks later. I am truly thankful for the networking and lifelong contacts I have developed through AFA."

Thomas' entrance into the AFA leader development programs began

in 2019 when she was selected for AFA Leaders Conference.

She has also been active in other organizations including the Virginia Tech Dairy Club, Virginia Tech Dairy Judging, Sigma Alpha-Pi Chapter, Collegiate Young Farmers, College of Agriculture Ambassadors,

Dairy Science Ambassadors, Beef Leadership Council, North Carolina FFA Association, National Junior Holstein Association, North Carolina Holstein Association and the Red & White Holstein Association.

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Weddings present challenges in the time of COVID-19

BY KIM HAWKS
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Saturday, March 28, was supposed to be a special date for Hannah Christenberry.

Long before the coronavirus pandemic, Christenberry and her fiancé, Taylor Holden, had selected the last Saturday in March as the day they'd be married. But COVID-19, of course, forced them to cancel the March date and postpone the wedding plans they'd been making for months.

"It breaks my heart," said the bride-to-be. "My mother and I always looked forward to planning my wedding together when the time was right."

Christenberry and Holden still plan to exchange wedding vows, though the wedding will be a few months later than they originally envisioned.

With the help of wedding planner Cheryl-Ann Kast, who operates Kast Events and Company in Pittsboro, the couple moved the date of their wedding to August 8.

Except for the changed date, the wedding is now planned much the same as it had been. Kast even secured the same wedding venue — The Parlour At Manns Chapel in Chapel Hill — that the couple had booked for March 28.

Couples like Hannah and Taylor aren't alone. Other soon-to-be-wed couples who had their hearts set on a spring wedding date, with all plans in place, are understandably upset.

So for Kast, the last few weeks have been a whirlwind of rescheduling weddings that had long ago been planned.

Kast is offering her clients the assistance they need in rescheduling their springtime weddings to late summer and fall dates. Some of the couples with whom she has worked have already rescheduled their big day — some for late summer, others early fall. Some of her clients have scaled back plans, opting for a smaller wedding, while other couples continue with a very simplified wedding at the local courthouse and plan for a reception



Krystal Kast Photographer

Cheryl-Anne Kast has been busy lately not only helping couples plan their upcoming weddings, but also rescheduling weddings postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

celebration in late summer-fall. Other couples are still deciding how to move forward.

To reschedule, Kast has asked her clients to choose preferred weekend dates during late summer and fall. Then she contacts venues to check on availability for dates selected. Once the date is locked in with a venue, Kast lines up caterers, beverage service providers, photographers and florist designers. This is the first tier necessary to reschedule a wedding. Additional planning details continue after these details are reserved.

Kast, busy now meeting her clients' needs in the midst of sudden changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and the need to maintain social distancing, didn't plan to pursue wedding planning as a career. She chose a culinary career instead.

Born and raised in South Africa, Kast earned a Bachelor's Degree in Culinary Arts from the Institute of Culinary Arts (ICA) in Stellenbosch, South Africa. She later honed her culinary skills in London,



Amber Byrd Photography

Hannah Christenberry and Taylor Holden had to postpone their March wedding date due to the coronavirus pandemic, but with the help of their wedding planner, they've nailed down plans for a late August wedding instead.

where she worked for six months as a pastry chef in the famous eatery Coq d'Argent. Her goal at the time was to gain as much experience as she could working at several other notable European restaurants, including stints as a pastry chef at the Lambs of Stratford-Upon-Avon and the World Service Restaurant in Nottingham.

After amassing more culinary experience in England, Kast returned home to be with her family, but because of a high crime rate in South Africa, she and her family relocated to Canada.

In 2006, Kast headed to the United States to join the AAA Five Diamond Farrington House Restaurant.

Farrington was a "great fit" for her, Kast said. She spent two years at Farrington, working in the kitchen before she became the restaurant's Catering Manager and Weddings and Special Events Manager.

She married Alexander Kast, the director of Chapel Hill Cream-

ery. The couple lives in Pittsboro, where they're raising their children, a daughter and son.

In 2015, she launched her own business, establishing Kast Events & Company.

She and her team of wedding planners have since helped many couples plan their special day.

"I am proud to say I am in good company with a team of assistants and hand-selected vendors that are truly the area's best," Kast said.

In normal times, her business has gotten great feedback from clients.

"As mother of the bride, planning my first wedding ever in a city where none of us lived, I was intimidated and worried about my ability to pull it off," said Shannon Mcfayden, one of Kast's clients. "In my first phone call with Cheryl-Anne Kast, I knew I had found our planner. In a word, she is amazing."

Mcfayden said Kast "and everyone on her team, are so organized, helpful, creative,

responsive and calm under pressure. They worked really hard to get to know us and then to personalize the whole experience to our desires, with an unbelievable attention to detail and execution. And they made it fun for us every step of the way."

And in recent weeks, she's helped folks who's wedding plans have been altered by COVID-19 concerns get their plans back on track.

While the postponement of her March 28 wedding created some hurdles, Christenberry said that thanks to Kast's help, the event shouldn't be much different than previously planned, just delayed, with Kast rebooking the same venue, same caterer and other details.

In easing the burden of rescheduling their spring nuptials until later summer, Kast "was extremely helpful," Christenberry said.

Randall Rigsbee contributed to this story.



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STUDENTS HONORED

Moore honors announced

Matti Kaitlyn Moore has been named a Student Marshal at Greensboro College for the academic year 2020-2021.

Moore was also inducted into Greensboro College's chapter of the national business honor society Delta Mu Delta. She is a Business Administration/Economics major from Bear Creek.

North Carolina State Univresity

The following student

was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Laurie Gyalog of Pittsboro is at North Carolina State University.

East Carolina University

The following student was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disci-

plines.

Juli Kidd of Pittsboro at East Carolina University.

Lebanon Valley College

Annville, PA: Tyler Romel of Pittsboro, competed for the Flying Dutchmen of Lebanon Valley College during the Winter sports season. He was also a member of the men's ice hockey team. He has been named a Student-Athlete for 2019-2020.

Romel is a graduate of Northwood High School.

Trees down

No one was injured in this accident on Hamlets Chapel Road in Pittsboro, which occurred during Monday morning's violent storms. Trees were downed in several parts of Chatham County.



Photos courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office



Fire crews across Chatham County were busy on Monday morning responding to reports of downed trees, including this one on a home on Rives Chapel Road. No one was injured. The Chatham Sheriff's office alerted residents in the wake of Monday's storm that falling trees and power outages could continue throughout the day.

Cardinal Innovations announces mental health crisis line made for COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

CHARLOTTE — A new helpline has been created to serve residents in Chatham County and the surrounding areas with mental health crises, influenced by the need to lessen the burden of emergency departments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dialing “**ASK,” or “**275,” will connect residents in the service area of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, the county's state-funded mental health service, with licensed clinicians who can provide immediate assistance and references to a network of providers. The helpline is available 24-7 and will serve, according to a Cardinal Innovations press release, as the equivalent of dialing 9-1-1.

Cardinal Innovations CEO Trey Suttan said in a press release that creation of the helpline serves a particular purpose during COVID-19.

“During this time when so many are struggling to get access to care of every kind, we looked for solutions to equip our community with a resource for mental health emergency situations,” Suttan said. “The stakes are incredibly high as we seek to help ensure health and wellness for our members and their families but also support our hospital partners and communities. **ASK is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and our effort to make Emergency Departments available for those in the most acute need.”

Cardinal Innovations had a 24/7 crisis line prior

NEED MENTAL HEALTH HELP FAST? CALL **ASK.

Cardinal Innovations HEALTHCARE.

Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, Chatham's mental health managed care organization, announced a new mental health crisis line last week.

to the creation of **ASK — which could be found at 1-800-939-5911 — but the agency said the emergency line will “increase access to mental health care and best support the health and wellness of all who live in the community.”

Cardinal Innovations is a managed care organization (MCO) that serves 20 counties across North Carolina as that area's public mental health agency. The agency's board of directors includes Chatham County Public Health Director Layton Long, who said in a statement that **ASK

is a “better alternative” to 9-1-1 for Chatham residents experiencing a mental health crisis.

“When they are able to speak to a licensed clinician in seconds, our community members can get quickly connected to the care and support they need,” Long said. “This also helps decrease traffic in crowded Emergency Departments as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.”

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

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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TRIP UP

ACROSS

1 Shoshone woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark

10 Hebrew holy text

15 Chicago hub

20 Rembrandt painted with them

21 You RSVP to it online

22 Tempos

23 Eton and Hogwarts

25 RAM units

26 Nastase of tennis fame

27 The sun, e.g.

28 Hooded viper

30 Get higher

31 Long-necked beast

35 Companies with cabbies

39 Give the details of

42 Kite's home

43 Suffix with human

44 Skilled thief, slangily

48 Adds on

52 Positive vote in Congress

53 "What's the —?" ("Care to explain that?," slangily)

54 Vow

56 Dried up

57 Weightlifting units

59 Cuddle (up)

62 "Stay" singer Lisa

64 Teensy

65 Bug B Gon's brand

67 Abbr. on an airport uniform

68 Jacob Bronowski book about human history, with "The"

71 Platoon unit

73 German wine region

75 Equipper of horse hooves

76 Carnival vessels

79 Backpacked beast, maybe

82 "Chicago" showgirl Hart

84 — polloi

85 "Toodles!"

86 Club get-togethers

89 Bleacher feature

90 PC brand

92 Part of DJ

94 Plant-based salve for treating bruises

96 Longtime CBS series

97 10th month, in German

99 Many golf hits onto the green

103 Comic actor Aykroyd

104 Sweetheart

105 Sitting Bull's tribe

106 Hoped-for result of a throw to a receiver

111 Frosty and the like

115 Face defacer

116 Tofu base

117 Negative votes in Congress

120 Green Hornet's aide

121 Gut

123 Trip associated with the starts of seven answers in this puzzle

129 With 6-Down, boxing legend's boxing daughter

130 Devilish grin

131 Native of the Raiders' home

132 Fidgeting

133 Literature Nobel

134 Event for unloading household items in an urban area

DOWN

1 Edna Ferber novel

2 Garlicky mayonnaise

3 "— de Lune"

4 Lot statistic

5 Jupiter, e.g.

6 See

129-Across

7 Took the gold

8 Units of work

9 Aide: Abbr.

10 Native of Iran's capital

11 — lacto diet

12 '16 Olympics city

13 Finally

14 Literature Nobel

15 The sun, e.g.

16 Hoedown excursions

17 Stuff story

18 Singer Della

19 Snaky curves

24 Tabby

29 Divine seers

32 Grub

33 Small flutes

34 — terrible (hellion)

36 Crosses (out)

37 Analogy part

38 Pooh-bah

40 Anklebone

41 Folding craft

44 Poi plant

45 Australian landmark

46 Stayed silent

47 Dress finely, with "out"

48 Oodles

49 Taos locale

50 Most bleak

51 Not hidden

55 Stein quaff

58 Feng —

60 Steer catcher

61 Japan finish?

63 Niels with a Nobel

66 Brewer's kiln

69 Revlon rival

70 Yard third

72 Cul-de-sacs

74 Mil. missions

76 Elaine in Trump's Cabinet

77 Commotion

78 Owns

80 Capital of Yemen

81 Makes glossy, as one's hair

83 Discord deity

87 Street vehicle

88 "Danke —"

91 Retina parts associated with monochrome vision

93 D-Day city in France

95 About

98 "Humbug!"

100 Golf norm

101 Shrub shapers

102 Sadie — Day

104 Miami Heat great Wade

106 Small hand drum of India

107 Shark's place

108 Not ignited

109 "—, daisy!"

110 Prefix with payment or partisan

112 Sister of Eva and Zsa Zsa

113 "I Love Lucy" neighbor

114 — Dame

118 I problems?

119 Bleacher feature

122 "Whoopee!"

124 Shark's place

125 Weightlifting unit

126 MGM rival

127 Waitress at Mel's Diner

128 Racing circuit

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

A D U L A T E S O H O T A W A R D E D
M E M O R E X H O O C H L O V E R L Y
I F A B U N C H O F P E O P L E A R E I N
E N S U E D E L M A N N O I S E
L I T I S A U F O S E T T O
A T H E A T E R I N U T A H W A I T I N G
P A R T L Y M I L B A S E N E A
A L O H A T W I T H R S B E D A U B
T O W A T C H A N P O O G O O U T T O
N E V I L S O R A R E S L I E R
A S C H I N D E P E N D E N T Y E R S
U H A U L G O N U T S S E R F S
N E W N E S S M R S M O V I E W H A T
T R I T O N W I N Y O D A N O O S E
E R N I S I T M E L A D R A T E
M I G H T T H E Y B E S T A N D I N G I N
A R S O N I A M H I M Y R S
I R A N I W I C K S E M P I R E
S U N D A N C E F I L M V E S T I B U L E
A N T I G U A O N E O R A T L A S E S
K E E N E S T S I S S Y T O E N A I L

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CLEANING WHILE IN QUARANTINE

Siblings sifting through barn on family farm find election relic

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Following state guidelines to stay at home during the coronavirus pandemic, Stephen Thomas and his sister Sherry (Thomas) Knepper have spent some of their free time sifting and sorting through the contents of an old barn on their family property, unearthing long-forgotten heirlooms including farm equipment and one unusual find: an old ballot box.

The barn, located on the Thomas Family Farm off Mt. View Church Road a few miles south of Pittsboro, has been a fixture of their family property for as long as Sherry can recall. Her father, the late James “J.W.” Walker Thomas Jr., farmed the property for decades.

And its contents might have gone unnoticed longer had it not been for a rough storm that blew through the area in late January, bringing heavy winds that badly damaging the barn.

“It literally peeled back a portion of the roof, taking the rafters with it,” Sherry said. “It’s still safe to go in there, but the barn’s not repairable. So we began the cleaning out process, which coincidentally happened during this virus situation.”

It’s been no easy task. “My father, like a lot of people who grew up in the Depression era, held on to everything,” Sherry said. “He used to say he ‘used everything but the squeal of a pig,’ and he would have used that too if he could’ve found a way. That generation held on to just about everything that could potentially be used.”

So there were a lot of things to sort through, mostly farm implements: horse-drawn plows, sickles and scythes, even a wagon.



Sherry Knepper and her brother Stephen Thomas found a ballot box last used in the 1952 gubernatorial primary while cleaning out a storm-damaged barn.

“There’s some gorgeous wood in there, too,” Sherry said, “and some terrifically long boards.”

There was a lot of what they called “junk,” too, but nestled among the odd and sundry items, they found one “very interesting” item, Sherry said.

Though they weren’t certain, at first, of the original use of their discovery, a five-foot-long wooden box — still in fine condition, complete with several cubbies, slots and locks — close inspection revealed an answer. Inside were a number of old paper ballots printed for a Chatham County election held nearly 70 years ago.

The ballots — all of them unused — date to the May 1952 primary election. Though a long time ago now, the names on those surviving paper ballots are still well-known to many in North Carolina: William B. Umstead, candidate for Governor, and Luther H. Hodges, Lt. Governor.

Umstead, who had served in the U.S. House and Senate, ran for North

Carolina governor in 1952 and won, serving as the state’s 63rd governor, — but for only a short time. A heart attack Umstead suffered early in his administration claimed his life. William B. Umstead State Park in Wake County is named in his honor.

Hodges, elected as Lt. Governor in 1952, succeeded Umstead and served as Governor from 1954 to 1961.

While the ballot box and ballots were unexpected finds, they weren’t a complete surprise. Sherry knew her father had, for many years, worked as a registrar in the Haw River precinct, keeping record of many local elections.

“I remember when they’d be tallying the ballots,” recalled Sherry, “and it would be very late when they finished. Obviously, in that time the election equipment was very different from what we have today.”

Elections and the fulfillment of the democratic process were always important to Sherry’s

father, who died about 12 years ago.

“In his later days,” she said, “I remember taking him to the board of elections in Pittsboro for early voting, because he didn’t want to miss it. That was always real important.”

Stephen Thomas, who lives nearby on the family land, and his sister agreed that finding the box, with its treasure of long-obsolete ballots, was a pleasant distraction, but they’re still mulling over what they’ll do with the old election memorabilia.

“Truly, I don’t know what we’re going to do with it,” Sherry said. She and her sibling have floated the idea of offering the relic on loan to the Chatham County Historical Association, which operates the history museum on the ground floor of the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

But they’ve got time to figure that out, with stay-at-home measures in place across the state through the end of this month, possibly longer.



Staff photo by David Bradley

The discovery yielded several handfuls of unused ballots from 1952, but this compartment’s contents, if any, are unknown behind this locked latch.



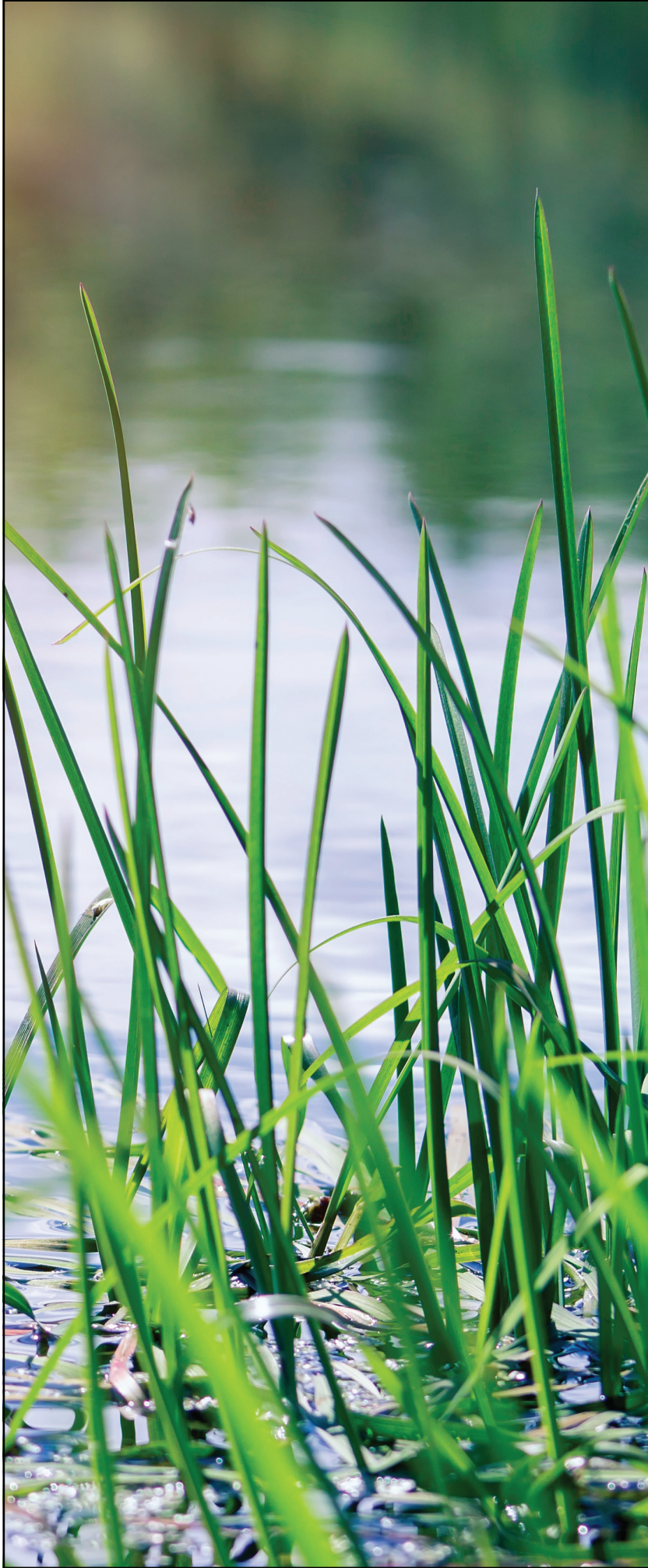
Staff photo by David Bradley

Sixty-eight years ago these ballots were fresh from a printer for Chatham County’s primary election. Aged and weathered now, they sat unnoticed in a long-forgotten ballot box until the antique was recently among the discoveries two siblings found while cleaning out a barn on family farmland.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Sherry Knepper demonstrates how an old voting booth, another find from the family farm’s old barn, was used. Back in the day, a privacy curtain would have been drawn over the metal stand.



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SENIORS

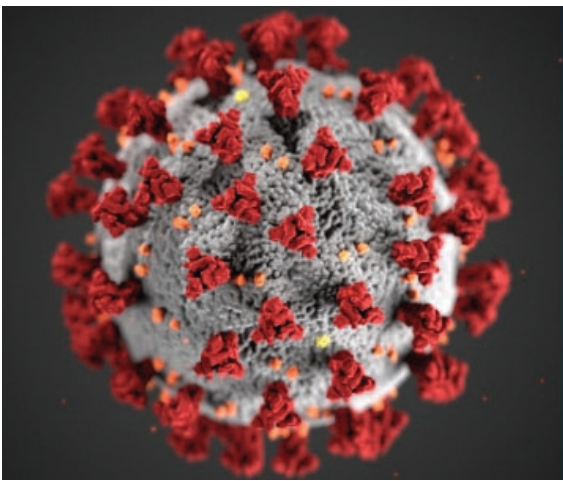
Continued from page A1

reflect that. As of April 12, 52 percent of the COVID-19 laboratory-confirmed cases in North Carolina were in individuals 50 years old and older, with 92 percent of the state’s virus-related deaths from that same age group — per the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, 28 “nursing homes,” a designation including “skilled nursing facilities,” in the state have been the site of “ongoing outbreaks” — a number which now includes The Laurels of Chatham, located off U.S. Hwy. 64 Business on Chatham Business Drive.

The state has not released data on the ages of individuals tested, so it’s not known how many individuals aged 50 and over who received tests have been confirmed to contract COVID-19.

Since Chatham has a high rate of seniors in its population — those 65-and-older made up 24 percent as of 2017, compared to 22 percent of those ages 0 to 19 — Long and others say seniors and senior care facilities are worth serious concern.

“One of the things that we’ve seen out west, with (COVID-19) running through a nursing home like that, it can spread very rapidly and have pretty dramatic impacts,” Long said in a March interview with the News + Record. “Age will be a big



concern moving forward and (part of) protecting those populations, again, to reiterate, is our ability not to protect ourselves, which is important, but to protect others.”

Dennis Streets, director of the Chatham County Council on Aging, told the News + Record earlier this month that while a relatively small percent of Chatham’s seniors are in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, between 4,000 and 5,000 live in “continuing care retirement communities, again, often in close quarters in terms of where they eat and so on.”

“In terms of their medical vulnerabilities, the physical isolation, the shelter in place, plus the social distancing that we’re have to do in this situation, I think just compounds the problem,” Streets said. “A lot of them do have conditions, chronic conditions, often more than one that might be respiratory in na-

ture, which is one of the big factors with this disease as well as other factors like heart disease.”

But COVID-19 cases made it into Laurels of Chatham anyway. In an April 7 press release first confirming the virus’ presence in the facility, Laurel Health Care Company Regional Director of Operations Rob Peck said the facility has been “implementing and acting on guidance from external agencies” like the CDC since February 28 and restricted visitors and canceled all group activities starting on March 11.

“As the safety and well-being of our residents, employees, visitors, and surrounding community is our top priority, we are doing everything we can to limit the spread of the virus,” Peck said. “Our leadership team has maintained close communication with local and state health officials to

How Individuals aged 50-and-Over Are Faring with COVID-19

52%

of lab-confirmed N.C. cases as of April 12

92%

of NC deaths due to COVID-19 as of April 12

74.5%

of U.S. patients hospitalized due to COVID-19 in March

Sources: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

ensure we are following recommended preventative steps, and we modify our actions based on the guidance we are given.”

That guidance was recently expanded within North Carolina. On April 10, Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order increasing required “risk mitigation” procedures at skilled nursing facilities per recommendations from the state’s Department of Health and Human Services. Those “mandatory requirements,” the order stated, include screening all staff at the beginning of their shifts for fever and respiratory symptoms, including taking their temperature, cancellation of all communal dining and group activities and monitoring all residents “at least daily” for potential COVID-19 symptoms.

The stipulations went into effect at 5 p.m. Friday. In a press release

announcing the order — which also included further social distancing measures in retail stores and changes to unemployment benefits — Cooper said the changes would increase protections for both workers and residents.

“North Carolina continues to take strong action to slow the spread of COVID-19, and today’s Order will help make stores safer, protect those living and working in nursing homes, and get more unemployment benefits out quicker,” Cooper said. “Our state is resilient, and we will get through this crisis together if we all do our part.”

The county health department said it will keep working with The Laurels of Chatham to collect samples and help facility staff with “best practices” to “limit the spread of the virus.” Testing widely in the county isn’t an option at this point, Long said, but the department was

able to collect samples for everyone thanks to UNC Health.

“The Chatham County Public Health Department has had to prioritize testing to close contacts and those who showed symptoms due to a limited supply of tests available to us” Long said. “We are grateful to UNC Health for making universal testing at this facility possible. These partnerships are critical as we respond to an unprecedented pandemic.”

Additionally, he said, the department is continuing to provide guidance to “members of the Chatham County community as well as facilities like long-term care centers, businesses and child care centers where people may be in closer contact out of necessity.”

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

INVESTING

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the course.

Both Birken and Clapp said its important for investors to stay disciplined at a time where panic set in. Birken said the economic recession of 2007-2008 saw a greater drop in market value over time compared to now, but COVID-19 instituted a drop of more than 30 percent in a shorter period of time, and it spooked investors.

“What’s made it more

impactful on people is how quickly it happened,” he said. “A 36 percent drop in the span of three weeks, it’s left a lot of people shocked and scared. It’s OK to feel scared but what you want to avoid is let that emotion ruin a good long-term investment plan.”

Clapp said she acknowledges emotions are “running high,” but responding with that emotion is poor judgment.

“While everyone’s top priority should be to protect themselves, their families and their communities, it’s still important not to lose sight of their financial well-being,” she

said. “And for that, the best thing all of us can do is look past short-term downturns and maintain the discipline to keep investing in all types of markets.”

Looking ahead, Chuck Carrick, a Greensboro-based partner with DMJ Wealth Advisors, said his firm feels the market will balance out and optimism is not misplaced.

“As we monitor and evaluate the vast amount of daily coverage surrounding the crisis, we are optimistic that ‘social distancing’ efforts will ultimately prove effective,” Carrick said in a Friday update

emailed to DMJ’s clients in Chatham County. “In addition, we believe the swift and committed stimulus measures announced by the Fed(eral Reserve) have been effective in reassuring investors that the liquidity and solvency concerns from a few weeks ago are reduced for the time being. Whether it is further deterioration in unemployment data or an unprecedented drop in corporate earnings, our advice to clients is that these are event-driven data points that should be short-lived. Analysts anticipate that the economy will come back online in the

back half of 2020.”

This kind of back-and-forth in the market is to be expected, Birken said, so there’s no need to panic.

“There’s certainly an understandable unease and discomfort,” he said. “We know over time that volatility is the price we pay for long-term returns. It’s almost like your admission for the theme park of long-term returns on your money.”

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

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](https://www.freshpaintbygarman.com).



Visit us at [ChathamPark.com](https://www.ChathamPark.com)

FORMER NORTHWOOD STAR AUSTIN BRICE

‘Traveling man’ relishes chance to spend rare spring at home in N.C.

BY DUCK DUCKSON
NEWS + Record Staff

If there is one song former Northwood baseball standout and current Boston Red Sox player Austin Brice could relate to, it probably would be Ricky Nelson's tune that hit No. 1 on the pop charts back in 1961 entitled "Travelin' Man," which starts out "I'm a travelin' man, made a lot of stops all over the world ..."

Born in Hong Kong during a time when his father did a lot of construction work internationally, young Austin traveled wherever his parents went, including stops in Puerto Rico and China besides various locations across the southeastern United States, before his mother decided around the time he was in grade school that she was tired of moving and wanted the family to stay in one spot.

At that point in Brice's life, his father was working in Cary and the family settled down near Pittsboro, which led to Austin eventually attending Northwood High School.

While he was passionate about playing sports at an early age, he soon realized he preferred baseball over all others and focused his attention in that direction.

"Growing up I was like a jack-of-all-trades, playing all positions in the field," Brice said during a recent interview. "I was just happy to be playing wherever my coaches needed me."

Once he arrived at Northwood in 2007, Brice became a four-year starter for former baseball coach Rick Parks, playing various positions including outfield, pitcher, middle infield, third base and even behind the plate once, while he started at shortstop his very first game as a freshman.

Many local fans may not recall he also was a four-year soccer player and was a member of the Chargers' team that played in the 2010 state championship game his senior year. But it was



Photo courtesy of SBNation

Austin Brice fires one to the plate for the Boston Red Sox in preseason action earlier this year.

on the diamond where he drew the most attention during his tenure at Northwood.

Selected to the All-State and All-Conference baseball teams both his junior and senior seasons, he was once clocked throwing 97 miles per hour in high school. Upon graduation he had offers to attend UNC-Wilmington and N.C. State before committing to play for Appalachian State. But he opted instead to enter professional baseball's amateur draft in the spring of 2010 and was chosen in the ninth round by the Florida Marlins.

"While I could throw hard, I wasn't always efficient with my mechanics and got tired easily," Brice said. "But I feel like I was drafted because management felt I showed flashes of potential."

After a six-year stint in the minor leagues playing for a variety of teams including the Gulf Coast Marlins, Greensboro Grasshoppers, Jupiter Hammerheads, Jacksonville Suns, New Orleans Zephyrs and Pensacola Blue Wahoos, Brice made baseball history at age 24 as he became the first Hong Kong-born player to appear in the major leagues when he made his professional debut against the Chicago White Sox in Marlins Park on August 12, 2016, striking out two of the

three batters he faced in one inning of work.

He was traded to the Cincinnati Reds in June 2017 and performed out of the bullpen for two years before rejoining the Marlins in February 2019. During his four-year professional career in the National League, he appeared in 106 games, compiling an overall record of 3-4 with an ERA of 4.90. He threw 128.2 innings, gave up 118 hits and 77 runs (70 earned) while walking 43 batters and striking out 118.

In January, Brice was traded to the Boston Red Sox and is currently on the team's 40-man roster. He was enjoying preseason with his new club at its spring training facility, JetBlue Park in Fort Myers, Florida, having made five appearances on the mound while pitching 6.2 innings, giving up three hits and no runs in addition to issuing one free pass and fanning 10.

"I found my groove early this spring, and we were less than two weeks away from packing our bags and heading to Boston when everything got shot down by the coronavirus outbreak," Brice said. "Now we're in a holding pattern until the league and the government decides we can play again."

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred released a statement announcing



Submitted photo

Austin Brice enjoys time with his son Bear and wife Krystin. The family grew by one last week when daughter Noa was born.

Opening Day "will be pushed back in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. Players and fans will be updated on decisions regarding plans for the 2020 schedule in the days and weeks ahead, and clubs remain committed to playing 'as many games as possible' once the season begins."

In the wake of the shutdown, Brice is spending his first spring in North Carolina since his senior year at Northwood with wife Krystin and their four-year-old son and newborn baby girl.

"Since I was drafted, all my springs have been spent either in Florida or Arizona," he said. "But with the current stand-

still, we moved back to Chatham County for the time being to be near our support network of family and friends."

In the meantime he is staying in shape, utilizing pieces of workout equipment he has collected while finding open areas like soccer fields to get in some running.

"Like any business we're anxious to get things started again so everyone involved can get back to making a living," Brice said.

But for now Brice can only hope the next travel plans he makes take him to Boston's Fenway Park where he looks forward to making his American League debut.

Chatham's athletic directors plug along in uncertain times due to COVID-19

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

Maybe it was purely coincidental, but driving by one of the local schools the other day the radio began playing Don Henley's song "Boys of Summer," which begins with the lyrics "Nobody's on the road, nobody's on the beach, I feel it in the air, the summer's out of reach, empty lake, empty streets, the sun goes down alone..."

While the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic has not caused such dire conditions yet in our daily lives, the lyrics brought to mind the void we are witnessing on high school playing fields and courts as spring athletic events — including baseball, softball, men's golf and tennis, track and field, women's soccer and lacrosse — have been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Despite coaches and athletes alike left wondering how their particular seasons would have played out, much work continues to be performed behind the scenes by area athletic directors, who are tasked with keeping facilities in "ready-to-go" shape as they await word that conditions are favorable for the resumption of sporting activities. At the same time they don't want to overlook the contributions of seniors and how scholarship potentials have been affected by the pandemic.

"Right now I'm just waiting to hear what the state says in terms of resuming the spring season" said Cameron Vernon, Northwood High School's co-athletic director. "While we continue to maintain facilities



Submitted photo

Northwood co-Athletic Director's Cameron Vernon (left) and Jason Amy

and remain optimistic we can start back up at some point, we are also preparing for the worst case scenario. In the meantime, we are currently brainstorming ways to honor our senior spring student-athletes. We typically hold a 'Senior Night,' but if that can't take place our coaching staff has been floating around alternative ideas."

Jordan-Matthews High School Athletic Director Josh Harris said he felt similarly, "holding out hope" that play would resume eventually.

"Maintaining fields for play is the largest concern at the present time, making sure that if we do get word we can resume sport activities our athletes have the best possible conditions to hit the ground running," Harris said. "I have also challenged our coaches to keep in contact with our athletes and encourage them to stay active in the event we can take to the field again in

the near future. At the same time, I have tried to take advantage of this slow period to complete our fall and winter schedules while thinking about transitioning to summer and the best way to tidy up if our spring seasons are finished. Really, we're all just taking things day-by-day."

Over at Chatham Charter High School, Athletic Director Clint Fields noted at this time he is keeping the fields mowed and sprayed so they will be ready when things return to normal while he is working on sports schedules for next year. At Chatham Central High School, Athletic Director Bob Pegram said coaches are in regular contact with their players.

"Since coaches cannot hold practices, meetings, scrimmages, etc. I believe our athletes will need a week or two to get back to being game-ready," said Pegram. "Hopefully they are continuing to work out on their

See **DIRECTORS**, page B3

WHEN RERUNS WIN THE DAY

Revisiting the past can be a plus

During these uncertain COVID-19 times, it's easy to catch yourself wallowing in all the negatives of the current situation.

So I thought it's a good time to write on a positive, and there

are plenty of positives, regardless of what you hear — whether it be the heroic efforts of our medical personal, the pulling together of our friends, neighbors, co-workers, seeing more people out for walks, or even the time spent at home watching movies or now eating more meals together at the dinner table.

I've noted before in my columns my propensity and love for watching old sporting events. Well, this quarantine period has certainly amped up my game, so to speak, in that aspect.

One night recently, there were three Muhammad Ali fights on in succession against George Foreman (1974), Joe Frazier (1975) and Leon Spinks (1978). I made a post about it on Facebook and the next thing I knew people were responding, asking what channel, and others responded that they were watching. It turned into quite the discussion of the events of four decades ago.

And there have been more, like watching the 1983 N.C. State versus Houston National Title basketball game last week, 37 years from the day last week; the

New York Yankees and L.A. Dodgers in 1977 when Mr. October, Reggie Jackson, clubbed the famed three homeruns in the World Series; the 1985 NBA World Championship between the Boston Celtics and the L.A. Lakers — it's been a plethora of historical sporting events from the past in my household.

The great thing is that I'm not alone, as countless friends have done the same, many telling me that they are doing so with their kids.

There is no better way of teaching the past, in my opinion, than sitting down and actually watching some historic event — whether it's sports or not — and then discussing what you saw, and what you took from it.

With ESPN running programs, and other sources such as YouTube, the availability is almost endless in the sporting world.

A couple of us guys have picked a couple games a week to watch, almost like we were kids, and it is live. NFL, College Football, World Series — we've touched on all of those, usually letting each pick a game for that week. And for fun we will throw in a Wide World of Sports episode, an Evel Knievel event, or a good old demolition derby as sort of a dessert for good measure.

There are ways to make positives out of a negative situation, and Americans are resilient and creative to say the least. It's just part of our DNA and make-up.

Join in. Use this time to revisit past sporting events and find your niche. You won't regret it.

Daggett, Pembroke wrestling bid for a NCAA Division II National Title derailed by COVID-19

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

PEMBROKE — When NCAA President Mark Emmert and the Board of Governors announced on March 12 that they had canceled all remaining winter and spring championship events for the 2019-20

athletic season, chances of Goldston's Nick Daggett and his UNC-Pembroke wrestling team competing for a national title in the NCAA Division II ranks were gone out the window.

Daggett prepped at Chatham Central High School for coach Joe Little and finished his high school career with a 171-7 (.961) record and turned in a perfect 36-0 clip as a senior on the way to his third-straight 1A state championship. He entered is year's national championships scheduled to begin March 13 at the Denny Premier Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. with a 21-5 record thus far in his junior campaign.

Daggett (125 pounds), Logan

Seliga (133) and Nick Kee (197) all had posted unblemished runs through their respective tournaments, while three of their teammates registered runner-up finishes, to lead a dominating performance for the UNC Pembroke wrestling team that helped the Braves capture the NCAA Super Region II title back on Saturday, February 29 at Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court in Pembroke to punch their tickets to the nationals.

Thus far in three seasons for the Braves, Daggett has posted an overall mark of 82-27, primarily in the 125 class though the local product has also competed up in the 133 class on occasion.

Daggett, a biology major at UNC-Pembroke, is the son of Tina and Morris Daggett. His brother, James, also wrestled at Chatham Central.

NCAA DIVISION II SUPER REGIONAL II 125 POUNDS RESULTS
#9 Nick Daggett (UNCP) tech. fall Mitchell McGhee (Emmanuel) TF 16-0
#9 Nick Daggett (UNCP) pinned John Watts (Coker) F 3:40
#9 Nick Daggett (UNCP) dec. Melvin Rubio (Queens) D 13-6



Photo courtesy of William Glassgow

UNC-Pembroke's Nick Daggett (bottom) is in complete control of a match earlier this season. The three-time state champion at Chatham Central was set to head to the NCAA Division II nationals before the COVID-19 virus put a halt to the championships.

NCSCA announces updates on post season awards and scholarships

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association recently announced that all spring sports in our state's high schools have been suspended until May 18th.

With the uncertainties surrounding the completion of our softball season, North Carolina Softball Coaches Association will approach post season awards for the 2020 season in the following manner:

"The number of games played thus far by the vast majority of North Carolina high school softball teams is in the range of three to six. Unfortunately, this range falls far short of a num-

ber that can give anyone an accurate assessment of performance. Therefore, in the event that the remainder of the season is canceled, we will not offer post season awards for 2020.

"Any conclusion to our season that may take place after May 18th will be at the sole discretion of NCHSAA and schedules will likely be greatly modified. If we are able to continue playing, we at NCSCA will look at the circumstances and make every effort to follow through with our All-District and All-State awards provided enough total games are played that would allow fair assessment of players. Until we know if that will happen and what the details will be, NCSCA cannot determine if

awards can be justified and if so, how to best proceed.

"Please keep in mind that we do not base our awards on player performance in past seasons. Each season must stand on its own. So as far as this year's awards are concerned, a player's success last season is not relevant to this season.

"One question being asked by some coaches is whether or not the April 1 deadline to join the association for the purpose of becoming eligible to nominate players will be extended. Our executive board has determined that we will not extend the deadline.

"Also, the application deadline for our 2020 scholarships has been extended to May 15th.

Although the measures being taken in North Carolina in an effort to lessen the severity of the pandemic have placed the remainder of our softball season in jeopardy, NCSCA is committed to uninter-

rupted continuation of our annual scholarship awards.

"If you are a high school senior, qualify for our scholarship, and are interested in applying, please review the application guidelines on our

Scholarships page. Then coordinate with your coach and complete the application process without delay.

"Please keep checking our website and social media for related announcements."

Online Big Bass Tournament offers competition, time in nature for young anglers

Special to the News + Record Staff

For many young anglers, being out of school due to the coronavirus has meant an end to high school fishing teams, tournaments and time spent lakeside with friends. Fortunately, anglers ages 13 to 19 looking for a practical way to avoid crowds while still enjoying nature, exercise and a competitive outlet can join the Big Bass Zone Junior Championship (BBZ JC), an online tournament sponsored by B.A.S.S.

"There are thousands of lakes, streams, ponds and reservoirs within most people's zip codes, keeping them close to home and away from large gatherings," said BBZ JC Tournament Director Bill Siemantel.

The BBZ Junior Championship is a grass-roots big bass tournament held online, which allows young competitors the opportunity to fish from anywhere and on their own schedule. There is no need for expensive equipment, as anglers only need a camera or phone and an email address to register their catch. "At the 2019 finals, there were 46 anglers from 44 states that entered and registered a bass, and over \$370,000 in prizes were given back to the youth," said BBZ JC Tournament Director Bill Siemantel. "The 2020 BBZ JC already has young anglers registered from 42 states, and anglers from 25 states are already catching and registering their fish!"

To participate, anglers simply register online at bbzworl.com. Registration fees are \$25 for a single state or \$50 to fish nationally in any state except Alaska.

Once a bass is caught, the angler takes a photo of the fish on an official ruler (both length and girth) and submits the catch online. The angler who catches the biggest fish in his or her state by Aug. 1, 2020 will qualify for a championship event to be held Oct. 2-3 at the beautiful Willows Club by Anglers Inn International in Priest River, Idaho with competition on the Pend Oreille River.

More than \$300,000 in prizes and scholarships, including Anglers Inn International trips and a new Bass Cat powered by a Mercury ProXS outboard, will be awarded.

Registration for the 2020 Big Bass Zone Junior Championship is currently open. For more information, visit bbzworl.com.

During this national crisis and uncertain time, B.A.S.S. is encouraging people, where possible, to adhere to local guidelines and use this unexpected

time to enjoy the outdoors and recreational fishing in a safe and responsible way with their new "Live Smart, Fish Smart" campaign.

B.A.S.S. is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the 515,000-member organization's fully integrated media platforms include the industry's leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), television show (The Bassmasters on ESPN2 and The Pursuit Channel), radio show (Bassmaster Radio), social media programs and events. For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.



The CN+R's Zoom Chats

Connect with Chatham's leaders and officials with our Zoom chats, available at [Facebook.com/ChathamNR](https://www.facebook.com/ChathamNR) right now.

DAN LAMONTAGNE

Chatham County Manager

ALYSSA BYRD

President, Chatham Economic Development Corporation

DENNIS STREETS

Director, Chatham County Council on Aging

TIM CUNNUP

Mayor, Town of Goldston

LAYTON LONG

Director, Chatham Co. Public Health Dept.

RITA VAN DUINEN

Branch Manager, Chatham Community Library, Pittsboro

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[FACEBOOK.COM/CHATHAMNR](https://www.facebook.com/CHATHAMNR)

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725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: 919-542-7203 [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

Hours: MTWF 11a-5p • TH 11a-7p • SA 10a-2p

For a printable application, visit:
www.chathamsheriff.com

Curb-Side, Take Out, & Delivery: SOME OF YOUR LOCAL OPTIONS

ALLEN'S BBQ: Full menu currently available but subject to change (based upon availability), served at front walk up window, call ahead ordering is available, stay informed of our specials via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AllenSonBbq/> or give us a call: 919-542-2294, Hours 11am-6 pm Mon, 11am-7pm Tuesday-Friday, 11 am-6 pm Saturday (subject to change if we sell out, please call ahead to confirm), 5650 US-15N, Pittsboro NC 27312 website: <http://stubbssandsonbbq.com/location/pittsboro-allen-son-bbq/>

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BEST FOODS CAFETERIA & HAYLEY BALES STEAKHOUSE: Cafe line is still open for take out ONLY, offering daily selection of 6 meats and 10 veggie selections, our menu is updated daily on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BestfoodSilerCity/> & online www.bestfoodsilercity.com, **\$20 FAMILY STYLE MEALS** (feeds 4-5) & Hayley Bales **WEEKEND SPECIALS**. Offering pies, frozen chicken pie, and fresh ground hamburger, call ahead ordering available (required for Hayley Bales Steakhouse), gift cards are available for purchase, Daily hours: Cafeteria 11 am-2pm & 4:30 pm - 8pm Monday to Saturday, 11 am - 3pm Sunday; Steakhouse 4:30 pm - 8 pm Daily, 220 E. 11th Street, Siler City NC 27344, Phone: 919-742-6033

CAROLINA BREWERY: ORDER & PAY via our mobile app: HEARTLAND GUEST (Apple & Android)...offering **contact-free** pickup at both locations. Thirsty Thursday beer specials available every week (April 16: American IPA 12-packs for \$12). We will be serving a **FAMILY SPECIAL** & limited to-go menu. **Kids eat free*** on Monday ("from the kid's menu w/ purchase of an adult meal, phone orders only). Our limited food menu will posted on our website (carolinabrewery.com) and social media (@carolinabrewerybrewpubs on IG and FB @ carolinabrewery on Twitter). **Beer Delivery** now available! To-go beer specials including: \$25 cases of Chapel Hill Toffee Stout, \$100 1/2 barrel kegs, \$45 1/6 barrel kegs FREE coozie and logo pint glass with a gift card purchase for future use either at our pubs or our online store. Purchase gift cards via the phone, at our Brew Pub locations, and our online store. Funds from gift cards are used as relief fund for our staff. Email: info@carolinabrewery.com Operating with amended hours (Chapel Hill 4pm-8pm, Pittsboro 11 am-8pm). Chapel Hill Location: 460 W. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516 Tel: 919-942-1800 Pittsboro Location: 120 Lowes Drive #100, Pittsboro, NC 27312 Tel: 919-545-2330

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*Disclaimer: All content subject to change, please contact restaurant directly for up-to-date information, consider supporting local restaurants by purchasing gift cards for future use, and please remember to tip as you would if dining at the restaurant.

DIRECTORS

Continued from page B1

own.”

A typical highlight of the spring sports season is signing day, where juniors and seniors can announce their intentions to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. The county's athletic directors say they're trying to find ways to still honor those students.

“During the fall we were able to host a ‘Signing Day’ for the early signing period,” Vernon said, “and while the pandemic is making it challenging to do the same for the spring signing period, we are confident we will find a solution to honor these student-athletes.”

Fields pointed to one athlete in particular who was hoping to use this spring season to make a decision.

“Connor Murphy was depending upon this season to weigh his options about playing at the next level or going to UNC,” he said. “He has been recruited by some D3 schools but was hoping to have a good spring to see what was out there for him.”

Another potential logistical hiccup is rescheduling games that have so far been postponed due to COVID-19. Pegram said it might be near impossible.

“Speaking with (baseball) coach Brett Walden the other day, he told me, ‘We only have to reschedule 18 games so far,’” he said. “We both kind of chuckled, as I was thinking how hard it was to reschedule rainouts for one or two games and can't imagine rescheduling 18 games.”

But most of all at this point, Harris said, seniors are missing out on what would be their final games in uniform for their high schools. It's just one of the ways COVID-19 has affected people at every level.

“I hurt for our seniors” Harris said. “It's just a time they don't get to showcase all the hard work they've put forth at no fault of their own. More than that, the hardest pill for them to swallow is the memories they are missing out on with the time they don't get to spend competing and enjoying playing with their teammates. High school seniors are getting the short end of the stick in the athletic landscape.”

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A COVID-19 PERSPECTIVE | GEORGE GREGER-HOLT

Working in the coronavirus world

Working from home. Sounds easy, even desirable. No distractions from co-workers, minimal phone calls, high productivity. But when you're a people person in a people business, like I am, working from home is not as productive as it might seem.

I have always thought the magic of Chatham County is that people do business face to face, whether that's with the folks that fix our vehicles or the folks at the grocery store or the many talented people in county government and essential non-profits that serve our citizens. Relationships are how we get work done here, and our new world doesn't make maintaining those relationships and especially creating new ones very easy.

For me, physical distancing, while vitally important if we want to manage this pandemic and reduce deaths, creates barriers to effectively meeting with co-workers, planning initiatives and engaging the public. Like many others, my calendar is filled with a lot of strike-

throughs, meetings that had to be canceled, events that had to be postponed or canceled and in-person meetings that have become virtual meetings.

We have always had the technical capability to conduct conference calls, although I never found them as productive as meeting face to face. The new technology that adds video of those on the call is definitely an upgrade, but I still find it more difficult to be productive on those calls as compared to the old sit around a table and talk meeting.

These new videoconferences rely on the availability of high speed Internet and although I know the county is working on solutions, I have barely enough download/upload speeds at home to hear and see my fellow virtual meeting attendees. I'm becoming well acquainted with the "Your internet is unstable" warning box but am fortunate to even have working Internet. I know many in our county do not.

In spite of the challenges, things are getting done. Work is going on. Informa-

tion is getting out. Initiatives are being planned and hopefully, when all this clears, we will again help the citizens in our county understand the importance of helping young people find things to do other than drugs.

On the other hand, my house has never been so clean and my garden has never looked so good.

Pittsboro's George Greger-Holt has worked for decades in Chatham County serving and supporting youth and youth programs. He is the community outreach coordinator for Chatham Drug Free. He worked in a variety of positions for Chatham County Schools from 1991 until his retirement in 2013. He's been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition for his work, including the GlaxoSmithKline Lifetime Achievement Award for Student Health in 2010, the Margaret B. Pollard Outstanding Community Service Award in 2009, and the North Carolina Governor's Academy for Prevention Professionals Award of Appreciation in 2007.



Staff photo by Bill Horner III
George Greger-Holt of Chatham Drug Free.

Checking in on Chatham's chains during COVID-19, part 2

This counts as the second installment in my effort to pay attention to what's going on with the nationwide or region-wide chains that have locations in Chatham County. This week, we'll look at Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Lowes Foods and (surprise) San Felipe Mexican Restaurant.



ZACHARY HORNER
Corner Store

Food Lion

Food Lion serves as one of the major grocery shopping players in Chatham County, with locations on East Street in Pittsboro and Eleventh Street (also U.S. Hwy. 64) in Siler City. The chain of more than 1,000 stores in 10 states, based in Salisbury, about 70 miles from Siler City, has installed plexiglass panels at registers in all its stores, and the company

has announced plans to hire around 6,000 new employees during the pandemic. Additionally, on March 30, Food Lion instituted a special hour-long time from 7-8 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays "for customers over the age of 60 and those identified as high risk for severe illness by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," according to a statement from Food Lion President Meg Ham.

"We continue to closely monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on the communities in which we serve," Ham said. "For all of us at Food Lion, the well-being of our customers and associates is our top priority."

Harris Teeter

The Matthews-based grocery chain that operates stores in seven states and D.C. — including a location off of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 in northeast Chatham near Polk's Landing — announced late last month it was

planning to hire more than 5,000 workers for retail and distribution efforts "as the high demand for essential food and household products continues." Additionally, on April 2, the company said it was paying its hourly workers in retail, distribution and corporate office a "Hero Bonus" of \$2 above their standard base pay for hours worked April 1-21. That same press release stated that, among other efforts, Harris Teeter was "providing access to mental health services and other benefits to support associates' mental and physical well-being during this stressful time."

"Harris Teeter's most urgent priority is to provide a safe environment for our valued associates and our shoppers," said Danna Robinson, Harris Teeter's communication manager. "We're taking several precautions to protect our shoppers and our Harris Teeter heroes who are working tirelessly to keep our stores open, clean and replenished."

Lowes Foods

Boasting a location off of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 in northeast Chatham, just up the road from Harris Teeter, Lowes is not as active on its website's news release page as its grocery store brethren, but its social media feeds, particularly Twitter (@LowesFoods) has been a way to see how the chain is responding to COVID-19. Store hours were adjusted to 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. — with special shopping hours for seniors and those at-risk from 7-8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays — and hiring more part-time employees. One March 29 tweet was specifically aimed at "many of you (who) might be out of work due to the closing of certain establishments."

San Felipe Mexican Restaurant

Shifting to the restaurant business, did you know San Felipe Mexican Restaurant was a chain? There are two

locations each in Sanford, my hometown, and Southport, and other spots in Leland, Shallotte, Asheboro and Aberdeen, along with its Pittsboro and Siler City locations.

The restaurant's website has special announcements for its Piedmont and Coastal locations. Perhaps obviously, both of Chatham's spots are in the Piedmont group. The restaurant has begun conducting delivery through DoorDash at certain locations — but neither Chatham location showed up when I typed in our office addresses in Pittsboro and Siler City.

"We apologize for any inconvenience and can't wait to reopen to serve you margaritas and bring you your food again," the website states. "We ask for your patience and support and an extra smile for our staff as we all fight through this challenging time."

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

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CHATHAM CHAT | CHATHAM ARTIST AND ARTS-WORKER RELIEF EFFORT (CAARE)

Arts Council creates fund to assist pandemic-affected artists

With a stay-at-home order in place and a limit on the number of people who can gather together in any confined space, Chatham-based performing artists — and the “art-workers” who assist performers — have seen incomes drop drastically. To that end, the Chatham Arts Council has worked to create a special fund to provide grants to those in need. This week, we spoke to Arts Council Executive Director Cheryl Chamblee and her staff about that relief effort.

The pandemic has led to the creation of many relief efforts. Yours is unique in that it's designed to assist artists and art-workers who have seen their income streams devastated by canceled concerts, events and projects. But you got assistance in this effort from the Manbites Dog Theater Fund, with some initial seed money. How did that come about?

Thank you! Yes, we are incredibly fortunate that Manbites Dog Theater Fund helped us get this initiative off the ground and the Triangle Community Foundation gave us a substantial bump to sustain the fund. Our executive director, Cheryl Chamblee, has long worked with Manbites Dog Theater, and she was

touched when MDT Managing Director Ed Hunt reached out to her with an interest in providing seed money for artist relief in Chatham County. That really catalyzed our fund and opened the door for Triangle Community Foundation to make an investment, too. Both MDT and TCF see Chatham County as integral to the cultural landscape of the Triangle, and we are so grateful.

CAARE isn't just for performers, right? Can you talk about who “arts-workers” are, and how the way they make a living has been affected by the pandemic?

Absolutely. Arts-workers are sometimes overlooked in relief efforts like this one, and we felt it was imperative to include them as their livelihood is being negatively impacted in the same way that artists' livelihood is. Arts-workers are people who earn income in the arts by making arts projects possible. Some common examples include exhibition managers, artist managers, stage managers, arts nonprofit administrators, and sound technicians. When a band loses a gig to COVID-19, the sound technician and the band's manager lose that gig, too.

You've already made your

first round of grants. Can you talk about a specific recipient or two, and their applications, and what factors led to them being given grants?

We are so excited to have completed our first round of CAARE disbursements. The CAARE Committee's decisions are not based on opinions of artists' work, but rather, the cancellations they have faced, coupled with the immediate expenses they are facing and their financial needs.

One of our recipients in the first week had upwards of \$5,000 in gigs canceled. He recently bought a used van to transport his performance equipment, so we helped with the loan payment and with groceries for his family of four. Another of our recipients had significant contracts canceled, and he asked for help covering the cost of his heart medication. Medical bills and groceries have been the most common needs so far.

The organization has stated that most CAARE grants to artists and arts-workers will range from \$50 to \$250, and that the funding amount provided is being based on donations to the fund, balanced with the number of grant requests. Can you elaborate on that?

To be honest, it's not

an exact science and so much is changing day-to-day. We're learning as we go, getting advice from folks around the country who've been doing this a bit longer, and moving as quickly as we can to help as many people as possible. When determining the amount that can be given to an applicant, the CAARE Committee considers the degree of cancellations they've experienced, coupled with the financial needs they have. And we're also looking at our fund balance right now — and considering that we don't just have gigs that are canceled right now, we've got a population of artists who've had their pipeline for future gigs frozen, too. We anticipate that applications will increase as time goes by. We're trying to balance all those things.

What's the application process like, and what are the eligibility requirements?

Great question. We tried to streamline the application process to ensure it is not too cumbersome for artists and arts-workers and to help the CAARE Committee be nimble in responding to community needs. The application can be found on our website (ChathamArtsCouncil.org) and consists of 10 quick



questions.

Eligibility for the funds is also very straightforward. An applicant needs to be a performing, visual, or literary artist or arts-worker living in Chatham County, North Carolina — and in need of financial assistance for basic expenses due to COVID-19 cancellations and closures.

Do you have a goal for the fund?

Right now, our goal is to raise as much money as we can to support as many artists and arts-workers in Chatham County as possible. We are so fortunate to live in a community

full of amazing talent. This is our chance to show our support and gratitude. We're all in this together.

How can those interested in supporting the CAARE fund help?

Thanks for this question. This is a difficult time for everyone, but we know that we're all stronger when we stick together as a community. We hope people in Chatham County will show their support for the remarkable artists and arts-workers in this community by donating to the CAARE fund at ChathamArtsCouncil.org. Every dollar helps!

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The modern way to sell your classics

CCCC facing same educational challenges as many during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

Just about every educational institution has had to make adjustments to its schedule and modus operandi since COVID-19 began to sweep across America.

Most schools have taken same precautions, particularly after Gov. Roy Cooper's stay-at-home order issued March 27. Central Carolina Community College has been no different — closing campus, canceling on-campus events and continuing classes online. Chatham Provost Mark Hall said that, in a lot of ways, the school was somewhat in good shape heading into that situation.

“I will admit, our college was uniquely positioned to have to deal with something like this because we are required to have an online platform for all our curriculum,” Hall said. “Some classes didn't do a lot of work on that, but it was easy-ish for some of us to transmit stuff.”

But not every class, and Hall admitted that.

“We can't build a house virtually, so we're still trying to figure that out,” he said, referring to the Pittsboro campus' Building Construction Technology program and its Chatham College project.

Hall said the college has been working on online platforms since 2004 and has been doing distance work since before then. As a teacher in the 1990s, he said his students would mail essays to him. He would grade them and send them back.

While some classes have made that adjustment, it's more difficult for others, like Kaan Ozmeral's math classes.

“It's nuts,” he said. “It's completely transformed how I teach.”

Ozmeral has been a teacher since 2005 and at CCCC since 2011. He said that he teaches math classes online every summer, but it's not the smoothest transition for a subject.

“I'm aware that it's not as effective for math as in person,” he said. “It's just not as fluid. The efficiency of it, it's surprisingly not as good. Math is particularly challenging.”

Ozmeral is teaching Calculus 2 online for the first time and he said the “pretty intense course” presents a need for students to have “someone to talk things over with” them. But feedback is



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

The Central Carolina Community College Building Construction Technology program's annual project, the Chatham College, sits unfinished and un-worked on as the school has moved all classes online. Most programs are still going, but as Chatham Provost Mark Hall said, ‘We can't build a house virtually, so we're still trying to figure that out.’

not as immediate, and communicating complex math problems with various symbols, exponents and equations is not as simple as grading an English paper. However, he said, the college has been a positive place to work during this time.

“The students and all of the people involved in the college have all been very supportive and understanding,” he said. “This pandemic is awful and it's really a struggle day to day to think about all the pain going on in the world, but I feel like as a community we've really embraced each other. It's nice to see how the community reacts to something like this.”

CCCC President Lisa Chapman told the News + Record that she sees the college's role right now unchanged — serving the community.

“One of the things that we've been talking about for over a year now is, we take care of our family, the college family, and if we take care of the family and take care of our students, we take care of the community,” she said. “Every day, I see more and more of what our college family is doing to try to ensure the safety and support of our students, and the generosity I've seen with the family in terms of reaching out to the community in any way we can. It makes me incredibly proud.”

Chapman said college employees created a Facebook page where they can share encouragement, information, support and humor, trying to recreate “all of those things that we get every day when we come to

the office regularly.”

And some of those employees went beyond. Earlier this month, teachers in the college's Health Sciences and Human Services departments gathered health supplies like hand sanitizer, face shields, gloves and disinfectant wipes to donate to local healthcare providers, including FirstHealth of the Carolinas and Chatham Hospital.

“Our partners cried happy tears of relief to receive the supplies and I know that I teared up delivering them,” Lisa Baker, CCCC's Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services said in an April 2 press release. “We have a collaborative relationship that allows a reciprocal relationship where we were proud to step up and help our community partners and graduates of our programs who now work at these hospitals and long-term care facilities.”

So while graduation has been postponed — potentially until August 6 — and face-to-face instruction has been suspended, education is still happening, similar to Chatham County's public school system. Hall said he's been in touch with teachers who are doing what they always do, just on Zoom.

“People have been holding class sessions with that,” he said. “It's been really lonely around campus, but we're keeping everyone safe and healthy.”

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

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aaron Davis, 37, of Siler City, was charged April 1 with trafficking in methamphetamine possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a Schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of a Schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, felony possession of marijuana, simple possession of a Schedule IV

controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Davis was held under a \$100,000 bond with an April 27 court date in Pittsboro.

Latori Coltrane, 36, of Liberty, was charged April 2 with exploiting disabled/elder trust misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, forgery of an instrument, uttering a forged instrument, obtaining property by false pretense and identity theft. Coltrane was issued a written promise with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Jonathan Brower, 32, of Siler City, was

charged April 4 with assault on a female. Brower was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 3 court date in Pittsboro. Brower was also served on a separate charge of assault on a female with a June 8 court date in Greensboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chandler Cotton of Sanford was cited April 7 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 1 in Pittsboro.

Jagdeep Singh of Morrisville was cited

April 7 for failure to maintain lane control on N.C. Highway 42 in Pittsboro.

Mallory Storrie of Chapel Hill was cited April 8 for failure to yield on Lystra Road in Pittsboro.

Cameron Cagle of Pittsboro was cited April 10 for failure to register and no inspection on Silk Hope Road in Siler City.

Malik Watson of Raleigh was cited April 11 for failure to maintain lane control and driving while license revoked on Moore Mountain Road in Pittsboro.

An Easter message under the virus lock-down



Staff photo by David Bradley

Pleasant Grove Christian Church Pastor Don Edwards preaches to the congregation in their vehicles Easter Sunday morning in the great outdoors. The church has been here for 177 years, but this is the first Easter message preached outside the church building, he said.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Pleasant Grove Christian Church Pastor Don Edwards preaches his Easter Sunday message from the bed of a flatbed truck Easter Sunday to his congregation. The service, broadcast on AM radio, allowed the service to be heard in their cars in the parking lot, on the lawn and at the pastor's house across the street.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Sydney Edwards, Megan Faulkner, Claire Edwards and Bryn Edwards let drivers know about the drive-in Easter service at Pleasant Grove Christian Church in Bennett Easter Sunday. Both sides of the parking lot were filled, along with part of the church yard and the pastorium across the street.

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Coming attractions: Netflix's 'Outer Banks' captures the N.C. coast



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

The North Carolina Outer Banks are suddenly in vogue again as a TV and movie setting. One of last year's surprise movie hits was "The Peanut Butter Falcon," a Twain-esque adventure-comedy created by Manteo native and co-director Tyler Nilson. While set along the N.C. outer banks, the film was actually filmed in and around the Savannah, Georgia, delta.

While the actual Outer Banks are largely closed to visitors during the COVID-19 crisis, the world of online streaming entertainment has found a virtual backdrop. This week, Netflix debuts a new series named, appropriately, "Outer

OUTER BANKS

Netflix

Available now

Banks." According to previews, the show follows a group of teenagers living in a fictional OBX town the summer following a devastating hurricane that has knocked out all electronic communication in and out of the island. Against the backdrop, the teens decide to hunt for a legendary treasure that may be linked to the mysterious disappearance of the father of the group's leader, John B, played by Chase Stokes.

Like "Peanut Butter Falcon," "Outer Banks" is set in North Carolina but was not filmed in the Tar Heel state. Instead, the series creators were forced south to the Charleston, S.C., area, where filming took



Graphic courtesy of Netflix

place last summer. That was not the original desire of series creators Jonas and Josh Pate. The twin Pate brothers were born in Raeford before embarking on screenwriting careers in California. Jonas now lives in Wilmington,

where he sought to shoot the series, originally titled "OBX." However, Netflix balked at that in the wake of HB-142, the HB-2 repeal legislation that bars N.C. municipalities from enacting ordinances protecting trans (people's) access to

public accommodations. Although HB-142 is due to sunset on Dec. 1, 2020, Netflix would not budge on its stance in the meantime.

Jonas was recently appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper to the Governor's Advisory Council on Film,

Television, and Digital Streaming. Josh graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, as did show co-creator and novelist Shannon Burke.

The 10-episode first season of "Outer Banks" debuts this Wednesday, April 15 on Netflix.

Second nine weeks K-8 school honor roll students

NORTH CHATHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Katie Crissman, Abigail Everwine, Sadie Luther, Haidyn Sanders, Hailey Sligh, Madalyn Teague, Kaylee Thompson

4th Grade - Brayleigh Evangelista, Jackson Hughes, Lelue Kidd, Colby King, Caleb Oldham, Blake Ritter, Mackenzie Robertson, Cayden Wilkes
5th Grade - Althea Aldridge, Juliana Andros, Christian Bullock, Maya Ciodaru, Connor Daley, Declan Davis, Ella Davis, Sofia Espino-Centeno, Emily

Exley, Serenity Foley, Anthony Frankovich, McKenna Fuller, Tiffany Glinoga, Alissa Jones, Benjamin Jump, Emily Little, Charlotte McClintock, Ella Mendlovitz, Sophia Misciagno, Abigail Morgan, William Morgan, Kimberly Ocana-Rangel, Brandon Perez Lopez, Ian Perry, Gavin Popp, Ethan Rayno, Jenna Self, Jack Simpson, Bailey Smith, Easton Sykes, Zachary Sylvia, Sydney Tate, Brandon Toledo-Sanchez, Claire Wójciski, James Wright

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Stella Bailey, Ayla Bartlett, Michael Caufield, Roman Corcoran,

Gregory Cunningham, Margaux Davis, Janine Dican Baires, Sophie Fennell, Isrielle Fields, Ema Fiske, Chloe Freeman, Keenan Gamber, Evelyn Gendron, Colton Godwin, Michaela Grimaldo-Juarez, Triton Helmer, Winston Hendricks, Quinn Hepburn, Natalie Hinde, Lucy Hirschman, Lily Horton, Zoey Jenkins, Parker Jones, Gisel Mayen Murcia, Yaila Mayoral Mayorga, Aiden McKnight, Luis Melesio, Alia Mendlovitz, Ana Michalczyzyn, Carter Mospan, Angelina Murgueitio Rosales, Leo Negrete-Rodriguez, Emily Pulido, Madison Putnam,

Jesse Quino-Cervantes, Erick Ramirez Galvan, Adil Rasul, Parker Reynolds, Leah Silva Badillo, Gabriella Simmonds, Emily Sparrow, Roman Terregino, Olivia Tewes, Edmund Trygar, Eli Tuttle, Max Villatoro, Roman Wahdan

4th Grade - Alexa Abenes, Jhaziel Alvarez-Chirino, Alejandro Alvarez-Trejo, Collin Atkinson, Tyler Brinson, Sloane Carter, Kora Chandler, Isabelle Compton, Caroline Cook, Aidan Corcoran, Lexiana Culotta, Banks Elmore, Noah Fuller, Piper Gensler, Evelyn Gonzalez-Banegas, Vivian Gustafson, Jasper Hamilton, Ellery Hlavac, William Hudson, Ashlyn Jenkins, Nathan Kendrick, Liam McCann, Connor McInerney, Martin Mendoza-Rodriguez, Maddox Moore, Daniela Ortiz, Annaei Pace, Bennett Powell, William Powell, Camryn Reinhardt, Ana Rodriguez Apolinar, Talia Soper, Isaac Sorto-Calzada, Benjamin Taylor, Isaías Vazquez-Ordonez, Elise Warner, Joshua Won, Mackenzie Wray

5th Grade - Reece Adams, Piper Bailey, Marta Benesch, Averie Boeckler, Cayleigh Coppola, Kleber Corzo Garcia, Steven Damato, Aviston Farmer, Thomas Grace, Leeya House, Bryce Huneycutt, Dylan Jory, Emily Jump, Anthony Landano, Timothy Lucas, Marek Makor, Zoe O'Neal, Gabrielle Parra, Audrey Pellowitz, Grady Perchinsky, Rylan Perchinsky, Hector Quino-Cervantes, Paige Reinhardt, Sofia Rodriguez-Guadalupe, Devin Simmonds, Charles Smith, Antonio Underdue, Taylor Williford, David Wood, Kendell Wyrick

PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Isaac Allen, Cruz Arias, Evelyn Becker, Beckett Bolin, Daymon Dubon, Ava Ens, Molly Eubanks, Lily Evans, Kennedy Green, Isabella Guarino, Aubrianna Gyalog, Jackson Haushalter, Macon Lawrence, Alexandria Overby, Lucas Pablo-Baldwin, Ruby Parks, Liam Patterson, Carter Reed, Lilith Strange, Logan Thompson, Anastyn Trogdon, Bernabe Villa-Reyes, Ayron Void, Delaney Ward, Madeline Wehrenberg, Luke Wilson

4th Grade - Madilyn Bolejack, Sophia Chutz, Gabriel Delgado, Nora Ens, Abigail Gibson, Sophie Gibson, Jackson Hall, Jalliyah James, Rebecca Jones, Elizabeth Klier, Canaan Mitchell, Lily Pintuff, Grace Sherwin, Rihanna Siler, Odella Snyder, Olivia Sturtz, Nicolas Triglanos, Ashleigh Trombley, Beau Withrow

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Charlie Akin, Jasmine Alston, Eleanor Boyer, Riley Brown, Alyssa Burke, Micah Cerey, Tessa Cobler, Caleb Coker, Colt Day, Cecilia Delgado, Leo Drust, Justin Edmonds, Tanner Gilchrist, Corrina Hill, Jeremy Jones, Adelina Lueken, Mason Lupek, Mason Lutterloh, Janiah Lyons, Jeylan Maldonado Sosa, Raegan McCullough, Dawson Mitchell, Jacqueline Mondragon Villanueva, Deyonajza Moore, Jasper Ours, Paola Ramirez, Ethan Rigney, Bryson Sanders, Jonathan Santiago, Chase Sargent, Mario Sescilla, Kaelyn Strickland, Bradley Ukochovwera, Benjamin Waldstein, Coleman Wiley, Sophia

Wood, Zaheim Young
4th Grade - Daniel Alvarado-Ramos, Owen Becker, Camila Cervantes, Ella Clark, Riley D'Angelo, Ar'Daryus Dale, Jaidan Daleo, Adler Dolleschel, Sophia Eason, Dilyn Evans, Matthew Ferrin, Tate Fonville, Lelyn Harrison, Dylan Hernandez Chavez, Sarah Hill, Leighton Jacques, Serena Jones, Zachary Klier, Sanai Lee, Parker Maness, Jaelah Pacley, Kaveri Patel, Lila Quick, Kinley Sanders, Cody Sescilla, Barrett Sherwin, Jacqueline Soto, Maya Torres, Preston Walters, Wyatt Wichowski, Isabella Zumbo

PERRY HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Sophia Abbott, Khloe Baker, Evan Cavaroc, Christopher Costa, Owen Finn, Olivia Foster, Stephanie Frankowski, Joseph Hinchman, Addyson Holway, Nevaeh Huggins, Enzo Kim-Perez, Harley Kremer, Henry Lajoie, Khloe Lang, Emma Lloyd, Mary McLaughlin, Charlie Miltler, Finn O'Daniel, Tolson O'Daniel, Oliver O'Quinn, Dex Owens, Lillian Ray, Nolan Rizvi, Eli Shepherd, Noah Sherman, Aubrey Shields, Devlin Smith, Noa Stavitzski, Rylee Swaine, Bobby Thatcher, Caroline Tiger, David Wanderski, Addison Ward, Elliott Winters, Aria Young, David Zamora-Katona
4th Grade - Lillian Adamo, Nulia Adibe, Domenico Amelio, Angel Arenas Mejia, Ellie Bowen, Abigail Bowling, Lauren Bowling, Brooks Boyd, Calvin Britt, Owen Cammett, Layla

See **HONORS**, page B9

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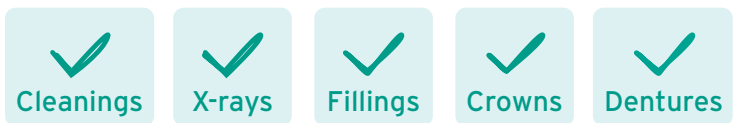
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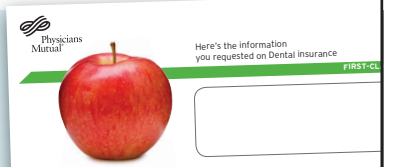


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Hang Out with a Sloth

In a sloth's life, slow is the word. They're the great reminders that sometimes it's a good idea to kick back, relax and just enjoy hanging around.

How many leaves can you find on this page? Have a friend try. Who found the most?

Sloth Diet

Sloths eat very slowly. They eat mostly leaves and fruit. Because they move so slowly, they don't go looking for watering holes. They get their water from the fruits and leaves they eat.

Sloths digest food slowly. It can take up to a month for a sloth to digest a single meal, according to the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida.

Super Slow

While on the ground, three-toed sloths travel at just 6–8 ft (1.8–2.4m) per minute. They're slightly quicker in the rainforest canopy, where they can whiz by at speeds of 15 ft (4.6m) per minute! Even at their fastest, they still move five times slower than a drifting iceberg.

There is a little moth that only lives on a sloth. It feeds on the algae that grows in the sloth's fur.

Green Fur?

Sloths move so slowly that algae and fungi grow on them. This is a good thing because the algae makes their fur look a bit green. This helps to camouflage them when they are hanging from branches in the rainforest.

We sloths rarely come down from the trees because on the ground is when we're most easily caught by predators. Once a week, we descend for one reason. Why? Circle every other letter to discover the answer!

BT**I**YOMGKOV**T**W**O**J**T**SHDE
UBFAV**T**M**H**BRK**O**T**S**M


MINUTES

Extra! Extra!

Sloth: More Than One Meaning

Sloth is the name of one of the world's slowest moving animals. And it is a word that means lazy, slow-moving, lack of effort. Look through the newspaper for three or more other words that have more than one meaning. Cut out each word and write down its different meanings.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information


Kid Scoop Together!

Fill in the missing words from the list below.

HELP

BIGGER

SMILING

BONES

CLAWS


SPECIES

SOUTH


STUDY

Sloth Facts


There are two main _____ of sloth. One has two and the other three _____ on their front feet. The two species look a lot alike.



Two-toed sloths are slightly _____. Three-toed sloths have markings on their faces that make them look like they're always _____.




They also have two extra neck _____, allowing them to turn their heads 270 degrees!



Where do they live?

Sloths live in Central and _____ America.



Life-saving sloths?

A recent _____ shows that some species of fungi found in sloth fur might _____ to cure

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Who are relatives of sloths?

With their long arms and shaggy fur, they look a bit like monkeys, but they are actually related to another group of animals. Use the code to discover the answer.

Double Double Word Search

CAMOUFLAGE

HANGING

MONKEYS

SPECIES

CANOPY

CAUGHT

SHAGGY

SLOTH

ALGAE

FUNGI

MOTHS

GREEN

CURE

LAZY

WHIZ

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

S	M	O	N	K	E	Y	S	S	L
P	O	T	S	E	S	L	O	T	H
E	H	Y	S	H	E	R	U	C	A
C	W	H	P	A	A	R	N	L	N
I	S	H	T	O	M	G	G	A	G
E	G	G	I	A	N	A	G	Z	I
S	R	N	O	Z	E	A	U	Y	N
N	C	A	U	G	H	T	C	D	G
E	G	A	L	F	U	O	M	A	C

CODE

A =

D =

E =

I =

L =

M =

N =

O =

P =

R =

S =

T =

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Take Your Time

Slow down while you read an article in today's paper. With a green marker, underline the **who** and **what** the article is about. Circle the words that tell you **when** and **where**.


Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a narrative that develops

Write On!



The Lion's Tale

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HONORS

Continued from page B7

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5th Grade - Jane Birken, Natalie Boeckle, Charlotte Bowman, Henry Brooks, Marielle Byers, Caitlin Campbell, Jamie Clyburn, Amanda Cooper, Oscar Ditter, Emma Grace Hill, Rebecca Hoopes, Wylie Hutto, Eleanor Jonsson, Evelyn Kamen, Nicole Krebs, Eleanor Kristiansen, Avery Lakomiak, Leo Langston, Charlotte Lloyd, Colton Mann, Hanna Mikolajec, Eli Minges, Claire Patterson, Joshua Phillips, Elizabeth Platt, Carter Robinson, Braxe Ruesch, Elsa Sandvik, Jennifer Sautter, Gretta Schliebe, Ruby Schneider, Caleb Serrano, Savannah Stober, Dana Sudhir, Dara Sudhir, Walker Vigus, Jacob Wanderski, Zeke Wicker, Grace Wilson

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Alexa Aguiluz Basilio, Vanessa Aguiluz Basilio, Lindsay Avodo, Glen Bonine, Kameron Boone, Hudson Brown, Jax Cantrell, Maesey Coughlin-Pignator, Emily Cruz Quijada, Griffin Dallesandro, Juliette Fink, Emelia Garrison, Nola Gillespie, Jack Hadley, Anderson Hamm, Liam Harnisfeger, Donald Harshaw, Matthew Hess, Colton Holloway, Grace Holmes, Sophie Jacobs, Hayden Lauren, Jonah Lill, Jac-

queline Lopez-Ramos, Isla MacIver, Logan Mann, Dylan Markham, Anthony Martinson, Bryson Messier, Charlie Moore, Aiden Norris, Jonah Norris, Tyler Patterson, Oliver Porwick, Maya Posada, Cameron Raynor, Alexa Rodarte Castaneda, Adri Rodriguez Mogoyan, Michael Sanders-Bonelli, Olivia Shirlen, Hanna Smith, Lia Smothers, Fletcher Swenson, Zach Thelen, Lily Thelen, Sofia Timpy, John Tipton, Silas Tourville, Landon Turner, Kloe Ulaszek, Aubree Wallace, Mason Walton, Avery Wesoloski, Lauren Wright, Alexander Zaldivar

4th Grade - Jack Adamo, Vianey Aguilar-Collazo, Nehemiah Ajayi, Andrew Balk, Yostin Cervantes Galeana, River Collins, Keira Cross, Mina Esteves-Pinto, Brayden Federson, Emily Fellenstein, Aidan Fitzgerald, Andrew Flowers, Scarlett Ha, Jack Harman, Jonathan Hernandez-Gonzalez, Erwin Herndandez-Lara, Blair Hill, Eli Johnson, Miles Johnson, Niels Kappelman, Michael Koziara, Nilayliann Lauano, Sami Lyman, Erick Martinez Lopez, Luis Martinez, Lilliana Messier, Ezra Moulton, Austin Parenti, Olivia Parenti, Tommy Perry, Aubrey Phillips, Grant Robinette, Abraham Ruto, Ella Scheidt, Christopher Sheedy, Cole Smith, Paul Smith, Harlow Spacek, Mallory Thrower, Nikhil Vaidya, Miley Vue, Luke Washington, Abel Williams, Aaron Wilson, Chloe Wright, Aaron Xiao, Alonzo Zaldivar

5th Grade - Ezennia Adibe, Benjamin Altenburg, Lillian Bice, Jillian Bonner, Bauer Bowling, Lucas Bozzolo, Ruthie Burgert, Brayden Cabe, Adina Campbell, Diego Capriles, London Crowling, James Detzi, Kaeden Edwards, Malek El-Yousef, Everett Elkins, Oliva Enzler, Gavin Farina, Adrian Fedoriw, Connor Ferguson, Ally Forbes, Xander Gabreski, Morgan Gilson, Berkeley Godehn, Sadler Hamm, Arabella Harrington, Annabel Harshaw, Erik Hernandez-Lara, Maxwell Hinchman, Miles Johns, Jack Kimbrel, Thomas Koziara, David Lee, Guillermo Matta Molina, Marcela Matta Molina, Molly Mazanec, Wyatt Metzker, Danny Mora-Montiel, Brayden Moran, Juliana Nance, Vance Norman, Naomi Olivet, Felix Pardue, Taylor Perry, Noah Posada, Eva Ray, Samuel Resnik, Jayme Ruff, Lilah Sipper, Abigail Smith, Aric Stech, Caleb Stevenson, Braydon Timpy, Justin Torres, Ariel Travers, Stuart Vaughn, Reis Veety, Gabe Velasquez, Jackson Vickers, Calvin White, Connor Willingmyre, Jaxson Young

SILER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Carmelina Jae Beasley, Tommy Ivan Delgado, Vicente Esteban Martinez Munoz, Nicole Alejandra Perez Vasquez,

Vanessa De La Luz Sifuentes, Logan Skye Wilmoth
4th Grade - Ryder Hudson Bredenberg, Kevin Ochoa Cruz, Kameron Rose Pokey, Valerie Jazmine Ramirez Carmona, Reagan Marie Sandel
5th Grade - Jimena Camareno Rojas, Jedidiah Colon Poe, Jasmine Natalie Sorto Bonilla, Ethan Daniel Usher

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Brandon David Barrera, Adrian James Benitez, Julian Charles Blankenship, Morgan Kapri Brooks, Haylee Anna Canales, Alyssa Izabella Corona, Kirver David Cruz Berrios, Dublas Eraliz Diaz Martinez, Kiara Galindo Jacinto, Jehasmin Savana Gomez Rivera, Zulamita Sarai Guzman Jimenez, Jamari Eugene Headen, Abigail Lianna Herrera, Aiden Michael Hughes, Edwin Adonay Jacobo Gregorio, Sa'mya Renea Jones, Angel Emmanuel Lavariega, Emily Elizabeth Losito, William David Murchison, Adaline Hope Oldham, Isaiyah Trey Patterson, Lilly Catherine Pocock, Willow Eve Poe, Yoselin Arleth Rincon Briones, Shirley Ariana Maite Rodriguez Granados, Emilee Ann Stewart, Catheryn Grace Thompson, Eliel Tomas-Cabanas, Bentley Liam Walston, Madison Paige Wilmoth, Ar'Mani Cornelia Wright, Jazmin Areli Zarco Arroyo

4th Grade - Ennis Aguilar Lima, Yamilet Paris Camacho, Samuel Isaac Ceron, Melanie Nichole Dubon, Melany Espinoza, Evelin Gabriel Martinez, Genesis Daryela Granados Hernandez, Aura Patricia Hernandez, Gustavo Anjel Ixcoy Vicente, Kinley Blaire Jordan, Nikolai Daniel Lujan, Leah Rae McLeod, Nolan Cade Mitchell, Yareli Mitchell Ortiz Alarcon, Getsemani Ramos Urrutia, Oscar Daniel Rangel, Ariannita Rivera Herrera, Breyana De'Nae Siler, Holden Jacob Tillett, Keylor Urena-Secena, Stefanie Velasquez Rangel, Iker Leonardo Vicente Perez, Danerys Catalina Zetino Herrera

5th Grade - Yamilet Ambrocio Lozano, Joshua Carcamo, Ashley Lizeth Cruz Mateo, Luke Zachary Deaton, Jaden Michael Guzman, Briseida Ibarra Rivera, Madelaine Lozano Perez, Michayla Lynnelle McNeill, Jose Dagoberto Mejia Turcios, Elvis Joab Nino-Chay, Tommy Junior Nolasco Jacinto, Genesis Ocampo, Briceil Pablo Monter, Allessa Zoad Perez Rodriguez, Lowell Burdette Pocock, Torris Parker Price, Leslie Santos Cuazitl, Armecia Gracelynn Tapp, Valeria Tellez-Canuto, Fredy Amilcar Toj Fernandez, Emily Vazquez Mendoza

SILK HOPE SCHOOL
A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Matthew Adams, Skylar Barth, Bryson Green, Alayna Haney, Eden Lindley, Mauro Lopez Garcia, Sophie Lukomski, Ava Moser, Caleb Nelson, Angel Pulido-Nava, Preston

Riggans, Andrew Rippe, Adelyn Williams
4th Grade - Charlotte Britt, Colton Brown, Matthew Cunningham, Carson Davis III, Aedan Davis, Brianna Haney, Ridge Hicks, Dylan Jenkins, Dylan Leysath
5th Grade - Summer Causey, Rebecca Clark, Alex Cortes, Hannah Culberson, Kali Fennell, Alyssa Kearns, Ember Lindley, Payton McCrimmon, Dakota Moore, Derek Pettitt, Eleanor Reece, Margaret Rippe

6th Grade - Benjamin Buckner, Carly Cardman, Grace Debnam, Emily Dekaney, Lilliana Hicks, Aidan Leysath, Celie Lowe, Porter McLaurin, Landon Moser, Reyna Nava Catalan, Mayson Walters, Saniya White, Faith Williams

7th Grade - James Bowden, Mattie Buckner, Emma Burke, Abigail Cockrum, Ann Cole, Evelyn Lindly, Kerley Morris, Caleigh Phelps, Madison Philips, Brenna Teague, Samantha Wieber
8th Grade - Naya Cole, Caleb Collision, Sarah Dekaney, Cassidy DeShazo, Chloe Dickerson, Logan Gunter, Natalie Hamel, Brian Johnson, Lane Shelton, Corey Snell, Rafael Soto-Monter, Traycee Wall

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Walker Blankenship III, Sophia Carcamo, Dori Christopher, Julian DeShazo, Tyler Duncan, Da'Marcus Headen, Nicole Lara, Haley Mahan, Lucas McNeely, Carson Miller, Ronen Moore, Grayson Norton, Grayson Pelletier, Keaylee Vasquez Perez

4th Grade - Francisco Arteaga, Brendon Attia, Keenan Bailey, Levi Culberson, Joseph Marsh, Cooper Miller, Chance Moore, Talia Moore, Austin Morgan, Danyella Rodriguez, Preston Smith, Reagon White, Zoey Williams

5th Grade - Gracelyn Aldridge, Athena Dispennette-Estrada, Taylor Duncan, Delaney Fuquay, Treysen Headen, Isabella Kidd, Maria Munoz Ortiz, Aleah Nunley, Eric Ortiz, Savannah Pelletier, Carolina Rice, Joseph Santiago, Jermaine White Jr, Samuel Young

6th Grade - Thomas Bjork, Bella Cole, Alan Diaz-Acosta, Jacob Eubanks, McKenzie Everwine, Jaden Fleming, Alice Howell, David Mitchell, Lacy Thomas, Paisley Thorn

7th Grade - Abby Adams, Marcy Clark, Riley Gibson, Luke Johnson, Lauren Jones, Brooke Pakingham, Ryan Waggoner, Makena Young

8th Grade - Abbie Barth, Colton Bredenberg, Dylan Clark, Liberty Coats, Sage Coykendall, Andrew Duncan, Kelton Fuquay, Hannah Mitchell, Bryan Onda, Brooklin Quee, Erik Thrift, Karina Vanderbilt

VIRGINIA CROSS ELEMENTARY
A HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Dilcy Amaya-Gonzalez, Maycie Bodiford, Benjamin Camacho, Michelle Ciriaco Regino,

Ashton Cox, Brianna Cruz, Jason Depaz Garcia, Malerie Guthrie, Ana Jimenez Hernandez, David Jimenez-Jaimes, Jayda Moffitt, Jose Rodriguez De Paz, Dejahnelle Steen, Yeison Tomas Cobon, Daniela Urbina Interiano, Carlos Valdez

4th Grade - Gabriel Arenas-Gonzalez, Joseph Barrera, Joshua Brooks, Axel Catalan Casarrubias, Monica Garcia Salinas, Jaydin Glover, Miguel Jimenez Cruz, Jeremiah Martin, Christopher Pablo Mateo, Kenneth Reyes Sanchez, Leah Sledd, Amiyah Vargas, Bryson White, Jade Yarbrough

5th Grade - Prince Aguiluz, Karla Arenas-Ramirez, Cristian Avalos Diego, Verenice Bustamante, Kimberly Delgado Benitez, Eniya Finch, Giovanni Granados Estrada, Karen Hernandez Diaz, Daniel Hernandez, Carolind Manzanarez, Angela Perez Valdez, Daphne Zagada Orbe

A/B HONOR ROLLS
3rd Grade - Milagros Aguilon Casarrubias, Keri Alston, Karol Amezquita Preciado, Kevin Anguiano Vallejo, Rosa Cuanalo Vazquez, Nashly Flores Larios, Josias Gonzalez, Zaeda Headen, Connor Henley, Reyna Hernandez Manuel, David Hernandez, Araceli Jimenez Gonzalez, Elijah June, Valery Lazaro Mejia, Isabel Mejia, Leonardo Ocampo Munoz, Vanessa Pascual Jimenez, Gadeel Perez Tolentino, Jan Perez, Chrissa Quiles-Durham, Maria Ramirez, Melanie Rodriguez Perez, Alondra Zagada Orbe, Jefferson Zarate-Rivera

4th Grade - Alexander Anguiano Martinez, Alexia Archila Zagada, Yoheved Camacho, Hernan Cortez Rodriguez, Titiana Escobar Umanzor, Angela Fernandez Rodriguez, Laura Flores Sierra, Josue Francisco Martin, Carolyn Hawkins, Malachi Hedgepeth, Penelope Heyden, Oliver Juarez De Paz, Vivian Lambert-Tucker, Erick Lopez Martinez, Ashley Lopez, Belinda Marino Morales, Kevin Martinez, Sergio Montiel Vargas, Shyann Morris, Nicole Nieto Salazar, Johan Soriano Pacheco, Crystal Sorrell, Edwin Soto Tolentino, Vladimir Vargas Zarate, Danna Vasquez Diaz, Bella Vasquez, Alondra Velasquez Castro, Janiyah White

5th Grade - Vereirene Bustamante, Cristian Cordero Martinez, Damaris Cruz Berrios, Uriel Davalos-Orozco, Arely Escalona Santana, Sandra Francisco Martin, Breanna Harris, Yazmany Hernandez Romero, Yasmin Hernandez, Ashlee Herrera, Christian Ichel Vicente, Brisley Montiel-Vargas, Kirk Morgado, Yarei Padilla Balderas, Alexa Pita-Garcia, Rocio Ramirez Solano, Carol Sanchez Avila, Kayleen Sanchez Siguina, Jada Scott, Emanuel Soto Cruz, Sofia Suarez Arroyo, Natalie Wright, Michelle Wuester

NEWS BRIEFS

National Work Zone Awareness Week April 20-24

RALEIGH — North Carolinians are urged to follow the governor's stay at home order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but if you must travel, the NCDOT urges motorists use caution and avoid distractions, especially in work zones.

And just because fewer vehicles are on the roads, the DOT reminds drivers, it doesn't mean it's time to drive faster.

National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 20-24, and NCDOT wants to keep everyone safe as transportation projects under construction continue.

NCDOT urges drivers to: Stay alert and pay attention to signs, work zone flaggers and their equipment; avoid using mobile phones or changing radio stations; obey posted speed limits and don't tailgate.

— CN + R staff reports



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RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS - Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

FARM EQUIPMENT

FERGUSON 30 SERIES TRACTOR. Good shape, \$2,250. Bobby Wilson, 919-548-7617 or 919-837-5836, A16,23,2tp

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SERVICES

AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE NEEDS - All your grass mowing, weed-eating, bushhogging, aerator, plugging and fertilizing needs. Call Mike, 336-467-1081. A2,9,16,23,4tp

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JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

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LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

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LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE Chatham County Schools is developing the following federal projects in keeping with the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act: Title I (Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards) Title II (Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers) Title III (Language Acquisition) Title IV A (Student Support, Academic Enrichment, Career and Technical Education) McKinney-Vento (Homeless Education)

Migrant education program IDEA (Students with Disabilities) — The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446): This project, which is being amended, pertains to the special education programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for federal funding for the 2020-21 school year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this federal program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open for public review and comments during the week of April 20-24, 2020, in the office of Melvin Diggs, the executive director of exceptional children and academically gifted and intellectually gifted programs in Chatham County Schools, located at 79 South Horton Street, Pittsboro, NC, 27312. These projects describe the programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for federal funding for the 2020-21 school year. Interested persons are encouraged to review the federal guidelines for the projects listed above and indicate their interest in participation if qualified. These projects are being developed in April and May and are due to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction by June 30, 2020. The initial meeting regarding equitable services for private schools is April 28, 2020, at 2 p.m. in the Chatham County Schools Boardroom, 369 West Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Interested parties should contact Carol Little, executive director federal programs and school improvement for Chatham County Schools.

M26,A2,A9,A16,A23,5tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified on the 16th day of March, 2020 as Executrix, of the Estate of JOYCE ANN WEISER, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of June, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of March 2020. William Edward Weiser of the Estate of Joyce Ann Weiser PO Box 51579 Durham, NC 27717-1579 Gwendolyn C. Brooks, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707

M26,A2,A9,A16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 2020 E 68 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of BETTY WALL BREWINGTON, deceased, late of Chatham County, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at 85B Rocky Knolls, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27516, on or before the 26th day of June, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 19th day of March, 2020. Ricky Lee Austin 85B Rocky Knolls Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516 Gunn & Messick, LLP Post Office Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

M26,A2,A9,A16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 131 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of WILLIAM WOOLSEY AKA WILLIAM HENRY WOOLSEY, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before June 26, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of March, 2020. Evelyn Woolsey Burger, Executrix 909 Beltline Blvd Columbia, SC 29205

M26,A2,A9,A16,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK 20 E 126 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS HAVING qualified before the Honorable Dana Hackney, Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, as executor of the estate of KATHLEEN SUE KAZEMIAN, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of June, 2020, or this notice shall be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment. This the 26th day of March, 2020, and the 2nd, 9th, and 16th days of April, 2020. Mohammad A. Kazemian, Executor of the Estate of Kathleen Sue Kazemian 12020 Iredell Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Harry B. Crow, Jr. Attorney for the Estate 315-B North Main Street Monroe, NC 28112 Telephone: 704-283-1175

M26,A2,A9,A16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DONALD E. HUNTER NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against DONALD E. HUNTER, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Lewis N. Lampiris, as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before June 26, 2020, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400, Naples, FL 34108, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executor. This the 24th day of March, 2020. Gregory Herman-Giddens, Executor c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty. Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400 Naples, FL 34108

M26,A2,A9,A16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 141 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of RHONDA L. SMITH, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before June 26, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 26th day of March, 2020. Willissa C. Smith, Administrator

2322 NC Hwy 902 Pittsboro, NC 27312 M26,A2,A9,A16,4tp

LEGAL NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of The Estate of MARIE KIVETT ISELEY AKA CLADIE MARIE KIVETT ISELEY of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against her estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July, 2020, or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to her estate please make immediate payment. This is the 2nd day of April, 2020. John Monte Iseley, Executor 11007 S. NC Hwy 49 Liberty, NC 27298 Andrew M. Brower Wilson, Carlson & Brower, PLLC 605 N. Asheboro St. Liberty, NC 27298 Telephone: (336)-622-2267

A2,A9,A16,A23,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 26 day of March, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of BRAD JACKSON CRACE, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of July, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 27th day of March, 2020. Shelly A. Crace, Administrator of The Estate of Brad Jackson Crace 172 Canopy Pittsboro, NC 27312 c/o Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330

A2,A9,A16,A23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against PATRICK A. CABE, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 2nd, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 2nd day of April, 2020. Suellen Cabe, Executor Estate of Patrick A. Cabe c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514

A2,A9,A16,A23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 151 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of BETTY JEAN MERRITT, deceased,

of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 2, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 27th day of March, 2020. Co-Executors: Christopher P. Cox 795 Thomas Kelly Rd Sanford, NC 27330 Shawn A. Cox 370 Thomas Kelly Rd Sanford, NC 27330

A2,A9,A16,A23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against JAMES H. DIGGS aka JAMES HENRY DIGGS of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 20th day of March, 2020, are notified to present them to Fred Edgar Diggs, Executor of the Estate of James H. Diggs aka James Henry Diggs in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before July 16, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs. Those indebted to Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834

A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against NORMA NORTON DIGGS aka NORMA N. DIGGS of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 18th day of December, 2019, are notified to present them to Fred Edgar Diggs, Executor of the Estate of Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone,

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.

Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

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Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before July 16, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs. Those indebted to Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834

A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 161 The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JENNIFER DAWN SIEFKE, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, 1699 Cedar Grove



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Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 9th day of July, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 6th day of April, 2020. Pamela J. Johncox, Administrator 1699 Cedar Grove Road Pittsboro, North Carolina

27312
GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina
27312-0880
A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

LOCAL NOTICE
As Part of the Environmental Notification Process for the Federal Communications

Commission (FCC's) Antenna Structure Registration. Chatham County is proposing to construct a 315 feet (including appurtenance) telecommunication tower at 400 Progress Blvd., Siler City, NC 27344. The antenna structure is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to have marking and/or lighting for aviation safety. Interested persons may review the application for this project by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications and entering the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1162345". Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with

the FCC within 30 days of this posting. Instructions for filing such requests can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Parties wishing to submit a request by mail may send the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

A16,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 171
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Executor of the Estate of **DORIS YATES GOODWIN**, deceased, of Cha-

tham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of April, 2020. Roger Goodwin, Executor 1318 Olives Chapel Road Apex, NC 27502

A16,A23,A30,M7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 86
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified a Administrator of the Estate of **VICKIE HEARNE BEDNAR**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of April, 2020. Joni Bowling, Administrator PO Box 446 Pittsboro, NC 27312

A16,A23,A30,M7,4tp

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I feel, Gentle Reader, as if I have cheated you.

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Most years I do at least one Easter column and share a related recipe. Lots of spring veg, brunch dishes, and light, fresh desserts. One year I did a multi-part egg series. Each year I have my ducklings (Ducklings/Easter, see what I did?) in a row and am fully prepared weeks in advance.

But this year. This horrible year with its microscopic foe that most of us can only fight by hanging around the house in our pajamas and getting take-out delivered. Where every day is like the one before, yet time marches on.

In other words, I forgot about Easter until late last week. I'm sorry.

Submitted photo

White Chocolate Pistachio Cheesecake. Recipe courtesy of Chef Jason Cunningham and the Washington Duke Inn.

So, this week's recipe would've made a perfect Easter dessert — it's pastel-colored and has fresh springtime flavor. But it's also just right for adding to that list of

time-consuming dishes which just might burn off an entire one of these strange, phantasmagorical, quarantine days. You might not know

what tomorrow will look like Gentle Reader, but there could be cheesecake. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcitymom.com.

White Chocolate Pistachio Cheesecake

Recipe courtesy of Chef Jason Cunningham and the Washington Duke Inn.

Yield: 1 Standard Springform Pan

Crust:

- 3/4 cup Graham Cracker Crumbs

Preheat oven to 350°. Wrap outside of springform pan in foil and grease inside. Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly. Press firmly and evenly into bottom of pan and one inch up sides. Place on center oven rack and bake for 10 minutes, remove from oven and allow to cool completely before filling.

Cheesecake:

- 8 oz White Chocolate (squares or chips)
- 24 oz Cream Cheese, softened at room temperature
- 3/4 cup Granulated Sugar

Preheat oven to 300°. Place cream cheese, sugar and flour, and pistachio paste in mixing bowl and cream until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Scrape bowl. Melt white chocolate. Using electric mixer on low speed, mix melted chocolate into cream cheese mixture. Keeping mixer on low, slowly beat in vanilla and cream then blend well. Pour mixture into prepared pan on top of crust. Place cheesecake pan in warm water bath and bake at 300° on center rack for 50 minutes or until center is just firm. Remove from oven and water bath and allow to cool at room temperature for one hour. Refrigerate until set before removing from pan.

Notes:

Pistachio paste can be found at gourmet grocers and online. It has a tremendous shelf life when refrigerated and can usually be purchased in small quantities.

For service in the Fairview, we “deconstruct” this cheesecake for presentation of an individual-made portion. The recipe for the crust is scaled down to produce about one-fourth of what we prepare in our kitchen. We mix all ingredients and bake on sheet pans and then crumble it up for presentation on the plate.

The cheesecakes we serve are baked in individual portion silicone molds. The method is the same but we produce a batch of cheesecake batter that is three times what is listed in the recipe here. The batter is poured into the molds and the molds placed in a water bath on sheet pans. Once cooked, we allow the cheesecakes to set and then we freeze them before un-molding. Once removed from the molds we dip the sides of the cheesecake in white chocolate for added texture and flavor.

- 1/3 cup Granulated Sugar
- 1/4 cup Butter, Melted
- 1/2 cup roasted and chopped pistachios
- 1/2 tsp Almond Extract

- 1/4 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 3 Eggs
- 1/2 cup Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1 tbs Pistachio Paste

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A pleasant day for a ride

Spring is in bloom in Chatham County and the weather is just right for a nice bike ride. These cyclists — including Lance Harden of Moncure and Aaron Robinson of Pittsboro, facing the camera — passed fellow riders on this stretch of Chicken Bridge Road one day last week.

New order puts teeth in NC social distancing rules for retailers

BY FRANK TAYOR
Carolina Public Press

For weeks, Gov. Roy Cooper and state health officials have urged residents and retailers to follow social distancing practices that will slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Starting at 5 p.m. Monday, that encouragement will include new maximum occupancy standards and mandated social distancing markings for retail businesses, as well as new requirements for frequent cleaning of stores. Any violations of these rules will be punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

The latest in a flood of executive orders from the governor in recent weeks, a new order Cooper announced last Thursday also includes additional provisions to encourage social distancing and promote the health of North Carolina residents living or working in long-term care facilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

As Cooper introduced

the new rules at a press conference with N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen, they also joined in calling on residents to sacrifice family and religious traditions during Easter and Passover to promote public health this year.

New deal for retailers
Normal maximum occupancy standards for retailers are set to protect people from becoming trapped in a fire. Under the governor's new order, to prevent damage to health from the very different threat of a contagious disease, the new maximum occupancy will be 20 percent of the previously stated fire capacity for the business. If a business has a capacity of 100, then it will be allowed to have no more than 20 combined customers and employees on-site at any time.

In addition, no more than five customers will be allowed for every 1,000 square feet of a business, including areas that are not normally accessible to

customers.

Retailers will be required to post staff at exits and entrances to control these limits and have the numbers for the business posted in a conspicuous place.

Stores will also have to place markings six feet apart at cash register lines and other high-traffic areas, such as deli lines.

Space must also be marked outside the business to help customers who are waiting due to the reduced maximum capacity rule.

Besides social distancing, stores are ordered to perform "frequent and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas with a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency" for killing the new coronavirus.

The order notes that if businesses can't enforce the new rules, then they will have to close.

While previous state orders deferred to local orders when they are

stricter, this time the governor said he wants uniformity, and the new state orders for maximum occupancy will be the law, preempting any existing or new local rules, regardless of which is stricter.

While those measures will have the force of law, Cooper included language in his order encouraging businesses to supply and train employees to use protective masks, tell sick employees to stay home, mark six-foot spacings within staff-only areas, and provide both employees and customers with sanitizer and disinfecting wipes at entrances and exits.

Cooper also encouraged stores to have designated shopping times for seniors, who are considered high-risk for more severe illness if they become infected with the virus.

The governor recommended the use of one-way shopping aisles, curbside pickup and no-contact checkout to further assist in social distancing.

Long-term care measures

A separate section of Cooper's latest order places new mandatory requirements on skilled nursing facilities, which are optional but strongly encouraged for other long-term care facilities.

This action comes after several long-term care facilities across North Carolina had large outbreaks of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, this week, including in some counties that had relatively few other cases.

Skilled nursing facilities will have to ask staff to stay home if they are unwell, screen staff for symptoms and elevated temperature, cancel communal dining and group activities inside and outside the facility, require all staff to wear masks as long as supplies are available and monitor all residents for symptoms.

They will also be required to immediately notify the local health department if any resident has a new case of COVID-19, confirmed or

suspected. A cluster of three or more residents or staff with new-onset respiratory illness within 72 hours will also trigger a notice to local health officials.

The provisions in the order for long-term care facilities go into effect at 5 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Worship and holidays
"It has been strange not going to church on Sundays," Cooper said during last Thursday's press conference. "It will be hard not to be in the pew on Easter Sunday."

But Cooper and Cohen encouraged residents to observe their faiths and celebrate the holidays while exercising social distancing.

Cohen described attending a long-distance Passover observance with family members in multiple states this week.

"This year's holidays will look a little different for all of us," Cooper said. But he called on residents to make sacrifices now to ensure the state's long-term ability to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.



A new shade for spring

This Native Woodland phlox, *Phlox divaricate*, grows best when in a little bit of shade. This ornamental plant's vibrant bluish flowers add lovely color to a central Carolina spring.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Worth knowing.
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