

Chatham News + Record

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A life after trauma

The long-term effects of child abuse and how Chatham County is responding

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series about child abuse and neglect in Chatham County. The series concludes next week.

In his 2014 book "The Body Keeps the Score," Boston University psychiatry professor Dr. Bessel van der Kolk explores the deep and lasting impacts of trauma.

It's not pretty. "One does not have to be a combat soldier, or visit a refugee camp in Syria or the

Congo to encounter trauma," he writes on the book's opening page. "Trauma happens to us, our friends, our families, and our neighbors."

Dr. van der Kolk cites research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about those growing up: one in five Americans are sexually molested as child, one in four received beatings by parents that left a mark, one in four grew up with alcoholic relatives and one in eight witnessed their mother being beaten or hit.

Those things leave a proverbial scar, he says.

"While we all want to move beyond trauma, the part of our brain that is devoted to ensuring our survival (deep below our rational brain) is not very good at denial," Dr. van der Kolk writes. "Long after a traumatic experience is over, it may be reactivated at the slightest hint of danger and mobilized disturbed brain circuits and secrete massive amounts of stress hormones."

Chatham County's children experience this — and the numbers that are more at-risk to do so are growing. In the calendar

See **ABUSE**, page A7

CHILD ABUSE
in Chatham County

580 Reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency in Chatham County in 2019, a 31% increase from 2018.

108 Children in the foster care system in Chatham County in 2019, a 20% increase from 2018.

From FY2021 County Budget Proposal

- "High case load demand in Child Protective Services"
- Number of children in foster care "reached an unprecedented level."
- Placed "because of parental substance abuse or domestic violence."

Source: Chatham County Community Child Protection Team report, Chatham County Government

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

ASPIRING SINGER/SONGWRITER

With radio play, Jordan Pickett makes splash

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The music industry, aspiring artists are often told, is hard to break into.

Witness the long lines of young talent ever-eager to compete on a string of television showcases, from "American Idol" to "The Voice," and the few among them who rise to the top.

Jordan Pickett has heard it, too.

"It's definitely a hard road," said the rising Chatham Central High School senior and aspiring singer/songwriter. "That's what I've heard from everyone and I've found it true myself. I've had my battles and my difficulties with it."

But far from lamenting those challenges, Pickett is forging forward with a positive attitude and a budding career.

"I'm making my way right now," the Siler City native said, "and I'm having fun with it. We'll just ride this train and see where it goes."

At 17, he's recently recorded his first CD — it's called "Who I Am," and Pickett penned all five tracks — and one of his original songs, "It's Called Dirt," recently got a big boost with airplay on 94.7 FM WQDR, the Raleigh country music radio station. And before the coronavirus pandemic, he was playing a lot of live gigs

See **PICKETT**, page A12



Submitted photo

At 17, Siler City native Jordan Pickett has recorded a CD of original tunes and launched a performing career, getting various local gigs. "It's Called Dirt," an original song, has recently gotten a big boost with airplay on 94.7 FM WQDR, a Raleigh-based country music radio station.



Submitted photos

From left, the Raleigh-based Black Box Dance Theatre, Pittsboro's Diali Cissokho and the John Brown Little Big Band from Chapel Hill are among the artists participating in the Chatham Arts Council's online Artists-in-Schools Initiative during COVID-19.

Online residencies offering Chatham students a new art education experience

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Pittsboro's Diali Cissokho said it's "weird" to him. "It's so different, it's so different to me because I've never done it. It's what they call a 'life change.' If life is changing, you've got to follow life."

He's talking about the Chatham Arts Council's Artists-in-Schools Initiative, the yearly art education program moving for the first time to a digital platform in order to reach students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cissokho, who's from Senegal and regularly works with Chatham students to teach them about African music and drums, is one of several artists participating. And while he admits he doesn't really like the set-up, it's a growth experience for him.

"It makes me think, 'I need to grow up. I need to learn so many things,'" he said. "It's opened so many good ideas for me. It's helping me to do this doing performances online, teaching them what I do, telling them the story online."

The CAC's regular initiative

brings professional artists like Cissokho into Chatham schools "to help (students) make deeper curriculum connections through art, theater and music," according to an organization press release. Moving this program online is the logical step for the program, according to CAC Executive Director Cheryl Chamblee.

"When the stay-at-home order went into effect, we immediately began brainstorming ways to continue this valuable program by pivoting to an online version," she said. "We have seen first-hand the powerful connection being made when the arts are leveraged to support core curriculum."

The first stay-at-home order closed schools to in-person classes at first for two weeks, then a month-and-a-half, then the rest of the school year. The CAC's videos, Chamblee said, will provide "something to help" teachers and parents by providing an educational experience through video.

Cissokho's West African musicianship will be joined by,

See **ART**, page A12

Watkins, Rojas join CN+R's staff as summer interns

CN+R Staff Report

Caroline Watkins, a recent University of Missouri graduate, and Olivia Rojas, a rising sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill, have begun work as summer interns in the newsroom of the News + Record.

Watkins is one of six Missouri School of Journalism graduates chosen for the school's Reynolds Journalism Institute's Student Innovation Fellowship's summer program. The McLean, Virginia, resident will join five other RJI interns helping news outlets look at new ways of reaching audiences, growing revenue and distributing their content during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We wanted to help the newsrooms and the students during this crisis," says Kat Duncan, interim director of innovation at RJI. "At RJI, we are always looking for methods to help journalists and ensure a bright future for us all. I am sure these amazing students will



Rojas



Watkins

help us get there." The Chatham News + Record joins outlets that include The Washington Post and the Knoxville News Sentinel in being awarded the prestigious internships.

Publisher Bill Horner III said Watkins will work to create new distribution channels for the News + Record's content and share content in existing digital channels in better, more consistent ways — particularly with Instagram and a new platform for the newspaper, TikTok.

"The work we're having Caroline do would not be as much of a focus

See **INTERNS**, page A3

FOR BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY PANDEMIC

News + Record offering two new ad programs

News + Record Staff

The News + Record has created two new marketing programs — one featuring free advertising, the other offering \$30,000 in matching stimulus grants — for Chatham businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's how the two programs work:

'WE'RE OPEN'

Beginning this week, the newspaper is offering "We're Open!" advertising to any Chatham County business re-opening after a forced closure related to COVID-19. The News + Record will publish an ad valued at more than \$75 to any business previously deemed non-essential or forced to close at no charge in order to give businesses a

chance to tell the community their doors are open.

To claim the free advertisement, businesses can email the following to Dawn Parker, the newspaper's advertising specialist, at dawn@chathamnr.com:

- Photo (high-resolution .jpg) from the business. Selfies are welcome.
- Name, address and telephone number for the business, as well as business hours
- Business logo (high-resolution).
- Your name and best contact information in case there are questions.

The News + Record is also including a running "What's Open" ticker of business on its website at https://chatham.whatsopenhere.com.

"Some businesses have flourished

See **BUSINESS**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

Siler City considers 84-unit affordable housing community. **PAGE A2**

Chatham gets more than \$84K in federal funds for response. **PAGE A3**

Memorial Day: Remembering America's fallen heroes. **PAGE A5**

Health Alliance uses social media to raise #chathamspirit. **PAGE B2**



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 work sessions on the budget at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22. A third budget work session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28.

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://chatham-history.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.

THURSDAY

• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** - We provide a healthy, appetizing meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of

race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

• **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.

UPCOMING

• **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is planning to hold our rescheduled 2020 Women's Build event from August 27 - 29. Registration will open in mid-summer on our website, and those who signed up for the April event will receive first priority. Assuming our new normal allows for events such as the Women's Build, we will gather together in a few months. These dates may change, and additional ones may open as well. Mark your calendars and hope for the best. The Participate from Home benefit is still in effect - a donation of at least \$25 will get you a t-shirt and certificate during the month of the event.

ALSO HAPPENING

• With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council

has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: **Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

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

• **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.

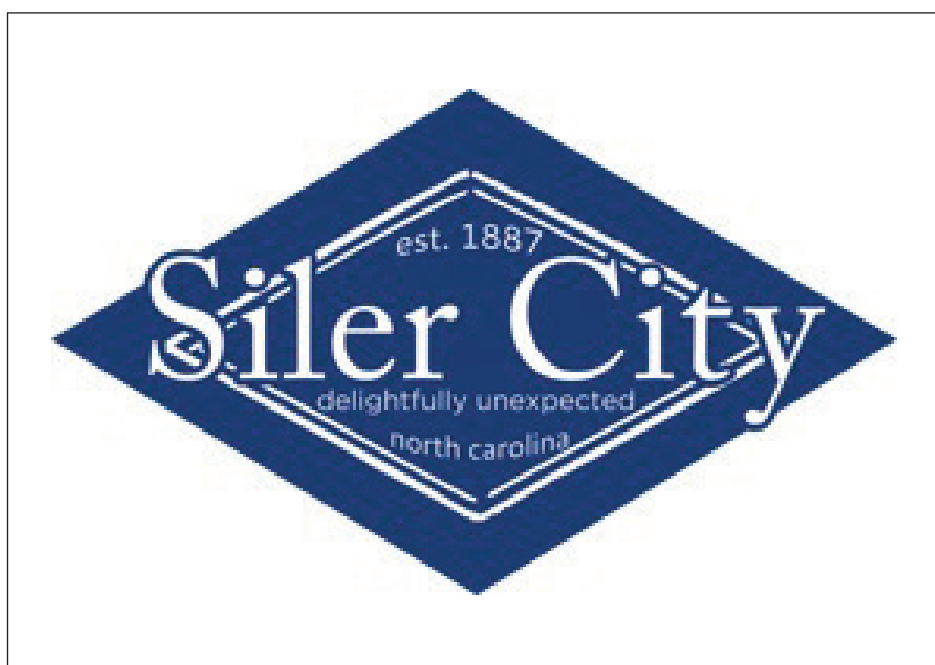
• **Foster and/or adoptive information** - Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent. Call 642-6956 to learn more.

• **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.



SILER CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 84-unit affordable housing community considered

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of Commissioners reviewed on Monday a proposed 84-unit affordable housing community to be located near Chatham Hospital.

The project, estimated to cost about \$10.5 million, will include four multi-family buildings with one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, as well as a community center, recreation areas and a community garden for the residents. Wallick Asset Management, a company that specializes in affordable housing, is hoping to receive \$10 million in federal low-income tax credits for the community.

The goal of the housing community is to provide residences for those families who earn 30-80 percent of the area's median income of \$70,000 — or families making between \$21,000 and \$56,000 a year.

According to Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, a policy analyst with the Chatham County Manager's Office who has been working with the developer, this type of affordable housing project, with a diversity of income ranges, is "extremely important." Typically, housing that serves the lowest ends of the income spectrum require a lot of subsidies, but by mixing the income levels, the community will be able to provide homes

for the most needy and balance that investment by allowing other workforce tenants to qualify.

In January, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved an \$85,000 low-interest loan for Wallick from the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund after being chosen by the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Chatham County Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson, who has also been working with Wallick, reiterated Cruz' point.

"It's an income-leveling project," said Thompson, who preceded current Siler City/Town Manager Roy Lynch in that position. "With income leveling, that allows for greater access to allow those with higher incomes so those with lower incomes have [an opportunity for housing]. It's a nice mix of income so you're not focusing on poverty."

Wallick Asset Management proposed constructing the community in phases, which would allow them to begin welcoming tenants as the phases progress. The first phase would be to construct the clubhouse, with each subsequent phase including one of the four residential buildings.

During Monday's public hearing on the community, Siler City resident S.T. Phillips raised concerns about the impact of this type of housing, specifically

in terms of crime rate and how the community is maintained over time. Wallick representative Jennifer Lampman noted the company is "committed to affordable housing on a long-term basis" where it holds its assets "indefinitely."

"I think some of the concerns that are brought up are because of some of older (U.S. Dept. of) Housing and Urban Development projects that have had a tougher reputation over the years," Lampman said. "The low income tax credit allows us to hit a broader range of families. They are working. They have to have jobs. I can't speak to that study [referenced by Phillips], I can only speak to our own integrity."

Commissioner Bill Haiges raised a concern about increased traffic around Campus Drive, where the community is to be located, as a result of the additional residents. The board discussed generally the process of requesting the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, which maintains the surrounding roadways, to install street lights. Lampman agreed to work with the town staff and NCDOT to encourage the department to consider such an installation.

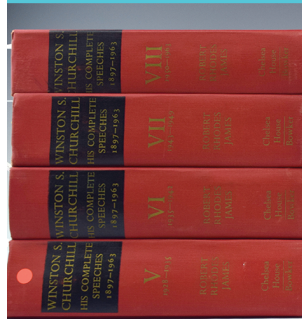
The board will revisit the matter at its first regular board meeting in June.

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

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Chip Pate for Chatham News + Record

BUSINESS

Continued from page A1

during the pandemic, but most, as we know, have struggled,” News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III said. “This is a small way for us to help re-opening businesses share that message with customers and potential customers.”

The first business to claim its free “We’re Open” ad is Bobby Steele of Siler City’s Countryside Collectibles; the ad can be found on page A9.

MATCHING GRANT

The News + Record recently was named one of just nine North Carolina media outlets, and one of just two community newspapers in the state, as a recipient of a grant from The Facebook Journalism Project COVID-19 Local News Relief Fund. The newspaper will use its \$30,300 grant to report about the impact of COVID-19 on the county, particularly among Chatham’s Latinx population.

Work on that project will kick off in the next few weeks, according to Horner.

“The competition for the Facebook Journalism grants was pretty stiff,” he said. “We feel fortunate to have been selected. We’re getting a \$30,300 grant to help us, so I thought it would be appropriate for us to find a way to give back to the community and to the businesses which support us.”

To that end, the newspaper is offering matching spending stimulus grants in the amounts of \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000 to any local business, up to \$30,000 in total. The grants are a dollar-for-dollar match in new ad campaign spending, meaning, for example, that any business which claims a \$500 grant will get options for a \$1,000 advertising package to be published by the end of August with \$500 spent.

For more information about the matching grant, contact Horner at bhorner3@chathamnr.com (or by phone at 919-774-2728), or Parker by email (dawn@chathamnr.com) or by phone at 919-930-9668.

INTERNS

Continued from page A1

without the fellowship,” Horner said. “With our small staff, we don’t have much bandwidth to focus on these platforms, as important as they are. Caroline will step in and immediately make a difference for us.”

Horner said Watkins, who has primarily a broadcast journalism background, will be given free rein to experiment with other platforms as well — including weekly audio news programs and potentially a video news show.

Watkins previously interned with CBS News in London and with CNN International in Atlanta. “For us, it’s all about

audience engagement and building audience and brand and eventually helping our business model,” Horner said. “I also think having someone with Caroline’s broadcast background and her other unique internship experiences will also help us look more critically at the ways we work and produce content for our print product.”

Through this fellowship, Watkins hopes to hone her audience engagement skills and learn more about effective social media storytelling techniques and engagement metrics. She is also looking forward to helping the newspaper create digital video content for its website and social media channels, as well as to cover COVID-19

stories on a local level after interning in two international newsrooms, she says.

“Particularly in a time like now, when the world is facing a pandemic, it’s more important than ever to keep readers informed through innovative storytelling,” Watkins said. “I’m incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to work at The Chatham News + Record this summer. I am looking forward to working on audience engagement and experimenting with various social media storytelling tools. It is such a critical time for local news, and I’m looking forward to creating meaningful, innovative content for the community.”

After working in two international newsrooms

within the past year, she said she was eager to get back to local news — and to “help keep this community informed during the COVID-19 crisis.”

“The Chatham News + Record is an innovative, forward-thinking paper, and I’m grateful to be a part of the team this summer,” she said.

Missouri’s Duncan said she picked the News + Record as a partner for the fellowship program because the newspaper’s proposal included “a passion for journalism and a drive to use social platforms in new ways to engage with readers and share content.”

“I think they are a great fit for Caroline because she will get to experiment with innovative initiatives to help the Chatham News + Record grow, while building upon her own skills,” Duncan said.

Other RJI fellows will work at Associated Press, the Columbia Missourian and Carolina Panorama in South Carolina. Each receives a \$5,000 stipend from RJI’s Palmer Innovation Endowment and are required to work between 30 to 40 hours a week for 12 weeks through Aug. 7.

RJI plans to highlight the students’ work in its RJI’s Innovation in Focus web series. Students will share their work, interview journalism professionals and produce tips sheets to help other newsrooms interested in pursuing innovative projects. They’ll take part in weekly Zoom meetings with Duncan to talk about what they’re learning and write about the experience for RJI.

Rojas, 19, is a native of Redwood City, California, but moved to

Sanford when she was just a few months old. She’s planning a major in journalism and a minor in conflict management at UNC.

She describes herself as a “proud Peruvian-Puerto Rican-American.” “I value my culture as well as the different cultures of others,” Rojas said. “I’m a huge advocate for diversity and inclusion and I strive to be culturally competent in any environment.”

Rojas previously interned twice at Lenovo in Morrisville, where she wrote news stories for internal company publications and worked with Lenovo Cares—the company’s giving and volunteering program.

“I worked as a communications and community relations intern with Lenovo’s PC and Smart Devices group in the summer of 2017 and I worked as a junior communications specialist intern with Lenovo’s Data Center Group in the summer of 2018,” she said. “I’m very grateful for my experiences there. It showed me that I wanted to pursue a career in media.”

Rojas also has experience in reporting as a reporter for The Daily Tar Heel — UNC’s independent student-run news organization.

“I started writing for The Daily Tar Heel during the second semester of my first year at school. I was a reporter for the University Desk which covers any news related to the campus,” she said.

She said she was excited for the internship because she knows it will allow her to have real world experience through storytelling.

“I’m looking forward to getting to know the Chatham community and being able to tell the stories for those who are not able to tell it themselves,” she said.

Chatham to receive more than \$84K in federal funds for COVID-19 response

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County government now knows how much money it will get from a federal government grant to help the county’s response to COVID-19.

The Chatham County Public Health Department will receive \$84,834 in funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of federal aid in responding to the pandemic.

The money is part of an \$8.3 billion package approved by Congress in early March as part of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, which flew through Congress and had the approval of nearly every lawmaker, including U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R-Greensboro), who represents Chatham.

Mike Zelek, director of health promotion and policy at the CCPHD, said this type of funding is “always helpful and is especially important during a pandemic.”

“These funds will help us support the Chatham community, including with items like protective equipment and boosting testing capacity,” he said. “We are combining these funds with additional sources to strengthen response efforts, and will continue to work with our great partners as well.”

Chatham’s grant is among the more than \$13.8 million distributed to North Carolina from the CDC.

The county will officially receive the money after Monday’s Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting, during which the board is expected to approve in its consent agenda an agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services about

Federal Funds for COVID-19

\$569 million
FOR STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

\$13.8 million
FOR NC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

\$84,834
FOR CHATHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SOURCES: U.S. CONGRESS, CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

how to spend the money. The primary purpose of the additional funding, according to the agreement, is to “implement and scale-up laboratory testing and data collection to enable identification and tracking of COVID-19 cases in the community with emphasis placed on priority populations as defined in NC DHHS guidance to include health care workers, first responders, persons in high-risk congregate settings, and persons at a higher risk of severe illness, and immediate implementation of real-time reporting.”

Zelek said the CCPHD has not yet determined exactly how the funding will be used, but that

“several planning discussions about expending funds” have already occurred and will continue.

“Like all things COVID-19,” Zelek said, “it is difficult to have anything set in stone because things shift daily. For example, testing availability through a community partner may expand, or an event may occur that requires additional protective equipment. We do our best to be proactive while remaining flexible to best respond to changing conditions.”

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

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VIEWPOINTS

I found a note my grandfather typed 50 years ago. He scribbled ‘not in character’ on it. My dad kept it.



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

We're preparing for a move, and in doing some closet-cleaning over the weekend I came across a 50-year-old note tucked away in a small box of family memorabilia.

Typewritten on the inside of a small plain “thank you” card — like me, my grandfather had notoriously poor handwriting, so he'd resort to his typewriter when he could — it's dated Aug. 19, 1970. The note opens with thanks from my grandfather to my dad for reminding him (referencing the hospitalization of a mutual friend) “that maybe my problems are not as great as some.”

“How true you are, as I told you,” my grandfather, Bill Horner Sr., who founded *The Sanford Herald*, in 1930, continued. “Every day I am reminded again of what Jim Hoyle” — he was a Lee County attorney and state senator — “told me a decade ago when he said, ‘Mr.

Horner, despite the honors you have had, the best thing you have done in this world is raise three very fine children.’”

He then names some of his childhood playmates from Roxboro Street in Durham and what happened to them: one was convicted of murder, another became managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal (the newspaper which today prints the News + Record). Others, he says, “have done about average, as have I.”

My grandfather was incredibly driven; he was anything but average. He ultimately made and then donated a good portion of his wealth to hospitals and universities, and was a confidant of a long list of N.C. governors. At any rate, in the note, he then reflects about his own parents, and his children.

“While they were living, I was never able to present Mama and Papa some outstanding accomplishment; on the other hand, nothing really detrimental. Matter of fact, this is the way it is: Mama and Papa did better than their parents, I did somewhat better (in worldly possessions and place), and I know that

you and my other two children will do better than I. That's the American dream and tradition. Every generation betters the preceding. (Until somebody slips, which isn't happening now, and I pray will not, ever).”

“Pa,” as we grandchildren called him — he was 69 years old when he wrote the note — concludes: “I thank my Maker every day for my children, including you. My love always.” He hand-signed the note “Daddy.”

My grandfather wasn't known for sentiment. He started what became an immensely successful business during the Great Depression. Gumption, endless devotion to a task and tight-fistedness were just some of his trademarks. He also knew heartache: his younger sister was killed in Durham's first traffic accident, struck by a passing car while crossing the street after my grandfather called to her to come in the house for supper. He knew struggle. He demanded a lot from everyone around him, particularly his children — my late dad and his two older sisters, my Aunt Louise, who lives

in Greensboro, and my Aunt Nancy, who passed away six years ago, each of whom have their own long lists of accomplishments. Few could meet Pa's exacting standards. Many around him were targets of his quick-rising (and equally quickly-falling) temper. He could be a hard man and sometimes hard to get along with, but he had a tender and compassionate side that, like his temper, could be revealed in sudden and surprisingly discernible ways.

The vulnerability he showed in this note obviously made an impact on my father. It was among a very few pieces of correspondence dad kept. (Another notable keepsake was a scathing two-page letter Pa wrote in 1958 after making a trip to Chapel Hill one weekend to see dad while he was a student at UNC; dad wasn't on campus — he'd gone to Charlotte for a weekend of drinking and carousing with some of his fraternity brothers.)

Pa could be very self-effacing. After he typed this “thank you” note to my dad, he drew a bracket around the portion of it beginning with “and I know

that you and my other two children will do better than I” and scribbled in the margin, in parentheses: “not in character.”

As I read and re-read the note over the weekend, I wondered what prompted that “not in character” aside. Pa could be reflective and self-aware; my guess is that the comment was in recognition of his sometimes turbulent relationships with his children. Or it could be an attempt to distance himself from the peculiar emotions that accompany sentiment.

Or something else entirely. I'd love to ask him, or my dad, about it. Pa died in 1994, and my own dad passed away after a battle with cancer in 2005, so that's impossible now.

But as my dad did, I'll continue to hold on to the note. It's a tangible reminder of the importance of family, of keeping perspective about problems, and about the legacy we each build and then ultimately leave behind.

And about the bottom line, evident in this short note: gratitude and undying love. Important in 1970, and even more so today.

A perfect game



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

I've been playing Scrabble for almost as long as I can remember, introduced to the classic board game by my parents when I was young.

I most associate Scrabble with the beach, especially those trips to the North Carolina coast I remember from growing up. Every summer, we spent a week in early August at a rented ocean-front “cottage” — a durable old stilt house on a sparse stretch of sand and dune just south of Carolina Beach — and our family's well-used Scrabble set always went with us.

I was lucky to get to spend a week every summer at that place that, to me, felt like paradise. The days offered swimming in the ocean and body-surfing and tanning and walking and fishing. And the nights offered a long list of fun things, too, including Scrabble.

From evening to evening — and summer to summer — the players varied. Sometimes my sister might have a friend along for the week, or an aunt or uncle would show up; but I especially remember one epic game of Scrabble that pitted me — the kid — against my older sister, my father and my maternal grandmother, whose great skill with crossword puzzles also served her well in Scrabble.

As the designated underdog, I wanted to beat the competition. I even came close to doing it; was neck-and-neck with grandma, in fact, when she not only spelled a word to which I raised an objection, believing “utile” too convenient and absurd-sounding to be anything other than made-up, she also demonstrated the naked audacity to do so at the very spot on the playing board that I was eyeing for my next move, a move I knew would be a late-game game-changer.

It turned out, after sources came forward to confirm, that grandma — not the young upstart, surprisingly — was right. Utile was (is) a word. The play stood, the judges ruled. The game proceeded, my next move a disappointment after my planned play had been thwarted.

Though I went on to lose the game that night, some 45 years ago, on the plus side I learned a word, though there's still something about “utile” I find a little questionable, as real words go, “utile” not serving much practical linguistic purpose, best I can tell, beyond crosswords and Scrabble.

It was, as I said, an epic game. But for as long as I've played Scrabble, it took me all those years — until exactly last weekend — to participate in what I consider, without hyperbole, the perfect game.

The perfect game. That's a lot to live up to, especially for a game that started as rocky as this game did.

It was a two-player match

between me and wife Jessica.

The first move went to me. But I didn't have much to work, letter-wise.

I settled on “faux,” happy to have it.

Jessica parried that with “sand,” also four tiles.

From this tight little cross of letters we'd formed as our game's focal point — and scanning the challenging choice of letters that random selection had fated me with — I was pessimistic about the game ahead.

Then something started to happen.

Jessica, while I struggled to construct words like “wow” and “in,” was laying down “pitcher,” “bolted” and “tighten,” opening up new avenues of play and advancing her score.

We're pretty competitive. The game took off and by the end — after we'd laid down the last of the tiles — I was satisfied.

The board, for starters, showcased a widespread pattern spreading the entire span of the playing board, making full use of available space, while maximizing points.

The words we'd played were all everyday, normal words. No dictionaries were consulted, or harmed. No “utile” filled any gaps on our board.

We'd played every letter, too, with no pesky unplayable Q or V left over, no points to subtract.

And, most important, we'd had a lot of fun. Truth is, Scrabble for me is still mostly a beach tradition and Jessica and I hadn't played since our last trip there, way back. It felt good to dust off our game and shake up our Scrabble routine.

There remained just one thing left to determine: who won.

Scorekeeper Jessica, who'd tallied in increments as we played, added up the final block of points.

“Guess what?” she said, locking eyes with mine from across the table, her expression impenetrable.

She'd trailed me though some stretches, and vice versa, so I had no clue.

“It was a tie,” she said, holding up the score pad to show me the totals (268-R to 268-J) circled at the bottom.

I wasn't sure how she would react — like I said, we're pretty competitive — but I knew how I felt.

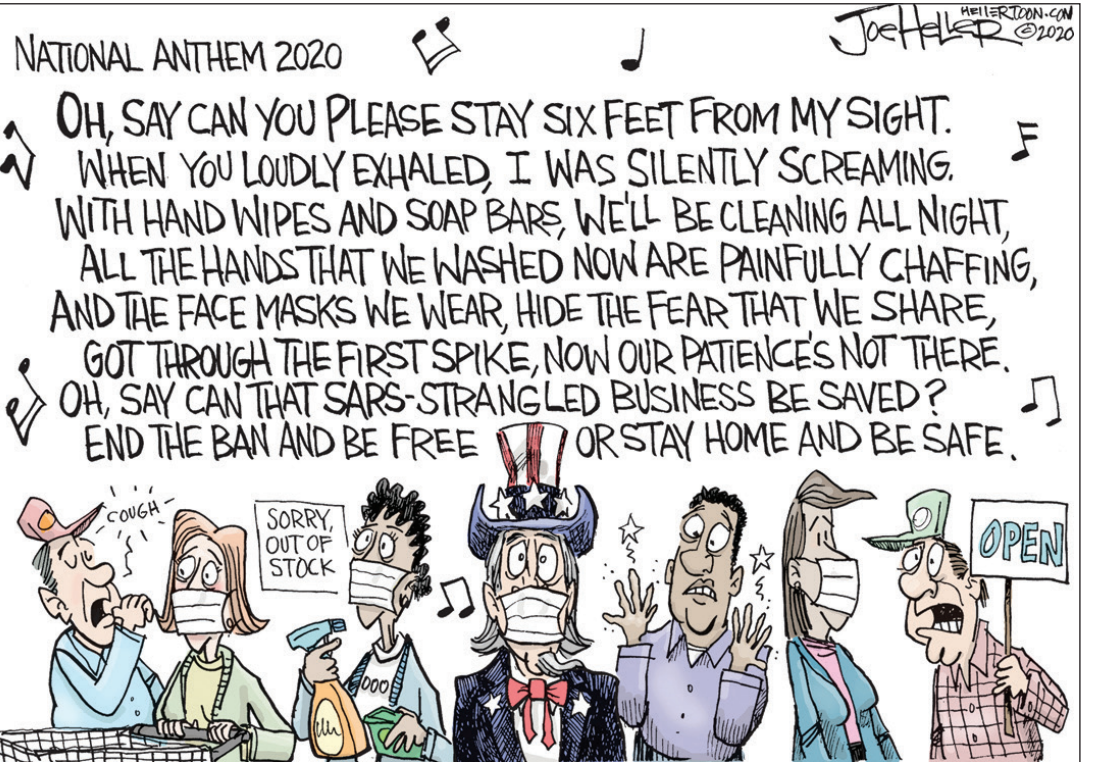
It was — and if it sounds self-serving or sappy, so be it — the perfect ending of the perfect game.

No winner. No loser. “That's a draw,” some might say; but, like “utile,” draw in this case seems not quite the right word.

Like its synonyms — “stalemate” and “dead heat” — the notion of a draw, to me, is negative; neutral, at best, but too pessimistic-sounding for my current tastes.

I call it this: a mutual win. If one wins is awesome, two wins — to coin a word — is awesome.

In a two-player match, in fact, it doesn't get any better than that. To coin another word, it's the awesomest. And isn't that the most utile definition of perfect there is?



Is it fruit or vegetable? Doesn't matter for 'mater



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

In our world today, there are all kinds of awards and honors — Oscars, Tonys, Emmys, military medals and ribbons, North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the award I got from my college buddies for being the best sleeper on the second floor of Mangu Dorm and missing the most classes, just to name a few.

Of all the existing honors and those that should exist, however, there is one, I think, that's long overdue because of all it does and means, especially this time of the year.

There should be an award, or at least a bronze plaque, in honor of a fellow named Robert Johnson, who, according to tradition, stood before a large crowd of folks on the courthouse steps in Salem, New Jersey, on September 26, 1820, and, before their very eyes, ate a tomato to prove it wasn't poisonous.

See, prior to that, folks weren't so certain. Oh, to be sure, somewhere along the line it's likely other folks ate one or two, maybe with a loaf of fresh bread and a jar of Duke's mayonnaise. But the conventional wisdom was that the thing deserved its nickname “poison apple.” Folks in Germany, for instance, believed if you ate one you turned into a werewolf. In my time, I have seen some folks act up if they didn't get one — but never a werewolf. The reason for all that suspicion, experts tell us, is because the tomato plant bears a strong resemblance to something called “night shade plant,” which is poisonous.

The tomato has come a long way from its humble origins as a plant growing wild in

the Andes area of South America — today's Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador. Historians tell us the Aztecs and Incas knew about them around 700 A.D. I wonder how they at theirs without mayonnaise or hot buttered biscuits.

Anyway, by 1710, tomatoes had made their way into some writings of a fellow named William Salmon, who noted they were present in “the Carolinas.” Pretty appropriate for today, don't you think?

Apparently, it was about that time or a little later that tomatoes began to get a bad rap. A fellow named John Gerald, a barber/surgeon, decreed they were dangerous because they contained low levels of a toxic chemical. That claim turned out to be true but the levels were so low that they were and are not dangerous.

Today, the tomato is talked about, analyzed, turned into juice or sauce, or just eaten, with the previously mentioned mayonnaise and bread or off the vine like an apple. Scientists tell us they're really a fruit, at least botanically speaking. But so, too, they say are avocados, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, pepper and okra. I'm pretty sure my mama would have something to say about all that.

Anyway, whatever they are, they are good, at least the homegrown ones much more than the cardboard variety grown halfway. Around the world, picked and packed green, sprayed with something or another so they won't rot and then shipped to their destination.

In case anyone is interested, I am willing to provide a site for the award for recognizing Mr. Johnson and his achievement. It won't be in New Jersey but we will have a tomato sandwich to celebrate.

After all, it's about summer, y'all.

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

BILL HORNER III,
Publisher & Editor

RANDALL RIGSBEE,
Managing Editor

CASEY MANN | ZACHARY HORNER, Reporters

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

MEMORIAL DAY | MONDAY, MAY 25

Remembering America's fallen heroes

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today — America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like any one of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams. The Navy Reserve corpsman



was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like Lieutenant Sharon Lane.

According to her biographer, Philip Bigler,

Lt. Lane threw herself into her work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the healthcare industry. Grocers, first re-

sponders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air — military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel.

Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for

Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. Corporal Jason Dunham was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq. On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later.

Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that

have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in stateside camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19.

This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them here today.

Thank you.

Written by The American Legion and National Commander Bill Oxford.

Patience like a river



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUNMAN
Hope Matters

During this global pandemic, we have witnessed terrible suffering not only by those who are sick and dying, but also by those experiencing financial hardship. More than 36 million people have lost their jobs. Many do not have access to the stimulus funds. In light of such suffering and worry, I understand the desire to reopen the economy. The coronavirus threatens both our lives and livelihoods.

And yet the best and most credible public health officials warn that we will do more harm by rushing to reopen. This is a time for patience.

I don't like that word, "patience." It brings a certain biblical character to mind. The patience of Job. The word "patience" can mean "long-suffering" and this ancient man suffered the loss of nearly everything — his loved ones, his wealth, and his own health. Tragically, many people can relate today.

There are many people who have suffered more than me. But this has been a difficult time for my little family. Between my wife and me, we are trying to manage two churches and three children. I'm not tired of waiting to reopen, for waiting is in the best interests for those who are high-risk for infection and those who care for the sick. Honestly, I'm just plain tired.

Every night, after reading books to my young sons, I get down on all fours so the 7-year-old and the 4-year-old can jump on my back. I am the horse and they are the knights! But lately, I have been moving more slowly. The other

night, my older son matter-of-factly informed me that I was now a cow! And my new name was Old Bessie!

Maybe you can't teach an old cow new tricks, but I've summoned enough energy to reexamine this word "patience" in hopes that I might discover a new, more life-giving perspective. I learned that the Latin root for "patience" was used by the Romans not to describe humans, but rivers. How might we be patient like a river?

Often when told to be patient, we feel like we are stuck and helpless to do anything. This feeling causes weariness, even despair.

Yet the river is always moving. Slowly yet surely, the river changes the land around it. A river always makes a difference whether the effect is seen or not.

Thinking of the patience of a river, I recall Norman Maclean's beautiful novel, "A River Runs Through It." That father is a fly-fisherman and also a Presbyterian pastor. He believed that all good things — trout as well as eternal salvation — come by grace and do not come easily. That's the paradox, two things that seem to be opposites that hold together as one. Grace is something that is freely given, yet we often have to wait for it. There are no shortcuts to love.

Especially in difficult times, it's hard to see the effects of gradual change. But in six months, a year, a decade from now, I wonder what we will see when we look back on this time? Certainly, we will remember the suffering. I hope we will remember the brave women and men who helped to alleviate it. Will we remember how we were patient? Will we see the difference that we made and the lives that we saved by being slow and steady?

You may be tired. But take it from Old Bessie: a river of patience makes a Grand Canyon of difference.

A 'thank you' for being a vital community asset

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for the extensive coverage of the COVID-19 virus and impacts on Chatham County. Your newspaper content the past two months reminds all of us why local newspapers are vital community assets. Your articles have focused on the news, the people making a difference, and the role of government as we march through this pandemic. I enjoy the features that cover a range of interests and Chatham people doing what they do best, and looking beyond this horrible moment in our shared history.

The writers and photographers on the staff are up to the challenge. I look forward every week to new discoveries about a corner of Chatham, a non-profit organization doing the heavy lifting to serve others, interesting people who call Chatham home, sports achievements, and just plain news that needs to be reported for citizen awareness. I appreciate the chats with our neighbors that you share in your pages. Thank you for being our newspaper and bringing us together every week.

Diana Hales
Pittsboro

(The writer is a former chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.)

What about the Tree Ordinance?

TO THE EDITOR:

The Unified Development Ordinance for Pittsboro, with the Tree Ordinance section, was slated to be completed in the winter of 2019. Town Board member Michael Fiocco took the draft to make changes, but where is it now? The town needs to have the tree ordinance enacted soon to protect existing trees and wooded areas. Trees are coming down and buildings going up. Roads are being widened and new ones created. Regulations to ensure the beauty and health benefits our trees have provided need to be in place before it's too late.

Trees are critical to the town and the area surrounding it. Much of the tree coverage belongs in private hands, of course, and we have been fortunate to live in such a beautiful tree covered area. But land is being sold and developed. We need standards in place to save trees and to encourage preservation.

In the 2018 UDO draft, Existing Tree Canopy Retention Standards were too low; payment in lieu of providing replacement trees and other aspects of the tree section of the ordinance raised concerns. Many of us spoke at town board

meetings about the value of trees for our community. As Chatham Park clear cut areas and created tree canopy-tree coverage standards that left "tree planning areas" along riparian buffers (already required by law) to stand for minimum tree percentages for commercial, mixed use and residential areas, dozens of people spoke about the extreme importance of trees, forests, the preservation of natural heritage resources, wildlife habitat and corridors, and water quality for the Haw River. Woods and stately trees provide cooling shade, oxygen, storm water absorption, carbon sequestration, and nature itself which we all need to survive. One large oak transpires up to 40,000 gallons of water in a year, drawing up water from the earth and releasing it into our atmosphere, according to the US Geological Survey. Chatham Park's thousands of acres are exempt from the UDO, so trees in the town itself will be even more important.

Trees need to be a priority. Without them, heat will increase. Benefits from tree coverage will be greatly reduced if we don't act now. Oaks, hickories, tulip poplars, a diversity of types need to be preserved. More need to be planted. What about planting more dogwoods, pecan trees, magnolias, and other Southern heritage trees? Fruit trees in public spaces and parks? What about making sure affordable housing has tree canopy and vegetation to reduce the need for air conditioning and improve the health of residents which nature provides—including noise reduction?

So, when will the UDO be ready for public comment? Will the tree section be sufficient for the needs of future generations?

Joy Hewett
Pittsboro

Take a moment to thank law enforcement officers

TO THE EDITOR:

During National Police Week, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the law enforcement community for their diligence in maintaining the safety of the individuals and businesses within their communities.

Oftentimes, their actions and deeds go unnoticed unless they become a headline. But through my experiences and interactions, both as a school counselor and a volunteer firefighter/EMT, I have witnessed law enforcement officers calm drivers and passengers at motor vehicle accidents and reassure them, take statements about horrific experiences with compassion and empathy, keep

paramedics and volunteers safe by securing a scene before medical care is provided, and tell a joke or two to lighten the situation.

I know it isn't easy for them to do their job when the public is watching, waiting for them to make an error in judgment. However, I know that it takes courage to go into dangerous situations where harm may befall them. In a few seconds, things may go awry and what was once routine becomes anything but normal. I am glad that there are individuals who are willing to step up and put their lives on the line to protect mine.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to thank these brave men and women. They work in all types of weather conditions, are absent from family and friends during the holidays, and work with people at the low points in their lives. They go into areas few would venture. They can be a bearer of bad news or a beacon of hope. They do this all selflessly and expect no thanks. It is their job, their calling. Thank you to all the people, active, retired, and in training, for the commitments, dedications, and sacrifices you have made.

Tammy Morris
Siler City

Thankful for 'spoon letter' in 'stressful COVID-19 days'

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to last week's Letter to the Editor ("It's time to re-open America," May 14). Very funny! And to think, I almost took it seriously and got upset.

But no, it's too absurd to think we'd really have a man of the cloth in our midst so silly and clueless as to start out talking Christian love, yet by the end of his opening paragraph be spewing hate and ugly judgment on Democrats and "lying news media," our fellow Americans and human beings all!

And when the writer goes on to refer to Trump as "one of the greatest presidents this world has ever seen," well, that's just plain hysterical! Like most of us, he's probably figuring out by now that on the contrary, our current White House is nothing but a bunch of incompetents and con men. As a nation we let ourselves be conned, and we'll be lucky if we don't lose our beloved democracy before it's over.

So "Pastor James Mitchell" — or whoever penned last week's spoon letter — thank you! Particularly in these stressful COVID-19 days, I really did enjoy the laughs.

Marie Felix
Siler City

LETTERS

VIEWPOINTS

Treat federal aid as shock absorber



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

So far, the federal government has agreed to borrow some \$4 billion and then transfer the money to North Carolina state and local governments to address the health, education, and economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

More is probably coming. I can understand why. States and localities are facing yawning fiscal deficits, driven in large measure by revenues projected to fall about 15 percent short of original projections for the coming fiscal year.

But Washington is already broke. All new federal spending represents new federal borrowing. And North Carolina, like most states, must by law balance its operating budget with current revenues, not with

debt. So must our cities and counties.

I freely grant that state policymakers have already violated the spirit of our balanced-budget requirement for years by using borrowed federal dollars to pay for Medicaid, education, and other current operations. I've long been bothered by the practice. Now, with Congress addressing more large-scale relief package for states and localities, the potential for abuse is surging.

There is nothing wrong with public debt in moderation. When a government builds a long-lived capital asset — be it a sewage plant or a submarine — it can make sense to finance the project with debt to be repaid over the life of the asset, so that those taxpayers currently benefiting from its operation help to pay for it. Borrowing may also be needed during emergencies such as wars, natural disasters, and, as in this case, large-scale outbreaks of infectious disease.

So why do I worry about the next round of congressional

relief for states and localities? Because I fear too much money will be squandered on low-priority expenses and politicized bailouts.

While nearly all states and localities will take a major fiscal hit from the COVID-19 crisis, some were better prepared than others to handle unforeseen shocks. Over the past decade, the North Carolina General Assembly wisely built up a rainy-day fund and other reserves while avoiding new and costly spending promises. And going back decades, North Carolina's legislators, governors, and state treasurers have generally managed our public-employee pension funds with admirable diligence and restraint.

Although I can't say the same about our poorly managed retiree-health benefit, it is still the case that the size of North Carolina's total public obligations — both bonded debts and unfunded liabilities — compare favorably to those of most other states. If, somehow, those other states can use new COVID-19

funds to offset their preexisting fiscal liabilities, that will have the effect of punishing prudent states like North Carolina.

It will, in short, reward budgetary recklessness and political irresponsibility. That will, in turn, produce more reckless budgets and irresponsible politicians in the future.

When considering how best to structure federal aid, I think the best image to keep in mind is a shock absorber. Washington should, indeed, allow states and localities to use federal funds to help cover immediate shortfalls in revenue. While they will still have to make cuts in some areas and hold the line in others, governments should try to protect core public services as much as possible — as well as the jobs and salaries of the public employees and private vendors who deliver them.

However, because money is fungible, a completely hands-off policy to federal COVID-19 relief would allow profligate states and localities to service preexisting

debts at the expense of taxpayers in other places. So, I think as a condition for accepting any new round of federal funds, governments should be required to restate their unfunded liabilities using honest accounting and then submit a clear plan for discharging the debt.

If a government fails to submit such a plan, or to implement it consistently, Washington should then convert its COVID-19 relief from a grant to a loan — and at a punitive rate of interest.

After all, small businesses that don't meet their commitments under the Paycheck Protection Program are going to have their grants converted into loans. Why should states and localities be treated more leniently?

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.

Taking a punch



D.G. MART
One on One

"And he can take a punch." A former colleague was describing John Gleeson, who popped into the news last week when U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan appointed him to an unusual assignment.

Judge Sullivan presided over the prosecution of retired General Michael Flynn for lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After the

judge accepted Flynn's guilty plea, it became his responsibility to impose the sentence.

But before sentencing took place, Attorney General William Barr directed Justice Department lawyers to move for Sullivan to dismiss all charges against Flynn, explaining that, based on a new review, Flynn had not committed the crimes to which he had pled guilty.

Sullivan is on the spot. He had accepted Flynn's guilty plea and arguably has the power and responsibility to move forward with the sentencing. On the other hand, ordinarily if a prosecutor determines that a defendant is innocent and asks for the charges to be dropped, a judge would be accommodating.

Not necessarily this time, thought Judge Sullivan. Before he decides to dismiss the charges against Flynn or move forward with sentencing, he wants to hear arguments against Barr's and Flynn's assertion that no crime was committed.

John Gleeson, a former federal judge and, before that, a prosecutor of New York mobsters, is the man Judge Sullivan chose to make those arguments.

Who is this man who will be confronting the combined forces of Flynn's attorneys, Barr's Justice Department, and President Donald Trump?

As a federal prosecutor Gleeson led the successful effort to finally convict mobster John Gotti in 1992. According to a May 14 story in The New York Times, Gordon Mehler, Gleeson's co-worker during that time said, "There was a feeling among our generation of prosecutors that John was a rock star. He was super smart, but also incredibly hardworking."

"And he could take a punch." Learning about Gleeson, I realized how important it is to be able to take a punch. I thought about a long list of people I admire, who after taking a hard punch in the gut, were able to work through the experience and turn it into a positive.

Gary Pearce's 2010 biography of former Governor Jim Hunt told one of my favorite stories about how taking a punch can lead to important accomplishments.

In the 1964 governor's race, the ambitious Hunt worked hard for Richardson Preyer, hoping to gain an important position in Preyer's administration. Preyer's loss ended that hope. Later in the year, Hunt flunked the bar exam, postponing his aspiration to practice law.

That double punch in the gut led to his leaving North Carolina for a two-year stint as an economic advisor in Nepal. He worked at a high level to develop an economic plan for the entire nation. Hunt says, "I learned to get a big view of a country... What you have to do to develop a nation — the importance of educating people, providing infrastructure like roads, electricity, banks."

His time in Nepal made him more pragmatic and less ideological. "It isn't just a matter of dividing the pie. You can grow the pie. That's a fundamental thing to know."

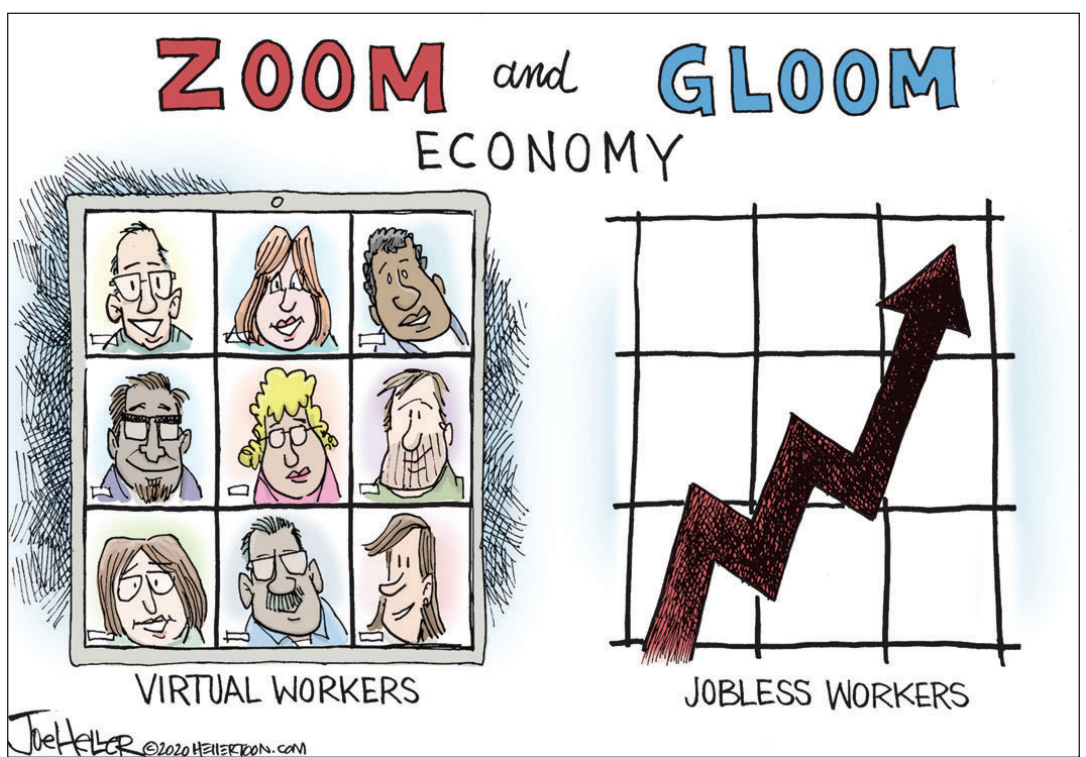
When Pearce's book first came out, I wrote, "My theory, based on Pearce's short description of the Nepal experience, is that it, as much as anything else, set Hunt apart. If Richardson Preyer had won or Jim Hunt had passed the bar exam, Hunt would have missed Nepal. His life and North Carolina history would have made for a much different story from the one Gary Pearce tells so well."

Hunt's ability to take a punch and come back stronger made North Carolina a better place.

Hopefully, Gleeson's proven ability to take one will serve the public similarly.

One thing for sure, if he challenges the forces of the president, those punches will come hard and fast.

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



The bipartisan road of cooperation has taken a partisan turn



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

For a while it appeared North Carolina's leaders were heading down the road of bipartisan cooperation, something we can all applaud. But in recent days that journey has taken a partisan turn.

Let's begin with the ReOpenNC protests. Look at their signs and listen to their rhetoric. There is no mistaking the partisan tone; some suggest the group is funded and prompted by right-leaning groups. There's Senate Bill 712, the "N.C. Freedom of Work Act," backed by Republican conservatives in the N.C. Senate. It essentially tells businesses and others that they can ignore the Emergency Directives of Governor Cooper without fear of fines or legal action. If passed into law this bill would generate lawsuits over constitutional issues that would hang up the courts (even if the courts were operating) long after these businesses would likely be authorized to re-open.

There were also protests arising from the order that indoor worship services should only contain 10 people and no more than 50 at a funeral. A lot of the pushback came from the

conservative Christian Action League and largely conservative ministers. Many other denominations and ministers say they don't want to put their congregants at risk. DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen says shopping in a store is a much lower risk activity than sitting still for a period of time near someone in a church pew. We are taking small steps to see how much each step incrementally increases the spread of the virus, the need for hospital beds and fatalities.

This week a letter, signed by Republican members of the Council of State (COS), asked the governor to call an emergency Council of State meeting to discuss COVID-19. They just met May 5th, but the inference is that Republican Council of State members want to insert themselves in the decision-making process. No Democrats on the Council of State had signed the letter, a clear indication of the letter's partisanship.

I had a former Supreme Court Justice review North Carolina GS 166A-19.30 (a) and (b) dealing with "Additional powers of the Governor during state of emergency." As so often is the situation, a case could be made that the Governor needs to concur with the Council of State in some instances, but just as strong a case that the Governor doesn't have to. Nobody should want to test that in court right now.

Here's my spin: A reasonable person could conclude that partisanship is spreading almost as fast as the coronavirus, just as we are trying to work our way out of the worst healthcare crisis most of us have ever experienced. Governor Cooper is under extreme pressure and is making the best decisions from the data he sees. We want a governor who will take steps to bring others, including the Council of State, on board and perhaps Cooper could do more, but we also recognize that the ultimate decision, as chief executive officer of our state, is his to make. We don't have to agree with all of them, but as good citizens we should abide by and cooperate with them as best we can. There will be time to play Saturday morning quarterback later.

Can we agree to fight one war at a time? We would hope that leadership of all parties, religions and groups would recognize the need for us to pull together and speak against divisiveness. Let's get back on that road we were traveling with a spirit of bipartisan cooperation. We will go farther and travel easier without the rancor.

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.

ABUSE

Continued from page A1

year of 2019, there were 580 reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency to the Chatham County Department of Social Services — a 31 percent increase over 2018. On average, there were 108 children in foster care, a 20 percent increase over the previous year. The proposed county government budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year asks for three new social worker positions within DSS “to address the high case load demand in Child Protective Services” and says the number of children in foster care “reached an unprecedented level,” with many children placed “because of parental substance abuse or domestic violence.”

Those involved in putting the report together that shows this data — the county’s Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) — say they don’t know the cause.

“We have tried every which way to figure this out, to understand why is this happening now, and we don’t know why,” said Jennie Kristiansen, Chatham County’s director of social services. “We know that it’s increasing and we know, for example, that we’re seeing more frequent substance use, families with serious substance use disorders. But we don’t know why.”

What is certain, however, are the long-term effects on children who are abused or neglected, and how they affect an entire community.

What child abuse looks like

Hilary Cissokho, a social worker with Chatham DSS, said most cases the department sees usually have at least one of three different factors: parental substance abuse, untreated parental mental health and domestic violence in the home.

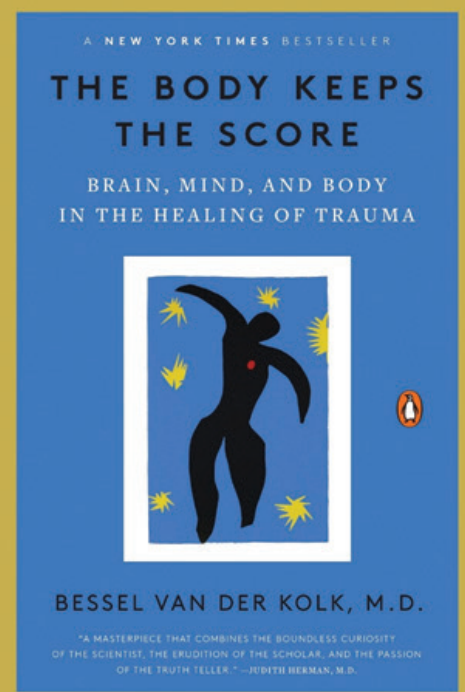
Of the nearly 350 reports to Chatham Child Protective Services that were investigated last year, nearly a quarter involved allegations of substance use, the CCPT report stated. Kristiansen said that about 70 percent of the children in foster care were pulled from homes with substance use issues.

The report also pulled out six individual cases involving 14 children, “specifically selected because of the difficulties faced in improving outcomes for the families.” In each of the six families, one or both parents had substance use disorders that required inpatient or outpatient treatment. Four families had a history of domestic violence that involved law enforcement. Nine of the 14 children had “identified mental health diagnoses or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.” Sexual abuse allegations were present in three

“Traumatized people look at the world in a fundamentally different way from other people. For most of us a man coming down the street is just someone taking a walk. A rape victim, however, may see a person who is about to molest her and go into a panic. A stern schoolteacher may be an intimidating presence for an average kid, but for a child whose stepfather beats him up, she may represent a torturer and precipitate a rage attack of a terrified cowering in the corner.”

Dr. Bessel van der Kolk

Boston University psychiatry professor & author of “The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind & Body in the Healing of Trauma”



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

cases.

Most of what Chatham DSS sees, Cissokho said, deals with neglect.

“If a parent is actively abusing substances, what ends up getting reported is inappropriate supervision,” she said. “A parent leaving their children home alone because maybe they’ve gone out to use or being so high or altered that maybe they are asleep that someone can’t wake them — you’re seeing the other impacts on the child.”

The department also gets reports “fairly frequently” of babies born with prenatal exposure to substance use.

“If a child is born and starts having withdrawal symptoms and respiratory distress, they are going to be screening for what’s going on,” she said.

A positive test leads to a DSS report. A 2018 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said 27,709 children across the country were referred to CPS that year in those kinds of situations.

Victims of more severe cases, those involving felony charges, are referred to Anne Chapman, the program director for Chatham County Child Victim Services. Chapman said the cases she sees often involve indecent liberties, rape of a child under 15 and sexual battery — all sexual abuse crimes. She said she doesn’t have specific statistics of how many of each happened, but that the numbers are “not that different” than national statistics.

“All the kids on my caseload have been the victim of a felony crime, or there’s been an accusation of a felony crime,” Chapman said. “If they stay on, that means it was substantiated, and usually what we know from all of the data and all of the social science studies is that kids don’t lie about this stuff.”

A separation

A DSS case that leads to children being taken from

their parents is a tricky one, for everyone. And there’s no right answer.

Given the increasing number of Chatham children being placed into foster care, it’s important to define the process of pulling a child out of their parent(s)’s home and into foster care.

An individual makes an anonymous report to DSS, and a DSS employee conducts a standardized assessment of the situation. If the cases warrants more investigation, it becomes “screened-in.” An investigator will look into the situation and provide guidance to the family — “many cases” end there, Cissokho said. But if the issues are more significant, the cases is passed to someone else for either in-home services or removing the child, something that happens if the child is “in imminent risk,” Cissokho said.

Even though it might be best for the child to be out of their home and with a foster family, it’s still a rough experience.

“Being removed from the home is very traumatic,” Cissokho said. “No matter how bad the things at home are, the majority of kids really want to go home. It’s really hard. We’re asking a lot of kids to be adaptable.”

Susanne Saunders, a therapist who operates a private practice in Pittsboro, has worked with children placed in foster care or adopted throughout her career and said this kind of separation is trauma “with a big T.”

“They’re leaving everything they know,” she said, “because they don’t know that what they’re in is necessarily a bad thing.”

DSS will usually look to other family for placement first, but if that’s not possible, foster care with new people, strangers is the next choice.

“If they can’t do that, then they’re going into homes where they don’t know anybody,” Saunders said. “It’s like jumping off

a cliff. The big question is, who can you trust in all this? They’ve talked to law enforcement, they’ve talked to DSS, they’ve talked to, perhaps a forensic evaluator, then they get assigned to a therapist, there’s a case manager and then there’s a GAL [Guardian ad Litem]. So there suddenly are many new adults in this person’s life. If they were in a home where there was abuse and neglect, trust is always going to be an issue anyway.”

The impact of trauma

Science’s understanding of trauma is relatively new, but what studies and research have revealed is that devastating events in childhood can have lasting effects. It’s not just an immediate impact — in some cases, it can be lifelong.

“When something reminds traumatized people of the past, their right brain reacts as if the traumatic event were happening in the present,” Dr. van der Kolk writes in “The Brain Keeps the Score.” “But because their left brain is not working very well, they may not be aware that they are re-experiencing and reenacting the past — they are just furious, terrified, enraged, ashamed or frozen.”

Additionally, he writes, stress hormones of those who experienced trauma “take much longer to return to the baseline and spike quickly and disproportionately in response to mildly stressful stimuli.” Essentially, if you have childhood trauma and something happens as an adult that sparks a memory of that, you are more likely to respond much more emotionally to that instance, and you’ll “return to normal” much slower than others.

And this trauma is often hidden from the world, or misunderstood by those who haven’t gone through it as well.

“Traumatized people look at the world in a fundamentally different way

‘It’s the emotional abuse that stays with us longest that stays with us longest through the lifetime, which is quite remarkable. So in other words, you may have recovered from childhood sexual abuse, but there’s always going to be an emotional impact from that, and that is the hardest piece.’

SUSANNE SAUNDERS, Pittsboro-based private practice therapist

from other people,” Dr. van der Kolk writes. “For most of us a man coming down the street is just someone taking a walk. A rape victim, however, may see a person who is about to molest her and go into a panic. A stern schoolteacher may be an intimidating presence for an average kid, but for a child whose stepfather beats him up, she may represent a torturer and precipitate a rage attack of a terrified cowering in the corner.”

Saunders specifically spoke to children who have experienced sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Sexual abuse, she said, like the ones referred to Chapman’s department, can take “a long time to recover from” and can be relived at different stages of life.

“Somebody that comes in, maybe as a teenager, young teenager for sexual abuse — I might see that person five years later, (someone) who’s resolved some things and have moved on through their life,” Saunders said. “But something new triggered it and we have to revisit it.”

Emotional abuse, however, can sometimes be much worse.

“It’s the emotional abuse that stays with us longest that stays with us longest through the lifetime, which is quite remarkable,” she said. “So in other words, you may have recovered from childhood sexual abuse, but there’s always going to be an emotional impact from that, and that is the hardest piece.”

Working with these cases

Finding a way to cope with working in this field is crucial, Cissokho said.

“It is difficult to see kids who are hurt, and those who are let down,” she said. “DSS cases are rarely straight-forward. Working with a child on getting back home is often a bumpy road, and that’s really hard to see.”

Cissokho’s undergraduate degree is in music therapy, and she has a master’s in social work. So she’s educated for this. She had what she called a “healthy childhood” in Chatham County, and seeing others who didn’t motivated her to step in and try to help.

“I was really unaware of the people who were really struggling, right here in my own community,” she said. “I think once you are aware, it’s hard to look away from that. The more I know about the needs in our community, the more I feel called to do my small part to meet those needs.”

Chapman rides her horse to get away from the stress of her job. She also invests in prevention and outreach work, regularly speaking to kindergarten, 2nd grade and 4th grade students about appropriate touching and consent.

“I get to go in and work with kids who are just normal, happy kids living their lives,” Chapman said. “And yes, I hate to have to come in and tell them things. But I do it in a way that’s really positive and I strive really hard to preserve their innocence and teach it in a way that’s empowering, and light and fun. We’re not talking about it in the context of sex or anything like that. It’s just in the context of, ‘Hey, nobody should touch you in the private area of your body. And if they do, you should tell somebody.’”

Saunders worked at the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Chatham’s former domestic violence agency, for 10 years, often working with kids who had been exposed to violence or abuse or were victims themselves. She said she wants to give kids an opportunity to express themselves in hopes of identifying their feelings.

“I don’t try to impose an adult world on a kid,” she said. “I’m really trying to find out what the child’s going through in a way that doesn’t make it so that, ‘Whoa, here’s one more person I have to have the answers to.’ Trying to keep it open-ended and giving them space over time that they can get more comfortable. Many kids haven’t had a chance to really sit and say, ‘Well, how do I feel about that?’”

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

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OBITUARIES

JAMES (JIM) B. WEEKS



James (Jim) B. Weeks passed away May 15, 2020 while at White Oak Manor, a skilled nursing facility in Burlington.

Jim was born in Eureka, WI on January 5, 1935. He met his wife, Barbara (Pat) Keck, while in the Army, stationed at Ft. Bragg, and they were married November 26, 1958 and eventually settled in Pittsboro. Before retiring, Jim worked at the Fisher Body Division of General Motors' Plant in Janesville, WI and later with the UNC Police Department in Chapel Hill. Jim was an active member with the Disabled American Veterans Post 91 in Pittsboro, and he volunteered at the VA Medical Center for 20+ years.

Jim enjoyed cooking, playing cards and board games, and making people laugh. Like country and western singer Tom T. Hall's 1973 song "I Love," Jim loved simple things like working in the yard, playing with his dogs, strawberry/rhubarb pie, black coffee, and helping others the best way he could. But he loved his family the most. Grampa (as known to the grandkids) will always be remembered for the annual July 4th vacations at Atlantic Beach, NC, complete with a theme and T-shirts he had ordered. He always played hide-n-seek with the grandkids in the apartment, which was usually very loud and always during Granny's nap. During the game, he was called the Child Catcher. Everyone that knew Jim, also knew he was a huge Green Bay Packers fan. He attended Asbury UMC for many years with Julie and Katie and thought very highly of that community.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Pat Weeks; daughter-in-law, Laurie Weeks; parents, Harold and Pauline Weeks; and sister, Alice Miller (Fred).

He is survived by his son, J.B. Weeks of Siler City; daughter, Julie Greene (Kelly) of Asheboro; grandchildren, Audrey Bullock (Jonathan) of Morrisville; Lucas Weeks (Alexis) of Damascus, MD; Katie Hall (Joey) of Sanford; Samuel Weeks of Washington, DC; and his sister, Rita Thompson (Woody) of Janesville, WI. Jim had seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Jim's memory to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301, or the Alzheimer's Association, 3739 National Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612.

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

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Weeks family.

JOE ANN WRIGHT WILLOUGHBY



Joe Ann Wright Willoughby, 77, of Carrboro died Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Crescent Green Of Carrboro.

Mrs. Willoughby was born in Chatham County on May 30, 1943, the daughter of Evander Cleveland and Mary Joyce (Fuquay) Wright. Joe Ann was a member of Rocky River Baptist Church where she was a member of the Diane Hicks Sunday School Class and had served as church treasurer. She had worked as the business office manager of Belk Yates in Siler City for several years. Joe Ann had also managed the PX when her husband served in the Army. She enjoyed traveling and working in her vegetable and flower gardens and was an avid Washington Red Skins Fan.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lesley Howard Willoughby, her parents and a brother, John David Wright. She is survived by one brother: Evander "Dickie" Wright and wife, Lisa of Siler City, and several cousins.

A private graveside service was held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at Rocky River Baptist Cemetery, 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Road, Siler City with Dr. Gregg Burriss officiating. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral home is assisting the family.

SELENA SHOFFNER ALSTON

Selena Shoffner Alston, 72, of Siler City died Thursday, May 14, 2020.

A private graveside service will be Saturday, May 23, 2020 at Chatham Memorial Park, with Phyllis Carter officiating.

Mrs. Alston was born May 16, 1947 in Liberty, the daughter of Percy and Hazeline Harris Shoffner. She was employed by Walmart, and she attended New Beginnings Ministries Church.

She is survived by her father, Percy Shoffner of Liberty; her husband of 16 years, Thomas Earl Alston; sons, Tracy A. Brower of Raleigh, Michael Lee Brower of Greensboro; brother, Kenneth Shoffner; twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

JERDEWARRENE FARRAR II

Jerdewarrene Farrar II, 29 of Chapel Hill, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 17, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Chapel Hill. Burial followed at Westwood Cemetery.

Survivors include his mother, Lisa Sales; father, Jerdewarrene Farrar, step-mother, Ilem Farrar; sisters, Amelia Crawford of Durham, Maya Farrar of Sanford; brothers, Joshua Farrar and Jaron Farrar, both of Sanford, and Robert Sharpe of Chapel Hill.

GERALDINE FRANCES BROWN ZURCHER

Mrs. Geraldine Frances Brown Zurcher, 72, of Sanford, passed away Friday, May 15, 2020, at her home.

There will be no services at this time.

She was born in Norfolk County, VA on March 26, 1948, to the late Garland Washington Brown and Betty Augusta Collins Brown. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Wayne Brown.

Survivors include her husband, Spencer Leo Zurcher; sons, Charles Thompson of Sanford, and James Thompson of Rockingham; step-son, William Zurcher of Emerald Isle; step-daughter, Carol Coppo of Rocky Point; brother, Garland Brown of Sophia; sisters, Barbara Buchanan of Great Bridge, VA, and Vicki Acosta of Thomasville; and three step-grandchildren.

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

JAMES G. HINTON

James G. Hinton, 85 of Bronx, NY passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020 at his residence.

Graveside services were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at Fries Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Vass.

ELMER LEWIS HOLT, JR.

Elmer Lewis Holt, Jr., 84, of Siler City, died Saturday, May 16, 2020 at his residence.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Elmer was a native of Chatham County and was a retired delivery person with the Courier Tribune. He was a veteran of the United States Navy. Elmer was preceded in death by his daughter, Kim Culberson, step-son, Butch Hefner, his parents, Elmer Lewis and Etta Kidd Holt, Sr., and brother, Bobby Holt.

Survivors: wife, Dixie Holt of the residence; son, Tim Holt of Pittsboro; sister, Anita Seawell of Glendon; step children, Kim Brewer, Donna Storts, Tony Hefner, David Hefner, and Dean Hefner. Condolences may be made online at: www.lofinfuneralservice.com.

GEORGIA A. WILLIAMS

Georgia A. Williams, 86, passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Liberty Home Care and Hospice Services in Sanford.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JUANITA THOMPSON JOHNSON

Juanita Thompson Johnson, 78, of Sanford passed away on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home with interment following at Macedonia AME Zion Church in Gulf.

JOHNNIE FAYE PERCELL SMALL

Johnnie Faye Percell Small, 68, of Sanford passed away on Friday, May 8, 2020 at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Services were held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home.

PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Patricia Alberta Cox Williams, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at her home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home, with interment following in Lee Memory Gardens.

EDITH FRANCIS SUITT

Ms. Edith Francis Suits, 90, of Chapel Hill, passed away Tuesday, May 9, 2020.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

MICHAEL WAYNE MARSH

Michael Wayne Marsh, 57, of Pittsboro passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

JUDY SPEARS

Judy Spears, 69, passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

RUBY D. SIMMONS

Ruby D. Simmons, 83, passed away on Monday, May 18, 2020 at Cambridge Assistant Living in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

TERRANCE RASHAWN FORD

Terrance Rashawn Ford, 30, passed away Friday, December 19, 2019.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DICK "RED" CHARLES DRESSLER

Dick "Red" Charles Dressler, 91, of Siler City died Saturday, May 16, 2020 at Genesis Health-care.

A private service was held at 3 p.m. Monday, May 18, 2020 at Community Baptist Church with Keith Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Dressler was born July 5, 1928 in Red Banks, NJ. He was a Metal Fabricator for many years, and a member of Community Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Timmy Ray Kearns.

He is survived by his wife, Ella Mae Kearns Dressler; daughter, Janie Tuttle of Julian; sons, Jeffrey Kearns of Siler City, Dennis Kearns of Climax and Johnny Kearns of Staley; 16 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memorials Processing, Memphis, TN 38105-9959, www.stjude.org/memorial

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

GERALDINE DEGRAFFENREIDT

Geraldine DeGraffenreidt, 76, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CLELLAN BROOKS JOHNSON, SR.

Clellan Brooks Johnson, Sr., 70, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LARRY D. GLOVER

Larry D. Glover, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, May 11, 2020 at the UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

Graveside funeral services were conducted on Friday, May 15, 2020 at the Broadway Town Cemetery with Rev. Billy R. Norris officiating.

He was born in Wilson County, son of the late Rev. John D. and Margaret Coley Glover. He was preceded in death by his father. Larry was a graduate of Garland High School and earned a degree in Architectural Technology. He was the owner of Interstate Auto Brokers. Larry attended Crossroads Ministries in Broadway.

Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Diane Barnes Glover of the home; mother, Margaret Coley Glover of Wilson; sisters, Jackie Tyndall of Little River, SC, Rose Barnes of High Point, Loretta Allen of Fremont; and brother, Tony Glover of High Point.

Online condolences can be made at: www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

CHERYL ANNE DIXON

Cheryl Anne Dixon, 63, of Siler City died Friday, May 15, 2020 at her home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Dixon was born July 16, 1956 in Boston MS, the daughter of Hopeton and Collista G. Brown Dixon, both preceded her in death. Cheryl worked in Patient Financial Services.

She is survived by sons, Anthony Sanford and Micah Sanford, both of Boston, MA; brothers; Donnie Dixon of Boston, MS and Jay Dixon of NJ; sisters, Kim Avery, and Judy Moore, all of Arizona; and one grandson.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

CORA hosting Mobile Market in Siler City

SILER CITY — CORA will hit the road and deliver food to food hungry residents on the western side of Chatham County through their Mobile Market. All Chatham residents who are facing hunger and need food are welcome to this event. The Market will take place at Technology Way from 10 am to 12 pm On May 26th. CORA will distribute shelf-stable foods such as tuna, cereal, pasta, and rice. In addition, thanks to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, they will also be able to share dairy, produce, and protein. Last month CORA served over 750 individuals facing hunger in just two and a half hours. CORA launched the

Mobile Market in October of 2019 as part of a partnership with UNC Health Systems and Chatham Hospital to expand their footprint to in the western part of Chatham County. Over half of the families CORA serves live west of CORA in Siler City, Bonlee, Bennett, Goldston, and Silk Hope. For many of these families, the lack of affordable transportation is an obstacle that cannot be overcome despite their need for our services.

For more information please visit www.cora-foodpantry.org or contact Rebecca Hankins at 919-491-5896.

CCL hosts virtual author event with Donna Miller

Local resident and author Donna Miller will read from her book

"Mad Random: Claiming Life Out of Chaos," in a virtual event at 1 p.m. on June 18.

Mad Random details the journey of adopting and parenting a child with serious emotional difficulties, including Miller's experiences with schools, the mental health community, family and friends.

Miller will address themes raised in her book about living outside of acceptance and

comfort while weaving together the concepts of isolation in parenting and in taking on difficult care-giving roles, together with the "new normal" of continuing isolation.

To register for this event and to receive the online meeting ID please email Rita Van Duinen at rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org

— CN+R staff reports

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Stores, sports and sales during COVID-19 fluctuate



ZACHARY HORNER
Corner Store

I'm back — in this form at least. I've been writing about business in Chatham County for the last couple of months related to COVID-19, but always in story form. The Corner Store has taken a bit of a break. But it's back this week...

footprint to better align its business with the current operating environment."

The closest JCPenney to Chatham County is the location at the Streets of Southpoint mall in Durham.

Live sports are back in Germany

While live sports aside from the WWE are on hiatus in America, Germany's Bundesliga, the top professional soccer league in the country, restarted play last Saturday. The games, held behind closed doors, had record viewership in Germany. Broadcaster Sky Germany had more than six million viewers, according to a report by Agence-France Presse.

The move comes as soccer leagues across the world are taking different approaches. The French and Scottish top divisions both canceled the rest of their seasons. The English Premier League will return to small group training soon after a league vote on Monday.

What American sports leagues — which are very big businesses themselves and produce lots of money in lots of different sectors ranging from groceries to televisions — do is still up in the air. NASCAR had its first race, also without fans, on Sunday, but leagues like the MLB and NHL are still working out their plans.

At least in Germany,

things are back under way.

COVID-19 and business by the numbers

A quick rundown, for the final item in this column, of some of the business-related numbers from COVID-19:

- Retail sales in the U.S. dropped by 16.4 percent from March to April, according to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Online sales went up by 8.4 percent over that time, and have increased by 21.6 percent from the same time last year. But industries like auto dealers (13 percent), electronics and appliance stores (more than 60 percent) and clothing stores (79 percent) all saw high decreases.
- Production from industry also saw record declines. Manufacturing output dropped by 13.7 percent, as car, trucks and auto parts declined by more than 70 percent and other transportation materials, metals and furniture dropped by around 20 percent, according to a report from the Associated Press.
- British insurance market Lloyd's of London said underwriting losses for the insurance industry could reach \$107 billion due to COVID-19, with investment portfolios dropping by around \$96 billion.

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

Red Cross prepares for hurricane season amid pandemic

CN+R Staff Report

With June 1 marking the official start of hurricane season, the American Red Cross Eastern North Carolina Region has outlined preparation in the case of a hurricane — amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a release from the American Red Cross Eastern North Carolina Region, preparing for this upcoming season will look different than years prior.

"Disasters won't stop, even during a pandemic," said Barry Porter, Regional CEO, of the American Red Cross Eastern North Carolina Region. "Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 and early reports predict a busy year with as many as four storms reaching major hurricane strength. Make your preparations now, thinking about the coronavirus situation as you do."

The agency stresses three items:

- **MAKE A PLAN:** In light of the coronavirus, you may have to adjust any previous plans you made.
- If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit (see below).
- Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.
- Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you are able to stay with them. Check and see if they have symptoms of



COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or people at higher risk in their home, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels and campgrounds to see if they are open. Find out if your local emergency management agency has adapted its sheltering plans.

• Check with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and update emergency plans due to Coronavirus.

• Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes. Remember, if it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not safe for your pets either.

BUILD A KIT: Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply of prescription medication. Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. Start with this basic supply list:

- Stay-at-home kit: Include everything you need to stay at home for at least two weeks with items such as food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products and personal hygiene items.
- Evacuation kit: Your second kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly. Include everything you need to be on your own for three days: food and water; personal hygiene items; cleaning and disinfectant supplies that you can use on the go (tissues, hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol and disinfecting wipes); cloth face coverings for everyone in your household who can wear one safely (cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others in public. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove it without help); infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream; pet food and extra water for your pet; cash or traveler's checks; important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof portable container; 1-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment. Keep these items together in a separate container so you can take them with you if you have to evacuate.

BE INFORMED: Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.

- Use the Red Cross interactive map to identify likely disasters in your area.
- Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19.
- Find contact information for state, local and tribal governments and agencies, and for state emergency management agencies.
- Because of COVID-19, stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities.

Take a First Aid and CPR/ Course online to learn what to do in case emergency help is delayed. Download the Red Cross Emergency App for instant access to weather alerts for your area and where loved ones live. Expert medical guidance and a hospital locator are included in the First Aid App in case travelers encounter any mishaps. These apps are available to download for free in app stores or at redcross.org/apps.

Visit redcross.org/hurricane for full information about what to do before, during and after a hurricane.

Teachers, get your applications in for a Bright Ideas education grant!

Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

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CHURCH NEWS

Events listed are subject to change in consideration of closures due to the coronavirus. Reach out to the individual Churches prior to events to verify.

HICKORY MT. UMC

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the congrega-

tion of Hickory Mt. United Methodist Church, 201 Hadley Mill Road, Pittsboro, has decided to cancel Homecoming Services scheduled for June 7. It is our prayer that we will be able to gather in June 2021 for our annual Homecoming celebration. We send our prayers and best wishes for everyone's

safety and well-being.

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Memorial Sunday will be celebrated at 10 a.m., May 24, at Oakley Baptist Church, in the drive-thru service. All are invited to join in this service.

2020 COLLEGE GRADUATES

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

Emily Michea Nona of Pittsboro received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Mars Hill University. The university is located in Arden. The rescheduled commencement ceremony is set for Sunday, October 4.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Brandon Riddell of Snow Camp graduated from Bob Jones University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cinema Production. The university is located in Greenville, SC. The rescheduled commencement ceremony is set for Saturday, August 29.

Chatham BOC to try hybrid virtual, in-person meeting in June

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — For the second month in a row, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners met with limited public attendance and set in motion plans to further adapt its meeting structure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board will try a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting in June that will include a legislative public hearing on a zoning matter that is deemed non-controversial. Board Clerk Lindsay Ray presented the option to the board.

"Testing the public hearing that (the) planning (department) recommended in June would be a good way for us to see how this works," she said. "I feel like we might have some time to see how those things work, but I don't think we'll know until we try."

The meeting structure that will be tested next month will allow for members of the public and county staff to participate remotely and in-person. It will work like this:

- All five commissioners will be present at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center and will utilize a laptop to be a panelist on a GoTo Webinar broadcast. All of the commissioners will be visible throughout the entire meeting.

- Residents can watch the broadcast in overflow rooms at the Ag Center or on an online livestream. They can participate

in-person or virtually. Those in overflow rooms will speak into a laptop with a camera as part of the broadcast, or they can join the GoTo Webinar broadcast from their homes. Residents may also submit comments in written form or by leaving a voicemail.

The GoTo Webinar software will be tested at upcoming county Appearance Commission and Planning Board meetings prior to the commissioners' June 15 meeting. The software will cost the county \$2,400 per year for use, which will be paid out of the Governing Board's travel expenses budget that is not being used due to COVID-19.

The one piece of contention with the meeting system was not around the system itself but what would be discussed at the first one.

County staff recommended that a non-controversial item be used for the first test public hearing, so they suggested delaying the public hearing on rezoning requests for the Williams Corner development in northeast Chatham. Multiple residents spoke during public input agreeing with that suggestion.

"Please wait and revisit land management concerns once our county has rebounded and give developers the opportunity to revisit their economic studies," said Anthony Curtis, who specifically mentioned Williams Corner. "Now is not the time to push the growth on our citizens. Now is the time to be conservative and take care of

those more impacted (by COVID-19)."

Nick Robinson, a lawyer representing Williams Corner developers, said moving forward with another request before that development "would be without a doubt prejudicial and extremely unfair." He said that Williams Corner filed for rezoning prior to other applications on the docket, and that since county ordinance does not allow for zoning public hearings in July, not taking care of it in June would mean a further three-month delay.

"We are a good, flexible and resilient constituency," Robinson said. "We can make it through the remote Williams Corner public hearing in June. We believe it would be inappropriate to single out Williams Corner for prejudicial treatment."

Commissioner Mike Dasher expressed concern about delaying projects and having them "backed up" and the potential "ripple effect" from that, but board Chairman Karen Howard said the COVID-19 situation warranted taking things step-by-step.

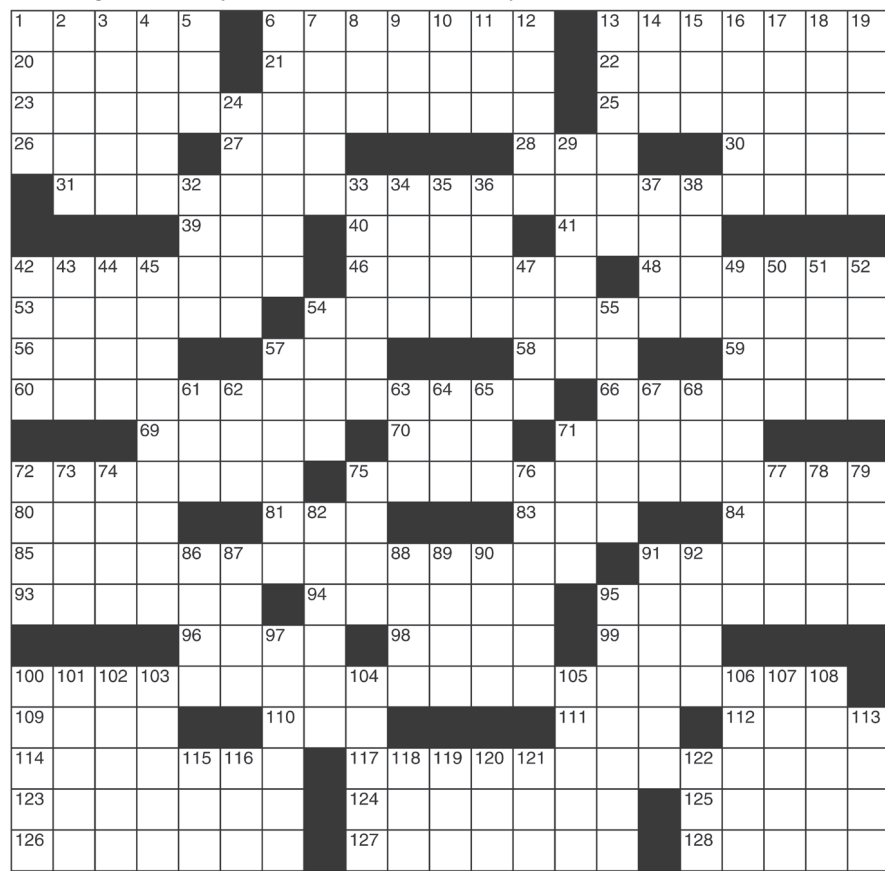
"It is disappointing if we're getting backed up, but disappointing is a pill we can swallow," Howard said. "We are not arbitrarily choosing. We are in a critical crisis and making a decision that we hope is for the benefit of all of us."

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

HOLLYWOOD GIRL GROUP

- | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 57 Mr. Capote, to friends | 110 Singer Ritter | 11 Old stage star Hagen | 49 Mountain climbers, e.g. | 79 Cravings |
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| 28 Long to undo | 81 Letter two before tau | 83 "— Kapital" | 43 Site of the Taj Mahal | 44 Scorch | 100 Basil |
| 30 Augur's sign | 84 Roof part | 85 Riddle, part 6 | 45 Frat shindig | 47 Rajah's wife | 101 Heads-up |
| 31 Riddle, part 2 | 85 Riddle, part 6 | 91 Become rigid | 47 Rajah's wife | | 102 YouTube clip |
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| 42 Bad guys | 100 End of the riddle | 109 Kazan of Hollywood | | | 106 Decorative flower holders |
| 46 Explosive compounds | | | | | 107 Cybermissive |
| 48 Hercules creator | | | | | 108 Scorch |
| 53 From time immemorial | | | | | 113 1040 IDs: Abbr. |
| 54 Riddle, part 3 | | | | | 115 Fruity quaff |
| 56 Talk big | | | | | 116 According to |
| | | | | | 118 Fence (in) |
| | | | | | 119 Psychic |
| | | | | | 120 Added charge |
| | | | | | 121 Bruin great |
| | | | | | 122 Alleged psychic |
| | | | | | Geller |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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N.C. State's Wes Moore finds ways to stay on recruiting trail during coronavirus

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
News + Record Correspondent

When the WNBA Draft got under way on April 17, it was the first live sporting event that many folks had watched in more than a month. Balls weren't bouncing and shots weren't going in, but this was sports. There was excitement, and nearly 400,000 people tuned into watch on ESPN.

But Wes Moore was not one of them. While the draft was going on and while many Wolfpack fans were hoping to hear senior point guard Aislinn Konig's name called, the N.C. State head women's basketball coach was busy trying to build his future teams.

"I'll be honest with you, we were doing a Zoom call with a recruit and her parents during the WNBA Draft that night. We're at the mercy of recruits," Moore said recently during a Zoom call with reporters.

The coronavirus has shaken and restricted the sports world since mid-March, but it hasn't stopped Moore from recruiting. After leading N.C. State to its first ACC Tournament title since 1991 this past season, he's been focused on reloading his squad and making it better for years to come in an effort to keep that trophy in Raleigh.

Last week, Moore secured a commitment from one of the top transfers on the market in Raina Perez, the reigning Big West Player of the Year from Cal State Fullerton. She'll be able to play immediately as a graduate transfer and her averages of 19.8 points, 5.4 rebounds and 4.2 assists per-game will help fill the void at point guard left by Konig, the ACC Tournament MVP who went un-



Submitted photo

Wes Moore has coached the N.C. State women's basketball team since 2013 after 15 successful years at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

lected by WNBA teams.

Moore also has an incoming freshman class that includes a pair of four-star recruits and one of Canada's top 10 players.

"We're doing Zoom calls with recruits and their parents. And obviously, a lot of phone calls, those sorts of things," Moore said. "We're working our tails off trying to get it done and trying to take advantage of the success we've had the last few years."

N.C. State had been to the NCAA tournament in four of Moore's previous six seasons on the job. After winning the ACC Tournament, the Wolfpack seemed primed to land a No. 2 seed in the 2020 tournament before it was scrapped.

Still, while Moore is marching on with business as usual with recruiting — minus interacting with prospects face-to-face — there's still much uncertainty surrounding the upcoming high school and college seasons because of the pandemic.

"Obviously, we're all going to be in the same boat," Moore said. "Some we're still having discussions of, is there a chance that (AAU

teams) play in July? That's not looking real good right now. Do they push some events, maybe into August and September, maybe on weekends? You know, we're all up in the air just like football. You know, who knows when football is going to be played, and that may affect when basketball is played.

"It's tough. I think there are certain recruits right now that are committing because of the uncertainty. You know, some of them are wanting to stay closer to home maybe because of all this. Some of them are going ahead and making their decisions because they don't feel like official visits are going to happen. Others are holding out... So, it's really all over the board, everybody's a little bit different."

For Moore, the one thing that is certain is the talent he is bringing back next season. Four of N.C. State's starters return, as does off-the-bench contributor Jada Boyd, who made the ACC's All-Freshman team along with starter Jakia Brown-Turner.

The star of the Wolfpack's often sold-out show,



Submitted photo

The Wolfpack was 27-4 and won the ACC Tournament this year prior to COVID-19 canceling the NCAA Tournament.

the engine that makes everything work on offense and defense, is Elissa Cunane. An All-ACC First Team selection and Third Team All-American this past year, Cunane will be back for her junior year in Raleigh. A native of Summerfield and a graduate of Northern Guilford High School, the 6-foot-5 center was a finalist for the Lisa Leslie Award in 2020 after averaging 16.4 points and 9.6 rebounds in 27.3 minutes per-game. She was also third in the ACC in field goal percentage with a 54.7 percent clip.

Cunane earned the moniker "Big Smile" from broadcaster Debbie Antonelli for the uncontainable joy that she plays with and the always present grin spread across her face. But next season, Moore is hoping that Cunane will be called that nickname a little bit less and show her competitive edge more.

"Elissa is just such a great person and friendly

person," Moore said. "Well, I'd like her to be called 'Big Frown' sometimes on the court more. And you'll see it every now and then. You'll see a little bit of an attitude come out (toward) the opponent. But we got to work on that... Defensively, she's got to have attitude, that she gets mad when she gets scored on, you know, be competitive on that defensive end."

Moore is also hoping Cunane can improve on her decision making, in terms of which shots to take and when to take them, and when to give the ball up.

"I've been for two years wanting her to maybe use the baby hook a little bit more," he said. "I think that can be effective. She's got to use her left hand more effectively. But really, just too many turnovers. She's got to be able to pass the ball out of the double team, because she's going to get double teamed. But you know, what a year she had. She's worked so hard

on her three-point shooting. I think she shot 44 percent from three. Don't get me wrong, I'm not wanting her to stand around that three-point line all day by any means, but if she comes down in that drill position, I have as much confidence in her shooting the three as anybody on our team."

Whenever sports do resume and whenever the next college basketball season does start, Cunane, Moore and the Wolfpack will be poised to have N.C. State competing for more banners, in the ACC and nationally.

"I think there's a lot of excitement around our program. Definitely. Our fans are awesome. Our season ticket sales, since I've been here, has multiplied times seven. And I hope we take another big jump," Moore said. "Definitely trying to parlay that into excitement with recruits... I'm anxious to get them back on campus and start a new chapter."



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PICKETT

Continued from page A1

and plans to return to performing for live audiences again once he can.

That he gravitated towards music isn't surprising.

"On my dad's side of the family, everyone plays guitar and sings, especially during Christmastime and the holidays," Pickett said. "We all get together and have family parties and sing Christmas carols. So that's always been a part of my life growing up. And my great-uncle was a songwriter. He wrote over 50 songs. I've always looked up to that."

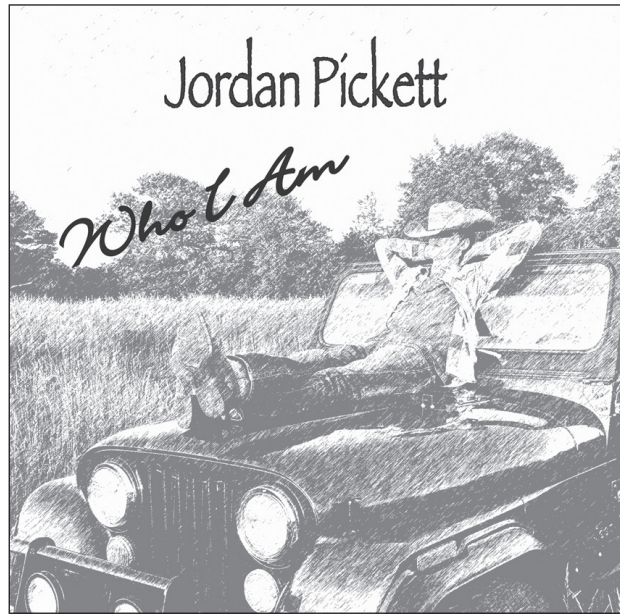
His music — and his musical tastes — run distinctly towards country.

"Country music and Christian music, too," he said. "I'm a Christian, so I try to incorporate that a little bit in my music. I kind of look up to the older country, more classic country artists like Tracy Lawrence, Randy Travis and George Strait. George Jones. Merle [Haggard]. That's what I like."

He took up learning to play acoustic guitar about four years ago. Songwriting soon followed.

"I've been writing music about two years," he said. "And I've been performing about a year."

Before the pandemic, he was performing a lot of live shows. He enter-



Submitted photo

Jordan Pickett's debut CD is available through his social media sites, including Facebook and Instagram, and at several local stores including Silk Hope Service, Brownie Lu's, Best Food Cafeteria, Pittsboro Roadhouse and Dry Dock Seafood.

tained audiences last Labor Day at the annual Old Fashion Farmers Day in Silk Hope. He's played at Elizabeth's Pizza in Siler City, the Pittsboro Roadhouse and Wings-N-Things in Winston-Salem. His parents, Richard and Denise Pickett, have been highly supportive of his career choice and Richard has helped him book performances, he said.

"My dad has always been behind me," he said, "and tried to get me gigs everywhere he could."

Since the interruption of the pandemic, Pickett has continued to reach his growing audience through other means, including social media (he's on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and ReverbNation), a recent live one-man show on Facebook, and the release of his CD.

"It's different," he said of performing for a virtual audience. "It's harder to sing to a crowd of people you can't see because usually I can feed off of their energy. But when I'm just

looking into my camera and looking at myself, it's a little bit harder."

Among the shows he'd booked which fell casualty to the pandemic were a May 19 performance at The Tin Roof in Raleigh and a performance at the Carolina Country Music Association's N.C. Songwriters Festival in Fayetteville.

"I was selected for that," Pickett said, "and that was going to be big."

That event, presented by the industry trade group representing country music singer/songwriters in North and South Carolina, has been rescheduled for May 2021 and Pickett plans to be there.

In the meantime, "Who I Am" is available to purchase either directly from Pickett via his social media sites or at a number of local outlets including Silk Hope Service, Brownie Lu's, Best Food Cafeteria, Pittsboro Roadhouse and Dry Dock Seafood.

And his original composition, "It's Called Dirt," was played on WQDR as part of the station's Homegrown Country program. Listeners can vote for their favorite songs.

"I'm really stoked about that," Pickett said.

Response to "It's Called Dirt," which you can listen to on his Facebook page, has been very positive, he said.

"I've gotten really good feedback about it," Pickett said.

In the song, Pickett sings about the earth — dirt — not as something messy or dirty, but as something important and foundational.

"It gets muddy when it rains," he sings, "and we all came from it; but we'll go back to it someday. And I grew up on it. Beneath these boots, it's stuck on the bottom; no matter where I go it's just gonna follow. We this house right on this land; oh how love has grown since then."

The country song has struck a chord with listeners, Pickett said.

"People tell me it hit home to them, and that's what I'm shooting for with it," he said. "For me, it's about my home and what I grew up on. What's kind of cool, people use the word dirt as a negative thing. I looked at it from a different perspective and used it as a positive thing about how on this dirt, there's my house and everything. I looked at how much good it's done for me and my life, so I flipped it around."

But back to the challenges of a career in music: Pickett met one of them — finding the funds to record his music professionally — head-on.

"I had to sell my dirt bike to do it," he said.

Recorded over about four weeks earlier this year at Mitch Snow Productions in Thomasville, the album has already sold 100

copies. "It was definitely worth it," Pickett said of the sacrifice.

When he's not writing and playing music, Pickett loves snowboarding and wakeboarding. You can find him sometimes on the water at Jordan Lake or Harris Lake. Once a year, he and friend travel to western North Carolina to wakeboard in Fontana Lake.

He said he's looking forward to a return to Chatham Central for senior year, hopefully under normal conditions, unlike the last few months of his pandemic-interrupted junior year.

His classmates, he said, are among his fans.

"They're all pretty supportive," Pickett said. "A lot of people in my class have bought my hats and shirts. And now they're buying my CD."

In the meantime, he's continuing to hone his skills and write. "I've written way more," he said. "I just haven't got the time and the money to produce them all yet."

And he's planning to stay on the music train, full speed ahead, pursuing it as a full-time career.

"Hopefully," he said. "That's what I've been dreaming about. If I can make a living out of doing something I love, that's what I'm shooting for."

Randall Riggsbee can be reached at riggsbee@chathamnr.com.

ART

Continued from page A1

among others, Raleigh's Black Box Dance Theatre and John Brown's Little Big Band out of Chapel Hill.

Brown, the director of Duke University's Jazz Program and the bassist in his band, said the group has been working on about 10 videos showing off their instruments — from providing historical context of the instrument to performing techniques. The band will intertwine video from past perfor-

mances with content created just for this program.

"We're happy to still be able to get content to the students and have them have experiences with the arts," Brown said. "That's the No. 1 goal. As long as their education continues and has some connection with the arts, that's our goal."

Brown and Cissokho both said they're going to miss the personal interaction with the students, that it creates, in the former's words, a "palpable difference."

Michelle Pearson, the artistic director at the Black Box Dance Theatre, said she's hoping to still

try, even though her company won't be dancing in front of the kids this time.

"We share some of the content and embody it and the kids get to see us figure it out," Pearson said. "We invite them to move and dance and learn a little bit of science with us. The videos pose a question or a challenge to share their experience of science in their real life. We will collect their stories and then come back to them and make a dance out of it. They can witness how their voice is the inspiration or the driving force of the art-making."

In person, the Black Box crew shares skills and methods of dance and connects them to what students are learning in school, from 3rd-grade science to high school math. While that's normally done in real time, this education will be different.

"We have the will and the courage to try and make these things happen, and we're surprised every day," Pearson said. "We really look forward to seeing how the kids can not just sit and get but literally have an active role in their own learning."

Pearson, Brown and

Cissokho praised the efforts of the CAC and emphasized the importance of the arts during this time.

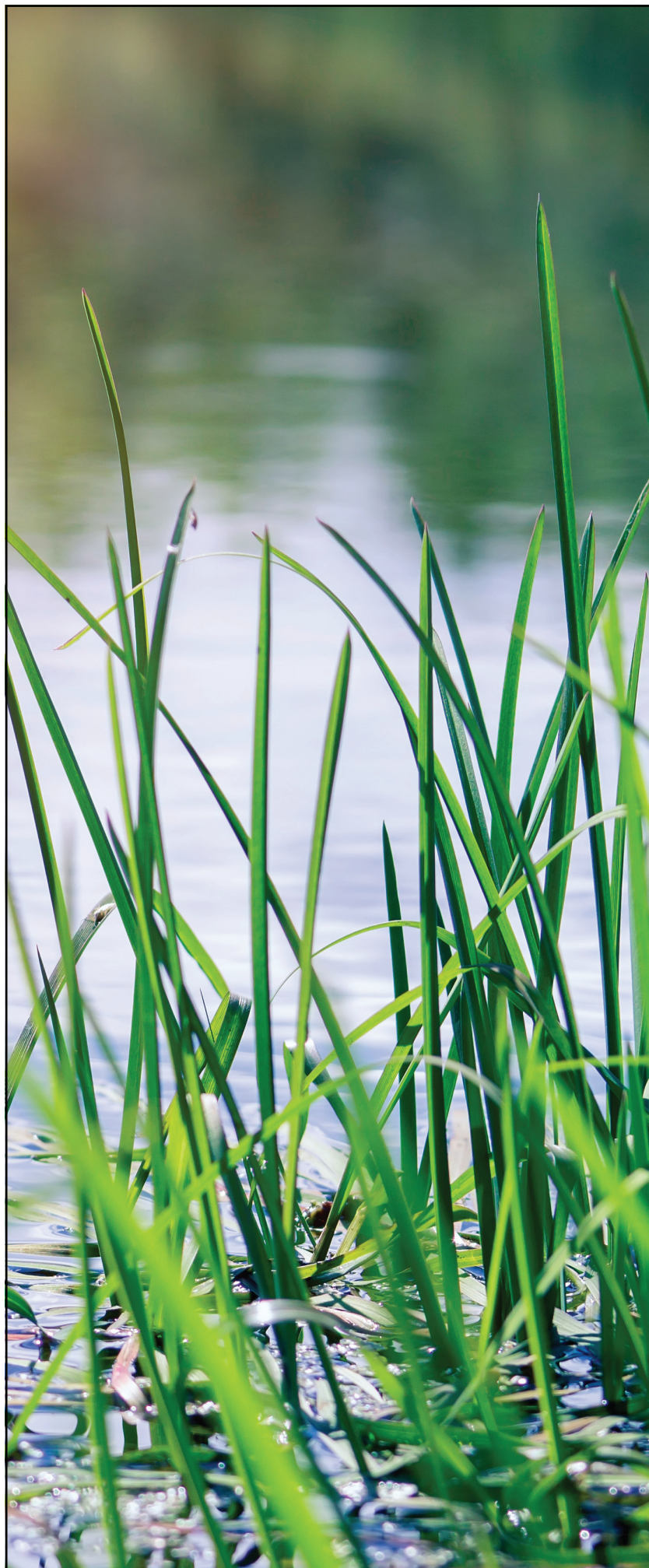
"They were really committed to making sure the students got as much content as they could get and continue to engage," Brown said. "Those folks made some real effort to make that happen for these students. I'm really proud as a North Carolinian to see that. I'm happy to be a part."

The CAC will be connecting with local teachers to share the material in the coming weeks. Sharon Allen, the lead arts teacher with Chatham County

Schools, said she was "grateful" for the organization's "flexibility" to make these Residencies happen online.

"The Artists-in-Schools Initiative offers students the opportunity to observe and participate in the creative process with professional artists," Allen said. "These videos are great resources for students, teachers and parents during this time of at-home learning."

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



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www.OldNorthStateWater.com.

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Chatham News + Record

2nd Front NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

MAY 21-27, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | SECTION B

Chatham businesses share how COVID-19 has impacted them

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

As North Carolina begins to lift some of its restrictions on companies and more people are out and about, the News + Record sought responses from local businesses about how COVID-19 has affected them. Here's what we learned from them.

Everyone was affected

Each of the eight respondents to a survey distributed to owners said their business was affected "in a significant way" by the pandemic, and one of the most consistent ways was financially.

The Small B&B Café in Pittsboro has experienced an 85 percent decrease in revenue. The Rojo Canela restaurant in Siler City lost 70-80 percent of its revenue and "might have to close." Another restaurant, whose operator wished to remain anonymous, saw a 50-60 percent drop in revenue.

Losses weren't limited to restaurants and breweries. Revenue for Pittsboro's Trader Chris Consignments, operated by Chris DiGiovanna, is down between 65-75 percent.

"Typically, the spring is the busiest time of year for me," DiGiovanna said. "April was the worst month for me revenue-wise in many, many years. I am concerned about being able to keep my business open long term with much lower revenue right now."

But not all businesses have seen decreases. Chatham Marketplace, the co-op grocery store in Pittsboro, has seen a year-over-year sales increase of 37 percent, according to store manager Evan Diamond.

"We're a grocer, so sales skyrocketed initially and have settled at a significantly higher sales volume," said Diamond,



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Leo and Aidee Davalos, the owners of Rojo Canela in Siler City, said they're able to stay open during the pandemic because they own the building the restaurant inhabits.

who cited Chatham Marketplace's role as an "essential" business. "Many customers are coming to us to support local business, shop in a safe environment, and shop somewhere with less foot traffic."

Operations change

Every business owner who completed the survey said their operations had to change, with effects ranging from increased sanitation guidelines to changing how services are provided. Diamond said Chatham Marketplace reduced hours and introduced "flexing employees around the store to new positions."

The Pittsboro Youth Theater moved all five of its youth and adult play casts to online rehearsals and began producing online performance videos. But that hasn't been good for the bottom line.

"Pittsboro Youth Theater's entire family of community arts organizations is self-funded," said co-operator Craig Witter. "We bootstrapped ourselves into our current condition, which can best be described now as 'strapped.' Suffice it to say, if our family of arts organizations were a medical patient today, we would be in 'serious'

condition." May is the traditional "show time" for PYT, but May is almost over, and with no performances on the schedule, that's a significant amount of lost revenue. Witter said the theater will lose out on ticket sales, which average \$10,000 each season, and concession snacks revenue, around \$2,000.

Multiple businesses said they might have to close or have at least considered the possibility. Becky Starr of Starrlight Mead said she and her husband Ben had considered closing, but "luckily" some financial help has come in to prop up the operation. Debbie Wolf of Nericcio's Family Restaurant, which opened six months before the pandemic hit, said the business has adapted to the carry out and delivery operations which are allowed by the state for restaurants.

PPP, EIDL and all the rest

Seven of the eight businesses applied for the Payroll Protection Program and/or Economic Injury Disaster Loan initiatives from the federal Small Business Administration, with experiences

See **IMPACT**, Page B3



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Lisa Piper of the Small B&B Café in Pittsboro said the business has been making efforts to donate food to frontline health workers, children and seniors during the pandemic.



The Pittsboro Youth Theater ceased activities on March 16 and moved all cast rehearsals online. Craig Witter, one of the theater's operators, said that all shows will 'be performed one way or another, either before a live audience or virtually, as soon as possible.'

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Ben and Becky Starr, the proprietors at Starrlight Mead in Pittsboro, say they're trying to remain optimistic during the COVID-19 pandemic, but are facing obstacles of their own. The meadery's tasting room is closed to all events and tasting.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

WHEN A GYM DOESN'T WORK OUT

Fisher selling her fitness and tanning business

Last Saturday, members came to Zone Tan and Fitness in Siler City to receive their refunds and decide if they wanted to purchase any equipment.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Christina Fisher of Zone Tan and Fitness in Siler City is hoping someone will step up to purchase the gym business and the building to keep it going. If not, she will begin liquidating assets and selling equipment.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Zone Fitness and Tanning in Siler City is closing its doors.

Christina Fisher, who has owned the business for five years, says the decision to close was a "personal" one. Fisher also owns the property where the gym is located and an adjacent building, located at 308 and 223 West Raleigh Street in Siler City, respectively.

"I just realized that sometimes you can anticipate changes in your life and sometimes you can't," Fisher said. "At this point in my life, I live on 17 acres that I pretty much maintain myself. Got a lot of responsibilities that are very physical in nature."

Fisher decided she just "didn't want to be in the gym anymore."

While COVID-19 was not the main factor in her decision, she said that having to close initially because of restrictions due to COVID provided her time to reflect on what she wanted to do in life and what direction she wanted to go. But those restrictions did play a role.

"I tried to wrap my

mind around how I would have to operate as a gym [during COVID]," Fisher said. "That's still an unknown. Like what additional expense in terms of materials and time. And is it possible at all to have it to a standard that keeps members comfortable. I don't know. There's a lot of questions I can't answer."

In regards to the business and the building, Fisher said she's been looking at "all avenues." She originally asked someone to operate the gym for her, but the person declined, noting economic concerns around COVID-19. Though Fisher notes she has "a lot of options" since she owns the property, she would prefer to sell the properties and the business. She said that she reached out to several members of the gym to see if they would be interested and is hopeful that there is the "potential that someone may buy the business and keep it going."

"I would prefer to sell the business, but I also am not going to dilly-dally with this," Fisher said. "I don't operate that way. I'm not going to let my building sit empty either. I will do something with it if it doesn't sell. I'm

hoping that these people I'm talking to are serious, then I'll hold off selling equipment."

Fisher is also refunding memberships to the 315 gym members pro-rated based on how much time was remaining on their membership. She will be at Zone Fitness and Tan every from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the next several Saturdays to allow members the opportunity to receive their refunds. In addition, equipment will also be available for purchase on those days.

Even though she's closing the business, Fisher reiterated that her reasons were "not strictly COVID."

"It's me wanting to go in a different direction," Fisher said. "I've been wanting to go back to what I did previously [which was corporate training] for a few different reasons. It's based on where I'm at in my life."

"I hope everyone understands why the decision is being made," Fisher said. "I'm trying to handle this in the best way possible and taking steps in the way I'm doing it. I hope they understand."

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

GRADUATION 2020

No pep rallies, no prom and no graduation

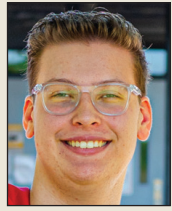
Chatham grads share what it's like to graduate in a pandemic

WORDS BY CASEY MANN, PHOTOS BY PEYTON SICKLES
News + Record Staff

This is a weekly series highlighting some of Chatham's graduating high school seniors in the wake of cancellations of ceremonies and traditions because of COVID-19. Want to tell us about your senior? Reach out to us!

John Thurman

John Thurman



Chatham Central Class of 2020
Beta Club
DECA Club
Future Business Leaders of America

Thurman

Volunteer with FuelUp Program



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

John Thurman is graduating from Chatham Central this year. He said doing schooling from home helped him realize the 'self-discipline' he has.

BEAR CREEK — Spending most of his last semester of high school from home, John Thurman, a graduating senior from Chatham Central, is trying to feel “normal.” The highlight of his day recently has been going to the coffee shop.

“That’s the only sense of normalcy these days,” he said. “It’s an evolving situation. I feel like I’m navigating the unknowns of life before even finishing high school. Dealing with the unknowns of this scary and stressful time.”

Thurman said he was used to the “normal schedule” of school. Now, with zoom classes at any time of day — even as late as 9 p.m. — he feels like the “school day never starts and never ends.” At the same time, he is very appreciative of how “willing our teachers are to work around our schedules.”

“The hardest part is being your own teacher,” Thurman said. “Yeah, you can reach out to them, but it’s nothing like having them being there, not having them for the one-on-one instant support.”

At the same time, the challenge has helped him realize something that will carry him into the future.

“The self-discipline of myself is something I found interesting,” Thurman said. “That’s one thing I wouldn’t have expected.”

Thurman said he was missing his classmates as well noting that “so much of school is that social interaction.” He “so many of us” want to go back to school, but not because of academics.

“Human connection adds to our

school experience and it’s so fundamental at this point,” Thurman said.

Like his fellow 2020 graduating seniors, Thurman is missing out on all the things in which seniors usually participate their final year of high school.

“I would love to have the ceremonies and events that we were supposed to have,” he said. “I would still love to have those experiences before going off to college.”

Thurman said that sometimes, members of the community don’t understand what he and his classmates are experiencing. He said that some members of older generations make comments like “we went off to war after graduation.”

“Well at least you had a graduation,” Thurman said. “You want to enjoy your senior year, but you really can’t when you’re locked in your house. But I’m coming from a place of gratitude. All the community support has helped and I am grateful to the community for that support. But calling to the realization of what is going on from our point of view.”



John Thurman misses the 'normalcy' of school. These days, his daily trip to the coffee shop is the only thing that helps him feel normal.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Eva Mann

Eva Mann



Chatham Central Class of 2020
Officer, National Honors Art Society
Art Club
Equal Rights Activist

Mann



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Eva Mann, who is graduating from Chatham Central this year, said she wished her accomplishments during the final semester at school would have affected her final grade point average.

GOLDSTON — For Eva Mann, who is graduating from Chatham Central, there’s a “love-hate” relationship with the notion of spending her last semester of high school at home.

She admits going to school “was never my favorite thing,” but in the past year, her first at Chatham Central, her relationship with school improved and she was on track to get a 4.0 graduating grade point average. As grading shifted to pass-fail when classes moved online in March, her straight A’s became irrelevant.

“I’m just kinda stuck where I’m at and that has disqualified me for a lot of scholarships I was going to apply for,” she said.

Schooling from home is a “different learning environment” that Mann said she was not prepared for. She’d struggled in the past with online classes as she couldn’t “really interact with people, ask questions and get answers,” something that challenged her this year as well. But she credits her U.S. History teacher, Laurie Page, for her successes this semester.

“I was not expecting to get through any of this,” Mann said. “At least in the manner that I’m handling it.”

Being “stuck at home” and not being able to do the thing she enjoys doing bothers her the most.

“I can’t go spend time with my friends,” Mann said. “I can’t even do art like a used to. And being stuck at home with my family, even though it’s family and you love these people, you get sick of them very easily.”

Mann has also found it challenging to “get a good feeling” about going to college at UNC-Greensboro in the fall. She recalled challenges in communi-

cating with officials and not being able to visit campus “even though it’s so close” as some of the reasons it’s hard to get excited about the prospect.

Mann said that others “don’t know what it’s like” to be a graduating senior in 2020. She said some people think the virus is not real or it’s just a time to not go to school and “do what we want.” But for her, she and classmates have been working hard for this moment and it’s something that others just “cannot understand.”

“You don’t know the effort we’re putting in and what’s being taken away from us,” she said. “I lost a lot of my senior year of activities that I can never go back and do. I don’t expect anyone to understand, but I don’t want them to pretend that they do.”

Eva Mann is the daughter of Chatham News + Record reporter Casey Mann. Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.



Chatham Central High School senior Eva Mann said that others 'don't know what it's like' to be a graduating senior in 2020.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

#chathamspirit: Health Alliance uses social media campaign to raise morale

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff

Even though schools are closed for the rest of the academic year because of COVID-19, local youth-serving agencies are determined to bring a little #chathamspirit to students stuck in isolation.

The Chatham County Health Alliance, along with other organizations from across the county, have initiated a social media campaign — using the hashtag #chathamspirit — to promote morale and raise spirits for students who are finishing school from home.

“I can’t imagine being in school right now — a high schooler or middle schooler who now has to stay home, not see friends and finish out the school year in a very different and challenging way,” said Julie Wilkerson, coordinator for the Chatham Health Alliance.

The Health Alliance has created subcommittees based on the county’s 2018 community health assessment. One of these subcom-



Submitted graphic

mittees, which focuses on poverty, contains the education working group where representatives from these youth organizations have been discussing a way to help.

“It was from our youth serving organizations that we saw the other negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the youth,” Wilkerson said, “and we see this as a way to keep them engaged and show them that they are still

being thought about and considered when we’re doing programs.”

Sara Martin, program specialist for Insight Human Services and a member of the education working group, said, “We wanted to provide support connecting to services, but we also wanted to have something fun for them to engage in.”

The social media campaign is similar to a spirit week with new themes each week.

“We have them post on Facebook, on Twitter or on Instagram with the overall theme hashtag, which is #chathamspirit, and then each week has a different hashtag theme,” Martin said. “So we search the hashtags to see what the submissions have been.”

Submissions judged most creative will receive prizes such as gift cards to local coffee shops.

The campaign is in its fourth week. This week’s theme is #crazyhairday; previous themes were #stillcelebrating, #creativepirit and #pajama-week.

The organizations have promoting this initiative through their respective social media accounts.

“I hope to see a lot of participation,” Wilkerson said. “I hope it’s a way of building some of that social connectiveness that I think a lot of us are feeling like we’re missing. I would love to see this build the youth voice into the initiatives the alliance does. All of our initiatives affect the Chatham community and we would

love voices to be heard equitably.”

Martin also echoed that the priority was elevating the youth’s voice.

“As a working group, one of our goals is to have youth more involved in leadership and have them be engaged more so this is one way we can begin to do that,” she said.

Following the academic calendar, the campaign will continue through the second week of June.

To see more, go to:
• <https://www.facebook.com/chatham-healthalliance/>
• <https://twitter.com/CISChatham>
• https://www.instagram.com/evh_youth/

Animal Resources

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Qualified applicants may purchase vouchers to use at participating pet clinics. Submit applications to:

Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center

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

Information
Below Is
Updated
Weekly

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/>

ANGELINA'S KITCHEN: Pre-Orders only, offering curbside delivery (please remain in your vehicle), local delivery with special arrangements. Open Wednesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm (later, if arranged), offering immune boosting meals, packaged cold with instructions for reheating, check online menu at <https://www.angelinaskitchenonline.com>, email orders to angelinaskitchenpittsboro@gmail.com, 919-545-5505, 23 Rectory St, Pittsboro NC

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

BROWNIE LU'S: Open Monday-Friday 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-noon for **take out and curbside delivery**. Full menu & daily specials available. Keep up with our daily specials on Facebook, like us while you're there! 919 N. Second Avenue (Siler City), 919-799-7250

CAROLINA BREWERY: Current daily hours for **gloved contact-free curbside pickup** (Chapel Hill 4pm-8pm, Pittsboro 11 am-8pm). Kids eat free* on Monday (*from the kid's menu w/ purchase of an adult meal, phone orders only) and Fried Chicken Wednesdays. Limited menu posted on website (www.carolinabrewery.com) and social media (@carolinabrewerybrewpubs on IG and FB @ carolinabrewery on Twitter). Beer Delivery available! FREE coozie and logo pint glass with a gift card purchase for future use either at our pubs or our online store. Funds from gift cards are used as relief fund for our staff. Chapel Hill Location: 460 W. Franklin Street, Tel: 919-942-1800 Pittsboro Location: 120 Lowes Drive #100 Tel: 919-545- 2330 Call ahead ordering or ORDER & PAY via our mobile app: HEARTLAND GUEST (Apple & Android); Inquiries: info@carolinabrewery.com

COPELAND SPRINGS FARM & KITCHEN: Prepared farm to table meals from our kitchen on our farm. Eggs, cheese & Certified Naturally Grown vegetables also available. **Curbside** pick up Thurs-Sun 4-6pm and **free delivery** w/in 10 miles. 193B Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312 Phone: 919-261-7211 Delivery details, new menu for May & ordering online at: <https://www.copelandsspringsfarm.com>, Regular updates via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/copelandsspringsfarm/> and Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/copeland_springs_farm/

COMPADRES: FAMILY MEALS now available!! All meals come with chips & salsa, too! See our Facebook page for all info! Serving full menu (subject to availability) for **CALL AHEAD take out orders and curbside delivery**. Open daily 11:30am-9pm, **Local delivery** within 10 mile radius, minimum delivery of \$30 (fees may apply), now offering 1/2 gallon margarita mixes in your favorite flavors (just add ice & liquor) and beer to go, Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CompadresTequilaLounge/>, <http://www.compadresnc.com> Locations: 193 Lowes Drive, Pittsboro 919-704-8374 or 115 Siler Crossing, Siler City 919-663-5600

ELIZABETH'S PIZZA OF PITTSBORO: Full menu available for take-out, curbside service, and **delivery**. We will be offering delivery within 5 mile radius with a \$35 minimum order (add \$2 delivery fee). Gift certificates are available in restaurant or purchase by phone. Open daily, 11a-9p (Fri & Sat 10p), but hours may vary, so please call ahead. 160 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro NC, Phone: 919-545-9292, Online: elizabethspizzapittsboro.com or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elizabethspittsboro/>

ELIZABETH'S OF SILER CITY: Currently accepting call ahead or walk-in orders (allow 30 minutes) of full menu, offering **delivery** within 10 mile radius with minimum of \$35 order (allow 45 minutes), open regular hours but delivery cut-off times apply (Sun-Thurs 9 pm, Friday & Saturday 10 pm). Visit us online at <https://www.elizabethsrestaurant.com> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ElizabethspizzaSilerCity/> 119 Siler Crossing Siler City NC Phone: 919-663-5555

GREEK KOUZINA: Full menu available for take-out and curbside service. Open daily 11 am-8pm. Your support of our restaurant allows us to pay it forward and donate to local nonprofits providing outreach to our community! 964 East Street, Pittsboro NC, 919-542-9950, Online: <http://greekkouzina.com> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Greek-Kouzina-2880587412128/>

NERICCIO'S FAMILY RESTAURANT: Open Tuesday-Saturday with amended temporary hours of 11am-7pm. Offering **takeout and free delivery** within 10 miles (call ahead ordering available). Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Nericcios-Family-Restaurant-101180477933858/>) ATTENTION ALL TRUCKERS, we have a large parking lot and look forward to seeing you soon. Phone: 919-799-7647 • 1110 North 2nd Street in Siler City (site of the old Copper Penny Restaurant)

OASIS MARKET & DELI: Open Tuesday-Friday (11am-3pm) & Saturday (noon-3pm), Come inside to shop our market, refill your growler with local beer (Tuesday & Saturday special \$11.99 refill, \$5 deposit on growler), or place your take-out order. **PREORDER** fresh baked pies and cakes, soups, chowders, salads, sides, cold cuts, chicken salad, hummus, yogurt cucumber tatziki, and egg salad by the pound. Call us or check our website for pricing. Providing organic vegetables (tomatoes, lettuce, onions, mushrooms, local NC beets, broccoli, organic celery, and grapefruit), daily specials, local honey, fresh ground or local roasted coffee beans, wine, beer, and a wide selection of local favorites. Keep up with us, our menu, and weekly specials on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OasisMarketnDeli/> Want us to shop for you? Curbside delivery is available! Let us know your order and we'll bring it to your car when you arrive! 117 South Chatham Avenue, Siler City, Phone: 919-799-7434, <https://oasisfreshmarket.com>

PITTSBORO ROADHOUSE: Offering **pickup or delivery** for items on a limited menu including Family Meals and a la cart items as long as we can. Order from 11 am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday for pickup between noon-7pm. **RECENTLY ADDED:** front room "convenience store" complete with beer, wine, family games, local products (including Carolina Cravings), pork, micro greens, lettuce, cheese, beef, chicken and even TP! Expanding regularly! Our menu is updated daily. We operate a commercial kitchen and bar, a small fleet of delivery vehicles, and licensed to provide food, wine, and beer deliveries. If you can pick up your order, please do. We'll deliver **curbside to your car at your request**. Located at 39 West Street, Pittsboro NC 27312, Phone: 919-542-2432 (Gift cards & donations to feed local families available via our online store or onsite). If the phone is busy, send email to takeout@pittsbororoadhouse.com with your name and phone and ask us to call you to get your order. Stay up to date with us via <https://www.facebook.com/PittsboroRoadhouse/> or visit our website for the most up-to-date daily menu: www.PittsboroRoadhouse.com/pickup-and-delivery/

ROJO CANELA MEXICAN CUISINE: Open Monday-Saturday 11am-9pm for curbside & take out. Serving our full menu (<https://www.facebook.com/rojocanelamexicancuisine/>) including appetizers, vegetarian options, classic & favorite Mexican selections, sandwiches, soup, children's menu, and desserts. Call ahead for faster service 919-799-7733. 315 E. Third Street (Siler City)

SMALL B&B CAFE: Operating on a call ahead basis, so please contact us to place ALL orders (take out & delivery) Continuing to offer **delivery** within 10 miles of the cafe with minimum order of \$20 (add \$3 fee), Please call our phone number to place ALL orders. We are planning to be open Wednesday thru Sunday (7:30 am- 2 pm) Keep up to date with us & menu options via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Small-BB-Cafe-128435270586175/>) or our website (<http://smallbandbcafe.com/cafe-menu/pick-up-order-menu.html>) Located at 219 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Phone: 919-537-1909

THE MODERN LIFE DELI: Open Tuesday-Saturday from noon-8pm for carry-out or curbside delivery. Currently serving our full menu and pizza. We've added PIZZA KITS you can make and bake at home (dough, sauce, cheese, pepperoni, and basil). Gift cards are also available. Our menu is online at www.themodernlifedeli.com Keep up with us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheModLife/> Feel free to call ahead to place your carry-out order. 46 Sanford Road, Pittsboro Phone: 919-533-6883

THE PHOENIX BAKERY: DELIVERY PROGRAM, visit our website delivery page for all info! Currently open Tuesday-Friday (8:30am-5pm) & Weekends (8:30am-2:30pm), providing full breakfast & lunch menu to-go as well as breads, pastries, and cakes. Come in & shop or order ahead for curbside delivery. Let's connect on Facebook! (<https://www.facebook.com/ThePhoenixBakery/>) You'll be able to find the ordering menu, pricing, delivery limitations, and details on our website: <http://www.thephoenixbakerync.com> 664 West Street, Pittsboro, 919-542-4452, email us: thephoenixbakery@yahoo.com

THE ROOT CELLAR CAFE & CATERING IN PITTSBORO AND CHAPEL HILL: GROCERY BOX TO GO: \$40.00, includes a variety of fresh veggies, berries and other fruits; 1/2 gallon low fat Maple View Milk and 1 dozen eggs from Latta's Egg Ranch. **Box contents will vary weekly depending on availability. Order ONLINE: <https://rootcellarchapelhill.com/groceries-to-go/> by Wednesdays at noon and pick up on Fridays between noon and 2 pm in Pittsboro & Chapel Hill. **FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIALS:** Rotating menu (think take & bake pizzas, MYO tacos, MYO pasta, & more), For latest menu, visit <https://rootcellarchapelhill.com/friday-night-specials/>, order ONLINE by Wednesday at 5 pm for Friday pickup 1-3pm in Pittsboro & Chapel Hill; **MEALS:** Prepared Weekly Meals Program: Simply heat and eat. Choose from: Meat, Vegetarian, Paleo (free of gluten, grains, dairy, soy and processed sugars), or Micro Meals (individually portioned; microwavable). Add-ons include kids meals, coffee beans by the pound and wine and beer. Menus updated weekly. Order ONLINE: <https://rootcellarchapelhill.com/family-dinners> by Fridays and Saturdays. Pickup in Pittsboro and Chapel Hill on Mondays and Tuesdays. Have questions? Email: hello@rootcellarchapelhill.com

TOWN HALL BURGERS & BEER: DELIVERY via Take Out Central website (www.takeoutcentral.com) or CURBSIDE pickup via ChowNow (www.chownow.com), if available in your area. Limited To-Go menu offered from 11am - 8pm daily includes shared plates, salads, sides, burgers, tacos, and wings (see our menu at <https://www.facebook.com/thbbbc/>). Call ahead ordering with **curbside pickup** only with credit card payment (must pay in advance by phone) GIFT CARDS available, we are taking care of our first responders and have also set up a fund to help our part-time employees (contact the restaurant for more info), 58 Chapelton Ct, Suite 140 (Chapel Hill) Phone: 984-234-3504 ONLINE: <https://townhallburgerandbeer.com/locations/briar-chapel/>

VIRLIE'S GRILL: Call ahead orders (pick up inside, one person at a time, please wait under awning or in your vehicle), full menu and daily specials are being served 11 am-7pm Monday-Friday (closed temporarily on weekends), gift cards available 58 Hillsborough Street, Pittsboro NC 27312 Phone: 919-542-0376 Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Virlies-Grill-410167659129954/> or online at <https://virliesgrill.com>

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IMPACT

Continued from page B1

varying. DiGiovanna said he applied for both, and got help from the PPP in the second round of funding. The owners of Rojo Canela applied, according to Don Manchas of the restaurant, but did not receive any funds. Wolf said Nericcio's received PPP funding, which has helped keep the restaurant operational.

"Without the loan, we would not have been able to stay open," she said. "We are concerned with the long-term ability to remain open if things remain the same. We are looking forward to our outdoor seating being open."

Starrlight Mead's borrowing process was odd. Starr said it applied for PPP through the bank that held its prior SBA loan, and the bank was "great and communicated with us through out the process." That money allowed the meadery to, in some capacity, bring back all the employees it had previously laid off.

"EIDL was another story," she said. "I applied, didn't hear anything for awhile. Got an e-mail saying that we couldn't get the \$10,000 Rapid Recovery and they would only pay \$1,000/employee. Then didn't hear anything. Got another email saying it was in line to be processed and that we'd get an email if our status changed. Then about a week later, the money showed up in my bank account with no notice!"

Diamond said Chatham Marketplace had a similar experience: the PPP process was smooth and painless, but EIDL was "not seamless."

Reflecting on the situation

Businesses have had to make adjustments to sanitation and cleaning procedures due to COVID-19, and none of the eight that replied to the News + Record's survey said guidance given to them was overbearing. Four respondents said advice from the Chatham County Public Health Departments and other agencies was "helpful," with seven of eight calling it "appropriate."

"Extra work to keep people safe," Witter said, "is fine."

DiGiovanna said he believed the restrictions put in place and the stay-at-home order were "necessary to keep people healthy and safe," but came with coincidental consequences.

"I own a non-essential business, but I work from home now and can handle business without coming in direct contact with clients anyhow," he said. "But it obviously puts a lot of strain on small businesses that rely on person-to-person transactions."

The future is not pretty for everyone. Manchas said the situation "does not look too good for restaurants" because, he believes, "customers will be afraid to come to restaurants." But most are trying to be optimistic.

"We're hopeful," Starr said. "We're celebrating our 10-year anniversary in September, so we're aiming for that. We're also trying to plan events for after we are able to open back up again."

But even in that optimism, there's still a caveat or two.

"The only caveat is if our local community becomes overwhelming ravaged by economical hardship and feels they can't afford our products," Diamond said. "I still believe that with our size, we will be able to pivot and meet that change if it comes, but it will mean reduced sales and scale of operation."

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

*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.

Family, friends remember J-M senior who died in police chase as 'a happy and humble person'

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Friends and family are still mourning the death of Jordan-Matthews High School senior Daniel Zagada-Hernandez, who died May 5 in Asheboro from injuries sustained in a vehicle collision after leading police in a high-speed chase. He was 17.

Zagada-Hernandez, who was scheduled to graduate in June, enjoyed playing soccer and spending time with his friends. One of his close friends, Isaac Gonzalez, 17, a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School, described Zagada-Hernandez as a caring individual.

"Daniel was always a happy and understanding person. He was never negative about anything," he said.

Yaseen Ali, 18, another close friend of Zagada-Hernandez, said he was "unlike any other person I've known."

"His kindness and gentle heart covered for his big physique," he said. "He always had high hopes and ambitions, not only for himself, but for everyone around him. He cherished his friendships and family above all."



An altar — in Spanish, it's called an 'ofrenda' — put together by family members at Daniel Zagada-Hernandez' home in Siler City.

Submitted photo

Each had other fond recollections of Zagada-Hernandez.

"My favorite memories with him were going to soccer tournaments with him, this one time I went to the beach with him and his family and our car rides together," said Gonzalez.

Ali remembers a moment where Zagada-Hernandez saved him from drowning.

"One day, Daniel, Isaac and I went cliff jumping," he said. "I stepped up and leaped in, but I had jumped too far out and couldn't swim back because I couldn't swim."

Daniel's first instinct was jumping in right after me and pulling me to the nearest rock."

Ahilet "Carmen" Zagada-Hernandez, 22, Zagada-Hernandez's sister, said the two had the typical brother-sister relationship.

"He would always come

into my room," she said. "I would be taking a nap and he would wake me up or if I was doing my makeup and looking in the mirror, he would come in and go 'move,' just to see himself in my mirror. I would tell him, 'you have a mirror in your room' and he would say how he liked the one I was using better, even if I using the one in the bathroom or my room."

Carmen Zagada-Hernandez said she was "staying strong" for her parents and wanted her brother to be remembered in a positive way.

"I'm focused on my parents. I want to be strong for them," she said. "Daniel was a happy and humble person. He loved his family and his friends. I'm trying to be happy because he was always happy."

According to a press release from the Asheboro Police Department, Zagada-Hernandez was being pursued by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, traveling west on U.S. Hwy. 64 toward Asheboro at a high rate of speed. Randolph County Sheriff's Office engaged in the pursuit at some point near Luck Road. According to an article from The Clauson Law Firm, PLLC website, Zagada-Hernandez was wanted for

stealing a vehicle, assault and hit-and-run. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office could not confirm nor deny those details.

Zagada-Hernandez got onto I-73/74, traveling northbound in the southbound lane for 2.92 miles before side-swiping a blue Acura driven by Aaron Haynes, 61, of Winston-Salem, and then striking a black Jeep, driven by Haley Hammer, 19, of Ramseur, head-on just north of Salisbury Street in the southbound lane. Haynes had minor injuries which did not require medical treatment; Hammer was transported by EMS with serious injuries.

"All of Daniel's friends and family acknowledge and are aware of the incident and how dangerous it was," Ali said. "Please remember that this kind-hearted soul was also a friend, brother, son, cousin, nephew and, for me, the best friend ever. Rest in peace."

A graveside service was held at Chatham Memorial Park in Siler City on May 11. A GoFundMe page to help with funeral costs can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/1zz9ra7p2o>. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

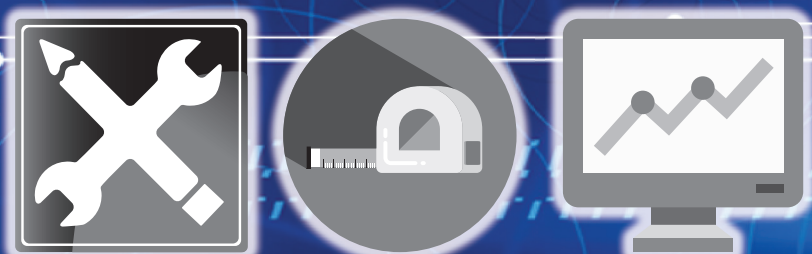
'Laps of Love'



As a salute to health care workers, a group of Chatham County first responders participated in 'Laps of Love,' a parade of emergency vehicles which drove around Chatham Hospital, at 475 Progress Blvd., Siler City, on Thursday, May 14. Starting at 2 p.m., representatives from local first responder agencies — including Siler City, Silk Hope and Staley fire departments, Siler City Police Department, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Chatham County Emergency Management, N.C. Highway Patrol and FirstHealth EMS — honored the hospital's personnel while maintaining social distancing. The parade lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

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Photo courtesy of Dolly Sickles

Evil has a name, and it is poison ivy



DOLLY R. SICKLES
The Optimistic Gardener

Evil has a name, and at our house, it's poison ivy. I wasn't always an optimistic gardener — in fact, before I got married, I'd never even cut the grass — but by the time I got my first pair of gardening gloves, I could identify poison ivy. Because boys. My husband is horribly allergic, and when he was younger, he wandered through the woods with abandon and often came home covered in weepy rash. I jest, to a degree, but it doesn't change the fact that he still asks me to confirm

whether vines are poison ivy or something else. Unlike kudzu and other non-native, invasive species, poison ivy is a native plant and naturally occurring in woodlands. And here in Chatham County, we've got a lot of woodlands (wahoo). It feels like it's everywhere, though, like some great looming wraith. And with the warmer winter and lack of snow and freezing temperatures, it feels like this is going to be a bad year for all the things that annoy us. But when I spoke to Chatham County Horticulture Extension Agent Matt Jones, he said, "I think conditions (mild winter, wet spring) have been favorable for growth of many weedy species, including poison ivy, but I don't think it is an especially bad year for poison ivy, per se." Consider this, though:

rising temperatures and higher amounts of CO2 have created the perfect photosynthesis setting for poison ivy to thrive. In 2006, Duke University led a research project that pumped extra CO2 over three plots of pine forests in N.C. The result showed more robust vines and "more virulent chemicals within the plants." (EverydayHealth.com) Thriving poison ivy, even at its "regular: growth rate and new normal in this warmer world, is bad news for anyone sensitive to the "high severity poison characteristics." (NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox). According to the American Skin Association, "about 85 percent of people are allergic to poison ivy, poison sumac or poison oak." That's a lot of folks watching where they walk. So how can you avoid getting poison ivy? Garden and recreate smartly and preventatively, of course. Wear long pants and sleeves when you're in wooded areas, where poison ivy (and poison oak and sumac) might be. Wear gardening gloves when you're working in the garden, and avoid touching your face or any exposed skin. If you do get poison ivy, urushiol oil in the sap is the culprit. "First comes the itching, then a red rash, and then blisters." (FDA.gov) About 15 years ago, after a really bad systemic allergic reaction (and a two-week steroid regime), my husband learned about a product called Tecnu. Had we bought stock in it at the time, we'd be richer than Elon Musk. Maybe. You can follow the package directions, but what works for Mr. Sickles is to get in the shower

and rub a couple handfuls of Tecnu onto dry skin. He lets it sit for about five minutes, and then turns on the water and washes it all off. He repeats the process again on wet skin, and then goes about his normal shower routine. He's had little blister patches about the size of a thumb nail on occasion, but for the most part, if he can catch it in the first few minutes of exposure, he can stave off the worst of the reaction. Getting it out of your yard is an epic battle. The University of Georgia's Extension office notes that "Poison ivy will not tolerate repeated tillage, cutting or mowing. Continually clipping the plant at or near ground level during the year for several years will eventually control poison ivy." There are other herbicide control methods, of course, but if you're like us you try to avoid anything that'll interrupt the honeybees. Also, don't burn it because all of that urushiol can be carried on soot particles and cause an allergic reaction. So patience is key for a poison ivy-free yard. Got any tips for holding poison ivy at bay? For more information • NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: <https://bit.ly/3cK2jBl> • University of Georgia Extension | Controlling Poison Ivy in the Landscape: <https://bit.ly/2Tds716> • Tecnu | Poison Ivy & Oak Scrub: www.teclab-sinc.com • FDA | Outsmarting Poison Ivy and Other Poisonous Plants: <https://bit.ly/2Tdystq> • The Optimistic Gardener | Behind the Scenes: www.OptimisticGardener.com

Poison ivy can be more than an irritation.

Let's Shop: A Locals Guide

Information Below Is Updated Weekly

THE CREATIVE GOAT: We are now **OPEN** Tuesday-Saturday from noon to 5pm, observing social distancing (so we will be monitoring the number of shoppers), providing sanitizer, and frequently cleaning common surfaces! Are you enjoying shopping from home? Much of our inventory is available online at <https://thecreativegoat.com>, so get comfy & order directly from the site or give us a call...we're here to make your experience as comfortable as possible. We'll schedule a convenient time for you to retrieve your order via **curbside delivery** during our current business hours. On Facebook? Give us a like & follow us for info on new items, crafty ideas, and eventually, updates about our classes! You may message us via Facebook @Creative_Goat, email us at info@thecreativegoat.com, send us an inquiry via our website (<https://thecreativegoat.com>), or give us a call (919-542-1938). As always, but more now than ever before, we appreciate your ongoing support of local small businesses like us! Stay crafty! 630 East Street, Ste 9 (Pittsboro)

PITTSBORO TOYS: We are **open by appointment!** We have crafts, activities, puzzles, games, and more available, and we'll work with you to keep your family entertained! Call or text us at 919-545-1546, <https://www.pittsborotoys.com>, 15 Hillsboro Street (Pittsboro)

STARRLIGHT MEAD: Open for business, but no tastings! We have 3 options available for you to get your favorite beverage. The meadery is still open (M-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-5) for **to-go** bottles or **curbside pickup!** Stop by when you need to get out of the house & grab up a few bottles to-go. Don't want to get out of your car? Give us a call, we'll take an order with a credit card over the phone (919-533-6314) and bring it out when you get here! Don't want to leave the house? No problem, we have bottles available online **delivered by UPS direct to your doorstep**, no need to get out of your jammies! Purchase at: <https://www.starrlightmead.com/buy-our-meads-online> Right now, we are offering **50% off shipping on 3 or more bottles** to help you get the mead you need! Got questions? Email us at info@starrlightmead.com or give us a call 919-533-6314. Bee Well! 130 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro)

VINO WINE SHOP: Open for **HOME DELIVERY** and **CURBSIDE PICKUP** on **Tuesdays and Fridays**. HOME DELIVERY: There is a 6 bottle minimum requirement and it costs \$10 (we are welcoming back our employees & delivery fees are paid to them). Delivery is within a ten mile radius of the shop. Outside ten miles, we may still deliver but the delivery fee will be applied. For same day delivery, order must be received by 3 PM. CURBSIDE PICKUP: There is no minimum requirement for curbside. Pickup time is between 11-5 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays, payment accepted over the phone, when you arrive, call us & we'll bring it to your car. Our inventory can be found online at www.vinowineshopnc.com. Since we're not always at the shop, you may email (anna@vinowineshopnc.com), send an inquiry via our website, or give us a call (919-542-3922). Don't know our wines? No problem - we are more than happy to make recommendations based on your likes and budget. Thanks for supporting local businesses during this strange time. Stay healthy! 89 Hillsboro Street, Ste D (Pittsboro)
SPECIAL EVENT: We are doing a Virtual Wine Tasting with Master Sommelier, Max Kast on Friday, May 29 at 7 PM. How it works: buy two bottles selected by Max for \$36.98 (plus tax) and pick them up at Vino. The Zoom link and password will be included with the bottles. Login in on Friday, May 29, for a virtual tasting with Max and Vino! Participation in the Virtual Tasting gives you opportunity to hear about a six pack of wine put together by Master Som, Max, himself!

NEW HORIZONS WEST: Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm with strict social distancing rules in place, only 1 to 2 people in the store simultaneously. For your safety and ours, we will be cleaning shared surfaces frequently, providing hand sanitizer, and employees will be wearing masks (we are requiring the same of our customers). **Check out our daily themed Facebook LIVE Sale:** Monday-Friday at 11am (www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsDowntown), Facebook ordering available, in-store pickup/curbside pickup/local delivery may be arranged by contacting the store. For details, please call 919-542-5487 or email onlinehorizons@gmail.com, 674 West St (Pittsboro)
NEW HORIZONS DOWNTOWN: Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm with strict social distancing rules in place, only 1 to 2 customers in the store simultaneously. For your safety and ours, we will be cleaning shared surfaces frequently, providing sanitizer, and employees will be wearing masks (we are requiring the same of our customers). Check out our **FRIDAY CLEARANCE SALE Facebook LIVE** event at 1 pm, Facebook ordering available (www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsDowntown), in-store pickup/curbside pickup/local delivery may be arranged by contacting the store, Phone: 919-542-7366, email (onlinehorizons@gmail.com) 52 Hillsboro St (Pittsboro)

RECLAMATION: As of Saturday, May 9th, we have returned to our previous schedule, **Tues-Sat. 11a-5p**. Online sales through our Facebook group page, Reclamation To Go, will continue. Please connect with us: (<https://www.facebook.com/ReclamationHomeFurnishings/>) Due to the small size of our shop, we will only be able to allow 5 customers in at a time. Additional customers will need to wait outside. Staff will be wearing face coverings and sanitizing frequently used surfaces. Face coverings for customers are recommended and appreciated but not required. 919-200-2176, 136 Fayetteville St (Pittsboro)

GATHERED HOME DECOR: **OPEN for shopping** Wednesday & Thursday 2p-5p and Friday & Saturday 10a-3p! **Storewide 20% OFF MEMORIAL DAY weekend sale!** We want to offer you a shopping experience to fit your needs, so if you would prefer to meet, arrange delivery, or request curbside pick up, please call us. We offer on-line ordering, PRIVATE SHOPPING APPOINTMENTS, and shipping! Keep in mind we are continually adding merchandise to our website, so check back often. We also have gift cards available! Thank you so much for supporting local businesses during this trying time. Please call 919-533-6357 with any questions or to schedule your private shopping appointment, or visit our website at www.shopgatheredhomedecor.com, 697 Hillsboro Street (Pittsboro)

OAK CITY HEMP: For your safety & convenience, we have added hand sanitizer and toilet paper to our current inventory! We have always placed great effort on operating compliantly which is our commitment to YOU! We have made necessary adjustments to our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which helps keep us all safe. **We wear gloves** when packaging your products; **Call Ahead to pull up & pick up...** stay in your car and we will safely transact your order & bring it out to you (pop your trunk & we will place your purchase there if you prefer); **Want delivery?** Order online or call ahead to place your order. Once processed, we will safely deliver your order to your door; **ORDER ONLINE** at www.oakcityhemp.com just please remember to wear gloves when opening your packages and to sanitize your countertops and hands after opening. 220 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro) 919-880-8164 • Wed-Sunday Noon-6pm

FAIR GAME BEVERAGE: Open for business **10:00a-6p Monday-Friday and noon-6p on Saturdays and Sundays**. Open for pickup, socially distanced shopping, and local delivery. Selling bottles of spirits, wine and cider cocktails to go, NC specialty food products, growlers, bottles of wine, NC ciders, and hemp sanitizer. Gift baskets and crates are also available. 193 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro beverage district), 919-245-5434. Check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fairgamebevco> We're also shipping online orders: <https://www.fairgamebeveragecompany.com/shop>

FRAGMENTS: Now open **Fridays 11a-3p & Saturdays 10a-2p**, by appointment or by chance, offering curbside pick up! Upscale Resale featuring artwork, home décor items, furnishings and other fine treasures. Looking for something special? Call or text and we can help you find it! Visit us at www.facebook.com/fragments to see some of our treasures. Text or call Linda (919-548-6651), Trudy (919-704-6184) or Sherry (919-548-2168), 210 N Chatham Ave. (Siler City)

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH People of all ages can make a mark during this difficult time

BY DENNIS STREETS
Chatham County Council on Aging

In 1963, John F. Kennedy was the first president to designate May as a special time to celebrate the current and past contributions of older persons to our nation. Every year since, presidents have followed suit, including President Trump, who recently proclaimed May as Older Americans Month. Similarly, over many years the Chatham County Board of Commissioners have added their support for this special month. The year 2020 is no exception. On April 20th, the board passed a resolution recognizing that "we are a stronger community when all residents — young and old — can use their time, talents and life experiences to the best of their abilities to contribute to the greater good." The commissioners added that this is "never more evident than during this unprecedented period of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Sadly, with the stress of COVID-19, there is some growing evidence across the country of impatience, blaming, and lack of empathy as people struggle with the public health precautions necessary to combat the spread of this deadly virus. The frustrations are understandable. People naturally are very concerned about the loss of jobs and income insecurity. I have great concern for the overt expressions of some and the likely innocent actions of others whose failure to follow recommended public health measures place additional risk on those disproportionately impacted by the disease. As of last week, while persons aged 65 and older made up 20 percent of the confirmed COVID-19 cases in North Carolina, this age group accounted for 85 percent of the state's deaths.

A recent Los Angeles Times story portrayed the anxiety of seniors sensing ageism in comments and behaviors that pit their lives against a weakening economy and restlessness among those yearning for normalcy. These words of Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, himself 70 years old, exemplify the tension: "Let's get back to living." More pronounced are the signs of some opposing restrictions—with one of the more extreme being that of a Tennessee protester: "Scri-

vice the weak, reopen." In Chatham County, we should take pains to avoid adopting an "us vs. them" attitude in light of the pandemic. Each of us can take reasonable and informed actions as we phase into reopening our society, while still showing respect and doing our part to protect those in our community who are at highest risk. It is clear that relatively simple measures can go far to decrease the spread of this very contagious and deadly virus, but it takes everyone doing their part. We're all in this together. Some of the vital public health practices we suggest include:

- Keeping your physical distance from others outside your immediate family;
- Wearing a mask or other face covering at work or otherwise in public (including grocery or hardware stores); and
- Following good personal hygiene practices (e.g., frequent and thorough handwashing).

While reports may suggest that younger generations are growing impatient with their elders and those in other at-risk groups, the support for seniors we see within our local community reflects a heart for treating one another with a common dignity. Both young and old have offered to help Chatham County's seniors through the COVID-19 crisis, from UNC Nursing students offering fun and educational online activities for homebound seniors to UNC Medical students taking the initiative to deliver groceries and needed supplies to seniors who cannot leave their homes, to the Council's younger supporters donating supplies for seniors' pet companions, to local families dropping off balloons and flowers to brighten seniors' days. We are moved and encouraged by the outpouring of support we have seen for Chatham County's seniors. This year's national theme for Older Americans Month is "Make Your Mark." This is a time when people of all ages can make a positive mark today and for the future by rejecting ageism, which divides us, and instead rallying to assure a healthy society where people of all ages feel welcomed and respected. We're grateful that Chatham County is leading the way.



Look for these businesses on our Facebook page! Want to include your business? Contact Dawn at dawn@chathamnr.com for info.

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 and deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver a Schedule 1 controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture, sell and 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.

Jonathan Brower, 32, of Siler City, was

charged April 4 with two counts of assault on a female. He was issued a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 3 court date in Pittsboro and a June 8 court date in Greensboro.

Donald McIntosh, 53, of Bear Creek, was charged April 21 with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and communicating threats. McIntosh was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Robert Barron, 49, of Sanford, was charged April 21 with violations of a domestic violence protective order. Barron was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Rogers,

22, of Sanford, was charged April 21 with violations of a domestic violence protective order. Barron was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Lilia Vera, 28, of Lexington, was charged May 2 with trafficking opium or heroin, conspiracy to sell/deliver heroin and no operator's license. Vera was held under a \$500,000 bond with a May 5 court date in Lillington and July 15 court date in Pittsboro.

Jose Arias, 31, of Lexington, was charged May 2 with felony possession of cocaine, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle/

dwelling/place for a controlled substance, trafficking opium or heroin and conspiracy to sell/deliver heroin. Arias was held under a \$510,000 bond with a June 29 court date in Lexington and a May 5 court date in Lillington.

Eric Jackson, 30, of Spring Lake, was charged May 14 with obtaining property by false pretenses, exploiting disabled/elder trust and larceny of chose in action. Jackson was issued a written promise with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Chancellor Mills, 21 of Raleigh, was charged May 15 with driving while impaired, two counts of simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. Mills was issued a

written promise with an August 17 court date in Pittsboro.

James Rives, 31, of Pittsboro, was charged May 16 with assault by strangulation and assault on a female. Rives was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Bruce Banks, 45, of Siler City, was charged May 16 with assault on a female. Banks was issued a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jhadius Person, 21, of Siler City, was charged May 13 with felony breaking and entering and injury to real property. Person was given a \$5,000

bond.

Jordan Daniels, 21, of Siler City, was charged May 13 with felony possession of a firearm with an altered serial number. Daniels was given a written promise.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jose Hernandez-Guevara of Chapel Hill was cited May 12 for improper passing and driving with no license on N.C. Highway 751 in Pittsboro.

Mark Tatro of Pittsboro was cited May 14 for unsafe lane change on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

James Schoonover of Siler City was cited May 15 for driving while impaired on Mt. Vernon Springs Road in Siler City.

Pittsboro's Water Quality Task Force offers first recommendations

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The first report to the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners from the municipality's newly-formed Water Quality Task Force raised several questions for the board at its most recent board meeting.

The Water Quality Task Force was created by Pittsboro commissioners late last year to address significant amounts of unregulated chemicals found in the town's sources of drinking water. The members of the board, which number more than a dozen, were appointed at the last December meeting of the board. Several reports over last year showed Pittsboro had higher than recommended levels of 1,4 Dioxane and PFAS — chemicals considered carcinogenic — traced to discharges by municipalities upstream of the town's Haw River water treatment plant.

In a joint meeting of the board and the task force in January, the board laid out its expectations of the task force's work. The scope included research into 1,4 Dioxane and PFAS, short-term ideas for solutions, questions the board should pose to the regulating bodies in Raleigh on the subject, and regulations for preventing upstream discharges and notification requirements for town's downstream.

In the task force's memo to the board at its May 11 meeting, the group's stated purpose was "identifying needs, and short term and long term solutions to those needs" to address the presence of unregulated chemicals in the water. The report noted the group was "in the process of compiling suggested in-home reverse osmosis treatment systems." The task force memo suggested the town could create a grant or loan program for installation of in-home reverse osmosis water filtration systems with the costs begin recouped using a monthly fee on the water bill. The group suggested partnering with students at Central Carolina Community College to help install and maintain the systems.

The task force also suggested installing "water refill station hubs placed strategically located throughout the town" to supply water treated through reverse osmosis for "community members who may not be able to afford installation and maintenance of home treatment options." The task force also suggested supplying "large water storage tanks for public schools and health care facilities by the beginning of the 2020 fall semester," though no estimates

of the cost of were provided.

For the long-term, the memo said the task force was still looking into "effective treatment" at the town's water plant, including the results of a pilot study of treatment options currently underway at the facility. In addition, it suggested partnering with Durham, Chatham County and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) to obtain access to "cleaner source water from Jordan Lake."

Upon receiving the report in the May 11 agenda packet, the commissioners noted appreciation for the work of the task force, but raised specific concerns. Some commissioners noted that the task force was given specific guidance in January about the main purpose of the task force, but several items were not addressed in the report. In particular, Commissioner Micheal Fiocco wanted to know more about what can be done with "folks upstream" who are discharging into the Haw River.

"I didn't see a lot about that," Fiocco said. "That's one I'm really quite keen on — getting them to do the leg work on what's possible and how to go about affecting change upstream."

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin reiterated concerns about the focus of the task force asking, "Is this really what we want from them?" She also raised concerns about the task force creating a separate web and social media presence outside of something managed by town staff, something else the task force report noted the group was doing. Baldwin said she believed the group should be "reporting back to us before putting anything on a website."

Commissioner Kyle Shipp stated that he wanted the task force to have a slot at an upcoming meeting to have the task force available to present and answer questions rather than supply a simple report. He also requested that the group provide all of the minutes of its meetings to the board for its review. Fiocco agreed, noting he had anticipated "regular reports" from the group, not a single "report after four or five meetings" adding he thought the group "would have performed differently then they are."

The board agreed that the task force, whose members were not in attendance at the board meeting, had the potential to play an important role in the decision making process. Commissioner John Bonitz asked for reaction about the specific recommendations the report made. Fiocco noted concerns about the "optics of people waiting in line" at a pump

station for water treated with reverse osmosis for residents that can't afford in-home systems. He also questioned how the town would regulate that type of service. He asked if it would be free and if not, how would they charge.

It was also noted by Mayor Jim Nass that several of the recommendations were already things the board had begun discussions on including in-home treatment systems and the on-going pilot program at the town's water treatment plant.

Bonitz, even with the board's reservations, said he was "very pleased" the task force was "continuing the work." He agreed that the task force would benefit by having more "response" from the board as to its direction.

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



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Update: Neighbor2Neighbor

CN+R Staff Reports

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor continues to build and connect Chatham residents who need help with people and services that assist.

Neighbor2Neighbor, a collaborative effort of the Chatham News + Record, Abundance NC and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group, launched in April with a simple idea — connecting people in Chatham County who have the capacity to help with those who need it the most using a simple online form.

Any Chatham County resident who wants to volunteer to help can access the site from one of two URLs:

• <https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor> (for English)

• <https://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino> (for Spanish)

Marcela Slade, Abundance NC's event coordinator and art director, created flier and posters in English and Spanish to help reach those who may not have reliable internet access. The number of residents or families helped in the last week alone more than tripled, from four to 15. More than 70 Chatham residents volunteered to provide assistance.

Slade said about 50 percent of those seeking help are Spanish speakers, many of whom are having difficulty paying utility bills. The initial fund created to support those residents is nearly dry, but Slade has been coordinating with the Chatham County Dept. of



Submitted photo

Marcela Slade of Abundance NC has been communicating with Spanish speaking residents for the Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor program.

Social Services to connect those residents to the Crisis Intervention Program. The department provided Slade with application

forms in English and Spanish that she provides to those seeking help with bills.

Another significant portion of those in need are seeking food. Many of them, according to Slade, cannot leave their homes to shop because they are either elderly or have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Slade received a note from a Spanish speaking woman with three children who was diagnosed with COVID-19 who was helped. Slade translated the note into English.

"Thank you, Marcela," the note read. "They already came and dropped off the groceries. May God bless you all and help you with more health because



what you do for others is amazing. Thank you. I won't be able to repay you, but God will compensate you."

Neighbor2Neighbor also paired a Latinix male who normally works in a thread factory with a female community member who needed garden work done.

"Thank you," he said. "I will be attentive to her call and if not call her myself."

When Slade asked the man if he spoke any English he said, "No, but don't worry. I know how to make this happen."

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor has also coordinated with Cha-

tham's Council on Aging's Executive Director Dennis Streets. Streets shared information about the program to let Chatham's elderly population know that they can be paired with willing volunteers who want to help them get through the pandemic.

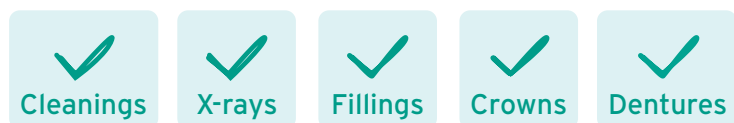
Getting involved

How can you help? Access and complete the Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor form using the links in this story.

For more information, email news@chathamnr.com and your message will be directed to volunteers.

Dental Insurance

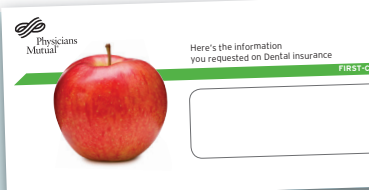
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -



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Photo courtesy of Vertical Entertainment

Tom Hardy stars as the aged titular gangster in 'Capone.'

Latter days 'Capone' is a lurid, lazy fever dream



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

The tantalizing setting of "Capone" are the final years of Al Capone living in

exile, a syphilitic shell of his former self released from prison to live out his dying days roaming the grounds of his Palm Island, Florida, manse. But what should have been a framing device for a deeper dive into Capone's vicious rise to power and unexpected celebrity never takes form. Instead, writer-director Josh Trank stays moored in Capone's demented demise and the eccentricities of the actor playing him.

The Al Capone in this misbegotten biopic is a far cry from the Chicago crime lord of historical lore. Indeed, Capone's long-suffering wife Mae (Linda Cardellini) does not permit a coterie of minders and relatives to call him anything other than "Fonzo," perhaps to distance her disease-ridden husband from any memory of his disreputable past. Through the filter of actor Tom Hardy's mumbly Method performance, Capone remains an ashen husk, grunting his way through bouts of mania and fever dreams.

He repeatedly craps his pants, screams at ghosts, and — on doctor's orders — unwittingly gnaws on carrots in place of unhealthy cigars. Through a glazed glare, he barely comprehends the liquidation of his prized assets or even the identity of his housemates. Capone sees spies in the distant woodline, a product of both chronic paranoia and, in truth, FBI agents who continue to monitor him, convinced his insanity is an act and he has \$10 million hidden away somewhere.

The story of Napoleon on Saint Helena works only as a jumping off point for a perusal of his life and times. In "Capone," we get only passing glimpses of the gangster's dormant demons, flashes of bygone glitzy parties and gory murders with a crazed Capone as the unreliable narrator. Trank is just as inconsistent: Capone's erstwhile cohort Johnny (Matt Dillon) is a former victim whose Jacob Marley-esque visits are apparently all in Capone's head, yet he is introduced from a third-party perspective, living in Chicago, liaising with an unseen broad, and taking a phone call asking him to come see Capone in Florida.

It is all faint echoes and shadows, always returning to incessant prattle about missing money and

Capone

GRADE: D+
DIRECTOR: Josh Trank
STARRING: Tom Hardy, Linda Cardellini, Matt Dillon, Al Sapienza and Kathrine Narducci
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 43 min.
NOW STREAMING ONLINE

a long-lost son (Mason Guccione) who may want to reconnect with his dying dad (and may also be cooperating with law enforcement? I dunno). The audience, ultimately as confused as Capone, does not conjure much sympathy for him or his family, despite Trank's phantasmagorical efforts otherwise. "Capone" is like the third act of "The Irishman" without the rest of the film preceding it. We are only left with Hardy's self-indulgent interpretation, which remains captivating until you grasp it is not leading to anything insightful or remotely cogent. Not for a lack of trying, but you can literally see the flop sweat on his brow.

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Kid Scoop Together:

Out of Order

The story below is all out of order. Work with a family member to put it back in the correct order.

Spot would watch for ships nearing the entrance of the bay. As they passed, he jumped and swung on

Spot could not find the rope in the deep snow. He dug and dug and finally found it. He tugged as hard as he could, he rang the bell, but the snow muffled the sound.

One winter day, his funny habit saved the mailboat.

the rope to make the lighthouse bell ring loud and clear.

Then Spot had another idea. He ran to the edge of the water and starting barking. Hamor joined Spot and started yelling and soon the mailboat gave three short blasts – the signal that it had heard them and saw the way to safety.

On that day, a strong storm lashed the harbor and the mailboat did not appear on schedule. Hamor called Spot to have him clang the bell so the mailboat operator would

Spot loved being a lighthouse dog. Spot belonged to Pauline Hamor, daughter of the lightkeeper, August Hamor. The Hamor family lived and worked in one of Maine's most beautiful lighthouses on the busy Penobscot Bay.

know where to bring the mailboat. You see, the storm was so strong that it was hard to see the light from the lighthouse tower.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:

BEACON

The noun **beacon** means a light set up to serve as a warning or signal.

The lighthouse was a **beacon** for ships at sea.

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

LIGHTHOUSES

A lighthouse is a tall building with a light near the top. Lighthouses are built on the coast of an ocean or lake. The light from a lighthouse warns ships when they are too close to shore to help them avoid crashing into rocks or land. The light usually turns in a circle, so ships see a flashing light.

Which famous monument was a lighthouse for 16 years? Circle every other letter.

D S G T F A Q T P U V E L O S
F Y L R I S B M E Z R N T L Y

S _____

Lighthouses Help Ships Night and Day

A beacon of light in the night alerts ships to where a shoreline is located. Lighthouses can tell a sailor the location of the ship by the way the lighthouse looks in the daytime.

Lighthouses have different sizes, shapes, heights and colors to identify them. These are called **daymarks**.

Here is a list of styles of lighthouses. Read the description of each. Then label each drawing of a lighthouse.

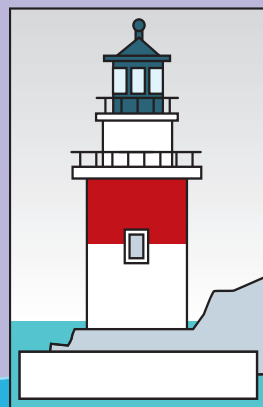
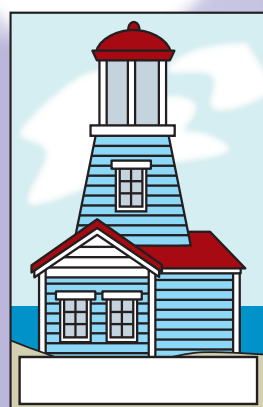
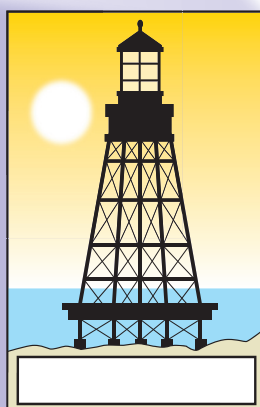
Housetop: A lighthouse with a light tower rising from the roof of a house.

Skeleton: A lighthouse made out of a metal framework that lets wind pass through easily. It usually stands on land.

Wedding Cake: A lighthouse with layers that look like a wedding cake. (also called a sparkplug)

Screwpile: A lighthouse which stands in water on huge iron legs. Wind and storm waves can pass through it.

The light is usually covered by a **Fresnel lens**. This lens enables the light to travel a far distance.



Thank you to the United States Lighthouse Society and Elinor DeWire for allowing us to adapt some of their many educational resources. For more lighthouse fun & learning visit:

ElinorDeWire.com and elinordewire.blogspot.com and the United States Lighthouse Kid's Corner at uslhs.org/fun/kids-corner

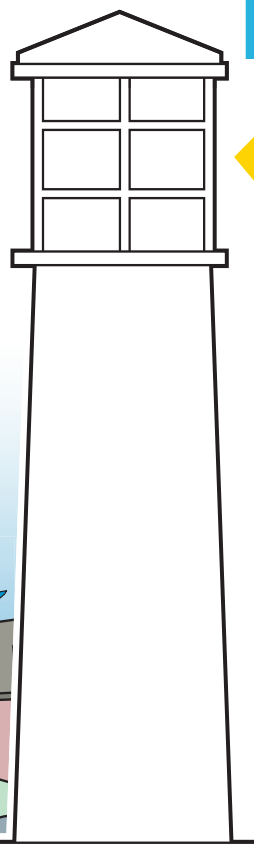
DAYMARK DESIGN

The color and design on a lighthouse tell sailors where the lighthouse is located. West Quoddy Lighthouse in Maine has red and white stripes. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina has a black stripe that wraps around the lighthouse like a barber pole. Cape Lookout Lighthouse, also in North Carolina, is painted in a black and white checkerboard pattern. Montauk Lighthouse in Long Island, New York has a big brown band around its base.



How many differences can you find between these two lighthouses?

- Score yourself:
- 1-5: Sandcrab
- 6-10: Seahorse
- 11-15: Flying Fish
- 15+: Tiger Shark



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

Imagine this is your lighthouse. What would your daymark look like? Use crayons or markers to color it.

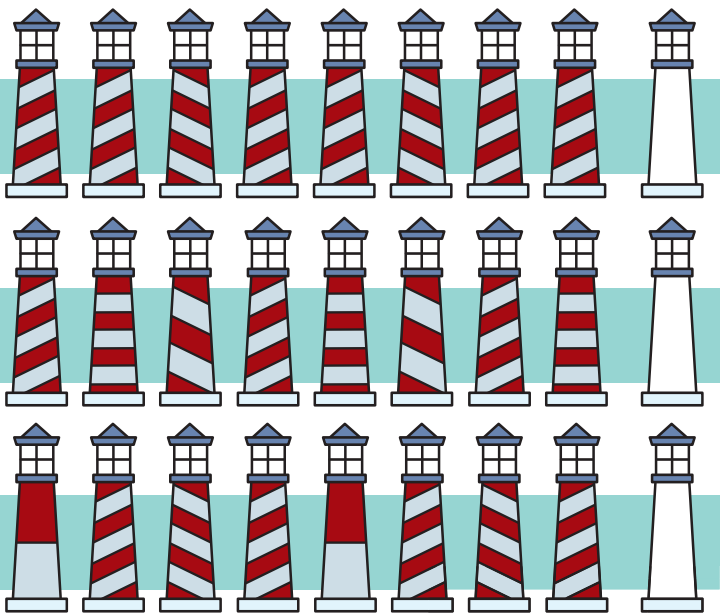
Extra! Extra! Safety First

Lighthouses provide safety for ships. What provides safety in your community? What makes it safer for people walking or traveling in cars, trucks or trains? Look through the newspaper for examples of these safety measures.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Color the lighthouse at the end of each row to continue the pattern.



Double Double Word Search

- LIGHTHOUSE
- SCREWPILE
- FLASHING
- FRESNEL
- DAYTIME
- CIRCLE
- BEACON
- SHIPS
- OCEAN
- SHORE
- TOWER
- LENS
- HUGE
- CAKE
- FOG

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Scrambled Articles

Cut out an article from the newspaper. Cut it into four or five segments. Give the article to another person to see if they can put it back in the right order.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.



Write On! Explorer Report

Pretend you're a news reporter on a trip with a group of explorers. Write about what you are exploring. Be sure to tell who, what, when, where and why.



Chatham YMCA

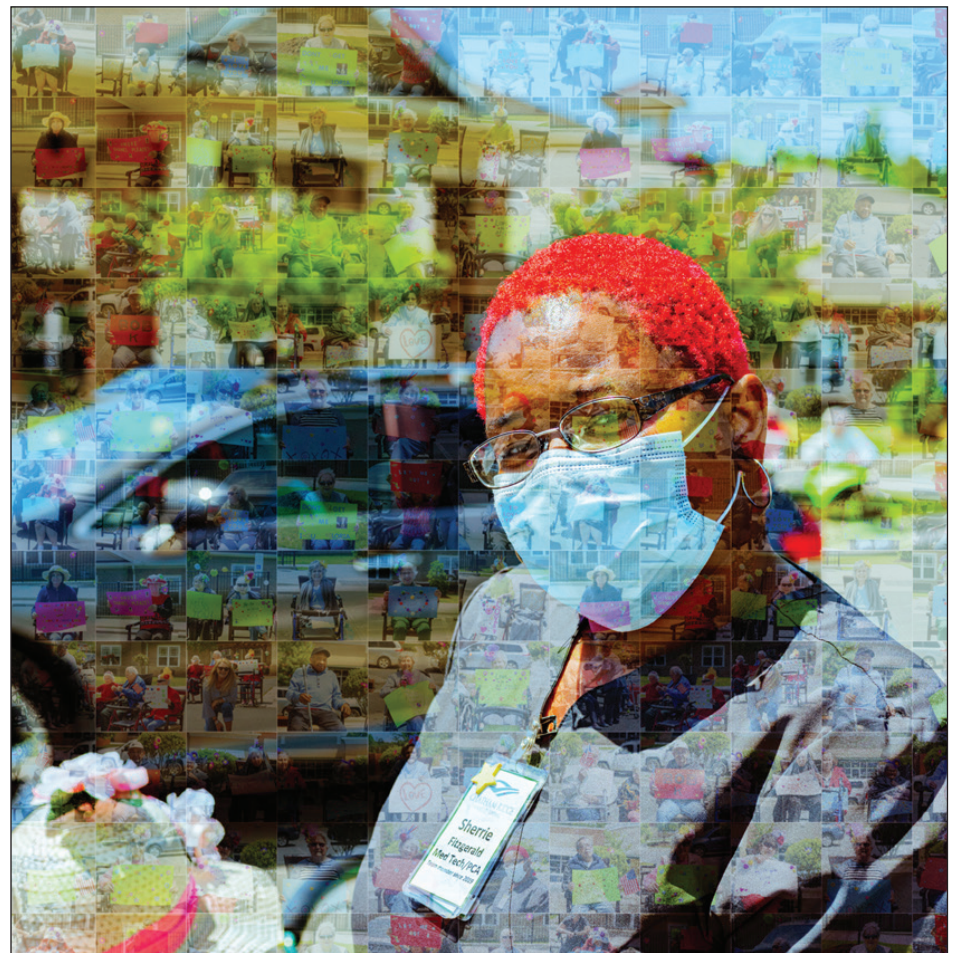
- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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A parade of families



Mosaic illustrations by Peyton Sickles

Chapel Ridge held a parade for its residents on May 7, which was the first time residents had been able to go outside in two months. This mosaic of photos features Med Tech Sherrie Fitzgerald on right. Residents held signs for the parade that were created by their loved ones, mainly their grandchildren, to express heartfelt messages. The parade gave residents a chance to see their families at a safe distance.

Two Questions, Many Answers

Part, The Second



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Welcome, Gentle Reader. This week another of my chef role models answers two simple pandemic-related questions.

Meet Chef Joanne Weir. It all started at the turn of the last century at a place called Pilgrim's Pantry. The Pantry was a restaurant in Boston run by a woman who was the first of generations of culinary professionals. The current standard-bearer is Weir, the great-granddaughter of that original Boston chef.

Chef is only one of her many facets. She's a restaurateur; her eatery Copita has been lauded as the best and most popular Mexican restaurant in the San Francisco Bay area. She's written 20 cookbooks; her first, From Tapas To Meze (1994) was named as one Julia Child's favorites out of the thousands of cookbooks released that year.

She's a teacher, a travel guide, and a television host — heading six PBS cooking series. Her current is "Plates and Places," a cel-



Photo courtesy of Melissa McArdle

Chef Joanne Weir of the Pilgrim's Pantry in Boston.

bration of international travel and flavors.

And Chef Joanne's kind, generous, and accommodating. When I asked her to participate in this odd pandemic questionnaire, she didn't hesitate. Here are her answers, and one of her very favorite recipes.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

What's your favorite pantry meal?

My absolute favorite is Eggs in Purgatory. We always have eggs and a can of tomatoes. This is the perfect pantry meal. And you can serve it

for breakfast, lunch or dinner!

What's your best food-related activity suggestion for staving off familial boredom and the resulting mayhem?

I have been watching and cooking on Instagram Live and Facebook Live. It's been really fun, rewarding, and the best part, a fantastic way to connect with and engage with people. Being an extrovert, I miss being with people and the energy I get. All you need is a smartphone if you only want to watch or a smartphone and a tripod to record. It's so easy!

Eggs In Purgatory Amatriciana

This recipe can be made in one cast iron pan or two small individual-serve cast iron pans. Pancetta or guanciale may be substituted for the bacon.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil | Pinch of crushed red pepper | tomatoes |
| 2 ounces bacon, cut into 3/4-inch pieces | 1 clove garlic, minced | Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper |
| 1 small red onion, minced | 1/4 cup dry white wine | 4 large eggs |
| | 2 1/2 cups canned Italian Mutti Polpa | 1/4 cup finely grated Parmigiano |

Toasted bread or focaccia
Preheat an oven to 400F.
Warm the olive oil in a medium frying pan over medium-high heat and add the bacon, cook, stirring occasionally, until very light golden, about 3 minutes. Add the onions and crushed red pepper and cook until the onions are soft, 7 minutes. Add the garlic and cook 1 minute. Add the white wine and reduce by half. Add the tomatoes and simmer until the sauce thickens slightly, about 10 minutes.

Check the thickness by pulling a wooden spoon across the bottom of the pan and if it stays separated, it's done. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Transfer sauce to an ovenproof baking dish. Make 4 indentations in the sauce. Break the eggs, one by one into a small bowl, and with the spoon, add one egg into each indentation. Place on the top shelf of the oven and cook until the white of the eggs are firm but the yolks are still runny, about 7 to 10 minutes or until desired doneness. Season the eggs with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle the top with Parmigiano Reggiano and serve immediately with toasted bread or focaccia.
Serves 2.



Eggs In Purgatory Amatriciana, as prepared by Chef Joanne.

Photo courtesy of Melissa McArdle

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RENTAL APARTMENTS

OPENING SOON!! Siler School Square Apts. - Multi-family community w/1 and 2 bdrm apts. Amenities include: playground, fitness center, computer room, and much more! Affordable housing, must meet income requirements. Call (919) 234-5525 today to be put on call list. Credit and criminal background check required. Handicap accessible units subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management. My21,28,Jn4,11,4tc

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

AUTOS FOR SALE

2007 FORD TAURUS, V6, 85K Miles, \$4,000. Call 919-545-1594 or 919-663-3672. My21,1tc

2006 HONDA CRV LX SUV - Good tires, New brakes on front and back. Reliable transportation, \$2,700, 919-225-7687, My21,28,Jn4,11,18,5tp

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, A2,tfnc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, A2,tfnc

SERVICES

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING and/or Landscaping and yard work. Available immediately. Call 845-287-9213. My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

HENDRICK SERVICE, Lawn Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, drive way pipe, cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, A2,tfnc

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK for Siler City office. Part time employment no less than 10 hours per week. Experience in accounting required. Experience with Quickbooks preferable. Apply online only: <https://jscor.re/5m916> or <https://cadinc.com/about/careers>, My21,28,Jn4,11,4tc

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is looking for a Financial Secretary to work in the church office 20 hours per week from 9am-2pm Monday thru Thursday. Bookkeeping and computer skills required. Send resumes to FUMC, PO Box 212, Siler City, NC 27344. My21,1tc

MISC

AMBROSIA AND BURPEE Hybrid Cantaloupe, vegetable and flower bedding plants are ready at Vestals, 969 Poe Road, Siler City. Call 919-200-3755, My14,21,28,3tc

LEGALS

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 17th day of April, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of **ELLIS MAX MANSFIELD**, 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 30th 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 23rd day of April, 2020. David Mansfield, Administrator of the Estate of Ellis Max Mansfield 191 Moncure Flatwood Rd Moncure, NC 27559 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 A30,My7,My14,My21,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **DORIS G. CROSS** aka **DORIS ANN CROSS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned Executrix does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present such claims to Judith Jean Meinhalt at 214 Mountain Maple Drive, Cary, NC 27519 on or before the 30th day of July, 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 to the Estate. This, the 30th day of April, 2020. Judith Jean Meinhalt, Executrix 214 Mountain Maple Drive Cary, NC 27519 C. Terrell Thomas, Jr. Kirk, Kirk, Howell, Cutler & Thomas Post Office Box 729 Wendell, NC 27591 Attorney for the Estate (919) 365-6000 A30,My7,My14,My21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Priscilla D. Holmes NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PRISCILLA D. HOLMES** late of 300 Clynesh Close, 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 at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 31st day of July, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 30th day of April, 2020 Thomas P. Holmes, Executor of the Estate of Priscilla D. Holmes Dori J. Dixon Schell Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 A30,MY7,MY14,My21,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-177 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, William Childress, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **NICOLE LYNN SANDERFORD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 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 to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. William Childress, Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-176 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, William Childress, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JOHN PAUL SANDERFORD, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 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 to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. William Childress Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19-E-347 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Carey Wilson, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MILDRED B. WILSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 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 to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. Carey Wilson Executor for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 180 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **ANGELA DAWN CLARK**, 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 August 7, 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 7th day of May, 2020. Kay P. Clark, Administrator PO Box 143 Goldston, NC 27252 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 162 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate **MAUREEN WOODS GRAFF**, 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 August 7, 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 4th day of May, 2020. Katie Graff Wright, Executrix 8800 Oxford Court Chapel Hill, NC 27516 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 19 JT 4 IN RE: "S.G." DOB: 12/21/18 NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION

TO: Biological father/Father of the above female child born December 21, 2018 in Orange County, Chapel Hill, NC to Heather Holdren. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from May 6, 2020, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney. STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P. BY: /s/ ANGENETTTE STEPHENSON, Attorney for Petitioner, CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 109 Conner Dr., Suite 208 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 Telephone: (919) 869-7795

My7,My14,My21,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CHATHAM COUNTY 19SP59

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY CHESTER S. PALMER AND JUDY PALMER DATED JUNE 3, 2008 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1407 AT PAGE 642 IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA **NOTICE OF SALE** Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in the payment of the secured indebtedness and failure to perform the stipulation and agreements therein contained and, pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the secured debt, the undersigned substitute trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale at the county courthouse of said county at 1:00PM on May 29, 2020 the following described real estate and any other improvements which may be situated thereon, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed Chester S. Palmer and Judy Palmer, dated June 3, 2008 to secure the original principal amount of \$140,790.00, and recorded in Book 1407 at Page 642 of the Chatham County Public Registry. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warranty is intended. Address of property: 2511 Mount Vernon Springs Rd, Siler City, NC 27344 Tax Parcel ID: 0086597 Present Record Owners: Chester S. Palmer And Being more commonly known as: **2511 Mount Vernon Springs Rd, Siler City, NC 27344** The record owner(s) of the property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Chester S. Palmer. The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is made subject to all prior liens and encumbrances, and unpaid taxes and assessments including but not limited to any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. Following the expiration of the statutory upset period, all remaining amounts are IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Substituted Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing. SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASE-HOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant residing in the property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon written notice to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time notice of termination is provided. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is March 30, 2020. Grady I. Ingle or Elizabeth B. Ells Substitute Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 333-8107

My14,My21,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 204 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **DEBORAH JEAN BURKE**, 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 August 14, 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 14th day of May, 2020. Administrator CTA, Richard Alan Burke, Jr. 141 Snyder SR, SE Bondurant, IA 50035 C/O Lewis Fadley 119 N Fir Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 My14,My21,My28,J4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

John Thomas Gaines, Jr., having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of **SHIRLEY CADDELL McNEILL**, deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on April 30, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before August 12, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 14th day of May 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Sheila Leslie McEwan Cordner, having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of **LESLEY McEWAN**, deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on April 30, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before August 12, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 14th day of May 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tc

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.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 14th day of May 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

WILLIAM LEXTOR THOMAS, having qualified as the Administrator CTA of the Estate of **JOAN CLARK THOMAS**, deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on MAY 7, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before August 12, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 14th day of May 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tc



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamnc.org and click on Jobs

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA
Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

KEYBOARDIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church

We are seeking an experienced keyboardist/ Music Director who can lead our congregation in a blended worship service inclusive of hymns, traditional gospel, quartet, and contemporary music. Ideal candidate will have a love for Jesus and ability to lead and accompany 4 choirs and a praise team. Responsibilities include preparing all choirs for worship services and traveling with Pastor and choirs to outside engagements. Worship service starts at 9:45 am.

Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume to mitchellchapelnc@gmail.com or to PO Box 790, Pittsboro, NC 27312

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as the Co-Executors of the Estate of **REBECCA B. BROOKS** aka **BECKY B. BROOKS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons, firms or corporations having claims against the estate to present same duly proven to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of August, 2020; otherwise, this notice will be plead in bar of recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to the estate will please make prompt settlement with the Executor. This 8th day of May, 2020.
Estate of Rebecca B. Brooks aka Becky B. Brooks
Rhonda B. Wilkie, Co-Executrix
510 S. 2nd Ave.
Siler City, NC 27344
Alan G. Brooks, Co-Executor
1041 Pine Knolls Rd.

Kernersville, NC 27284
Brinkley Walsler Stoner, PLLC
P. O. Box 1657
Lexington, NC 27293-1657
My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 193 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES MICHAEL ELLIS**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before August 14, 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 14th day of May, 2020.

Rosa Ann Headen, Administrator
207 Guthrie Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of **William G. Phillips**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Robert A. Mason, Esq., PO Box 817, Asheboro, North Carolina 27204, on or before the 17th day of August, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of May, 2020.
Marian D. Phillips
Executor of the Estate of William G. Phillips
C/O Robert A. Mason, Esq.
PO Box 817
Asheboro, North Carolina 27344
My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

of recovery.
Robert Terrell III
126 West Presnell Street, Apt C
Asheboro, North Carolina 27203
Robertintel.o@gmail.com
My21,My28,Jn4,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **DOROTHY CATHERINE KUJAR**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 21, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of May, 2020.
James Hutchinson, Administrator of the Estate of Dorothy Catherine Kujar,
c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney
155 Parkway Office Court, Suite 200
Cary, NC 27518
M21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 192 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HAROLD DEAN BROWN**, 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 August 21, 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 21st day of May, 2020.
Jerry L. Sanders, Executor
3919 US Hwy 64 W
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 155 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **JOHN R. LECHNER**, 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 August 21, 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 21st day of May, 2020.
Co-Executors
1. Joseph H. Lechner
2229 Sonoma Dr., East
Nokomis, FL 34275
2. Paul H. May
4131 Union St
N Chili, NY 1451
C/O EVERETT M BOLTON
Howard, McCoy & Bolton, L.L.P.
PO Box 10305
Raleigh, NC 276052
My21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Chatham County Request for Bids-Government West Side Annex Renovations
Chatham County is seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform construction renovations at the Chatham County Government Annex located at 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Work includes interior renovations and exterior improvements of the 2-Story West Side of the Chatham County Courthouse Annex Building of approximately +/- 9,300 sf. Interior Renovation work includes selective demolition, new interior framing and ceilings, and modifications to the existing mechanical systems, reuse and rework of the existing electrical systems, new plumbing fixtures, and new finishes and millwork. Exterior Improvements include soffit and window repairs/or replacements, repainting of existing steel, and resealing concrete walks. Building portions will remain occupied during construction. Server room must remain in operation during construction. A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the site. Due to COVID-19, the meeting times for the Pre-Bid will be staggered and tentatively scheduled with interested bidders Monday, June 1st through Wednesday, June 3rd. Sealed proposals will be received from qualified bidders until 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 18th, 2020 by Brian Stevens, Facilities & Construction Director for Chatham County, North Carolina. At that time bids will be opened and read. Methods of submission and location of Bid Opening to be determined and will be identified via addendum. Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from: Accent Imaging's Planscope Planroom System available at www.planscope.com/public.php 8121 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617, (919) 782-3332, On Tuesday May 19, 2020, Plan Deposit Required: \$150. Or by contacting: Hobbs Architects, PA, 159 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312, 919.545.2004. This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <https://www.chathamnc.org/business/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability. My21,1tc

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
My21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE

The tentative budget meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 for the **Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District** was presented to the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Board on May 7, 2020 and is available for public inspection at the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Water Plant, JR Moore & Son Store located in Gulf and/or the Goldston Public Library. A public hearing will be held at **6:00 pm on June 2, 2020 at the Town Hall Building in Goldston, NC**, at which time any persons who wishes to be heard on the budget may appear.
Jane Owens
Treasurer/Board Member
My21,My28,2tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Willow Oak Montessori proposes for Federal funding for the 2020-2021 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 to the public for review and comments during the week of June 8, 2020 - June 12, 2020 by contacting Melissa Beck, PhD, EC Coordinator, to set up a virtual appointment using the following email address: mbeck@willowoakmontessori.org Data Type: Newspaper
My21,My28,2tc

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

This is a public notice to advise the residents of the Town of Siler City that the Town of Siler City will be submitting an application to USDA, Rural Development for financial assistance. The purpose of the assistance will be for improvements to the Town of Siler City Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposed project is expected to be constructed in two phases. The first phase will be to make improvements to the existing plant to improve nutrient removal to reduce the nitrogen discharged to Loves Creek. The second phase includes the expansion of the existing 4 million gallon a day (MGD) plant to a capacity of 6 MGD and replace a 5,600 linear foot section of sewer interceptor upstream of the plant. The total cost for the project is estimated to be \$21.9 million and will be completed in the next 3 years. If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Nancy Hannah at Town of Siler City, nhannah@silercity.org or 919-726-8625
My21,1tc

Statewide Classified

YOUR AD can be promoted in multiple markets with one easy and affordable ad placement. Your ad will be published in 114 NC newspapers for only \$375. You reach 1.7 million readers with the North Carolina Statewide Classified Ad Network. Call this newspaper's classified department at 919-663-3232 or visit www.ncpress.com.

FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following position: Biology Instructor (10 Month). For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/> Human Resources Office. Phone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-888-989-4947! FREE Consultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)]

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 888-351-1231 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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Having qualified as Executor of the estate of **ARNOLD KNIGHT MILLER III**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of August, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of May, 2020.
Arnold Wesley Miller, Executor
3117 Windmere Dr
Sanford, NC 27330
My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

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NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of **NANCY S WILLIAMS**, late of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of August, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said decedent will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 14th day of May, 2020
Richard E. Gattis, Executor, Estate of Nancy S. Williams, Deceased
c/o Walter Brodie Burwell, Jr. Pinna, Johnston & Burwell, P.A.
P.O. Box 31788
Raleigh, NC 27622
My14,My21,My28,Jn4,4tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE

BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 CVS 298
ROBERT TERRELL III hereby notifies General Shale Brick, Inc., all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate: notice to the undersigned on or before June 18, 2020 as to plead in bar

CHATHAM CHAT | CHERYL CHAMBLEE, CHATHAM ARTS COUNCIL

As requests pour in, Masks for Many effort grows

Masks for Many, a project created by local performer and playwright Mike Wiley in conjunction with the Chatham Arts Council and designed to create face masks for vital workers, kicked off in April. Since many workers employed at medical facilities, grocery stores, drug stores and in delivery services don't readily have access to masks, Wiley and the CAC partnered with a consortium of concerned citizens to fill that need — seeking donations to cover materials costs and paying a small stipend to artists to create cloth masks for donation to local businesses, essential workers, healthcare facilities, and more. This week, we speak with Chatham Arts Council Executive Director Cheryl Chamblee about the growth of the work, and about a recent request of more than 1,400 masks.

What's been the response to Masks for Many since its launch?

Inspiring. Folks from all over the country really responded to a beautiful video message Mike Wiley created to spread the word. It's been moving to see that response — an outpouring of giving that's made up of this wide audience that loves and respects the theater work of this artist who calls Chatham home. And last week, folks inside Chatham County began to respond in earnest. Chatham has one of the largest infection rates per capita in North Carolina, and now we're seeing notes with folks' giving, saying that they're grateful to have a specific way to help.

Which organizations — and which people — have you been able to help?

We've been able to get masks to nonprofits like CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance), Communities In Schools of Chatham County, and Chatham Trades — as well as a few small local businesses with vulnerable vital workers and some family members of vital workers who needed protection. The priority is vulnerable vital workers — particularly our black and brown Chatham residents. And now we've gotten large orders that we're working to fill.



Photo by Scoville Photography
Cheryl Chamblee

That large request — 1,440 masks... tell us about how that request happened, and your initial reaction...

That 1,440 number is actually made up of three large requests — from Chatham County Schools, the local NAACP and the Hispanic Liaison. In all three cases, the Masks for Many team reached out during the creation of the project to let leadership in these groups know what we were working toward, but we didn't know how deep their needs might be. And requests were a bit quiet for a while — and then three of those requests came within a day or two of each other, and our team had emails flying back and forth basically saying, "Are the artists at the ready? Then, we'd better get some more money in and make this happen, y'all!"

We're not glad folks need these facecoverings, but we are so glad these groups have reached out.

CCS is doing a remarkable job of distributing food to families across Chatham who are vulnerable in many ways; Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan and Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice agreed that many of those same families need face coverings. And the local NAACP and Hispanic Liaison will reach black and brown communities with these masks in ways that no other organizations can.

Part of Masks for Many, of course, is the need for funds. How is the fund-raising coming along? And how can people help?

Right now, we've raised right at \$5,000 of our original \$10,000 goal. If people are considering making a gift to Masks for Many, we'd sure encourage them to do it now. And we'd love for folks to share the giving opportunity with their friends and relatives, too. This is a time-sensitive situation. The earlier the masks get worn, the better.

What will a \$10 donation do?

If you give \$10, you've made a cloth facecovering for someone in our community who really, really needs one. That somebody might be the person who is bagging your groceries, or she might be the person who is processing your food, or he might be the 8-year-old son of workers who can't afford to stay home to stay safe. And with that same \$10, you've paid an artist who is furloughed from work due to COVID-19.

It's difficult to look too far ahead or predict what's going to happen, but how do you see Masks for Many working and evolving in the coming weeks and months?

Such a great question. We know that facecoverings will be the recommendation for quite a while to come. Heck, in some industries, they may become a permanent fixture. We plan to continue to get facecoverings to our vulnerable neighbors and dollars to our out-of-work artists as long as there is community need and community generosity to fill that need. And still, Masks for Many is not a forever project. It's most urgent right now.

SPECIAL REPORT | CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Experts expect more prison COVID-19 deaths without more testing

BY 2020 NC CORONAVIRUS TESTING COLLABORATIVE

North Carolina officials in early May responded to a judge's order with a sheaf of documents outlining what the state is doing to stem the spread of COVID-19 in its prisons.

They described providing at least two masks to each inmate. In dorms packed with bunk beds, they are asking prisoners to sleep in a "head-to-toe" arrangement to maximize the space between their heads. And they are directing inmates in prison manufacturing plants to churn out face masks, gowns and thousands of gallons of disinfectant and nonalcoholic hand cleanser for use in the prisons.

But some attorneys and experts say, what was most notable in the state's response is what was left unsaid.

Neither the N.C. Dept. of Public Safety, which oversees state prisons, nor the governor, who has the power to commute prison sentences, outlined any plans to release more inmates early — a step that some experts say is crucial to allow for more social distancing in currently crowded prison dorms.

Officials also didn't announce any plan to test more adult inmates for COVID-19. So far, the state has tested about 4 percent of inmates — well below the national average for state prisons, according to data compiled by the COVID Prison Project.

"I think the necessary steps to limit the spread of disease include depopulation and test, test, test," said Dr. Brie Williams, who heads a team of medical experts at the University of California, San Francisco that focuses on the health of people who live and work in prisons and jails.

When little testing is done, undetected cases of COVID-19 are inevitable, said Alison O. Jordan, a nationally recognized public health consultant with expertise in jails and prisons.

"The consequence is that more people will spread the disease," Jordan said. "More people will get sick. And more people will die."

To evaluate how prison officials are attempting to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the prisons, reporters from six newsrooms across the state examined records from the May 8 court filing and interviewed inmates, experts and officials from other states.

COVID-19 thrives in the cramped quarters of prisons, and it endangers more than inmates and prison employees, experts say. That's because employees can transport the virus to their families and communities.

"COVID-19 ... does not respect the boundaries of a prison wall or a jail wall," Williams said.

'If they test us, they're going to find there's COVID-19'

Limited testing makes the true scope of COVID-19 in state prisons impossible to know.

About a third of North Carolina's prisons have yet to test a single inmate, state data as of Sunday night shows. And at 24 more state prisons, fewer than a dozen inmates have been tested.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said Friday that more people now qualify to get a COVID-19 test. That includes people who live and work in congregate facilities, including prisons and county jails.

But when asked how inmates would gain access to a test, she said contact tracing will determine whether inmates get tests.

"The good news is we haven't seen other outbreaks in other facilities," Cohen said.

DHHS defines a COVID-19 outbreak as two or more laborato-



Melissa Sue Gerrits/The Carolina Public Press

Neuse Correctional Institution is located in Goldsboro. It has reported three deaths of inmates related to coronavirus.

ry-confirmed cases, which means that North Carolina has seen outbreaks in 11 of its prisons.

"As we ramp up testing on our staff, we know we are going to find more virus potentially. Then we'll trace back to, 'Where are those staff? Are they in a correctional facility that has not yet undergone more testing?'" she said. "Then we will take the necessary steps from a contact tracing perspective to ramp up testing."

The state's two largest outbreaks are at Neuse Correctional Institution in Goldsboro and the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh.

At Neuse, all the inmates were tested after medical staff saw a spike in confirmed cases in mid-April. More than 460 inmates — about 70% of the prison's population — tested positive. At NCCIW, 230 inmates were tested. More than 90 of the women — about 40% of those tested — were found to be infected.

The lack of known outbreaks at more facilities may be due to limited testing.

"Given what we know about how quickly this disease spreads, the result of such limited testing is putting people in DPS' care in grave danger," said Leah Kang, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina who helped represent civil rights groups in a recent lawsuit aimed at reducing the state's prison population in response to COVID-19.

Inmates at several prisons have told reporters over the last several weeks that prison officials are not testing people who show symptoms of COVID-19.

At the Wake County Correctional Center in Raleigh, the state's statistics show that just one inmate has been tested and that no one has tested positive.

But one inmate there, who asked not to be named because he fears retaliation, said that, based on what he sees, he thinks a number of inmates have contracted COVID-19.

"We see guys who don't smoke but they cough for like a week," the inmate said. "They don't want to test us. Because you know what? If they test us, they're going to find there's COVID-19."

On Saturday, DPS announced that it would test all youths at the Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center in Concord after a staff member there tested positive for the coronavirus. But no other large-scale testing initiatives have been announced.

State prison officials say they're simply following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DHHS, which urge testing when people show symptoms.

"The stance has been that CDC guidelines don't call for mass testing. DHHS guidelines don't call for mass testing," prison spokesman John Bull said Friday. "Both

call for symptom-based testing."

Yet those guidelines are changing. On Friday, DHHS issued new guidance that recommends testing be available to people in correctional facilities, regardless of symptoms.

Some other states have taken a far more aggressive approach.

Tennessee was the first state to enact a plan to test all staff and people housed in state prisons on May 4 after seeing the results of mass testing at four prisons.

On May 12, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice announced the mass testing of inmates through self-administered tests after seeing a surge in illness and deaths among inmates and staff.

Michigan, a state with a prison population comparable to North Carolina's, has already tested more than 16,000 inmates — about 12 times the number tested in North Carolina. The state's goal is to test all 37,000 inmates, according to Michigan prison spokesman Chris Gautz.

The state has accomplished this mass testing with the help of 75 National Guard troops.

Each test costs about \$50. But Gautz said prison officials have found that it's worth the cost.

"You can't solve a problem if you don't know you have one," he said. "And you can't solve a problem if you don't know where it is."

'It's a breeding ground'
Those who live and work in prisons are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 because inmates live so closely together.

In interviews over the past month, more than a dozen inmates described cramped conditions: bunk beds so close together that prisoners can reach out and touch their neighbors; inmates who line up right next to each other for food and medication; prisoners who crowd around televisions in prison day rooms, sometimes without masks.

Carl McMillian, an inmate at Carteret Correctional Center, near coastal Morehead City, is serving time for a low-level drug charge and is scheduled to be released from prison in August.

He said the state's measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are hardly being followed. The prison set down markers on the ground to keep people apart while they line up for meals or for medicine, but the markers are ignored, he said, by both staff and inmates.

"I ain't come to get a death sentence, because I don't know if this thing will get me," McMillian said last week. "I got 84 days left."

Pamela Humphrey, an inmate at the NCCIW in Raleigh, said that in her dorm, the bunk beds are still no more than about 2 feet apart — even after the death of 67-year-old fellow inmate Faye Brown on May 6.

Brown was one of more than 640 state prison inmates who tested posi-

tive for COVID-19 — and one of five state prison inmates who died from the disease.

"It's a breeding ground, is what it is," said Humphrey, 58. "It's literally putting our lives in danger."

In some prisons, as many as 80 people are packed into a single room, said Kang of the ACLU.

Prison officials acknowledge that the cramped conditions make social distancing difficult. "All bunks in all dorms in all facilities are already spaced as far apart as possible, and at a minimum 3 feet apart," state prisons Commissioner Todd Ishee said in an affidavit filed in response to the ACLU lawsuit.

However, due to limited square footage, the bunks cannot be spaced out any further than they already are positioned.

To compensate, prison officials are now telling inmates at some prisons to sleep head-to-foot, a recommendation from the CDC.

This suggestion has been greeted with some skepticism by infectious disease doctors.

"I don't know if it helps," said Williams, the professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. "... I would count that as a very small step that may or may not have efficacy."

Dr. Sandra Springer, an associate professor at the Yale School of Medicine, said having inmates sleep head-to-foot in dormitories isn't enough. The bunks should be spaced at least 6 feet apart, she said, but that's a problem "because not every facility has space."

One of the ways to create adequate space, she said, is to release inmates.

Experts: Releasing more inmates early would help

Given the cramped conditions inside many prisons, some experts believe corrections officials need to consider releasing as many inmates as they can, provided they can do it in a way that doesn't pose a significant risk to public safety.

In North Carolina, about 700 inmates — a little over 2 percent of the total — have been released early due to COVID-19. Some of them are completing their sentences in the community, under the supervision of probation and parole officers.

Unless those inmates were released from just a few prisons, "it seems unlikely that releasing 2 percent of the population will have a discernible impact," said Dave Rosen, a UNC epidemiologist who studies infectious diseases in prisons and jails.

In Connecticut, Springer noted, the state has reduced the prison and jail population from 13,000 inmates to fewer than 10,000.

And in Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear has commuted the sentences of more than 1,200 inmates convicted of nonviolent and nonsexual crimes. The commutations will help protect both inmates and staff members, said J. Michael Brown, secretary of Beshear's executive



Melissa Sue Gerrits/The Carolina Public Press

At Neuse Correctional, 467 of 702 total inmates tested positive.

cabinet. "This is lightening the load on our corrections system and at the same time protecting some of the most vulnerable individuals who are in the corrections system," Brown said at a recent press conference.

But in their statements to the court, North Carolina's top prison officials asserted that they're hamstrung by inadequate resources to monitor and aid recently released inmates once they get back to their communities.

"In my professional opinion, there is simply no way to accomplish a mass release of offenders into the community at one time without sacrificing either the services that in our opinion are essential to reentry success or the interests of public safety," Nicole Sullivan, DPS director for reentry programs and services, wrote in an affidavit on May 8.

Do inmates have enough protective gear?

Prison officials say they've taken multiple steps to protect the health of inmates and staff. They have suspended in-person visitation and sharply limited prison-to-prison transfers. They've begun taking the temperatures of all staff members before they enter prisons each day.

And they've retooled prison manufacturing plants, instructing inmates to make enough masks, disinfectant and nonalcoholic hand cleanser for all inmates and staff.

But until several weeks ago, many inmates said they had no masks. Even now, some still say they have no access to some of the supplies they need to protect themselves.

In addition to Brown who died at NCCIW, there have been four

other COVID-19 deaths at state prisons. At Neuse, three people died. The first death was of a man housed at Pender Correctional Institution, where at the time only three people had been tested for the disease.

Gloria Estes, 68, an inmate at the women's prison in Raleigh who suffers from a variety of health problems, said inmates in her dorm still have no access to hand sanitizer. And she says the phones that inmates share still aren't disinfected between uses.

"I'm an endangered species," she said. "I'm pretty brave, but I'm fearful."

This story was jointly reported and edited by Kate Martin, Jordan Wilkie and Frank Taylor of Carolina Public Press; Gavin Off, Ames Alexander and Doug Miller of The Charlotte Observer; Dan Kane and Jordan Schrader of The News & Observer; Nick Ochsner of WBTV; Emily Featherston of WECT; and Tyler Dukes of WRAL.



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