Baseball: Locals worried about trickle-down effects of short MLB draft, PAGE B1

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JUNE 11-17, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

# **Data: COVID-19 disproportionately** affecting Chatham's Hispanic residents

BY ZACHARY HORNER News + Record Staff

Chatham County's Hispanic

community has been affected by COVID-19 more than any other single population group within the county borders, according to data released Friday by the Chatham County Public Health Department.

While Chatham County's population is 12 percent Hispanic, and 18 percent of tests have been conducted on Latinx individuals, at least

34 percent of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 are from the Hispanic community. That's compared to 24 percent of non-Hispanic individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 — a community that makes up 57 percent of the tests and 88 percent of the

county's population. Of those who tested positive, the race was not known in 42 percent of cases, the county said.

The data was released in a new dashboard on the county website which includes, for the first time, demographic

'We have been working to add this information to our COVID-19 dashboard for quite some time, but it requires due diligence to ensure that privacy is protected for individuals who have tested positive," Interim Public Health Director Mike Zelek said Monday in a news release. "The number of confirmed cases is now at a level where releasing this

information cannot inadver-

tently identify any individual cases.

Zelek pointed to the high number of cases in the Latinx population and in long-term care facilities. The latter group have been of concern since the beginning of the pandemic, since research shows the virus can have particularly severe effects on individuals ages 65 and over. Two Chatham long-term care facilities accounted for a com-

See COVID-19, page A3

### Warrants issued for suspects in Batsche murder

*One under arrest:* Chatham Sheriff's Office seeking second in killing of 20-year-old in May

> BY CASEY MANN News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Two Chapel Hill men are suspected to have been

involved in the murder of a 20-vear-old Bear Creek man, according to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

The department has obtained second-degree murder arrest warrants for Kenneth Joseph Bass Jr., 18, and Shyquaule Javon Fisher, 25, in connection with the killing of Emerson

Batsche. Batsche died as the result of a gunshot wound to the chest while at his residence off Pittsboro-Goldston Road in Bear Creek

early in the morning on May 20. Though the Sheriff's Office is still withholding details of the circumstances of the murder, the warrants indicate Batsche's shooting may have been

connected to a robbery. Bass, who was arrested by the Orange County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, was charged with second-degree murder, aiding and abetting armed robbery and obstruction of justice. Bass is being held under a \$200,000 secured bond and is scheduled to make a first appearance in Pittsboro on July 20.

Fisher, who is still at large, is facing charges of second-degree murder, robbery with a dangerous weapon and obstruction of justice.

"I'm proud of our investigators and everyone who responded to the scene for working so hard to try to solve this crime," Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson said.

Batsche's mother Andrea said she was surprised by how quickly the Sheriff's Office was able to find out what had happened to her son that night, saying she was "super grateful that they stayed on it."

"With partnership with the community, we were able to come to a resolution," Roberson said. "We wouldn't be where we are at now if it wasn't for the community's help and friends of those

Andrea reiterated that same gratitude for the community's support and assistance.

"I'm grateful that they chose to have integrity and courage over their own fear," Andrea said. "It doesn't bring Emerson back, but it does help honor him some way — that his life was worth more than we can ever mea-

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is requesting anyone with information on the whereabouts of Fisher to call 9-1-1. The investigation is still ongoing.

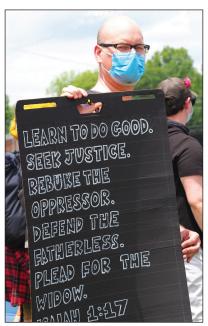
Casey Mann can be reached at Casey-Mann@Chathamnr.com.

### Chatham residents show support for racial unity



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A young girl's sign tells the story of Saturday's protest at the Chatham County Justice Center in downtown Pittsboro, as a diverse crowd showed up to protest the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. For more photos and a story on this event and the Siler City protest, head to page B6.



holds up a sign with the words from the **Bible verse** Isaiah 1:17 during Friday's protest of police brutality and in support of the **Black Lives** Matter message in front of the **Siler City** Town Hall.

Staff photo by

# Hot residential real estate market not cooled by COVID

Market 'is unlike anything we've ever seen'

BY BILL HORNER III News + Record Staff

Take Chatham County's red-hot residential real estate market, toss in a pandemic, state-mandated stay-at-home order and the most significant economic shock of our lifetimes, and what's the result?

As it turns out, a housing market that's still pretty hot. Coming off the worst financial quarter in histo-

ry, with near-record national unemployment and joblessness — and lots of COVID-19-related uncertainty — you might expect those

See MARKET, page A8



Lori Golden, owner/broker for Carolina Lifestyles Realty in Pittsboro, works on preparing a house for sale in Chatham County. Golden said the real estate market has been relatively sound during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Local high schools close out unique, unprecedented year with varied graduation plans

BY ZACHARY HORNER News + Record Staff

Students across Chatham County finish their school years — perhaps the most unique they'll ever have — this week, and while some things remained the same, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench in normal end-of-the-year plans.

No proms. No end-of-year testing. And no graduations. At least, not like normal. And a lot of uncertainty headed into the next school year.

"A lot is just waiting to get the guidance from the state as far as what will be allowable and what's not allowable when schools do start," said Tripp Crayton, principal at Jordan-Matthews High

School in Siler City. "There's just going to be a lot of conversations in our building in ensuring there is social distancing if we come back to campus.

The weeks heading into summer usually kick off with seniors walking across the stage getting their diplomas, followed by analyzation of data by staff and preparation for the next school year. But with many questions still to be answered How much remote learning will be needed next school year? Will all students be allowed back in the building at one time?

it's a game of wait and see. "We're just waiting for some guidance," said Chatham Charter School's Beth Mc-

See **SCHOOLS**, page A3

# CN+R adds Fowler to staff as sports reporter

**CN+R STAFF REPORTS** 

Chapel Fowler, the former sports editor of The Daily Tar Heel, UNC's



Fowler

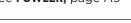
student newspaper, has joined the staff of the News + Record as a sports reporter.

Fowler, a May graduate of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at UNC, wrote more than 200

stories during his four years there and held sports internships at The Charlotte Observer — where his father, Scott, is a sports columnist and the Virginian-Pilot/Daily Press, and has also done freelance work for the (Raleigh) News & Observer, U.S. Lacrosse Magazine and The Louisville Courier-Journal.

"We're really excited about adding someone as energetic and skilled as Chapel," News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III said. "He brings with him an eye for good stories, diligence and verve. His coverage of UNC sports for the DTH and his compelling writing made him well known on campus and among his professional peers across the state. He's already proven his worth to us and will be a great asset as high school sports get set to begin again in the fall. At The Daily Tar Heel, Fowler cov-

See FOWLER, page A9





Building at Chatham Park, Mosaic rolls on during pandemic. PAGE A12

After long lay-off, Carolina Tiger Rescue finally reopens to public. PAGE A13

Circle City Books committed Lake Juno: relics of nowto feeding Pittsboro's literary closed rec area go on hunger. PAGE B5

auction block. PAGE B14



### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

### ON THE AGENDA

- The Siler City Board of Commissioners will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 15, from the Siler City town hall courtroom using Zoom virtual meeting technology. For more information, contact Siler City Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@ silercity.org.
- The Chatham County Board of **Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 15, from the Historic Chatham County Courthouse. For more information, contact Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Lindsay Ray at lindsay. ray@chathamnc.org.

### **CANCELLATIONS**

- Town of Pittsboro, all town advisory boards meetings are canceled. In order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from the COVID-19 virus and slow its spread. Please monitor the town's website at pittsboronc. gov for additional notifications and alerts.
- Chatham County Council on Aging: Both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pickup supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website:

chathamcoa.org.

- Chatham County Historical Museum: For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: https://chathamhistory.org.
- Chatham Community Library: Closed to the public at this time.
- State Employees Credit Union (SECU) branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only, Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment
- The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop will be closed for shopping and donations until further notice.

### **THURSDAY**

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

### **UPCOMING**

 Chatham Community Library is offering free classes on job search skills, Microsoft Excel, and Google Apps in June. On

June 11, the library will host Malinda Marsh, NCWorks Career Center Coordinator/ Manager, who will provide tips on effectively searching and applying for jobs online. While the library is closed, all classes will be presented virtually via GoToMeeting. A description of each class and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Job Search Skills: June 11, Thursday, 3pm: Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 1: June 17, Wednesday, 3pm - Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 2: June 24, Wednesday, 3pm Google Apps: June 29, Monday.

3pm. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org.

- · Wake Up Wednesday is scheduled for June 17, and will once again be virtual via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom. us/j/82606470013). In order to create a similar impact to being at a physical meeting, I ask that you be on camera instead of calling in. Everyone will have 30 seconds to speak. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Phillips. This months speakers will be Janet Mason with Horse and Buddy and Peggy Young with Mary Kay. The structured meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Chatham Habitat for Humanity is planning to hold our rescheduled 2020 Women 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 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 effecta donation of at least \$25 will get you a t-shirt and certificate during the month of the event.

### **ALSO HAPPENING**

- Descendants of Horton High School Alumnus or attendee of Horton High School are eligible to apply for the Horton High School Alumni Association Scholarship for 2019-2020. High school graduates, college students, and graduate students are encouraged to apply on the HHSAA website: hortonhighalumni. com. Deadline for application has been extended to August 1, 2020 due to COVID-19.
- 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 JMACorona-**Concert** 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 applica-

tion, 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.

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### 9th annual **Randolph County Senior Expo set** for September

ASHEBORO — Due to COVID-19, the Randolph County Boomer Senior & Caregiver Expo has been rescheduled for 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. on September 30. The event is free and open to the public. This year's expo will be held at the Randolph Senior Adults Association's Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Adult Resource & Education Center located at 347 W. Salisbury St.

For more information about the expo, please call Ashlee King at 252-796-7473, email boomerseniorcaregiverexpo@ gmail.com or visit the Facebook page.

### **Chatham County** recognizes Elder **Abuse Awareness** Day

PITTSBORO — Elder Abuse Awareness Dav is June 15. This day calls attention to an important issue facing a growing aging population in Chatham County and across the United States. According to the U.S. Dept of Justice, 10 percent of people 65 and older experience some form of elder abuse each year. In addition to physical, sexual abuse, and psychological abuse, elder abuse also includes neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation.

The past few months have been difficult for everyone, however, seniors in our community face a unique set of challenges. Due to their higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus, seniors may be more isolated and avoiding visits with family and friends. This can make many more vulnerable to scams and other forms of financial exploitation reports Renae Minor, adult services supervisor at Chatham County Department of Social Services. "Even while we are

minimizing in-person contact with seniors, the DSS Adult Services staff are calling weekly to answer questions and address any concerns," Minor said. "We are also sharing information about community resources for meals, supplies, and ways to stay socially connected. In addition, I think it is important to talk about the value in maintaining mental, emotional, and physical health and to

encourage self-care even

more now during these

uncertain and high-risk times.'

Recognition of Elder Abuse Awareness this year looks different than previous years, but the message remains as important as ever. The Department of Social Services organized a #ChathamWearsPurple day and has participated in virtual presentations addressing many topics involving the mistreatment of seniors and vulnerable adults.

The Elder Justice Initiative and National Council

on Aging both provide resources about the abuse and exploitation of older Americans. It is estimated that elder abuse costs older Americans between \$2.9 billion and \$36.5 billion annually, according to the National Council on Aging. To report elder abuse or exploitation, please contact the Chatham County Department of Social Services at 919-642-6988 or after hours to 919-542-2911.

-CN + R staff reports

# **CN+R** closes Pittsboro office

### **CN+R STAFF REPORTS**

The Chatham News + Record has closed its office at 19 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro. The office has been vacated for most of the COVID-19 pandemic and is now closed per-

To submit items in-person for the print edition, visit the Siler City office at 303 W. Raleigh St., or mail items to P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344. You may also call the Siler City office at (919) 663-3232 or email news@chathamnr.





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# CCS working on remote learning plan, final document to be ready in July

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

Following a state mandate, administrative personnel at Chatham County Schools have begun working on a plan to approach remote learning in the fall if campuses are still closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And while a skeleton of the plan is in place, officials said there are still a lot of

unanswered questions.

This is not at all a finished product," Amanda Hartness, CCS' assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support, said at Monday's meeting of the Chatham County Board of Education. "It will need to continue to be a document that evolves. This document may change over time, even after submitted to the state.

The draft plan — the final version of which will need to be submitted to the state Dept. of Public Instruction by July 20 — provides preliminary answers to questions about a number of topics, including training teachers on remote instruction resources, gathering information on student and teacher connectivity to the internet and available childcare options.

The document also begins to outline what expectations the district will have for students and teachers should remote learning continue into the fall.

Some expectations like attendance are not defined yet, but rough outlines are provided for how many lessons teachers should provide to students per week (a minimum of three for K-8,), an average length of time assignments should engage students (15-30 minutes for K-8, 30 minutes for 9-12) and what a "wholeclass 'live' meeting" would look like for high school students.

Hartness said the district has begun surveying students, families and staff about remote learning during the spring and that most of the feedback had been positive. Survey results so far, she said, showed 75 percent of parents and 70 percent of students who responded were "satisfied" with how things went, and 94 percent of staff felt prepared to offer remote learning in the fall if needed.

The district will continue to gather more information and make changes and additions to the plan as needed. Superintendent Derrick Jordan said more changes will come, particularly as DPI and local and state health officials provide additional guidance for moving forward.

"There are still so many unknowns," Jordan said. "What we know is that we are going to have to rely on the experts to provide information, and we have to have time to digest it, engage with folks, work with our local public health officials. But I do think there are going to be some big rocks that we may or may not be able to move as quickly as I or anybody else want to see them moved."

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

### COVID-19

Continued from page A1

bined 198 cases and 28 deaths from COVID-19.

But the focus on minority groups got a boost last week when Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order creating a task force designed "to focus on economy stability, health disparities and environmental justice in North Caroli-

na."
"COVID-19 is shining a light on disparities that have long existed in our health care and economic institutions for communities of color," Cooper said. "Today's Executive Order will expand our state's efforts to help North Carolinians recover from the pandemic and improve access to affordable healthcare and quality economic opportunities in our

The executive order stated that, as of June 1, African-Americans accounted for 30 percent of positive cases and 34 percent of deaths and Hispanics made up 39 percent of the positive cases in North Carolina. The two groups combined make up 32 percent of the state's population.

In the county press release, Zelek said the health department has been focusing on a number of initiatives aimed at providing equal information and access around the county, including increasing testing capacity, sharing bilingual health information through "many channels" and "encouraging employers to provide adequate sick leave."

We remain concerned about the impact COVID-19 is having in Chatham County, and especially among the Latinx population and in long-term care facilities," Zelek said. "This is why, in addition to raising awareness about the virus and ways to reduce its spread across the Chatham community as a whole, we have long focused

targeted response strategies in these communities."

Chatham County continues

to have a higher proportion of positive tests compared to other counties throughout the state. As of Friday, Chatham made up 2.14 percent of the state's positive COVID-19 cases but has just 0.7 percent of the state's population. Additionally, 30.4 percent of the tests conducted in Chatham came back positive, compared to just 6.4 percent of testing across North Carolina.

The health department added that the data currently available — like other data sets before it — may not be entirely reflective of reality due to the lack of widespread testing. Regardless, it said, the data "should not be seen as grounds for fear or stig-

"Everyone is at risk for becoming infected with this

virus," the press release stated. The latest data can be found at chathamnc.org/coronavirus. THE HISPANIC POPULATION & COVID-19 CASES **CHATHAM COUNTY** 12% OF RESIDENTS 34% OF CONFIRMED CASES **NORTH CAROLINA 10% OF RESIDENTS** 39% OF CONFIRMED CASES

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

AS OF FRIDAY, JUNE 5
SOURCES: CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT., N.C. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

mas have been handed

prepping for next year.

And as already stated,

there's some uncertainty.

"You hear about all

these various options,' Eanes said, "and one thing that I've found

is I could sit down and

would appear.'

hammer out each option,

and then another option

ter school was required

approaching next year's

to turn in a plan for

education by the end

of this week. The state

government has man-

dated an August 17 start

least five days of remote

learning in the schedule

for the 2020-2021 school

year. While some of the

mandates will be applica-

ble to all schools, others

will have individualized

Jordan-Matthews, for

example, will have more

halls next year. How will

social distancing look in

operate? And if remote

what role does grading and accountability play?

learning continues

that? How will lunchtime

through the fall semester,

'There's just going to

be a lot of conversations

than 900 students in its

decisions to make.

date and accounting for at

Each district and char-

out and tassels have turned, the next step is

### **SCHOOLS**

Continued from page A1

Cullough, who serves as the institution's executive director of secondary programs and communications. "We have yet to find between attorneys and DPI [state Dept. of Public Instruction] — complete clarity on what the intent is and what it will look

### Finishing up secondary education

Graduation exercises are still planned, but schools are handling them a little differently. Chatham Charter pushed its commencement ceremony back to Saturday, July 18, after getting feedback from students and parents. McCullough said it was "really important to the students to be there as a group," and "they chose to wait with

Most of the other schools in the county are doing something like a 'drive-thru" graduation.

Jordan-Matthews ceremony will work like this: A student will come with family at a designated time on Saturday, based on last name, and have a five-minute "individual-ized graduation experience," Crayton said.



The student and family will come to the front of the school in a vehicle and give a teacher the name of the student on a card. That staffer will radio or text the name to the main stage, and the car will drive to the front of the school where the stage will be set up. The student will exit the vehicle and receive their diploma while crossing the stage as their name is called. (No handshakes, though.) The student will then be photographed by a LifeTouch photographer and receive a free 8x10 photo. Families will also have the opportunity to take a photo at that time. A videographer will be taping the whole ceremony and edit together a full video of the event.

J-M is still planning an August 1 event, but in case some students aren't available then, this set-up makes it possible

for everyone to have their special moment.

"We're trying to make do with what we have Crayton said. "We felt like this was the best way for kids to still get their chance to walk across the stage if they couldn't make August 1 or we couldn't do August 1 at

Woods Charter School in Chapel Hill will be doing something similar on Saturday, with students coming at specific times based on last names. Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek will follow a similar pattern on Friday, but students and up to five guests will instead enter the school's auditorium.

'It gives each of our students the opportunity to walk across the stage, which is important," said Karla Eanes, principal at Chatham Central. "Some of our students will go right into the word of

work, so I'm excited that we were able to set things

### Reflecting on remote learning

Getting students to this point of the end of the year with no in-class instruction has been a challenge that, according to county education leaders, many teachers and students have stepped up

and met. "I think we've been fairly successful with it," said Crayton. "The kids who still want to learn and still want to pull their grades up have stayed

with it.' He said that his students face a particular challenge than the other county public high schools, Chatham Central and Northwood in Pittsboro. Many students have family members working in the Mountaire Farms poultry processing plant just minutes from the Jordan-Matthews campus, and the plant has been the site of dozens of confirmed COVID-19 cases. With that situation and other jobs lost due to closures, Črayton said, more J-M students have been working in fast food "than ever before" in Siler City.

There have also been some students, he said, that more or less checked out when the state announced grades on March 13 would be the final

grade for the semester. But, he said, he believes "it's worked about as well as we can make it work with the circumstances we're under.'

McCullough said she was "relieved" that remote instruction "went as well as it did," and that some staff "did amazing things that they would have not done had they been in that regular setting." Additionally, she said, many students and families "hung in there and did what they had to

do to be successful. "They worked with us and never blamed us,' she said. "I never felt like the school was blamed for the situation. Everybody rose to the challenge in that sense.'

Eanes said Chatham Central faced many challenges related to internet connection and access to resources, saying that "down in Bear Creek, it's hard to even get a cell signal." But the school's foundational use of online learning made the transition easier for those who had access.

"We did a lot of blended learning, that's just how we do school," she said. "That was just a godsend. Our teachers and students had had that experience, so it really made the transition run



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919.883.2775 www.joytfuljewel.com

students and staff are handling the changes 'I'll be frank," she said. "I'm concerned about morale of students and staff and families going into whatever next year looks like, the longevity of the strains for everyone, are key things for us this summer. To make sure that our staff are well-equipped for however education is adapting, because I really feel like only if the staff are in a good place that then the students will be able to be in a good place. That's where a lot of our focus is this summer — what do our staff need to be able to move forward? These are questions all school administration, faculty and staff will be

wrestling with this summer, perhaps the most unique of their careers.

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



# VIEWPOINTS

# An answer for our ills?

Inside the city limits where I live, it's illegal to discharge a



**RIGSBEE** 

firearm. That means as much as I might like, once in a while, to shoot a .22 rifle at soda cans for a few minutes' thrill, I can't. With neigh-

**Randall Reflects** bors close and a .22 bullet capable of traveling 2,000 yards — and not to mention I rarely take a notion to shoot anything, I don't quibble with the legal restriction.

But nearby, just beyond the invisible boundary line where the city limit meets the county line, the law loosens and property owners may — responsi-bly, of course, and adhering to other applicable laws — fire

And open fire some folks do. I can't see the origin of the gunfire. It's too far away and there's woods in between. And certainly there's never been any physical evidence, such as a stray bullet my way, that would alarm me.

But my ears bear certain witness to the occasional barrage of gunfire; not that I begrudge anyone their pleasures, including target practice, as long as no one is getting hurt.

Occasionally when I'm outside in my yard — in addition to being a safe zone for soda pop cans, it's a veritable bird sanctuary this time of year, and usually quiet — I can hear in the close distance a bevy of gunfire commence with such gusto, and for such extended periods, that I wonder what transgressions those poor cans over the county line committed. It makes one wonder: what's with all the shooting?

Of course these mighty and lengthy displays of sound are not just audible outdoors, though it's outdoors where they are most dramatically experienced. We were watching the evening news a night or two ago when the nearby shooting began. Hearing the initial rounds, and in awe of the shooter's stamina, we muted the TV's sound to better behold the long succession of shots, an almost comically absurd performance punctuated (eventually) with a cannonade-concluding boom, pointing towards Tannerite, more so than tin, as the likely

The sometimes sideshow – it's only an occasional thing, otherwise I might move — ended, and other than ostentatious (sometimes it's so persistent and intense I wonder, truly,

if the zombie apocalypse isn't underway) had caused no harm

Who am I, as I said — professed, though inactive, target shooter of cans that I am — to begrudge another person's lawful hobby?

"Hobby," however, wasn't among reasons cited by CBS News in an April report about what was fueling "record numbers" of gun purchases in the U.S. in March. "One store manager told CBS News," the network reported, "that the main reasons customers said they were buying firearms is for protection during quarantine and fear of the unknown."

And those heavily-armed folks on the grounds of Michigan's state capital last month, there to protest stay-at-home orders, looked more like militiamen than hobbyists.

Gun sales, which tend to rise following incidents of mass shootings, may serve as a gauge of human fear and uncertainty; but with gun violence a huge public health concern, resulting in more than 30,000 deaths every year in the United States, and with firearms the second-leading cause of death (behind vehicle crashes) among young people, stockpiling weapons would seem a dubious and ineffective balm.

I'm not convinced the un-

knowns along the road ahead are best met with bullets; if it's a "Mad Max" or "Hunger Games" future that's feared or anticipated, I hope that by the actions of the armed discontented, such a future doesn't become self-fulfilling. It isn't reassuring, though, when the armed Michiganites refer, as they did, to their demonstration on the capitol as "Judgment

Since March, with people absent from such places due to COVID-19, there have been zero incidents of school or church shootings, two phenomena we had — as we had with racism and the ugly ways it manifests — seemingly grown accustomed to, as if it's routine, or at least beyond our ability to

It's been a welcome reprieve, of course, this break in people being shot and killed for worshiping and studying.

But it's unlikely, based on historic record, that it's more than mere reprieve.

CBS News' April report on gun sales further noted that 'gun safety advocates fear students are not only facing more dangerous situations at home, but could also face a major increase in shootings when they return to school." The news agency quoted Igor Volsky, executive director of a group called Guns Down American (their message is "fewer guns, safer communities"): When the pandemic ends and we emerge from this physical distancing reality, the guns will remain. Will there be increased mass shootings, school shootings, shootings at home, at work, at concerts?"

There have been many moments that could have been and seemed, at the moment, to be — tipping points in America's gun violence problem: Sandy Hook, the Charleston church shooting, Stoneman Douglas High School. But those moments passed, faded into history and we forged forward without much change.

Right now, it's racism — our long history of it and it's prominent place in our present that is rightly at the forefront of our national consciousness now, the death of George Floyd its tipping point.

Will this moment, too — as powerful and necessary ad overdue as it feels — pass with-

out real action? We've got problems. We need

to fix them. Firearms — for all their sound and fury and whatever comfort possessing and brandishing them may hold for some — would seem the worst tool we could reach for now to cure our current ills.

# United by our mamas

Today, it seems these United States are more divided every day. We have cultural divisions



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN Hope Matters** 

between urban, rural and suburban. We have political divisions. We certainly have

gender and racial divisions.

In some corners, the solution is violence. On the one hand, vandalism and arson. On the other, big guns and lots of troops. But if history proves anything, it is that fighting fire with fire makes bigger fires. Or, as was said long ago, those who live by the sword, die by the sword.

Recently, Gen. James Mattis criticized those in these United States who would 'divide and conquer" by attempting to appear as aggressive, tough and dominant. Yet, by failing to recognize the common humanity in us all, such attitudes often lead to escalating violence which in turn worsens the situation. The "remedy" becomes more deadly than the illness.

Instead, Gen. Mattis maintained that "in union there is strength." Police officers kneeling before protesters. Civilians giving police officers bottles of water. People gathering at dawn to sweep up broken glass. And most of all, people protesting peacefully. Black, white and brown people wearing masks and lifting their voices as one to decry the violence that has spilled innocent blood. Protests create change by inspiring reform. In union there is the strength to cause divisions to fall, barriers to disappear, and justice to become reality.

The protests have been sparked because a man was lynched in our streets. George Floyd begged for his life, yet the cruel and cavalier police officer continued to suffocate him. Near the end, Floyd stopped pleading with his attacker and evoked someone else:

'Mama! Mama, I'm through!"

Even with all of our differences, many of us know that no one loves us like our mama. It reminds me of another dying man who looked down from the cross and saw his mama. That same man commanded us to love one another so that we would be united as one body.

When George Floyd called for his mama, his killers were unmoved. They could not see George Floyd as someone's son just like them. But a bystander called out, "He is a human being!"

That is our strength — to see through the divisions and see the common humanity in each person. I believe that each of us is created in the Divine Image, which means we must understand the inherent worth of each person. By that strength, we can finally end the scourge of racism that is America's original and most damning sin.

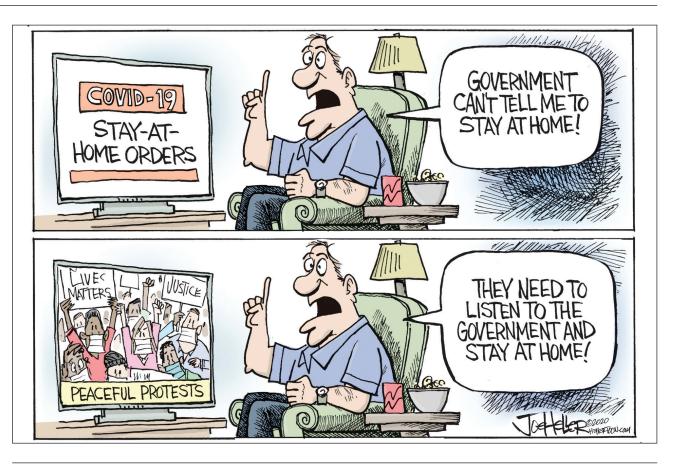
We will never know what George Floyd's mother would have done, for she preceded her son in death by two years. Now, it is up to us to work for justice together and be united in our efforts to reform our society. For George Floyd, for all the slain black sons and daughters, for all the people who loved them, may our words and actions wield the love that makes the evil forces quail.

At a recent march organized by the student chapter of the NAACP, I saw dozens of young children walking down the street, hand in hand with their families. As a gentleman sang "We Shall Overcome Someday" in a deep baritone voice, I thought what better time than now. May we make our mamas proud.

Chatham News + Record

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# Challenge is to keep local community while going global

A few days ago I inadvertently misplaced (not the same thing as



**BOB WACHS** Movin' Around

"lost") a pocket leather-bound notebook/wallet gizmo I typically carry. In it, there's usually a few dollars, a calendar, assorted notes on people I want to see or a list of

groceries (loaf of milk, gallon of bread, peanut butter) I need to buy, some pictures of the world's greatest grandchildren,

When I'm wearing a sport coat or suit jacket or even a windbreaker or other outer garment, I don't have all that much trouble keeping up with the gizmo since it typically lives in one of the inside pockets of those garments. It's when I'm not wearing such a piece of clothing, like now when it's so hot, that I lose bits and pieces of my mind wondering where the thing is and how it got there.

and various other important pieces

Some folks, usually the 30-something crowd whose members were born technologically superior to any of us dinosaurs, tell me that I should do away with the bulky accessory and get myself a slim, trim (to match my physique) Blackberry or smart phone or some other thing with a similar-sounding name that I can carry on my belt. On that electronic do-dad, they say, I can keep up with all my life on something no bigger than a Rook card and that it's so small I won't lose it.

To me, that kind of thinking flies in the face of logic, mainly because little things are what most of tend to lose. Have you ever heard of anyone misplacing their elephant?

Anyway, me getting one of those gadgets is pretty much an impossibility for several reasons. First, 'blackberry" is something my daddy and I picked with Roland Farrell when I was a lad. Then we took them home to Mama, at least the ones I hadn't eaten in the name of doing quality control, and she would make blackberry jam or cobblers the last of which is a dish to be eaten warm out of the oven topped with large amounts of creamy vanilla ice cream.

I don't think you can do that with an electronic message storer/phone/camera or whatever else the things can do. The days Dick Tracy could only dream about are here. Did you really think the two-way wrist watch radio wouldn't come to pass? Now folks have created a camera that also makes calls and other assorted electro-gadgets.

While all those gadgets are, I guess, nice in terms of keeping up with all we have to do and where we have to go and with whom and what we have to do those things it strikes me sometimes that we've become prisoners of ourselves and our lifestyles.

My grandpa and grandma went all their lives without such. I don't know if they ever owned a TV, which means they never got to see Larry King or hear about his umpteenth wife or soak in CNN or whomever. They did have a radio. Grandpa thought it was a hoot that he had a big ol' cabinet model with vacuum tubes in the back. After he got the thing tuned in just right through the static to hear Fibber McGee and Molly or his favorite The Lone Ranger — he'd jerk the knob off so nobody could change the

And today, some of the younger generation find it almost impossible to believe that when I was their age, I had to get up out of my chair and walk across the living room to change the channel from what it was on to one of only three others. (For the record, they were Channel 2 in Greensboro, which we didn't

get too clearly in east Pittsboro, 5 in Raleigh and 11 in Durham. There was also Channel 4 but it was mostly school lessons, not yet having moved to broadcasting Doo-Wop concerts, country music documentaries and assorted old rock and roll celebra-

These days I'm wondering exactly why is "bigger" better? Who says we must have this gadget or that? Why? Why do we really need to know what the Stock Market is doing at the exact moment? Why do I need or even want to know what Sheik Ali Fuzzy is thinking right now?

I know...I know...we're all part of the global community and what happens on the other side of the world or even the street can and often does trickle down or back to us all. And I know not everyone agrees with me. There are lots and lots of folks who love to run wide open all the time and can't have enough gadgets and such and things to do and places to go to save their souls.

I just don't think I'm one of them. To quote my boyhood friend and adviser on matters from the heart to the pocketbook, Bobby Joe High, "The hurryer I go the behinder I

Lest you think I have mastered this art of throwing off some of the technological trappings of our lifestyle for a more simple existence, let me assure you I haven't.

Once I accidentally left my cell phone lying on the bed one Sunday as we went off to church and I may not have heard my sermon trying to remember if I'd lost the thing.

But I'm trying...trying to do more or less only what's necessary, trying to sit on the screened-in back porch, listening to the birds, trying to appreciate the beauty of the sunset before the glare of neon hides it, trying to savor the good folks we meet along the way who make life better.

I think it's in the trying that we

find the quality of life.

# VIEWPOINTS

**GUEST COLUMN | RANDALL BRECHIBEL** 

# The need to address the pandemic's impact on mental health

Now is not the time to ignore



**RANDALL BRECHIBEL Guest Columnist** 

While the easing of stay-at-home orders are under way across the country, the **United States** is still dealing with a lack of social interaction, concerns

over health, stress from job losses and more than 100,000 COVID-related deaths. Unfortunately, research and reporting shows that these factors are a burden on the mental health of the general public.

It is no surprise that, beyond the obvious impact on physical health and the colossal disruption to what was a strong economy, the COVID-19 pandemic is also inimical to mental health. It's also no surprise that mental health is intertwined with both substance and domestic abuse and suicide.

But that doesn't mean that these concerns should go unaddressed or ignored, because despite the strong will of the American people, the state of mental health in the U.S. is heading in the wrong direction.

According to a March survey, the American Psychiatric Association found that more than one-third of Americans say the pandemic is having a "serious impact" on their mental health. That impact is spread across all sectors — from the nurses fighting COVID-19 daily in hospitals to truck drivers having to deal with even more isolation than they faced prior to the pandemic.

More recently, reports show that those who are hurting are now, unfortunately, turning to prescription drugs. Last week, IQVIA released information that revealed prescriptions for anti-anxiety medications rose 10.2 percent in the U.S. in March 2020 compared to March 2019. Prescriptions for antidepressants rose 9.2 percent in the same period. The sizeable mental health care provider company, Ginger, told The Wall Street Journal in late May that its psychiatrists wrote 86 percent more prescriptions for psychotropic drugs, most of which being antidepressants, in March and April 2020 compared with January and February.

Those who were already under mental distress are in no better position. According to a May 28 CBS News report, calls to the Veteran Affair's veteran crisis line are up more than 10 percent compared to May 2019. Rory Hamill, a decorated combat veteran in the Marines, turned to studying psychology and mentoring other veterans over the last few years. But the lockdowns prevented him from public speaking and going to school. Hamill noted in April that "My own personal hell has been reignited."

Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Department of Health and Human Services, recently told The Wall Street Journal that calls to a national mental-health hotline were up 1,000 percent over the same period last year. A model built by researchers at the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute in Texas that found if the unemployment rate rises to 20 percent and stays there for a year, there will be an additional 40,000 deaths due to suicide and drug overdose.

As the crisis line calls increase, so do predictions of increases in suicides and drug overdoses. That, in addition to domestic abuse spikes during the pandemic, have prompted some action from lawmakers. Last week, Sen. Thom Tillis wrote to Congressional appropriators, noting that "The imposition of stay-at-home orders has heightened the risk of domestic violence for many in North Carolina, and that previous COVID-19 related legislation "neglected to provide additional resources to combat domestic violence." The senator urged his colleagues to provide additional resources to combat domestic violence.

Other groups have made efforts to combat the mental health crisis as well. The American Soybean Association Director Brandon Wipf recently posted a letter to his fellow farmers, offering tips to respond "not only to our own stress, but to the stress being felt by those around us." Wipf noted that:

a communications campaign in May to combat farm stress and offer #SoyHelp.

While these efforts are greatly appreciated, they are not enough.

Last week, data collected by the Census Bureau and reported by The Washington Post shows that a third of Americans are showing signs of clinical anxiety or depression, and despite older adults being more at risk to the virus, rates of anxiety and depression were higher in younger adults, women and the poor. These are the same people facing the most economic hardship. An Ernst & Young report in collaboration with Parthenon found that, "Initial economic impact and job losses disproportionately concentrated among lower income workers and women." It also noted that reopening will not be sufficient without overcoming psychological hurdles.

The U.S. has many battles on its plate, and COVID-19 does not discriminate. Suicide is a top-10 cause of death in America. In 2018, 67,367 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of drug overdose deaths decreased by 4 percent from 2017 to 2018, but progress on this front is threatened by the pandemic. Dr. Mc-Cance-Katz told The Wall Street Journal that in the instance that a second wave hits, and another shutdown is implement-

"The soybean industry launched ed, the mental health impact could be even worse. She says that the increase in number of suicides, fatal drug overdoses and instances of domestic abuse will be "broad, deep and

long-lasting."
Pandemic-related executive decisions and policy discussions must account for the mental health issues that arise during times of great stress and turmoil. The cause of this economic crisis can be sourced back to the self-imposed, and necessary steps that our country enacted to flatten the curve of the virus, but we are now under the cloud of a very real mental health pandemic. Our nation desperately needs to refocus away from fear and despair, and back on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Randy Brechbiel is a research and communications operator with experience within multiple levels of non-profit, campaign and grassroots organizations. After graduating college, Brechbiel gained versatile field research experience while working with one of the nation's leading strategic communications firms, America Rising. During this time, Brechbiel covered a wide variety of issues in multiple states, and saw his work included in various publications and paid advocacy messaging efforts. Brechbiel returned to North Carolina in 2018 to manage full field operations in the southeastern part of the state for the North Carolina Republican Party.

**GUEST COLUMN | SUZ ROBINSON** 

# In memory of **Emerson Batsche**

Here he came, this blue eyed child racing after his older brother and sister to the morning games at Clapping Hands Farm located just west of Pittsboro. He must have been around 6 years old. From the looks of him you could tell he hadn't been out of bed long. His sandy brown hair had cowlicks sprouting up and it appeared that he was allowed to dress himself. I laughed aloud as I

watched him race after his siblings. How wonderful to be so carefree!

I quickly became friends with his entire family. Fast forward a few years and he was trying desperately to be as good a skateboarder as his older brother. However, as I'd watch them racing all through Pittsboro, it was obvious that he just didn't have the knack of it yet. Again, I'd pass by laughing as I watched the interaction between

the two brothers.

Then, I saw another side of Emerson. He had joined his mother at a gathering of Buddhists from around the country. He had chanted with hundreds and felt the love that arises from each of us when we join with others to spread love, peace and compassion. This same love was apparent when I took his brother and him tubing down the Haw. We had just put in at the Bynum Bridge when he noticed something sparkling in the water. He dove from his tube and came up with pieces of costume jewelry that had sunk to the bottom of the river. The glistening blueness that emanated from his eyes almost

caused me to weep.

He was so filled with joy! "Look what I found, Suz! Let's go get the rest of it, Forest! We now have presents for Mom and Kailie," he said. With that the two brothers took turns diving beneath the service to see what treasures they could unveil.

The years continued to pass and Emerson now joined Forest as we painted the mural across from the old General Store, now known as the Pittsboro Roadhouse. Their mom would pick them up after attending school in Bear Creek and drop them off with us. They were so very, very happy to be a part of the community mural we were creating. I can still see them the day the two of them, along with their good friend Tony Sanders, placed large traffic cones upon their heads and began dancing for the rest of us who had gathered to paint that day. Without a doubt these were two brothers who loved one another, their family and life itself dearly.

Years passed and the next time I spent any measurable time with Emerson was after the unexpected death of his very good friend Laura Summers. These two bright lights had written their own lyrics and music for songs that they performed together. Emerson joined me as we sat in Laura's room with her mother. I listened and felt their deep love for her as the two of them showed me her treasures and shared stories about her life. Later, I asked Emerson if he'd be willing to share a few words at her memorial service that was to be held at Shakori Hills.

At first he declined; however, he reflected deeply upon his loss and asked if his mother could read his words, should he be unable to speak them. This simple request by him showed me once more how very close he was to his mother. The two of them had hearts that reached out to all humanity. Their connectedness was so intense, so phenomenal and so endearing. The day of the service, as Emerson arrived, the look he gave me let me know that he had reached peace with himself and Laura's departure. I knew intuitively that he was ready to share with everyone there the depth of their friendship and the tremendous loss he was feeling.

As he spoke tears flowed freely from many of our eyes. This type of love shared openly and freely seldom occurs in our world, especially today.

That day, I knew the magical child was now a magical man who was unafraid to express himself with all of his creativity. Through his poetry and music he attempted to reach all of us to help us understand that we are all apart of a much greater whole. I can only imagine the good works he will now be offering all of the universe.



### **LETTERS**

### An urgent need for change

TO THE EDITOR:

The Paul Green Foundation, which makes grants to diverse organizations working in the arts and human rights, stands with those who peacefully protest the brutality inflicted on our citizens of color by police and other authorities. Like Paul Green, North Carolina playwright and civil rights activist of the last century, we cannot be silent while some wrest from others their rights to liberty and equality under the law. The need for change is urgent.

The Paul Green Foundation expresses its deepest sympathy for the families of George Floyd and all the others who have lost their lives at the hands of mindless or cruel extremists. All of us must strive toward harmony and justice,

and work together to lift one another up. Laurence G. Avery

President, Paul Green Foundation Chapel Hill

### A family loss, a community loss

TO THE EDITOR:

While the loss of life is hard to bear for families, it also can affect a community as well. Chatham County lost an institutional piece of its agricultural heritage. The business of Gum Springs Garage remains but recent deaths have shaken its foundations. Travis Kidd last year and now Mike, Travis' father.

Though usually quiet, I speak out now because my own foundations are shaken by the loss. Over the past 25 years I have had the occasion to chat with Mike Kidd. As we got to know each other, he seemed comfortable sharing bits of his

personal life. He shared the joys and frustrations of operating the garage, the pain of losing Travis, his necessary indulgence of time off to travel to Jamaica to recharge his batteries and the joy of seeing his father, Roy Kidd Sr., recognized by Stihl for

decades of dealer service. I think Mike may have iust needed someone to listen to him but suspect others may have provided that service as well. Mike had been the generational lynchpin between his father and his own son in the family business. The business has provided outstanding service to customers but was also the repository of decades of mechanical knowledge that would be hard to find in a book or repair manual. I believe it is fair to say that Mike

is irreplaceable! The concrete and dirt floor repair shop is reminiscent of my grandfather's dirt floored busi-

ness that I worked in after graduating high school. When I would go to Gum Springs I felt a connection. Gum Springs Garage is such a special place and Mike was special to me. Trustworthy, honest, hardworking, (words infrequently used these days) and generous with a smile all describe Mike.

The garage was/is a gathering place and one of the things that make it so special. I was always careful not to interrupt the stories told around the wood stove; it was where court was held! The garage harkens back to everything that is good in America. It is a cultural melting pot and a source for information about just about anything. I selfishly hope the garage can continue operations but with these recent losses its character will likely change.

I'm really, really going to miss Mike.

Jim Vanderbeck **Pittsboro** 

### 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 +

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

# Can Bookwatch survive the virus?

Can North Carolina's television program about books



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

shutdown brought to us by the coronavirus? UNC-TV's

North Carolina Bookwatch has had a rough time in recent months. With production

studios closed, Bookwatch's new season had to be delayed. But with the help of Isothermal Community College, Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill, and Zoom, six new programs are ready to launch a new season at 3:30 p.m. on Sundays beginning June 21.

The season opens with one of the world's favorite authors, John Grisham, who spends a lot of time in a house in Chapel Hill to be near his daughter and Harvey explains her secrets for

A Grisham's thriller is almost always at or near the top of the bestseller lists. This week it is "Camino Winds." Earlier this year, it was "The Guardians," whose main character is Cullen Post, a lawyer and Episcopal priest who spends full time trying to gain the release of inmates convicted, but innocent, of murderer.

In his Bookwatch interview Grisham explains how he built a gripping mystery around the situations Post and his clients encounter. (June 21)

Salisbury native and Beaufort resident Kristy Woodson Harvey has been called "the next major voice in Southern fiction." The latest of her six popular novels, "Feels Like Falling," follows a young, high achieving businesswoman through the breakup of her marriage and the challenges that follow. On Bookwatch.

writing success. (June 28)

One of the most talked about recent books in our state is "Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy" by Durham's David Zucchino, a Pulitzer Prize-winner currently covering Afghanistan for The New York Times.

His book is about the only coup d'état of an elected government in the U.S. and is mandatory reading for those who seek to understand the background of racial injustice in North Carolina. Zucchino talks about the events of 1898 and today's challenges on Bookwatch. (July 5)

South Carolina author Mary Alice Monroe talks about "The Summer Guests," which is set in the horse country surrounding Tryon in Polk County, just west of Rutherfordton. When a hurricane threatens to overrun their coastal homes, diverse groups of people and horses

make their ways to safety at a friend's horse farm in Tryon and the nearby International Equestrian Center. Inspired by her real evacuation experience, the book is a tribute to the Tryon community. (July12)

Fans of Pat Conroy, who died in 2016, are still grieving. Conroy was the bestselling author of "The Great Santini," "The Lords of Discipline," "The Prince of Tides," and "Beach Music." Conroy spent some of his growing up years in Belmont and Camp LeJeune. He loved time in our state's mountains with his wife, now widow, Cassandra King, who tells about their marriage in "Tell Me a Story: My Life with

Pat Conroy." (July19)
Although Martin Clark was born in Winston Salem and graduated from Davidson College, he calls Stuart, Virginia, home. His debut novel, "The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living," established his place

in the pantheon of legal thriller writers. His latest, "The Substitution Order," features Kevin Moore, once a highly respected lawyer, but now disbarred. Moore laments, "Despite my mistakes, which — I concede were hellacious, I deserve better than this misery.

Moore's misery is the backbone on which Clark builds his story, one that has earned praise from The New York Times. Its reviewer, Alafair Burke, wrote, "In a good legal thriller, the law itself propels the narrative as intensely as any single character. By that definition, Martin Clark's 'The Substitution Order' is not merely a good legal thriller; it's a great one." (July 26) Off to such a great start,

there is every reason to hope Bookwatch can survive the virus and thrive. If you have a suggestion or word of encouragement send a note to bookwatch@unctv.org

# How will the job market change after the virus?

There are still many, many questions about the coronavirus. One of the



MIKE **WALDEN** You Decide

biggest is how life will change after the virus is banished. Among those many changes is the impact on the job market. As jobs come back after the virus crisis, will they be the

same jobs or different? There is consensus among economists that when jobs do return, the mix of those jobs will not be the

same, for two reasons.

First, not all businesses will come back. Despite the massive effort of the federal government to financially support firms during the crisis, many firms — both large and small — have already thrown in the towel, and more will follow. These bankruptcies will take millions of jobs with them.

Second, the virus crisis has changed consumer buying preferences and altered the ways in which firms conduct business. The best examples are remote-working and remote-buying, both of which minimize personal contact. If a significant part of these changes survives post-virus, they will mean a big shake-up on the kinds of jobs business-

Some of the expected job changes haven't been created by the virus crisis. Instead, the virus has magnified on-going trends and their impacts.

For example, as a result of the tremendous increase in online shopping in a different liability for using humans to

recent years, several nationwide retailers who relied on in-person shopping have closed. The virus didn't create this trend; it simply accelerated it.

However, the virus has added a new dimension to the attraction of online shopping. The original benefit of cyber shopping was saving time. Consumers could shop and buy from the comfort of their home. The virus has created a new plus — avoiding face-to-face contact and the additional effort (waiting to enter a shop, wearing masks) that in-person shopping will likely entail in the future.

The kinds of jobs available in the next several years will crucially depend on two things: the types of changes businesses think they will have to make to be successful in the post-virus world, and the kinds of changes individuals both as consumers and workers — will want to be made in order to feel safe.

Unfortunately for workers, I think the first upcoming job trend will be an increased movement by businesses away from using people to perform tasks to using more machines and technology. This is not new; it has actually been occurring for centuries. Many businesses have found automation and technology to be more efficient and cost-effective than humans, especially for routine jobs. Farming and manufacturing are good examples of where this shift has occurred. Luckily, as technology and machines have replaced people, new jobs for humans in new industries mainly in the service sector — have been developed.

But with the coronavirus, there's now

perform jobs. Humans can get sick from a virus and easily spread their illness. Also, even if they stay healthy, workers can be ordered to stay at home and not work in

order to contain the spread of a virus. For example, North Carolina's meat processing plants, which are labor-intensive and have suffered virus outbreaks, probably will move to more machinery in the future. But even many personal service jobs — in restaurants, office buildings and personal care could be overtaken by machines, including robots, using artificial intelligence.

A move to more remote-working could be the biggest game changer for jobs. As remote-working has expanded during the virus crisis, surveys show many businesses and workers like it. Even if remote-working doubled from its pre-virus level of 10 percent of the workforce to 20 percent, it would affect numerous industries and jobs. Commuting would drop and so would vehicle purchases. Restaurants would lose lunch customers. Occupancy of office buildings would plunge, meaning cuts in support and maintenance staff.

None of these changes will happen overnight, and some could be slowed or reversed as we move away in time from

the virus crisis.

Still, looking ahead I see job expansions in three broad areas. One is servicing households who choose to combine their work life and home life and therefore spend more time at home. Jobs related to package and meal delivery, service delivery in health care and education, and improved internet connections are examples. In fact, highspeed and reliable internet service will perhaps be the top priority for the "athome for everything" household.

Second are jobs that manage and facilitate the increase in virtual interactions that are expected to result from the reduction in personal face-to-face contact. These jobs span many fields, from technical tasks in developing and maintaining digital linkages and programs to content areas in a variety of subjects, including health, education, entertainment and even travel.

Third, I expect there will be an increase in jobs — indeed, many of these in newly created fields — focusing on preventing, or at least containing, future pandemics. These will include jobs in government, in medicine, and in preventative measures for businesses and homes allowing them to maintain safety from any future virus attacks. We now have experienced both the personal and economic damage a serious virus outbreak can cause. Pandemic prevention and mitigation will be an important new calling.

Even in the best of times, our economy goes through simultaneous job creation and job destruction. The aftermath of the coronavirus will send this job churning to a new level. Will the outcome be a plus or minus? You decide.

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

### Mourning and lament during a time of despair

Out of the depths I cry to you, O



**CAMPBELL** N.C. Spin

Lord hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplica-

Psalm 130:1-2 Christians and those of other faiths proclaimed that June 1 be a national day of mourning

tions!

and lament. Hope Morgan Ward, bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, acknowledged this call by mourning the deaths that have resulted from COVID-19, as well as the violent murders of persons of color and the accompanying anxiety, grief, violence and fear.

Like George Floyd, some 103,000 Americans have said "I can't breathe" as they died. We grieve for them. We lament the loss of jobs, the damage done our economy, the fear of going out in public and the further political and economic schisms the coronavirus has created in our state. We mourn all who have been persecuted primarily because of their skin color and lament the still present divisions among races, sexes, families and political parties. We are sorrowful that violence has inflicted additional pain to others.

Ît feels like our world is unraveling. "Our hearts are heavy this day and tears are close to the surface as we watch the unwatchable, think about (and try not to think about) the unthinkable, bear the unbearable, cry out for solutions to the unfixable," said Ruth Haley Barton, author, spiritual director and teacher. "Our groanings are too deep for words. Tears come at the oddest moments. Despair crouches at the door, waiting to set up housekeeping in our souls."

Those tears of mourning turn

into tears of frustration that little has changed since the last senseless death. Those laments lead to protests and pleas to address North Carolina's systemic problems.

Perhaps it is naivete, but this time feels different. This time we see uniforms kneeling together with protestors, witness peaceful protestors call out those wanting disruption and violence, and celebrate as black, brown and white turn out as community to clean up glass and debris. This time there is more awareness of infiltration by agitators, organized outsiders whose sole intent is to divert attention from the message by generating riots and looting.

As we lament in this perfect storm of pandemic and prejudice, we remember that out of crisis comes action. When thousands of women paraded down Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue in 1913, women finally won the right to vote. The 1848 Cholera epidemic resulted in the Public Health Act. After painful protests of the 1950s and 60s the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Acts were passed. And FEMA was begun in response to hurricanes and natural disas-

In scriptures prayers of lament always end with hope and trust that good will come from sorrow.

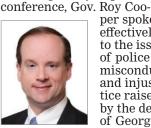
We cannot see what good might come from our current state, but we know that lament and mourning cannot last. Our prayers include pleas for understanding and compassion, for obedience to rules, for hope and inspiration, for strength to see better days. The North Carolina way is to seek wisdom and act on it.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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

# Riots destroy more than property

During a May 31 press



**JOHN HOOD** John Locke

**Foundation** 

per spoke effectively to the issues of police misconduct and injus-

tice raised by the death of George Floyd. He also condemned the "violence and destruc-

tion" that unfolded in Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Fayetteville, and other cities as protests became riots.

Ūnfortunately, either the governor or his staff apparently thought his prepared remarks, otherwise sober and appropriate, needed some pizzazz. So they dropped in a memorable soundbite, and aggressively marketed it over the next several hours. It became the theme of Cooper's statement, and of the state's initial reaction to the riots.

No doubt you saw or heard it: "Let me be clear. People are more important than property.

Saying this was a foolish miscalculation. It made Gov. Cooper appear clueless and

cavalier. Of course human beings are important in a way that inanimate objects are not. But in practical terms, rioting and looting is always about people harming people. For every window shattered, door broken, and store looted, there are human victims. There are business owners and their employees, already reeling from the COVID-19 recession, trying to keep their heads above water. There are police officers and bystanders put in harm's way. There are people made more fearful to work, shop,

or live downtown.

And in this case, the victims include protestors whose heartfelt grievances about abuse of governmental power are shoved aside by violent reaction and counter-

While it is impossible to know with confidence the relative percentages, it is clear that the throngs filling the downtowns of cities in North Carolina and elsewhere in recent days consist of three discrete groups: ralliers, rioters, and revolutionaries.

The first group are those rallying against police misconduct and injustice. They comprise the vast majority, particular in the early hours of a demonstration. They are overwhelmingly peaceful. They are angry. They have every right to be. And most North Carolinians, of all backgrounds and parties, agree with them about George Floyd.

The second group, the rioters, make up no more than a few percentage points of the crowd. But the proportion grows as the night wears on. They are opportunists, using the cloak of a political protest to engage in wanton destruction, larceny, or a combination of both.

The third group, the revolutionaries, are only a tiny fraction. These are the anarcho-communists who call themselves "anti-fascists" (antifa), perhaps with a smattering of play-acting white supremacists who call themselves "patriots" or "nationalists." These radicals see civil unrest as means of accomplishing their revolu-tionary ends. They are, of course, deluded and idiotic. Alas, they are still danger-

The rioters and revolutionaries, not the ralliers, are the ones attacking city

halls, police stations, and other buildings. They are the ones looting stores. They are the ones assaulting cops. In Raleigh, a group of them tried to storm the county jail. As law enforcement responds with tear gas and other tactics, ralliers, onlookers, and news reporters are caught in the crossfire. Conditions spiral quickly out of control — a tragic outcome for most, but an outcome welcomed by the rioters and revolutionaries.

Protest leaders recognize the peril that rioters and revolutionaries pose to their cause. Some insist that they, not law enforcement, be allowed to "police ourselves." Their intentions are good, but protestors attempting to forcibly restrain provocateurs could itself escalate into violence. The truth is that after two nights of letting the rioters and revolutionaries get away with too much, North Carolina's cities were left with little choice but to respond with curfews and other sweeping measures.

There is no need to establish hierarchies of injustice. We can and should express outrage about George Floyd's death, and other abuses of government power, without endangering the liberty, property, and perhaps even the lives of other innocent victims.

We stand on the edge of a precipice here. We can help each other seek higher, safer ground. Or we can let a few bad actors provoke us into a shoving match, with potentially disastrous consequences.

John Hood (@JohnHood-NC) 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.

# Fresh flowers for summertime

June 20 may be the first official day of summer, but once June 1 hits, I consider



**SICKLES** The Optimistic Gardener

it summertime. Summertime is a gardener's dream. It's a period of abundance for fruits and vegetables and flowers, and here in Chatham County, just about anything you put in the ground thrives. This week we'll start with flowers.

Gone are the delicate blooms from

spring bulbs like
Irises, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. In its place are heartier blooms like sunflowers, geraniums, dahlias, cosmos, calendulas, and zinnias.

I caught up with Nicole Rosenberger, who owns Turtle Rock Gardens and is part of the Red Roots Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscription program. Her combination of annuals and perennials paints the county in blooms. She's not into the instant gratification of running to the store and grabbing a six-pack of blooming annuals; she's in it for the long haul by starting most of her flowers by seed.

"I grow cut flowers on about a quarter-acre, so it's not cost effective for me to buy plants," Nicole said. "It can also be really difficult to find flower seedlings suitable for cutting because most garden centers sell bedding (or short)

Her source for reliable, long-stemmed cut flowers? Country Farm and Home in Pittsboro, and Big Bloomers Flower Farm in Sanford. According to Nicole, Country Farm and Home "sometimes has more common annual cut flower seedlings, like marigolds, and also has lots of beautiful perennial flower seedlings. Big Bloomers Flower Farm also has just about any perennial you could want as well as some annual flowers

that are tall enough to cut." You've just got to know what you

Starting flowers from seeds isn't rocket science, but it does take know-how, experience, and patience. Nicole has a handful of perennials, and annuals that overwinter at her house with a little extra protection, like lisianthus and snapdragons; but the bulk of her flowers are annuals, which she starts from seed.

"I find a heat mat and some way of trapping humidity are really important for getting seed to germinate," she said. I just cover my trays with a clear plastic bag on the heat mat, but you can also buy a plastic dome top for trays. If you don't have a heat mat and grow lights and don't want to invest, there are lots of flowers that do well direct seeded, like calendula, zinnias, sunflowers, and cosmos.

Whether you've got lushly rich meadows or hilly and rocky landscapes, you, too, can find success with seeds. Nicole rents the bulk of her garden space and sows her seeds into rows. "Rows make it much easier to get the right spacing when you plant, and it makes it easier to set up interchangeable supplies like drip tape since all of the rows are the same length," she said. "The rows also make it easier to put up flower netting on things that need support.'

Nicole's garden space is mostly surrounded by a deer fence, but if you have problems with deer and no fence, she suggests planting strongly scented flowers like marigolds. "I don't generally have too much trouble with bug pests, but I do occasionally use organic approved pest controls like Monterey BT," she said. "Recently I had a really bad infestation of cucumber beetles on my amaranth and I tried kaolin clay, which didn't do much. Some flowers, like sunflowers, you can cut early to avoid bugs chewing on the petals. Insects aren't too much of a problem on flowers, though.'

And even though she's in the flower



Submitted photo

Part of Turtle Rock Gardens, owned by Nicole Rosenberger.

business, she still takes time to smell the, well, flowers, saying: "I always have lots of cut flowers around the house, and don't think I'd ever get tired of

Nicole's Turtle Rock Gardens flowers are available at the Chatham Marketplace, through the Red Roots Farm CSA, and at the Fearrington Farmers Market on Tuesdays. I asked if she used any kind of preservatives and she

'Flowers wilt because their stems get clogged up with bacteria and can no longer take up water," she said.
"Cleaning your vase thoroughly before putting flowers in it and then changing the water every day keeps them looking as pretty as any floral preservative.' And don't forget to recut the stems after



Submitted photo

A summer bouquet.

about three or four days.

Got any tips for keeping your cut flowers fresh? Do you start your flowers by seed? Do you prefer perennials or annuals? Let me know.

For more information:

Turtle Rock Gardens: www.insta-

gram.com/turtlerockgardens/ Red Roots Farm CSA: https://redrootsfarm.com/csa/

• Chatham Marketplace: www.chathammarketplace.coop • Fearrington Farmers Market:

https://fearringtonfarmersmarket.com Country Farm and Home: https://

chathamfarmsupply.com • Big Bloomers Flower Farm: www. bigbloomersflowerfarm.com

\$47,756,389

40,000,000

\$42,337,532

• Monterey B.t.: https://bit.ly/2XO6I06 • The Optimistic Gardener: www. OptimisticGardener.com

# Chatham government's FY20-21 budget set for June 15 vote

CHATHAM COUNTY

Sheriff's Office

Social Services

**Debt Service** 

Health

0

Parks & Recreation

Chatham County Schools

### **BY ZACHARY HORNER**

News + Record Staff

The proposed Chatham County government budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 has left multiple county officials as "confident" as they say they can be, considering the circumstances the spending plan was created within.

The draft proposed budget of \$132,335,610 increase of 5 percent from the current year's budget — will receive a final vote on Monday from the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The majority of the increase is in new expenses for Chatham County Schools and six new positions within county departments. Additionally, the county's property tax rate will not be altered and remain at 67 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Board Chairman Karen Howard told the News Record last week that she felt "confident that we have made good choices."

"We have practiced some restraint in forgoing expansion as uncertainty around the ultimate

fallout from the pandemic remains high," she said, "but have adhered to our principles as is

expansion that Howard, er and County Manager Dan LaMontagne all said would have liked to have funded more requested positions for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, while LaMontagne and Dasher stated they would have liked to have seen pay raises for county staff.

They do such an amazing job under normal circumstances, and I think under these much more difficult circumstances, they've really just shown themselves to be the great public servants that they are," Dasher said. "To not be able to compensate them accordingly is disappointing, but hopefully we'll get a chance to make it up to them."

Since its original presentation in early May,

reflected in the funding of education, public safety and health and human services." It's the relative lack of

Commissioner Mike Dashthey wish could have been different. Howard said she

> LaMontagne said the plan has undergone "relatively minor shifts of funding, with one other change made. The Moncure Fire Department had requested a 2-cent increase in the fire district property tax

After further consideration, staff adjusted the budget plan to account for a 13.75-cent rate, a 1.25cent increase.

\$14.855.256

\$1,168,779

\$4,910,480

\$4,382,230

\$16,924,944

10,000,000

Howard and Dasher each expressed approval of the plan's use of funds raised by the passed referendum

of the Article 46 sales tax option — the entirely will be directed to paying for teacher supplements.

30,000,000

20,000,000

**Chatham County** 

**Government FY21** 

**Budget Plan** 

The idea behind that was expansion and being able to provide additional services, but certainly I'm glad that it's there and it's

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

50,000,000

available," Dasher said. "It would have been hard to find those funds anywhere else in the budget and would have led to some serious cuts elsewhere. Howard added, "We

know all too well the difficulty of finding and keeping good staff in our public schools and this supplement goes a long way in demonstrating the district's commitment to our teachers, students, staff and families, especially at a time when there is so much uncertainty around what the school year will look like and how we will have to adapt our classrooms, students and staff to meet this new normal.

LaMontagne said the county will be "start(ing) slowly with spending' heading into the next fiscal year in the event an economic rebound is not quickly coming.

"I think we have done our best to estimate revenues and balance the budget without resorting to the use of the fund balance for operations or reducing staff as many other local governments are proposing this year," he said. "While taking a conservative approach to the budget this year, we cannot be certain that it is conservative enough.

The final vote will be taken during the commissioners meeting starting at 6 p.m. on Monday, and the 2020-2021 fiscal year starts July 1.

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



**SILER CITY, NC 27344** 

### A SELLER & AN AGENT REFLECT ON THE COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

# Crisis? Not for North Carolina's real estate market

'It's such a huge relief'

### BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN

News + Record Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL – Cindy Billings, a longtime Chatham resident, put her Governor's Village home on the market on March 20 and received a final offer by Mother's Day. The home was put back on the market on May 29 after the deal fell through. But by June 1, a home contract was signed.

The closing is scheduled for June 22.

"It was such a relief,"
Billings said. "It's not
fun to be paying an extra
mortgage, and because of
COVID, I was unsure as
to how many people were
actually going to be out
looking."

Instead, a satisfactory final offer left Billings feeling "so fortunate." Her experience reveals a real-time phenomenon: we may be experiencing a global crisis — leading to immense uncertainty and record unemployment numbers — but it seems that North Carolina's statewide real estate market hasn't gotten the sobering memo.

According to recent data from the Realtor.com residential listings database, the year-over-year median listing price for Chatham homes has decreased by a smidge more than \$14,000: from \$579,950 last April to \$565,800 this April. The Realtor.com data showed that 269 Chatham homes were on the market this April, compared to 369 homes last April. Homes spent about 10 more days on the market this April compared to last year: 88 days on the market compared to 78.5 days last April.

Jill Ehrenfeld, the real estate agent who helped sell Billings' home, has worked in Chatham for about 12 years. She has a front-and-center view of the market and sees Chatham benefiting from the unexpectedly smooth pace of home sales.

"I'm still selling homes," she says. "We're bringing great people into Chatham

Description	4/19	4/20	% change
Number of closed sales	125	113	-9.6%
Number of detached sales	119	108	-9.24%
Number of townhouse sales	6	4	-33.33%
Number of condo sales	0	1	0
Number of new construction sales	32	31	-3.13%
Number of re-sales	93	82	-11.83%
Average detached sales price	\$426,125	\$473,624	11.15%
Average townhouse sales price	\$268,167	\$251,750	-6.12%
Average condo sales price	\$0	\$111,000	0
Average new construction sales price	\$558,716	\$621,724	11.28%
Average re-sales price	\$370,312	\$402,390	8.66%
Average Sale Price for entire area	\$418,543	\$462,561	10.52%
Average DOM	87	90	2.7%
Number of listings for the entire area	415	315	-24.1%
Average List price for New Construction for the entire area	\$597,777	\$596,485	-0.22%
Average List price for re-sale for the entire area	\$643,003	\$593,368	-7.72%
Average List price for the entire area	\$626,656	\$594,555	-5.12%
Average Sale/List Price Ratio for the entire area	98.87%	98.63%	-0.24%

Staff graphic by Adrianne Cleven

County. We have a fabulous story to tell about Chatham County, and people who are here love it, and everybody else wants to be here."

But that assessment comes with nuance. Particularly, Ehrenfeld says she is seeing a seller's market for homes under \$400,000. Those homes are usually sold quickly and garner multiple bids. For homes listed over \$400,000, she says, it's more of a buyer's market.

"Because [with homes] over \$400,000, we have more people who are still living in their house," she said. "Now, if it's vacant and easy to see, that's one thing. But if the person is living in it, particularly if it's a person who has any underlying health issues, they don't want people walking in their homes."

The pandemic has complicated the day-to-day reality of the realty business. Ehrenfeld, who owns two real estate companies, is pivoting to virtual home-tour experiences and insisting that prospective homebuyers wear face masks when they tour homes. She makes sure that a few cabinet doors and drawers are opened before prospective buyers enter homes, so that they can look inside without touching the handles. Her office provides face masks, gloves and booties for home tours.

Through it all, Ehrenfeld is focused on a primary goal: selling homes as

quickly as possible. This way, she reasons, she can mitigate the risk of contamination and illness.

To sell Billings' Governor's Village property as quickly as possible, the home underwent some upgrades. It was repainted, some of the flooring was replaced, and new countertops were installed in the bathrooms. It also received a new roof and air conditioning unit.

"And then that was when COVID really started, was that third week of March," Billings said. "We did have people come because the house was empty and staged. So from that standpoint, people didn't have to worry about coming into a home where who knows what germs were there. So we actually had quite a few showings at that time."

Ehrenfeld said that, in light of COVID-19, vacant homes "are easier to sell." If the current homeowners aren't living in the home, neither they nor prospective buyers need to worry as much about contamination. Data from Triangle Area Residential Realty seems to echo this: compared to April 2019, April 2020 "new construction" home sales decreased by just over 3 percent, while "re-sales" decreased by almost 12 percent. Before the pandemic,

Ehrenfeld said that multiple parties of interested buyers could walk through a house simultaneously. Now, she only allows one

group of buyers — and their real estate agent — in a home at a time.

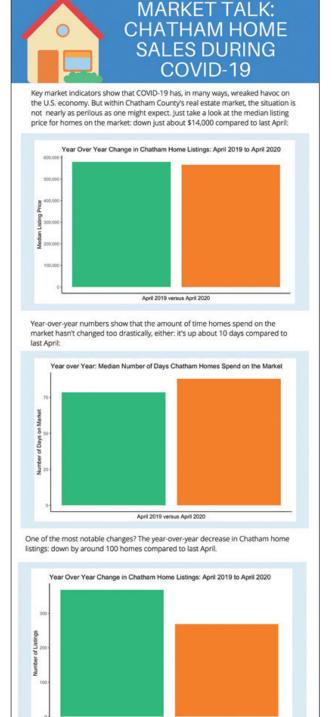
COVID-19's impact on retirement homes is also making things more complicated for aging homeowners who had been planning to transition into retirement communities.

"Now with all of the issues with the retirement homes and the COVID

...," Ehrenfeld said, "you now have people who were thinking of selling because they want to go to retirement home doing a rethink and going, 'Do we really want to go to a retirement home? Or are we better off just aging in place, and living in our current home?"

But that might become less of a concern in light of a growing trend: virtual home tours. Using 3-D photography tools or video communication like Apple's FaceTime feature, real estate agents can help buyers see a home without stepping inside. West coast buyers considering Chatham homes are "not interested in flying right now,' Ehrenfeld said. Some are instead requesting virtual showings. In a few instances, buyers have submitted offers without physically seeing the home.

"I have another set of buyers...where we wrote up an offer and she did not even see [the home]. The husband was available to go to see the home and then through FaceTime and everything we showed her the home. They wrote up an offer and are pur-



Staff graphic by Adrianne Cleven

April 2019 versus April 2020

chasing a home that she didn't even see at first." Moving forward, Eh-

renfeld believes virtual showings like these will "continue to be more popular than they ever were before." She sees these new techniques as positive: just another way to "answer to the demands of the consumers."

"So if the consumer wants to do more virtual

looking at homes, let's do that," she said. "Let's do it in spades."

In the meantime,
Billings advises fellow
home-sellers to "hang in
there."
"I would say pick the

"I would say pick the right agent and just be patient," she said. "Because there are people who are looking and are going to be buying. This is going to get better, especially now."

### **MARKET**

Continued from page A1

who make their living by working to help people buy and sell their homes to be panicking. Instead, the warming temperatures of the approaching summer are reflecting the housing market in Chatham: heating up, once again.

### Not unaffected

Real estate professionals from across Chatham will tell you that the local market isn't unaffected by the novel coronavirus: as lockdown orders took effect in March, home sales dropped almost 18 percent nationwide in April. In this county, data indicates listings, showings and sales were also down as the pandemic stretched into these late spring, pre-summer weeks — traditionally, a busy season for home sellers and potential

But a small inventory of available homes, still-strong demand, low mortgage interest rates and a surprising desire from out-of-state buyers looking to relocate to Chatham County has created competition that's once again driving sales — despite the pandemic.

"This market is unlike anything we have ever seen," said Eric Andrews of Realty World in Pittsboro. "COVID-19 happened during a time when real estate sales were doing very well. Then, the world changed dramatically. We had dozens of properties under contract that still needed to close. During the [government-mandated] stay-at-home order, we were still quite busy. We have found that in certain price points it is still a sellers'

market."
Median new listing prices in Chatham have increased slightly, according to various published data, and sales prices are up as well. The number of homes listed as "for sale" is down—related partly to sellers who've taken their properties off the market because of fears of the contagious nature of COVID-19

— but in an odd way, even that has helped stoke demand. Fewer houses with "for sale" signs means even more competition

from potential buyers.

"Inventory is low in Chatham," said Kris Howard, broker and owner of Chatham Homes Realty, which has offices in Siler City, Pittsboro and Apex. "Sellers are waiting on more stability of COVID before listing and allowing strangers into their homes."

### Numbers tell the story

Before the coronavirus began its rapid spread across the U.S., nationwide home supply was at its lowest point in seven years. A dearth of new "for sale" listings across the country — a 50 percent year-over-year decline during the second week of April, which narrowed only to 30 percent during the first week in May — means inventory is still low.

In Chatham County, Triangle Area Residential Realty data shows year-over-year overall average sales prices are up 12.78 percent after dropping in April compared to increases of 5.26 percent in Durham and 1.87 percent in Wake. May listings compared to this time last year were down almost 25 percent. Housing supply - a number expressed as a ratio of total listings to the absorption rate of those listings today stands at three months in Chatham County. For all of 2019, the housing supply stood at four months.

"Demand for homes has picked back up after hitting rock bottom in April, and that uptick, paired with a lack of supply, is a recipe for bidding wars," said Taylor Marr, the lead economist for Redfin, a Seattle-based national real estate brokerage firm, in a recent news release.

"Homebuyers are getting back out there, searching for more space as they realize using their home as an office and school may become the norm," he said. "But sellers are still holding off on listing their homes, partially due to economic uncertainty and concerns of health risks. In some hot neighborhoods, there may only be one or two homes for sale,

for them."
Analysts at MarketWatch said last week the number of people applying for loans to purchase a home has increased for six consecutive weeks. Mortgage rates are at an all-time low, with the average of 3.15 percent last week, besting

with multiple homebuyers vying

the previous record of 3.23 percent set at the end of April.

"The volume of purchase loans is up more than 50 percent since then, indicating that the earlier drop was not a collapse in the housing market but 'a delayed spring home-buying season," according to the MarketWatch report. In addition, refinancing applications are up a whopping 176 percent nationwide.

### Who benefits?

Lori Golden, a broker and owner of Carolina Lifestyles Realty in Pittsboro, said part of what's driving the residential housing market is the highly unusual nature of the market itself. Typically, housing markets are described as "buyers' markets" — meaning the negotiating and buying process swings in favor of home purchasers, rather than sellers — or "sellers' markets." She said the current market favors both parties in the transaction.

And after COVID-19 threatened the viability of that unusual market — with a huge drop-off in residential sales activity in Chatham County just a couple of months ago — there's clearly a turnaround now, according to Golden, who opened her firm two years ago.

"I am still feeling very positive about the market," she said. "For me personally, I have been extremely busy."

It's a "buyers' market," Golden explained, because of those historically low mortgage interest rates — making it an ideal time to buy a new home or refinance an existing home.

"Many people are finding themselves working from home and are re-thinking how they 'live' in their home and are re-evaluating their needs and wants," she said last week between home showings. "I'm noticing more clients asking for a dedicated home office space or deciding they want more outdoor living space."

But it's also a "sellers' market' in Chatham County because of the low inventory, meaning less competition for those offering their homes for sale.

"If sellers work to price their home strategically, it can move fairly quickly," Golden said.

"It has been a sellers' market for quite some time and it still seems to be because inventory is so low," Howard said. "The buyers who are qualified and ready to act quickly are jumping on homes as soon as they hit the market, and those priced reasonably are getting multiple offers and pushing the price up."

Price points are a major consideration, Golden said. Higher-end luxury homes may take a little longer because the pool of potential buyers in that price point isn't as large.

And new construction remains popular, with prospective new home builders requesting open-floor plans and fresh interiors.

Because of that, Golden said, it opens up "an opportunity to get an amazing deal on an older luxury home because the price per square foot most often is lower than the price per square foot on new construction. This is a great option for those who don't mind doing some custom updating of their own if they find an existing home in the right location."

Lonnie West of Chatham Homes Realty said Chatham's inventory was so low as to be described as "acute" in certain price ranges. That shows no signs of changing.

"One sells and another new listing is added," he said. "Our activity is about the same as expected; we have more calls from people driving by listings wanting more information."

### A different way to sell

Of course, COVID-19 has forced Chatham real estate professionals — like all businesspeople — to adjust how they work.

Real estate agents are still doing in-person showings, but across Chatham brokers have relied on video calls and "virtual" home tours with 3-D effects and FaceTime to show homes. "Open House" events, which stopped cold in March, are now just beginning to be held again. Masks, gloves, booties and hand sanitizer are new tools of the trade; staff sales meetings and some sales negotiations are taking place in front of computers.

ing place in front of computers. "We all know how to use Zoom now!" Andrews said.

What are the best price points for sellers?

"I feel right now in the \$350,000 to \$450,000 range, it is still a sellers' market because that's

a golden price point," said Lisa Skumpija of Absolute Realty Company in Pittsboro. "Anything above \$450,000 seems to be a buyers' market. Prior to the virus the golden price point seemed to be up to \$550,000, but I've seen that come down in the last few months."

### Location, location, location

What about for those who are looking to sell or buy?

The old real estate adage of "location, location, location" applies to agents as well as homes, according to Andrews.

"This isn't the time to be using a firm or an agent from outside of the area," he said. "You need to use someone local. Because we have so many buyers coming from our surrounding counties sellers think it is in their best interest to use a firm from those areas ... They just don't know the area like we do.

"Local firms support our community and we want to help," he said. "This is our neighborhood. I was interviewed by our local Chamber of Commerce a few weeks ago and I told them, 'When was the last time you saw a Raleigh real estate firm sponsor a local team?" We will get through this. It is in your best interest to find an agent that genuinely wants your property to do well."

And Chatham is blessed "to have a rural community with larger lots and garden areas," Howard said. "The high density, big city folks are wanting some fresh air and space, we are seeing more luxury home sales right now than usual from just these types of buyers."

As for Golden, she said she hopes the market will remain strong for everyone — buyers and sellers.

"Given the state of our country and our world I would love to dwell on the positive things that are happening," she said. "People slowing down and enjoying their families and friends, creating the lifestyles that they wish to embrace and learning to love where we live and contribute to our communities. Hope is a powerful thing"

Publisher/Editor Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@ chathamnr.com.

# Pittsboro board debates potential cuts in proposed budget

**BY CASEY MANN** 

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Work on Pittsboro's proposed \$9.4 million budget continued last week as the town board questioned revenue estimates that show a 10 percent decrease — about \$1 million, owing to economic damage from COVID-19from the previous year, far below those suggested by the League of Municipal-

As a result, the proposed spending plan eliminates numerous items the board had previously deemed priorities during earlier budget discus-

The League of Municipalities is a North Carolina non-profit which for more than 100 years has represented towns' and cities' interests and provides guidance to municipalities for best practices. Pittsboro's Finance Director, Heather Meacham, said her projections were more "conservative" than the guidance provided by the League of Municipalities, leading her to calculate the more significant drop in expected sales tax revenue. The League of Municipalities' guidance suggested a 9 percent drop in revenue for the first quarter of FY 2020-2021 while Meacham estimated 15 percent. For the second quarter, the League estimated a 3 percent decrease where Meacham estimated 10 percent. And the League suggested the rate would be essentially flat for the last two quarters with Meacham estimating a 5 percent decrease. Asked by board members about how she made her estimates, she said she didn't "really have a reason for why" she chose the additional loss, but noted she would rather "err on the side of being more cautious.'

She was also asked by Commissioner Michael Fiocco why the budget reflected a 30 percent decrease in revenue in alcohol and beer sales when



the most recent report shows those revenues up about 15 percent. She noted she "wasn't sure" how COVID-19 would impact those sales. Meachan said she would be updating the alcohol sales revenue and that she would be receiving the March sales tax revenue numbers in mid-June and would update the estimates based on that as well, though it would be received after the town's public hearing on the budget scheduled for June 8.

Fiocco reiterated to the board the proposed budget's expected revenues showed a "pretty substantial divergence from what the League suggested" and "in some almost three times" the amount.

"I appreciate your difficulty here," Fiocco said. "I want the board to see that the budget is projecting a much smaller amount than what the League is

projecting."
Mayor Jim Nass said that he had hoped "the budget would reflect the retreat," with the understanding that 'these are unique and different times." The board discussed items that had been removed from the proposed budget that were considered "priorities" by the

Board members collectively agreed that 2.5 percent pay raises for all staff members which are estimated to be at about \$50,000 be added to the proposed FY 2020-2021 budget.

The board also wanted to include a pay study at a cost of about \$12,000. Commissioner Kyle Shipp said that he was "worried about losing" staff if the town does not pay competitive wages. Commissioner Jay Farrell also brought up the issue of merit-based pay, where employees receive compensation based on reviews of their work product. He said the merit-based pay would also provide incentives for employees to get additional training. education and certifications. Fiocco agreed, saying that this was something that "Jay [Farrell] has been saying for years," and noting the board had previously asked the staff to investigate the idea.

"We are changing the employment character of the town," Fiocco said. "And the benefits can flow to the staff, because without staff, what are

Shipp stated that he believed the budget should include a 2.5 percent raise for staff, a pay study and an update to the website to "keep the public informed" saying, "I think that's money we really need to invest." Commissioner John Bonitz seconded Shipp's point, adding he believed an investment in software to log the town's social media accounts in case of public records requests was also an important item to include.

The board also discussed at length whether to approve an increase of \$8,000 for a total outlay of \$85,000 to Main Street Pittsboro. Main Street Pittsboro is a non-profit entity, partially supported by state funds, to help invigorate small downtowns throughout the state. Main Street Pittsboro is renovating the former Capital Bank

building located on the town's circle to house a Chatham County Welcome Center which the organization would operate.

Fiocco, the town board member also on the Main Street Pittsboro board, noted that the organization "did enter into a long-term commitment in downtown with the welcome center. He also said that the organization is not solely dependent on public funds, but as major fundraising events for the organization, such as Local on Main, were canceled due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, the organization's financial investment in downtown is in peril.

'Coming out of COVID, I think we're going to have a difficult time trying to regain what we lost," Nass said. "I think its maybe as important for downtown to be a really high priority project. If we start to decline and that decline starts to accelerate with what's going on to the north [Chatham Park], I think we could spiral.

The board made no decision on whether to approve the appropriation to Main Street Pittsboro, opting instead to hold its public hearing on June 8, during which no one from the public nor any commissioners made comments on the budget, and wait for updated revenue projections. With those projections anticipated to arrive on June 14, the budget will likely see changes following.

The board will meet again on June 22 to review the budget once it's revised by Meacham and Interim Town Manager Bob Morgan. If amenable, they may approve it on that day or request changes and hold a special meeting to pass the

actual budget ordinance. State law requires the FY 2020-2021 budget — with the fiscal year starting on July 1 — to be passed by June 30.

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

### **FOWLER**

Continued from page A1

ered everything from vollevball to men's basketball to field hockey to lacrosse. He said that he was a "huge believer in bootson-the-ground reporting"

and enjoyed covering high school sports.

'One of our chief goals here is to inform our community, so I'd love to hear from anyone who has story ideas or recommendations for coverage," Fowler said. "Institutional knowledge is something else I really

value, and since I'm not a Chatham County local, that's obviously still a work in progress for me and a great challenge."

Fowler, 22, is a native of Denver, N.C. In addition to his print coverage, Horner said Fowler has been tasked with boosting the News + Record's

digital and social media coverage of local sports and to look at national issues through a local lens. He will also assist with general news coverage.

"Something I love about high school sports is its fanbase," Fowler said. "Fans span multiple generations and have experiences both shared and unique. I'm equally fascinated by archival work, so I'm looking forward to learning about more former athletes in Chatham County whose stories deserve re-telling. Every city or town in America has a few high school stars who either made it

big, or had a chance to but for some reason didn't. Every city or town also has people who watched those stars grow up and excel, and that's an awe-some resource."

You can find Fowler on Twitter at @chapelfowler and contact him at cfowler@chathamnr.com.



**VENDORS SET UP FREE with Preregistration\*** Oasisopenairmarket.com Call 919.779.7434 or 919.395.2080. Set up promptly by 2PM

5 Bands

DJ Chris MC

Karaoke and Dance Party

WELCOME Vendors of all types, Woodworking, Jewelry, Photography Homemade and organic options, Deep discounts on beverages Specialty, local and international foods

Food trucks

### **EVENT MENU**

Each sandwich served on fresh French rolls from Pittsboro Bread Shop or Michaels Bread Shop. Meal includes sandwich, choice of one side, choice of dessert and beverage.

Sides: potato salad, pasta salad or chips. Desserts: brownies, apple, or fruit cocktail Sandwiches: Veggie melt: seasonal fresh organic veggies in stock with roasted red bell peppers and provolone cheese; Oasis chicken salad with microgreens and sliced tomato; Italian sub with provolone salami, pepperoni and ham. L, t, pickles and optional Hot pepper relish; Sliced Beef Brisket

### Grab N' Go's

Include sandwich, choice of side, dessert and drink Ham-n-Cheddar, Pimento Cheese, Salami-n-Provolone, Turkey-n-Swiss





### **SOUTH CHATHAM AVENUE** 919-395-2080

If you are interested in a FREE VENDOR BOOTH for the Summer Market and Music Kickoff, June 20, 2020, please complete & submit this form.

By signing and submitting you guarantee that you have all permits and insurances required by local and/or state authorities for vendors. \*Disclaimer: By signing this you indicate that you understand that Oasis does not guarantee you any amount of business. You also agree that Jackie Adams or Oasis Market Group LLC are not liable for any injuries, property damage or theft. You also agree not to in any way partake in any illegal activity while vending at Oasis Open Air Market. If you register for a FREE vendor position and don't show up, you will be charged \$35.00. Drop off at 117 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City, NC 27344, or mail to same address by June 17th.

Applicant Name and Business Name and Address\*

Primary Applicant Email\*

Main Applicant Phone Number\*

Please explain what type of vendor you are (e.g. what goods you offer). If your organization is a non-profit please explain what type of NP you are.\*

Mailing Address\*

Full Name (Digital Signature)\*

### **OBITUARIES**

### **RICKY THOMAS BECK**

Ricky Thomas Beck, 70, of Bear Creek, died Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at his residence.



Mr. Beck was born November 21, 1949 in Chatham County, the son of Wade Thomas and Mattie Allene Tally Beck. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Rachel

Ricky was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, a truck driver and loved the outdoors, "scrapping' scrap metal, coffee with his friends and his dogs and calves. Mr. Beck served in the Army from 1970 to 1971 He is survived by a daughter, Nikki

Beck Tavoada and husband John; sons, Matthew Beck of Bear Creek, Jody Beck and wife Kim of Bear Creek; sister, Sue Beck Gatewood of Walkertown; grandchildren, Caleb, Caitlin, Autumn, Alexis and Abigail and on the way, Baby "T"

A graveside service was held Saturday, June 6, 2020, at Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, 17721 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek with Pastor Darrell Garner and Rev. Bob Wachs officiating.

On line condolences may be made at: wwwpughfuneral-

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### JOSHUA "JOSH" EDWIN MAYNOR

Joshua "Josh" Edwin Maynor, age 38, of Pittsboro, died Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at UNC Hospital.

Josh was born in Lee County, NC on January 2, 1982 to Scott Maynor and Gayle James Maynor of Sanford.

He is also survived by his wife, Liz Barber Maynor of Pittsboro; brother, Steve Maynor and wife Adrian of Bear Creek; Mother-in-law and father-in-law, Ricky and Lou Byrd of Holden Beach; brother-in-laws, Lance Barber and wife Daina Barber of Swansboro, Logan Barber and fiancé Stacie Morris of Phoenix, Arizona, Landis Barber of Raleigh; two sisterin-laws, Hannah Lee and husband Rick of Newton Grove, Morgan Jackson and husband Art of Rose Hill; four nieces, Riley Maynor, Remi Maynor, Rhetta Maynor, Kylie Barber, and two nephews, Knox Barber and Jacob Lee.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Dale and Ruth Maynor and maternal grandparents, Bill and Billie Faye James.

The funeral service was held Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Emmaus Baptist Church Gymnasium with Rev. Ray Gooch presiding. Burial followed at Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery with honors provided by The North Carolina State Highway Patrol Honor Guard. Wearing a mask is at your discretion. Alternatively, you could listen to the service from your vehicle's radio, 88.3 FM, in the church parking lot.

In lieu of flowers, a Memorial Fund has been established at the NC State Employee's Credit Union in the name of Liz Barber to assist with medical and funeral expenses or Browns Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund c/o Teresa Farrell, P.O. Box 1048, Pittsboro, NC 27312

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

Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Maynor family.

### **RICHARD (BUDDY) MANNING**

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE ONLY**

Richard "Buddy" Manning passed away on April 25, 2020. (See paid obituary, Chatham News + Record, 04-30-2020 edition.)

The memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at Emmaus Baptist Church, in the gym.

The service will also be broadcast on the car radio 88.3 for those who wish to remain in their cars.

### JAMES FRANKLIN BURCH, JR.

James Franklin Burch, Jr., 73, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020 at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

### **GLORIA MITCHELL**

Ms. Gloria Mitchell, 57 of Durham, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2020 at her resi-

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

### **WILL JAMES MCAULEY**

Will James McAuley, 92 of Sanford, passed away Friday, June 5, 2020.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Services.

### **BARBARA JEAN DORSETT SWANN**

Barbara Jean Dorstt Swann, 77 of Sanford passed away Sunday, May 31, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Dorsett - McLean Cemetery.

### **TASHA JANAY BROOKS**

Tasha Janay Brooks, 28, of Siler City passed away Monday, June 1, 2020.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son.

**JESSIE EARL DARNELL** Jessie Earl Darnell, 79, of Bear Creek died Wednesday June 3, 2020 at UNC Hospi-

A private graveside service was held Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Meroney United Methodist Church Cemeterv with Rev. Jim Whittaker officiating. Mr. Darnell was born June

8, 1940 in Chatham County, the son of Jessie Leon and Zonie Bright Darnell. He was Owner/Operator of Darnell Auto Sales and a member of Meroney United Methodist Church. He is preceded in death by his parents, and sisters, Bettie Pilkington and Wilma Manning.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Katie Ward Darnell; daughters, Linda Darnell Mitchell of Pittsboro and Donna Darnell Crowe of Goldston: one son. Ricky Darnell of Sanford; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimers Association, Western Carolina Chapter, 4600 Park Rd., Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28209, www.alz.org/northcarolina.

Online condolences maybe made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

### **DEERICK DESHAUN WILLIAMS**

DeErick DeShaun Williams, 23, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, May 31,

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home. Interment followed in Lee Memory Garden.

### **LAVARUS ATWATER**

Lavarus Atwater, 29, of Durham, passed away Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Services entrusted to: Knotts and Son, Chapel Hill.

### **BENJAMIN "BEN" TAYLOR**

Benjamin "Ben" Taylor, 88, of Pittsboro, passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2020 at the SECU, Jim & Betsy Bryant UNC



Hospice Home in Pittsboro. Mr. Taylor was born August 27, 1931 to the late Claudus and Bunia Whitner Taylor in Dyersville, NC. The family moved to Durham in 1933. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Johnny and Leonard Taylor; sisters, Gracie Ayers and Sue Beddingfield; and his first wife, Clara Copler Taylor; and stepson, Joe Atlas Taylor.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife his wife of 36 years, Susan Barrett Taylor; his brother, Howard Taylor

(Joyce) of Durham; sisters, Mildred T. Jones of Creedmoor, and Mary T. Hillard of Myrtle Beach, SC; several nieces and nephews; and family friends, Scott LeRoy (Julie) of Tampa

Mr. Taylor graduated from Oak Grove School in 1949. He served in the National Guard for 10 years and was stationed in Durham. Ben was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. Ben had various jobs before becoming a power lineman, retiring from Williams Electric with 37 years in power line construction. Williams Electric was a contractor

Ben enjoyed having a vegetable garden and trying new types of crops. He also enjoyed cooking and working with his hands. He made lovely birdhouses for his wife to paint.

A graveside service for family was held on Friday, May 29, at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Durham.

Donations in Ben's memory be made to the SECU, Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC

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

Arrangements by Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation.

### RACHEL MICHELLE LANE WILSON



Rachel Michelle Lane Wilson, 40, of Siler City, NC passed away on May 30, 2020 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Rachel was born in Tampa, Florida to William James Lane and Shirley Hall Lane on October 26, 1979. She moved to North Carolina where she met and married John Douglas Wilson on June 19, 1996. Rachel loved people and worked in customer service until having to leave it to stay at home due to health issues. She loved her family both in Florida and in North Carolina. She was a daddy's girl and loved fishing

with her dad as a young girl. She enjoyed NC family gatherings and especially Christmas. She was a huge Dallas Cowboys fan and was happiest listening to music of all kinds. She loved the beach and the mountains and dreamed of traveling. She also enjoyed journaling and watching tv series. She cared deeply for everyone she loved and took great joy in sending cards or finding unique gifts to bring a smile to her family.

Rachel was preceded in death by her father, William James Lane, father-in-law John Hoover Wilson and brother-in-law Gregory Alan Wilson.

She is survived by her husband, John Douglas Wilson of Siler City, mother, Shirley Hall Lane; brothers, Charles Lane and Jimmy Lane; grandfather, Albert Hall; special aunt, Joy Lynn and special nephew, Daniel Lane, all of Florida; mother-in-law, Nancy Pritchard Wilson of Siler City, brother-in-law, Marty Wilson and wife Sarah of Bennett; sister-inlaw, Teresa Wilson Graves and husband Ricky of Siler City, sister-in-law, Carolyn Marie Wilson of Burlington; and many nieces and nephews which she dearly loved.

A special memorial service will be held at a later date.

### **REV. DR. JOHN SIDNEY** PASCHAL

The Rev. Dr. John Sidney Paschal, 81, died at his home in Indian Trail, on Friday,

A family funeral was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

He was born to Gilliam Robert and Lucinda (Taylor) Paschal. Raised in Bethlehem Methodist Church, he always wanted to be a pastor. After college, John was ordained in the United Methodist Church, and over 42 years, he served eight different churches, culminating as Wilmington District Superintendent. He was predeceased by his first wife, Linda Howe Paschal.

John is survived by his wife, Connie Taylor Paschal: sons, Jonathan and David; brothers, Carl and Jim; and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Novant Health Hospice, 324 North McDowell Street, Charlotte

NC 28204. Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

### MRS. ELLA WOMBLE

Mrs. Ella Womble, 101, of Bennett, passed away, Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at the Siler City Center.

Services entrusted to: Knotts and Son.

### **WILL JAMES MCAULEY**

Will James McAuley, 92 of Sanford, passed away Friday, June 5, 2020.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Services.

**NEWS BRIEFS** 

### **VERONICA JEAN BATES** HALL

Veronica Jean Bates Hall, age 71 of Sanford, died Monday, June 1, 2020 at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

Graveside funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020 at the Barbecue Presbyterian Church Ceme-

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late Howard William Bates and Dolly Mae Cameron Ferguson. She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Brenda Hall Patterson and sister Linda Bates Hopkins.

Surviving are her children: Kathy Winans of Cameron, Lorie McMillian of Sanford, Brandon Hall of Suffolk, VA, Joshua Hall of Sanford, Buddy Hall of Cameron; and their father, Johnny Hall of Vass; ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at: www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com

### JIMMY GRANT TAYLOR Jimmy Grant Taylor, 67, of

Jackson Spring passed away on Friday, May 29, 2020 at First Health Hospice Care in West A viewing was held Friday,

June 5.

### JAMES FRANKLIN BURCH

James Franklin Burch, Jr., 73, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020 at his residence.

Funeral Home.

Services entrusted to: Knotts

### **LARRY W. STEVENS**

Larry W. Stevens, 83, of Siler City, passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at the Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Plainfield Friends

Larry was born in Chatham County on May 5, 1937 to Tom and Myrtle Thrift Stevens. He was a poultry farmer. In addition to his parents, his wife, Carolyn B. Stevens, a son, Clint Stevens, sisters, Judy Johnson, Muriel Blaylock and brother, Jack Stevens preceded him in death.

He is survived by his son, Dale Stevens of Bennett; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebradychapel.com.

### **DONALD GRAY BOYD**

Donald Gray Boyd, age 78, of Bear Creek, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Goldston, with Pastor Phillip Nelson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Boyd was born in Moore

County to the late Joseph and Connie Boyd. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margie, a daughter, Belinda; one grandson, one great-granddaughter, eight brothers and three sisters. Don was a member of Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include his children, Kelley Patterson of Goldston, Ray Tillman and Amanda Clack, both of Sanford, Cindy Jeffries of Bear Creek; sisters, Josephine Norman, Bonnie Blackman, Judy Grant; 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchil-

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

### **LELA HARRINGTON**

Lela Harrington, 95, of Broadway, passed away on Friday, June 5, 2020 at FirstHealth Hospice House.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Doug Houston officiating.

Mrs. Harrington was born in Lee County on May 10, 1925 to the late Shelly V. and Fannie Cameron Godwin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Harrington; siblings, Magdalene Godwin, Jean Godwin, Mae Proctor, Paul Godwin, Melvin Godwin and H.D. Godwin. She was retired from W. Koury Company.

Survivors include a daughter, Sylvia Smith of Broadway; sister, Catherine Coley of Sanford; one granddaughter, and five great-grandchildren.

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

### **HOWARD PRESTON GREEN**

Howard Preston Green, 64, of Pittsboro passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at St. Andrews Christian Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Mr. Green was born August 17, 1955 in Pittsboro to Harvey Junior Green and Mary Green Linsday. He was preceded in death by his father, grandparents and sister, Cara Dyane Green.

Survivors include his mother. step-father, Andrew Lindsey, daughters, Mia Alston, Tysha Alston; one step-son, Scottie Goldston; brother, Larry Green; one sister, Annette Williams; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### **GLORIA MITCHELL**

Ms. Gloria Mitchell, 57 of Durham, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2020 at her residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

### **FSA** county committee

nominations open PITTSBORO — USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting nominations for county committee members. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated

for candidacy for the county committee. "I encourage America's farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards to nominate candidates to lead, serve, and represent their community on their county committee," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "There's an increasing need for diverse representation including underserved producers,

which includes beginning, women and minority farmers and ranchers.

Committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. Their input is vital on how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community are serving on FSA county

The Chatham County Committee is made of three members and typically meets once a month. Members serve three-vear

terms. Producers serving on our FSA county committees play a critical role in the dayto-day operations of the agency. Individuals can nominate themselves or others; also organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, may also nominate candidates to better serve their communities.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program and reside in the area where the election is being held. To be considered, a producer must sign a nomination form indicating that they are willing to serve, even if nominated by another party.

The form and other information

about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections, or from the Chatham County FSA office. All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the county FSA office by Aug. 3.

This year, nominations and elections for Chatham County will be held in local administrative area 1, which includes Albright, Bear Creek, and Matthews Townships, roughly the western

end of the county. Producers with questions should call the Chatham County FSA Office at 919-542-2244, ext. 2.

--CN + R staff reports

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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.

### LYSTRA BAPTIST **CHURCH**

The Lystra Church Take and Wear Clothes Closet will be closed indefinitely due to the COVID 19. When it is safe to reopen, a notification will be sent out with future dates.

### **MARTHA'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

The annual Homecoming Celebration at Martha's Chapel Christian Church, set for Sunday, June 14 has been canceled due to the risk of COVID-19 exposures. We look forward to next year's celebration.

### COLLEGE **DEAN'S LIST**

### **BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

Laura Balan of Pittsboro has been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at Belmont University in Nashville, TN

### **BEREA COLLEGE**

Emily Croft, a resident of Pittsboro, has been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at Berea College at Berea, Kentucky.

### COLLEGE **GRADUATES**

### **CLARION UNIVERSITY**

Laura Liggett of Pittsboro graduated with a Doctor of Nursing Practice in May from Clarion University of Pennsylva-

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### June household hazardous waste event to be held June 20

The June Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event of 2020 will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 20. The event will be at the Solid Waste & Recycling Main Facility in Pittsboro. HHW events are a way for residents to dispose of hazardous materials safely. Decals are not required, but residents will need to show their N.C. Driver License with their current address. HHW is only for households; no hazardous waste from businesses will be accepted.

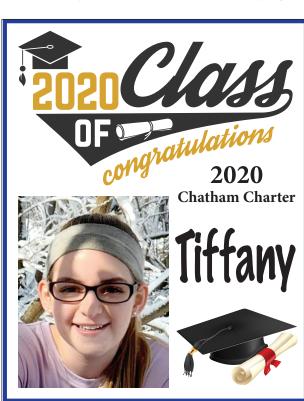
At HHW events, the county accepts such items as oil based paints, solvents, stains, bleach, aerosols, cleaners, pesticides, brake fluid, fluorescent light bulbs, propane tanks, etc. For a complete list, please visit the Household Hazardous Waste webpage or contact the Solid Waste & Recycling Division at

919-542-5516.

Latex paint is only hazardous when it is in liquid form. Latex paint can be safely dried out and put in with your regular trash instead of bringing it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection. Approximately 60 percent of the material brought to the HHW collection is liquid latex paint. It is the most costly item we collect. To save our budget for handling the more hazardous wastes, we encourage residents to dry it up for disposal. To drv it out, take off the lid and let it sit outside in a covered area. Add kitty litter or sawdust to speed up the drying process. It does not have to be completely solidified- more like a

The Sheriff's Office will also be onsite to conduct a medicine take back as a way for residents to safely dispose of unwanted medications. No needles, sharps, or liquids will be accepted.

--CN + R staff reports



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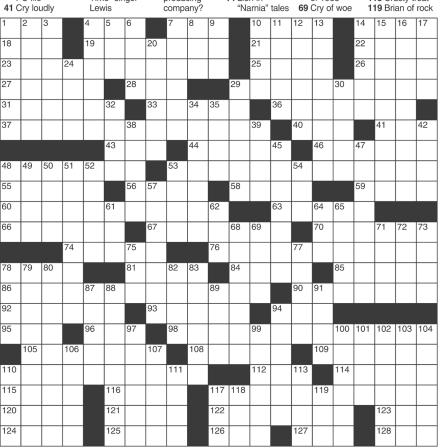
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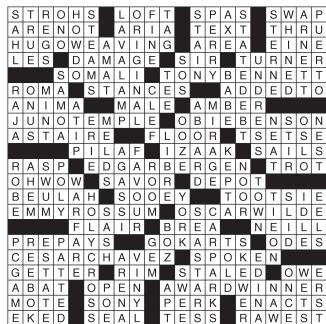
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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.





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Nana, Dad, Kathy, Owen and Granny

# Construction at Chatham Park, Mosaic rolls on through pandemic

### **BY ZACHARY HORNER**

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In the long development careers of Kirk Bradley and Tim Smith, they say they've never encountered anything like COVID-19.

"The pandemic, never experienced anything like this," said Smith, the co-owner of Preston Development Company, which is developing Chatham Park in Pittsboro. "We've never experienced being shut down by the government for 11 weeks. Who would have ever thought that would happen?

Since construction - including "essential commercial and housing construction" — was an allowable and "essential" business under Gov. Rov Cooper's Executive Order No. 121, work on buildings and infrastructure at both Chatham Park and Mosaic at Chatham Park, a mixeduse development Bradley is overseeing, continued.

Bradley—the manager of Eco CP Partners and a part of the ownership group for the News + Record — said construction is under way or nearly complete on four of 19 available lots in Phase 1 of Mosaic. One of those buildings already has a full rendering anchored by a People's Coffee location on the corner and featuring a Chatham Park Info Center and Mosaic Sales & Leasing Center. Other tenants announced for the development include Town Hall Burger + Beer, **UNC Urgent Care and** EDGE Aveda Day Spa, and the Triangle Business Journal reported late last month that a Lowes Foods grocery store was slated

for the development. The development also announced its first residential offerings - Tessera at Mosaic, described



A rendering of one of the buildings at Mosaic at Chatham Park. This building, which will include a location of People's Coffee, a welcome center for Chatham Park and a leasing center for Mosaic, will be completed this year.

as "upscale urban condos," and The Guild at Mosaic, "amenity-rich apartments" — on May 29.

"We have several other buildings we're working on and hope to have those started by the third quarter," Bradley said.

Chatham Park, Smith said, has been "wide open" throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Road construction, water, sewer — we haven't stopped one day since the shutdown started," he said. "We've been going full steam on that side.

Pre-sales on a new set of homes, designed by four custom builders and set for the second phase of the Vineyards residential neighborhood, began June 1. and the first examples of these houses will be shown during the Triangle Parade of Homes in September. The first Cottage homes, from the first phase of development at the Vineyards, will also be ready by Sept. 25.

"We've been talking about this, it seems like, 10 years," Smith said.
"Now it's all coming to fruition.'

Bradley and Smith each said government restrictions have placed unique

burdens on their work. Smith said Preston Development is still selling houses, but "about half of what we anticipated." Commercial development has been a different story.

'Nobody's got a zero-revenue model, and that's in essence what the government restrictions did," Bradley said. "Even in the great recession of '08-'09, which disproportionately impacted real estate, it happened over a long period of time. This thing, we went from one day everything was happening to the next day it was nothing.

Bradley was among a handful of business leaders who sent letters to Cooper during the height of restrictions asking for some leniency to help "re-open" the economy. In the letter, which was published in late April, he praised the early work of state government, calling North Carolina "one of the best states in the country in protecting the public health of its citizens," and called Cooper's threephase plan "very mea-

sured" and "thorough." Commercial leasing, Bradley said, slowed down significantly during the

governor's stay-at-home order, but has picked back up in the "last two or three weeks." Some of the tenants the development has been seeking include outdoor outfitters, healthy living companies and clothing boutiques.

Both Bradley and Smith said the way they've operated on a normal business day — like many during the pandemic — has changed. Zoom meetings have been commonplace. Bradley said he's been able to accomplish more in a day since he's spent less time commuting.

"You can never duplicate in-person meetings, but these Zoom meetings have really taken off, saved a lot of time," Smith said. "We still want a face-to-face meeting from time to time, but these Zoom meetings are one of the biggest things to save time and energy.

**Chatham Park Division of Water** permit denied, application resubmitted

The N.C. Division of Water Resources denied

Ranked #1



Submitted photo

An aerial view of the construction at Mosaic at Chatham Park, located off of U.S. Highway 15-501 in Pittsboro across from Northwood High School,

as of mid-Mav. Chatham Park's application for a 401 Certification

last week. The certification would have given construction an Individual Water Quality Certification, which gives projects the ability to conduct activity that may result in a discharge to bodies of water. The specific application, submitted April 22, covered Chatham Park North Village and Chatham Park Way North.

Among the reasons for denial of the certification were unanswered questions and concerns that the application's stated regional stormwater control measures "have the potential to cause indirect impacts to smaller tributaries and wetlands within the project by re-routing entire watersheds away from these features."

The Haw River Assembly sent a newsletter on Friday celebrating the

application's denial. Thanks to everyone who sent comments in," the newsletter said, "and a

big thanks to the Chatham

County Board of Com-

missioners for letting the state know their concerns about the permit and the inadequate public opportunity for commenting.'

In response to an inquiry from the News + Record about the application, Smith said "most of (the) information' requested by the state had been given "in previous meetings with the Corps of Engineers over the last three years.'

"Due to the CV-19 issues, it has been difficult to meet in person to share what information was previously provided and answer all questions,' Smith wrote in an email. "The questions have now been addressed and additional information provided. We will be resubmitting the Permit next week. We want to thank the Corps of Engineers for their help over the last three years and NC DEQ

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

for their response in these

difficult times.

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9 speed Auto, 4WD, 12k miles

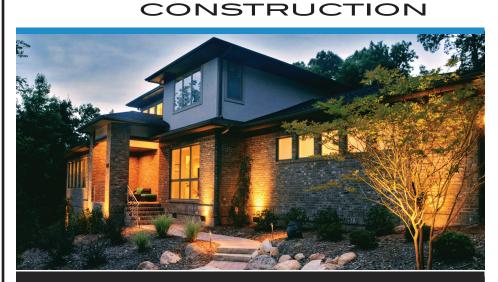
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### **SUMMER KICK-OFF SET FOR JUNE 20**

# Oasis owner creating event to 'get downtown Siler City moving'

**BY CASEY MANN** 

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jackie Adams, owner of the Oasis Fresh Market and Deli, is hoping to "get folks out and get down-town Siler City moving a little bit more" with what she's calling a "Summer Market and Music Kick-Off" on June 20.

Adams wants to help small businesses, vendors and artists who have been challenged because of COVID-19 business closures. To that end, she is offering free vendor spaces for the free event and has several bands willing to provide entertainment in exchange for food.

The reason I'm doing this is to bring more of the community downtown, to give a chance to all of us who were stuck," Adams said. "Nobody was out able to make any money, vendors or artists. It's a win-win for the community

and that's why I'm doing that for free." Noting that the event will "have respect for COVID-19," Adams has reduced the number of vendor spaces by half to ensure each vendor has 10 feet between them. Vendors from across the state are already signing up for the opportunity to share and sell their wares to the people of Siler City.

And Adams is creating a special menu for the occasion. Visitors will be able to purchase a wristband for \$35 for those who are over 21 for food and "deep drink discounts," with those under drinking age charged only \$10. Wristbands, Adams notes, are a "real deal."

Adams wants residents and families



Submitted photo

The Summer Market and Music Kick-Off at the Oasis Open Air Market in Siler City on June 20 hopes to bring activity into downtown.

to bring chairs or blankets so that they, too, can socially distance while enjoying live music from 3 to 7:30 p.m., followed by an "80s/90s dance party" with emcee Chris Langley. The music acts include Farewell Friend, singer-songwriter Laura Jane Vincent, Emily Stewart Music, Asheboro's Bad Penny and Beats Working. Adams estimates that she



Jackie Adams, owner of Oasis Fresh Market and Deli, is offering vendor spaces and music for free to help energize the event.

can easily handle 75 people at the event while maintaining safety for the guests.

Adams wants the community to come out and "see things they don't typically see in Siler City" while having an opportunity to once again enjoy live music and the downtown area.

**Summer Market and Music Kick-Off** 

Saturday, June 20

3 - 9 p.m.

Oasis Fresh Market and Deli/ Open Air Market

131 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City www.oasisopenairmarket.com

**MUSIC SCHEDULE** 

Cindy Jones and Beats Working: 3-3:30 p.m.

Emily Stewart Music plus one:

4-4:30 p.m. Beats Working: 4:45-5:15p.m.

Bad Penny: 5:25-6:15 p.m.

Laura Jane Vincent plus one: 6:30. - 7 p.m.

Farewell Friend: 7-8 p.m.

MC Chris Langley Karaoke and dance party 8-9:30 p.m.

For more information on the event or to register as a vendor, visit www. oasisopenairmarket.com.

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

# Chatham's Carolina Tiger Rescue reopens to public after COVID-19 lay-off

**BY ZACHARY HORNER** 

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The cats roamed in their spaces, but no one was there to watch.

Not in person anyway. But Carolina Tiger Rescue, a nonprofit animal sanctuary on Hanks Chapel Road in Pittsboro, kept its animals in the eyes of the populus through its social media channels with livestreams and other videos, some of which received thousands of views.

"It allowed people who would normally be allowed to come out and visit to see them, said Louise Orr, CTR's communications director. "know that they were doing well and happy and

It was that connection between cats and humans that CTR reestablished in person anyway — on Friday when the sanctuary re-opened to the public after being shuttered for nearly two and a half months. Entities like Carolina Tiger Rescue were not included in Gov. Roy Cooper's executive order on essential businesses, but with Phase 2 of the state's re-opening in full swing, and protocols for social distancing in place, it was time to get back to work.

"We are really looking forward to having everyone back," CTR Director Pam Fulk said in a May 22 press release. "It's been a long two-anda-half months, but the support we've received has been overwhelming. We're excited to be able to resume operations and



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

One of the first tours at Carolina Tiger Rescue since the sanctuary re-opened explores the property in Pittsboro this past Saturday.

how important it is to care for and protect these

animals." Like many organizations and businesses forced to close, the animal sanctuary lost revenue during the pandemic. Orr said around 30 percent of CTR's annual income is from tours of the grounds, all of which were canceled. But, Orr said, several members of the community stepped up to help the nonprofit financially.

"The generosity from the community has been overwhelming in the best way," she said. "We feel incredibly lucky that so many people are passionate about what we do. We really can't say thank you enough to everyone for showing that generosity."

But with nearly 50 animals on the premises - ranging from tigers and lions to kinkajous and ser-

continue showing visitors  $\,$  vals — work still had to be  $\,$  masks, and occupancy in done. Orr said staff came to the grounds in a limited capacity to help with animal care, while volunteers and "non-essential" staff worked from home.

> The sanctuary also got a new rescue during the shutdown — a one-yearold coatimundi named Daisy. Coatimundis are in the same animal family as raccoons. Daisy came to CTR through a private owner and will spend four weeks in quarantine before being moved to her enclosure.

> Things will be different when it comes to tours initially. The 10 a.m. Friday tours are reserved for "vulnerably members of the public," and all tours will be limited to 12 individuals and a guide "who will remain six feet apart at all times," according to a statement from CTR. Everyone on site will be required to wear cloth

the rescue's gift shop will be limited.

But with regular visitors and potentially new ones now able to visit CTR's campus, Orr said staff are ready to go. "We're excited to just

have people back," she said. "Staffers are excited to have normal activities resume around the sanctuary. It was pretty quiet out there for a while. So many people that are part of the Carolina Tiger Rescue community, over the course of years even, have formed relationships with the animals that we care for. That's probably what we're most excited about — people can finally go back out and catch up with the animals.'

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

One of the tigers at Carolina Tiger Rescue observes visitors Saturday during the sanctuary's re-opening.



A Carolina Tiger Rescue staff member prepares some animal food on Saturday. sanctuary re-opened to the public for tours for the first time in weeks.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles







# Pittsboro board to get legal help with DEQ permits

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners voted on Monday to contract with Nexsen Pruet, a Raleigh-based law firm that has a department that specializes in government affairs, to help expedite the permits from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality for the town's forcemain and wastewater line to Sanford project.

The town has been trying secure the required permits to construct a forcemain and wastewater line to Sanford since 2016. The town's current wastewater plant is near capacity and without the expansion project, future growth would be greatly impacted.

The town has been "experiencing delays in obtaining necessary permits," according to Interim Town Manager Bob Morgan. The town began discussions with Chatham Park, the 8,000-acre development in Pittsboro, to find options. Chatham Park agreed to identify an appropriate firm to assist and finance the work to the tune of \$15,000.



Commissioner John Bonitz raised concerns about the firm saying, "I believe the town could do better" and that the board should "consider other options."

Bonitz raised concerns about one of the attorneys listed on the contract agreement — John Skvarla who served for two years as Secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality and two years as Secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce before joining Nexsen Pruet. Bonitz called Skvarla's time at N.C. DEQ as "rocky" and said his personality was "polarizing."

He instead suggested the town consider using the firm Brooks Pierce, also based in Raleigh, where Bill Ross, who was another former Secretary of DEQ when it was called the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources is a principle attorney. He suggested Chatham Park Investors "might agree" to reimburse the town for that firm instead as they had "used them in the

Commissioner Michael Fiocco noted that the lead attorney for Nexsen Pruet was Alexander Sands, who was "second in command of rule making for DENR" during his tenure in the N.C. Senate and was "well respected in state government." He noted that Chatham Park had agreed to reimburse the town for Nexsen Pruet's services and wasn't sure if they would do so for another firm. Morgan

responded that Chatham Park had only agreed to pay for Nexsen Pruet, not another firm.

Bonitz said he had "wanted to pause and have further conversations" about what firm the town should choose."

"If we keep dragging our feet it's going to get later and later," Commissioner Jay Farrell said.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp admitted he didn't "know personalities involved," but didn't believe that Chatham Park or the town was interested in making things worse.

"We're in this same boat together and I think they would be interested in get-

ting us down the stream," Shipp said. Even with that sentiment, Shipp and Bonitz each voted against the contract, with Fiocco, Farrell and Pro-Tem Pamela Baldwin voting in favor of the agreement. Following, Bonitz made a motion to request Skvarla not participate in the work on behalf of the town. That motion failed by a vote of 4-1.

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

# Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor launches GoFundMe

**BY CASEY MANN** News + Record Staff

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor, a grassroots organization formed to connect people in need in Chatham County with those with the ability to help, has launched a GoFundMe to support the

effort. In April, the News + Record, Abundance NC and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group launched the initial Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor effort and since that time, residents in Chatham County have helped more than 65 neighbors who were struggling due to COVID-19.

Marcela Slade, an organizer for Neighbor2Neighbor and the Abundance NC event coordinator and art director, the group is hoping to recruit more volunteers and raise fi-

nancial support for fami-restrictions, things are lies who need assistance with bills, food or other purchases of the basic necessities. She wants to make sure that the strain on the volunteers does not become overwhelming, leaving many of Chatham's residents

vulnerable. 'We need to make sure to continue to spread the word, especially finding people who want to help,' Slade said. "I'm running out of people who are willing to buy and deliver goods to people."

That's another reason why the team created the GoFundMe account. The original goal was to raise \$10,000, but so far it has only brought in about

"Just a little bit of help will go a long way in helping us serve as many people who need it," Slade said. "And as we continue to move forward during COVID

only going to get harder for those who are already struggling.'

Slade has also noticed that some people who sign up for help are later refusing it, stating they have found another way to get the goods and services whether through family or friends.

"People really don't want to take advantage of the situation," Slade said.
"The may be in really bad situation, but want to leave the help to those people who they feel are really in need. It's very touching."

### Join the cause

Any Chatham County resident who wants to volunteer to help can access the site from this URL: https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neigh-

Once there, visitors



complete a simple contact form which includes options for ways they can help. At the same time, any Chatham County resident who needs help can, through the same site, complete a form seeking assistance. Volunteers are then "matched" with the neighbor in need.

There is also a version of the same form translated into Spanish called Chatham VecinoAVecino, which can be found at https://bit. ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino.

It's a simple matter of choosing "I can help others" or "I need help."

Financial contributions can be made to the GoFundMe account at www.gofundme. com/f/chatham-neighbor2neighbor-vecinoave-

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@

# Chatham Park Donates 17 Acres to Thales Academy

Chatham Park has donated 17 acres of land to Raleigh-based Thales Academy, making it the first school in Chatham Park. Located in the Vineyards neighborhood of Chatham Park, Thales Academy, a private, non-profit school, plans to open in July 2021 - aligning with new home occupancy in the neighborhood. Being built to accommodate K-12th grades on a year-round curriculum, the school will offer K-3rd grades in its first year, adding subsequent grades in future years.

"Chatham Park will be an ideal live, work, play, learn community for Thales Academy families, which supports our commitment to educating the whole person," says Bob Luddy, Founder and Chairman of Thales Academy. "Providing a particularly valuable opportunity for students to live in close proximity to their school community and learn where they live, Chatham Park's well-rounded, long-term vision offers fertile ground for the future leaders we foster at Thales Academy."

"When you look around the world today at what cities are growing, they are the knowledge cities," says Bubba Rawl, Co-founder of Preston Development Company, the company developing Chatham Park. "The Research Triangle is already one of these cities and Chatham Park will be too. Our ultimate goal is to create the perfect community for our future residents. By donating this land to Thales Academy, and eventually donating school sites to Chatham County Schools as well, we're giving the children of Chatham Park the perfect place to learn and thrive." This is Preston Development Company's second partnership with Thales Academy, the first was in Knightdale Station in Knightdale, N.C.

Thales Academy cultivates critical thinkers by teaching students how to think, not what to think, fostering often-ignored skills such as writing and grammar, and developing confident leaders with strong integrity. Consistently outranking nationwide peers on objective, standardized tests Thales ensures its students are well-prepared for success in college and beyond.

"We look forward to offering the value of a firm and balanced, superior educational foundation for Chatham Park families," adds Luddy.



# "By donating this land to Thales Academy, we're giving the children of Chatham Park the perfect place to learn and thrive."

The Thales campus will be similar to existing Thales Academy facilities balancing a modern, yet classical, aesthetic, allowing students to learn in an environment modeled after beauty and order. Campus features will include: floor-to-ceiling glass windows - flooding classrooms with natural light; an iMac lab, Apple TVs in every classroom, and shared iPad carts - ensuring students are well-versed in technology. Additionally, the school will be outfitted with the latest safety and security features, including controlled-access doors, security cameras, and background check systems for all visitors.

Enrollment into Thales Academy is open to the public.

For more information visit thalesacademy.org.





# Chatham News + Record SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

**JUNE 11-17, 2020** | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports

SHORTENED MLB DRAFT

### Local baseball community worried about trickle-down effects

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Brett Walden, Chatham Central's baseball coach, sees positives and negatives when it comes to this week's significantly shortened MLB Draft.

And he's more worried about the latter than he is excited about

In early May, MLB shortened its draft from 40 rounds down to five. The dramatic reduction from around 1,200 total draft picks to 160 — came as a cost-saving measure amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Teams can sign an unlimited number of undrafted free agents after the draft, but individual signing bonuses are capped at \$20,000 (a significant decrease).

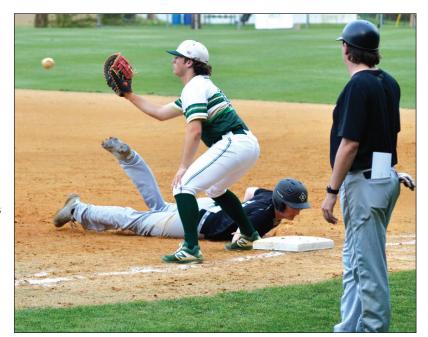
The result? Walden put it simply: "A logjam."

"I think the product between major league and high school could be better because of higher concentration," he said. "At the same time, it does reduce the number of opportunities out there."

Take a standard Division I baseball program. In a normal year, that team would graduate its senior class and also lose a handful of draft-eligible juniors and sophomores to the pros. Some players drafted in later rounds might return to school for another year to improve their stock, where they'd join a new group of freshmen also looking for playing time.

This year's draft will throw that rhythm off. Significantly.

Seniors, whose final seasons were cut short by the coronavirus, were granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA and may return to school. Some undrafted juniors or sophomores may go for a free-agent deal — especially if they're a fringe prospect right outside of the top five rounds or have a strong relationship with a certain club — but a majority will return to school to improve their stock and potential earnings later



CN+R file photo by David Bradley

Former Northwood pitcher Tyler Johnson in an April 25, 2019, game against East Chapel Hill.

Add in the rest of the returners and newcomers, and that's a larger than usual roster — one that'll undoubtedly put a strain on the 11.7 scholarships Division 1 programs are allotted by the NCAA to

split among their players. "With only 11.7 scholarships, what's going to happen?" Walden said. "Coaches have to decide: 'Do I want this senior back? Do I want this talented freshman?'

The trickle-down effect may help smaller programs, such as Division II and Division III teams in the NCAA and two-year junior colleges. If an ACC team can't make room on its roster for a player, he may transfer to a mid-major Division I school instead.

That may push a player there to transfer to a Division II school, and a player there to transfer to a junior college, and so on.

That "higher concentration of talent" is a good thing on any team, Walden said. But he also realizes for every five players who drop down a level and excel, there are five fringe players (or more) who lose out on playing time and

potentially even roster spots. Tyler Johnson, a Northwood pitcher, has already seen this

happen on a smaller scale. He committed last month to Methodist University, a private Division III school in Fayetteville that doesn't offer athletic scholarships. The Monarchs had 10 seniors on their 2020 roster, and Johnson said only one or two are planning to return for a fifth year.

Methodist is productive for its size; in its history, 12 players have been drafted and 27 have signed professional contracts. But that success has come in the later rounds — the 13th, the 37th, the 43rd — rather than higher up.

"It's definitely going to hurt," said Johnson, who finished his Northwood career with a 14-4 record and a 1.89 ERA. "I don't know of any smaller schools that get high draft prospects every year; it's mostly the lower rounds. That's why all the seniors at Methodist are pretty much moving on

See MLB, page B2



# NCHSAA allows modified workouts beginning June 15

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

High school sports are

back. The NCHSAA announced Monday it will lift its current dead period on June 15, clearing the way for modified summer workouts to start next week. It also released a set of Phase One general requirements (and specific requirements by sport) for schools to follow in doing

But local school districts, which include superintendents and local boards of education, will ultimately "control when they will allow activities to resume in athletic facilities and venues," the organization said in a release.

In making that decision, the Chatham County Board of Education isn't trying to rush. The board discussed the NCHSAA's announcement for around 15 minutes in a Monday

night Zoom meeting and took a measured approach. Members said they wanted more time to read through the requirements and also agreed to meet soon with athletic directors, coaches and principals from the three high schools in the system (Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central) to gauge their comfort with the June 15 start date and Phase One requirements.

Most notably, workouts and conditioning under Phase One can last no longer than 90 minutes; gatherings in outside venues are limited to 25 people; and gatherings in gymnasiums are limited to no more than 10 people. Those gathering numbers include players, coaches, managers, trainers and so on.

Workouts must also be 'conducted in 'pods' of students with the same five

See WORKOUTS, page B2

# Inside the life of Maria Vanderford, from Northwood to UNC to the Carolina Panthers

BY DUCK DUCKSON News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — On every team, there are players whose



**Vanderford** 

jobs go largely unnoticed by fans and the public alike.

Yet their essential roles ensure practices and game run smoothly by making sure the needs of coaches and

players are met.

Such is the life of a media relations assistant for the NFL's Carolina Panthers. And it's a role that Maria Vanderford, a former three-sport athlete at Northwood High School from 2010 to 2013, relishes.

Vanderford, who grew up in Chapel Hill, first started playing organized sports in 3rd grade and said basketball was always her favorite. Her dad working for ESPN (as well as NBC) and her mom working as an administrative assistant in UNC football office when she was growing up definitely had an impact on her ultimate career choice, too.

At Northwood, she was a four-year varsity athlete in cross country, earning All-Region recognition in 2012 in addition to All-Conference honors in 2010, 2011 and 2012. She also played one year of junior varsity basketball and soccer for the Chargers before participating on the varsity teams in both of those sports her sophomore through senior seasons.

After graduating from Northwood, Vanderford enrolled at UNC-Wilmington to pursue a career in communications.

Communications was always my planned course of study," she said. "Some majors like biology or education are much more specific in what you can do with a degree in those areas, whereas communications is not. I knew that with a degree in communications I wouldn't be limited to a specific



Photo courtesy of the Carolina Panthers

Maria Vanderford walks the sidelines prior to a Carolina Panthers game in Charlotte.

job field upon graduating." During her freshman year, she secured a manager position for the Seahawks' men's basketball team, then coached by former North Carolina guard Buzz Peterson. When she transferred to UNC her sophomore year, Peterson served as a good reference for her to obtain a position as a manager for the Tar Heels' varsity basketball squad. After arriving on the campus at Chapel Hill, Vanderford held a manager position for the team from the fall

of 2014 to the spring of 2018. Her duties included managing ongoing daily activities including locker room setup and water/towel provision for players; adhering to the needs of visiting teams and providing logistical support to the coaching staff; handling weekly meal catering and placing food orders for team members, coaches and staff; working all practices, home games

and most away games; keeping track of player statistics; preparing players and coaches for practices and assisting with workouts; and, she said, "being prepared to help with any team matters at all times.

During the summer of 2017, Vanderford interviewed for and received a position as a Carolina Panthers training camp communications intern, which led to her becoming a member of the Panthers' game-day public relations staff for the 2017

NFL season. "My final year of college, I would drive down to Charlotte and work every Panthers home game that didn't conflict with my schedule," she said. "My job was to pass out stats to media members in the press box in between quarters and transcribe post-game quotes from Panthers players as well as players

from opposing teams." Following her graduation from UNC in the spring of 2018, Vanderford immediately landed a seasonal communications intern position with the Panthers.

'My role in that position was to monitor social and internet media regarding the Carolina Panthers, administer and transcribe weekly conference calls and interviews involving coach es and players, and set up the press box for all home games," she said. "I also contributed to the weekly media release with written and statistical information in addition to providing content for the game-day program, team yearbook and

training camp fan guide.' In April 2019, she progressed to her current position as a media relations assistant.

"In addition to many of the tasks I did as an intern," Vanderford said, "I now also serve as point-of-contact for all credential requests, create and produce the game-day program, assist with press conferences, facilitate production meetings with broadcast crews, coordinate and assist with player and coach media availability, serve as PR point-of-contact on the field during away games

 when a player gets injured, I'm tasked with touching base with our team trainer and then relaving the injury information to the press box as well as the sideline reporter so he or she can inform the broadcast crew — and assist with production of our media

guide. One of her crowning achievements has been working the last two Super Bowls (Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta in 2019 and Super Bowl LIV in Miami in 2020) as a member of the NFL's

public relations staff. 'Some of my tasks in this role were to transcribe postgame quotes, administer approximately 5,000 credentials to international and national media members covering Super Bowl events, help assemble the Mercedes-Benz Stadium and Hard Rock Stadium auxiliary press boxes and work with other NFL staff to assist players, alumni and celebrities on the

red carpet at NFL Honors," Vanderford said.

Asked to characterize her current position with the Panthers, she said: "The best way to sum up my job is to say I am a liaison between the media and our players and coaches. The on-going COVID-19 quarantine has impacted our day-to-day routine, but we've stayed very busy. During the quarantine we had the NFL Draft and the 2020 schedule release, with both events requiring a heavy lift on the PR end. On draft weekend, our team was tasked with getting in contact with our newly drafted players and setting up a Zoom press conference with local media.'

Another endeavor she's been a part of is a new video series called "Off the Clock." Rather than being behind the camera or being charged with booking talent, however, Vanderford herself appears on the program. "The show consists of our

Panthers team reporter (Kristen Balboni), our owner's wife (Nicole Tepper) and myself," Vanderford said. "Once a week we get together via Zoom to talk about whatever comes to mind — sometimes it's sports related, sometimes it's pop-culture related and other times it's completely off the wall. During this time, a lot of people are looking for things to watch, and we just wanted to do something different from what other teams across

the league are doing. So just how much have the current pandemic restrictions affected her job?

"Prior to entering quarantine, there was a large turnover in our team as well as the coaching staff," Vanderford said. "A lot of my job relies heavily upon my relationships with our staff and team. The most challenging part of the quarantine has been continuing to establish and build on those new relationships without daily face-to-face interaction. If we were in the office right now, there would be a lot more opportunity for in-depth interaction and time to get to know one





Chatham Central allowed Olivia Hudson into its auditorium to sign her national letter of intent to play softball at Greensboro College.

### Deuce Powell signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Louisburg College in early April. From left: his sister, Cera, his father, Dedric, Deuce, his mother, Cherice, and his brother, Drake.

# The signing days may change, but the emotions remain the same for local seniors

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — On April 8, Deuce Powell planned on fishing. Not committing.

Thanks to some subtle arrangements by his family, the Northwood senior got to do both.

Powell, who played football, basketball and baseball for the Chargers, left his Pittsboro home that afternoon to fish with teammate Aaron Ross at Jordan Lake. When he came home, he walked into a living room full of red, white and blue streamers and star-shaped

His family was there, too, all wearing T-shirts of the same colors. And his national letter of intent for Louisburg College, where he'd verbally committed to play basketball the week before, was sitting on the table with a pen next to it. He thought it was still in the mail.

An interesting way of doing it," Powell said with a laugh. Such impromptu signing

days have been a necessity since the coronavirus pandemic shut down schools across Chatham County, the state and the country at large. The traditional route — signing in your high school gymnasium with rows upon rows of friends and teachers cheering you on — is an obvious no-go under current guidelines.

So creativity's been at a premium.

Northwood's athletic department honored senior athletes on its Twitter account, @ ChargerAthletes, with names, photos, accolades and college destinations all meshed into a green and gold graphic. Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Charter took to social media, too; the latter even produced a video series to replace its usual end-of-year athletic banquet.

Olivia Hudson, a Chatham Central senior, verbally committed to play softball at Greensboro College early this year. She'd long envisioned her signing day, the friends who'd attend and the dozens of photos she'd take afterward to pre-

serve the memory.
"That was probably the hardest part," Hudson said. "I really wanted them to be there, but we couldn't have that."

Luckily, her school gave her a hand.

Chatham Central had recently hosted a virtual athletic banquet in its auditorium, and the stage was still decorated with red and white flowers and a table featuring the school logo. In mid-May, the Hudsons met athletic director Bob Pegram and principal Karla Eanes there for Olivia's signing day — albeit at a (very) reduced capacity.

It was "bittersweet," Hudson said, but still enjoyable. Since her freshman year, she'd been slowly building toward her end goal of playing college sports. Now, it was here.

Flanked by her parents, a bat, a glove and two old jerseys, she couldn't help but smile as that dream became an official

**SPORTS BRIEFS** 

"I was just grinning ear to ear," Hudson said. "I was so happy to have a school like that come and tell me they wanted me.

On her way home, she also stopped at Zaxby's to pick up a celebratory meal of chicken tenders, forever her favorite item on the menu.

Tyler Johnson, a Northwood pitcher, went a similar route. When he committed to Methodist University in early April, he shared the news on his Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat before digging into a dinner plate from Smithfield's Chicken N Bar-B-Q.

"We couldn't eat anywhere, Johnson said, "so we just got takeout."

For Powell, COVID-19 affected more than just his signing

His recruiting didn't pick up until late February and early March, when the Northwood boys basketball team made it all the way to the NCHSAA 3A semifinals. (Three rounds earlier, a video

of Powell hitting a game-winning, buzzer-beating 3-pointer had also gone viral.)

By the first week of April, he had a few schools interested, but he'd made zero visits. So he hopped in the car with his parents, Dedric and Cherice, for a week's worth of drive-by visits to schools across the state: Catawba Valley Community College, Guilford College, North Carolina A&T and, of course, Louisburg, a junior college.

Powell made his choice that Friday and signed at home within the week.

"I'd been looking forward to committing in the gym," Powell said. "Ever since I was a freshman, that was the only thing I wanted to do. But I think the way my parents set it up was a very good substitute. They made me feel loved and like I accomplished something.

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr. com or on Twitter at @chapel-

### Local flavor in the summer baseball leagues

The Old North State League opens play on Monday, with four games. The ONSL, a summer collegiate baseball league established two years ago, has eight teams competing in 2020. The Deep River Muddogs will play in Ramseur, just 12 miles from Siler City.

Caleb Staley, a former Chatham Central and current Queens Universipitcher, will play for the Muddogs. Tyler Johnson, a former Northwood pitcher and Methodist University commit, will play for the Swepsonville Sweepers.

Sam Murchison, a former Jordan-Matthews pitcher and N.C. Central commit, will play for the Wake Forest Fungo of the Carolina-Virginia Collegiate League, According to its website, the CVCL is in its second week of play.

### Chargers make cheer teams

Two former Northwood cheerleaders have made their college teams, the school announced June 4 on Twitter. Jessica Laign will cheer at Lenoir-Rhyne, and Lizette Gonzalez-Mesa will cheer at Penn State.

### **Protests continue; Northwood** coaches speak out

In the wake of protests against racial injustice and police brutality, coaches at Northwood are making their voices heard. The Chargers' boys basketball team shared a black screen on its Twitter account, captioned "Black Lives Matter," on June 2.

And David Miller, the Northwood baseball coach, shared the following message on his Twitter on June 7: "It's not enough to consider one's self not

a racist. This breeds apathy. Is our response to child abuse, 'I am not a child abuser' or 'I am anti-child abuse'? We need to be ANTI-RACIST like we are anti-child abuse and anti-bullying. We must listen, empathize and be willing to

### **Academic honors for former Jordan-Matthews athletes**

honoring its seniors and the scholarships they earned on Twitter. Here are some of the former athletes mentioned:

• Daniel Santana-Garcia, who played tennis, was awarded the Carolina Covenant Scholarship and will attend UNC-Chapel Hill.

· Harrison Brewer, who also played tennis, will attend the University of Alabama on a Presidential Merit

Scholarship and Tutwiler Scholar-

• Myriah Fox, who was on the cheer team, will attend Florida A&M on an Alpha Kappa Alpha Cotillion Scholar-ship and a Class of 2013 Scholarship from FAMU.

· Austin Whitehead, who played soccer, ran cross country/track and wrestled, will attend Elon University on an Engineering Scholars scholar-

 Brayden Teague, who was on the boys basketball team, will attend N.C. State on a U.S. Air Force ROTC Type 7 scholarship and an NRA Youth Education Summit scholarship.

• Majely De Paz Rodriguez, who played girls soccer, will attend UNC-Greensboro. She was named a Dell Scholar and received a Spartan Award from UNC-G.

— CN+R Staff Reports

### **WORKOUTS**

Continued from page B1

to 10 students working out together weekly to limit overall exposures,' the guidance said, and there must always be a minimum distance of six feet between each individual.

The guidance also outlines specific requirements for "lower infection risk activities," such as

cross country, golf and baseball, and "higher infection risk activities" such as football, basketball and soccer.

For all sports, players aren't allowed to make contact with others or share equipment. "Wearing protective equipment" in football and lacrosse is also prohibited.

The announcement's timing lined up with Commissioner Que Tucker's stated goal of giving schools "at least a week" to prepare for the NCHSAA's ultimate decision. (The "dead" period was extended from June 1 to June 15 two weeks ago.)

In the current dead period, which began in mid-March, coaches weren't allowed to organize official workouts, conditioning or similar activities for their teams.

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

# Resources

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



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



### **MLB**

Continued from page B1 from baseball."

MLB's draft pool is admittedly massive, but there are diamonds in the rough. (Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza was famously drafted in the 62nd round in 1988.)

Here in Chatham County, later rounds have also provided starting points for the careers of locals such as Woods Fines (Tampa Bay Devil Rays, 14th round, 2004), Benji Johnson (Atlanta Braves, 17th round, 2007) and Austin Brice (Florida Marlins, ninth round, 2010) of Northwood, and Casey Golden (Colorado Rockies, 20th round, 2017) of Jordan-Matthews.

Those opportunities will be fewer and far between in 2020 — and potentially in 2021, too. ESPN's Jeff Passan reported that MLB, as a result of the initial deal with its player association, also maintains the right to shorten next year's draft to 20 rounds.

It all factors into a money-saving strategy, brought on by the coronavirus,

### 'With only 11.7 scholarships, what's going to happen?'

BRETT WALDEN, Chatham Central baseball coach

which also includes potentially cutting minor-league teams. Walden, who played baseball at Methodist in the mid-2000s, said that can affect the draft, too.

Teams, he said, will be more hesitant to "take on projects," such as a pitcher who can throw in the 90 mph range but struggles with his command. With fewer minor league teams and rosters, they'll again be inclined to draft (and sign) the more talented, polished players.

So Walden will still keep up with the MLB Draft this week, and he'll still root for whatever North Carolina players are selected or sign as free agents afterward.

But he won't do so as guilt free as usual — as a longtime purveyor of the sport, he knows ripple effects are coming in the following months.

### DAY 2

2020 MLB DRAFT

DAY 1

Wednesday, June 10 First round and competitive balance Round A (1-37) 7 p.m. ET, ESPN/

Thursday, June 11 Second through fifth round (38-160) 5 p.m. ET, MLB Network/ESPN2

"If I'm a Division I coach," Walden said, "I've got some decisions to make.

MLB Network

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.



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### J-M'S SAM MURCHISON

### With an academic scholarship and baseball roster spot awaiting him, Jets star off to N.C. Central

BY CHAPEL FOWLER

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Late last fall, Jordan-Matthews pitcher Sam Murchison finished up an arm strengthening workout and immediately hopped on a recruiting

He remembers the conversation with Jim Koerner, the head baseball coach at North Carolina Central, as a pretty standard one. But when their discussion veered into academics and Murchison mentioned his test scores, Koerner made a timely suggestion.

The deadline for N.C. Central's Cheatham-White Merit Scholars Program was approaching, and Murchison qualified — he should apply, Koerner told him.

"I think I was going there to play baseball there anyway," said Murchison, who was officially announced as a 2020 Cheatham-White Merit Scholar last Friday. "The scholarship was the cherry on top, I guess you could say.

Murchison and 12 other students, who make up N.C. Central's third cohort of scholars, will receive full, four-year academic scholarships covering "tuition, room and board, student fees, books, a laptop computer, supplies and personal expenses, including four summer experiences that could include international studies," according to a school news release.

The Cheatham-White Merit Scholars Program, established three years ago with state legislature funding, is a joint program for incoming students at North Carolina Central and North Carolina A&T, both historically black universities in the

It's named after Henry

Plummer Cheatham and George Henry White, two black men who represented North Carolina in the U.S. House in the late

Monica Leach, N.C. Central's senior associate provost and vice chancellor for enrollment management and academic affairs, praised the school's incoming class as "diverse scholars who share a unified passion for community service, leadership and academ-

ics."

"We are excited to welcome the program's newest cohort and witness their contributions to the NCCU community and beyond, Leach said in the news

After talking with Koerner, Murchison got to work on the scholarship application, which was due in mid-December. In January, he learned he was a semifinalist. And on Feb. 8, he and his parents, David and Nikki, visited campus for Eagles Scholars Day.

Murchison got an extensive tour of the campus, ate a catered lunch, met with current Cheatham-White Merit Scholars and sat in on a few classes. That part he enjoyed.

As for the in-person interview that would determine his finalist status? Not so much.

"That was kind of stressful," Murchison said with a laugh.

He spent the next month gearing up for his final season with the Jets baseball team, which was looking to build off consecutive winning seasons and a 2019 playoff appearance under coach John Will Headen. The scholarship was on his mind, too.

"I was really anxious," Murchison said. "I was (potentially) getting to go to school to play baseball for free, and that's a pretty good opportunity. You don't want to blow

On March 1, Murchison got the news he was hoping for — the scholarship was his. A day later, he pitched in Jordan-Matthews' season opener at Chapel Hill.

The Jets started 4-1 before their season was suspended and ultimately canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, a moment Murchison called "heartbreaking." He's proud, though, of his steady improvement since his freshman year, especially in terms of his command.

A righty who threw 89 mph the last time he was clocked, Murchison said he relied heavily on his fastball early on. But through high school, he's developed his change-up and curveball while thinking more critically about the position, too.

"I realized placing pitches and letting your infield and outfield work behind you is just as important as how hard you

throw," he said. At N.C. Central, he'll join a baseball team featuring four more Cheatham-White Merit Scholars on its current roster. Academically, he's "almost certain" he'll major in something business-related. And months later, he still appreciates the honor.

"I know for my parents it was very relieving I'm sure they were pretty happy they didn't have to pay anything," he said with a laugh. "And for me, I was really excited. Right after I got that email, I knew for sure that's where I was going."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

### Chatham Charter opts for a video series in place of its standard athletic banquets

**BY CHAPEL FOWLER** 

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In the spring, this much was clear: some way or another, Chatham Charter was going to honor its athletes. The only question was how.

Take a look at the school's Facebook or Instagram page, and you'll see the end result.

In a project spearheaded by Beth McCullough, the school's executive director of secondary programs and communications, and Clint Fields, its athletic director, Chatham Charter is gradually rolling out a video series to honor all of its middle school and high school teams from the 2019-20 school year.

"It gives our coaches a chance to say what they would have said during that recognition ceremo-

ny," McCullough said. The series kicked off on June 1 with an introductory video from Fields, who detailed the most successful year in Knights athletics history, including a record number of teams in the playoffs, 14 all-conference athletes, a state runner-up in wrestling (Chandler Steele) and stellar men's and women's basketball seasons.

Since then, Chatham Charter has posted a video a day on its social media channels. In each video, roughly a minute long, coaches give a brief recap of their season before announcing any applicable honors, such as the team MVP.

McCullough, who managed a school-wide Google folder to gather submissions, said there were plenty of positives to the idea, which replaced the school's traditional endof-year middle and high school athletic banquets (canceled in response to the coronavirus pandemic).

Chatham Charter, she said, values public speaking and implements it into



CN+R file photo by David Bradley

**Chatham Charter's Tamaya Walden targets the** basket after getting past Clover Garden's Regan Allison late in the squads' game at Eno River Academy in Hillsborough last Saturday.

middle and high school curriculums, so the videos are both an opportunity for coaches to improve that skill and for students to see adults modeling that behavior."

"It also gives us a broader audience," McCullough said. "Typically, if someone was not there, they'd miss out on what the coach said. This way, if you've got a grandparent in another state, or a family member or friend or anyone else who wants to celebrate with you, they can.

Within the stand-ups, there's room for creativity. Some coaches, such as varsity volleyball coach Holley Hall and JV boys basketball coach Jeff Patterson, booked appointments to meet McCullough and have her film them inside the school gym.

Others filmed their videos on or near their playing fields, with middle school cross country coach Kim Burke speaking from a running trail and varsity soccer coach Scott Kidd speaking with the school's soccer field behind him.

And when schedules permitted, some coaches presented MVP trophies on screen to their players. That was the case with varsity women's tennis coach Kelly Eldridge and senior Rachel Brookshire, whom Eldridge called "a powerhouse" for the team.

Fall and winter sports will run through this week, with the varsity men's and women's basketball videos set for June 10. The men's team went 32-2 and advanced to the NCHSAA 1A state semifinals: the women's team went 27-4 and advanced to the 1A round of 16. (Both teams also went undefeated in regular-season conference play.)

Spring sports, which were cut significantly short due to COVID-19, are tentatively scheduled to run through June 17. Full rosters will be posted and honored, and coaches have the option to record videos,

Fields, the athletic director, will wrap up the project June 18 and announce Chatham Charter's male and female athletes of the year.

McCullough has been monitoring the engagement, through views, shares and comments, on each post and has been impressed so far.

We've had a lot of watches — between 150 and 200 — which tells me people are coming back for it," she said. "Which is great."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.



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# **CORE's 3rd annual Juneteenth** celebration set for June 19, 20

CN+R Staff Report

Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE) is partnering with Chatham County Public Health Department for Chatham's 3rd annual Juneteenth. Because of the coronavirus pandemic and the limits on gathering sizes, this year's event will be very different from previous years. Chatham's

Juneteenth — part of the oldest nationally-celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States place over two days.

• On Friday, June 19, 300 meals from Zweli's Kitchen & Catering in Durham will be distributed throughout the county.

· At 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, a virtual Juneteenth

program will be provided through https:join.freeconferencecall.com/juneteenth2020.

Aspects of black culture, African-American spirituality and arts will be presented by several Chatham County performers and an African Dance company from Durham via recorded performances. Live events will include a presenta-

tion from the Chatham County Health Department, a question and answer session on living wills and testaments and a community conversation facilitated by the Equity and Community Engagement Initiatives lead from the health department.

CORE and the health department are still finalizing details for Juneteenth. To receive

updates, including instructions for joining the virtual events on June 20, follow CORE's page on Facebook or sign-up for our email list here: https://chathamorganizing racial equity. weebly.com/join-us.html.

Juneteenth information will also be available on the county health department and Health Alliance social media pages.

### THE CURIOUS COOK

# Two questions, many answers No. 5

Welcome, Gentle Reader, to week five of my chef

This

week

three chefs

were



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS** The Curious

along answer Cook my two pan-demic food-related ques-

Our first guest is Chef David Burke. He has 20

restaurants, two cookbooks, and numerous awards, including a James Beard award. Question: When it's

going to be a while before you make a grocery run, what's your favorite pantry meal? Answer: "Cold cereal

w/hot sautéed fruit and Question: What's your best food-related activity

suggestion for staving off familial boredom and the resulting mayhem? Answer: "I make savory pancakes to be creative. Like meatloaf and mush-

room. Chicken and blue

cheese. Salmon.'

enough to play

I met when I began food writing. Chef Jason Cunningham is the executive chef of the Washington Duke Inn and Gold Club. And he sets the chef bar pretty darn high. Chef Jason's favorite pantry meal: "When I

Our second contributor

is one of the first chefs

dig into the pantry I'm looking for comfort and sustenance. We keep a good supply of dried beans on hand my mother-in-law's Spanish lentils are definitely a go-to for us. These are rich and protein-packed with pork sausage and chunks of potatoes and carrots.

Kitchen boredom buster: "My best suggestion to engage kids in mealtime has been to involve them. Whether it is making a pizza or having them peel potatoes. I'm pretty certain that the kids' favorite activity has been roasting their own hot dogs over the fire pit and following up with s'mores. That or laughing at their dad as he curses at the wet firewood trying to get the fire started...

The Kid and I are huge fans of this week's final



Chef Jason Cunningham Submitted



**Chef Julia Dawson** Submitted

Chef Julia Collin Davison is a TV star for food nerds. She appears in the PBS cooking shows "America's Test Kitchen" and "Cook's Country."

Chef Julia's pantry meal: "My favorite pantry-friendly meal is pasta topped with a fried egg, garlicky bread crumbs, and some sort of grated cheese. The breadcrumbs (which help me use up old bread ends) are key here. Also, if I have some greens (spinach, arugula, chard) or tomatoes, I toss them in too."

Family kitchen activity: "My daughter (she's 11) and I make a lot of quick breads, such as pumpkin bread, banana bread, and lemon-poppy seed tea cake. They're easy (and easy to clean up) and everyone loves nibbling on them throughout the

### **Brown Sugar Fudge**

From America's Test Kitchen's Cook's Illustrated's 2010 Holiday Issue

(This fudge is the perfect gateway candy for sugar-cooking beginners!) Makes about 80 pieces

3 cups packed light brown sugar

1 cup heavy cream 2 tablespoons butter 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon salt Cut 12-inch length of extra-wide heavy-duty aluminum foil; fold edges back to form 8 1/2inch width. With folded sides facing down, fit foil securely into bottom and up sides of 9-inch square baking pan, allowing excess to overhang

Combine all ingredients in medium saucepan, and bring to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low or cook until mixture reaches soft-ball stage or on candy thermometer reaches 234°, 5-8 minutes, checking mixture after 5 minutes.

pan sides. Spray foil with non-stick cooking

Remove pan from heat and allow to cool until just warm (about 120°) and not yet firm, 35-45 minutes. Using wooden spoon, stir vigorously until mixture lightens and is no longer shiny 6-10 minutes. Spread mixture into prepared pan and let sit until firm, about 1 hour. Using foil overhang, remove fudge from pan and cut into 1-inch squares.

Fudge can be stored in airtight container up to one month.

day. "

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@ bullcity.mom.





### **Construction is underway at MOSAIC!**

The signature art tower of the new UNC Health Urgent Care Center will greet visitors at the MOSAIC entrance. The 7,500 sq. ft. building's roof rises to meet the art tower, creating a distinctive landmark. Color window accents complement the tower, unifying the project. Welcoming patients in Q1 2021.

Get to know MOSAIC. It's where you want to be. Join us.





# Chatham's wedding venues continue to grapple with restraints of pandemic era

**BY RANDALL RIGSBEE** News + Record Staff

There isn't a corner of the country that hasn't felt, for the last several

months, the impact of COVID-19 and resulting stay-at-home measures aimed at preventing the virus' spread.

The late winter/spring timing of the pandemic, however, posed a particular challenge to the wedding industry, occurring at a time of year when many couples have already planned wedding ceremonies at venues booked months in advance.

For wedding venue owners and operators, it's been an especially challenging time.

Oakland Farm, an 18-acre wedding venue in Bear Creek, opened in October 2015 and has seen brisk business in its first five years of operation, said venue manager Kaitlyn Hockaday.

Last year, Oakland Farm hosted 30 events. This year was poised to be even more successful.

"In 2020, we had 50 events on the calendar," Hockaday said. "This was supposed to be our best year yet."

That was, of course, before the unanticipated emergence of the novel coronavirus, forcing Oakland Farm's owners and operators to adapt.

Approximately a dozen of the events scheduled for the Bear Creek wedding venue have been rescheduled, Hockaday said. About half of the events planned there have been rescheduled for 2021.

With the state currently in "Phase Two" of re-opening, restrictions remain in place for large gatherings. Oakland Farm and other venues in the state may host parties with 10 or fewer guests indoors and 25 or fewer outdoors

Most of the weddings hosted at Oakland Farms have guests lists numbering around 200.

It's a bit frustrating for us," Hockaday said of the restrictions, noting that restaurants can be open at half capacity.'

'So it's a little bit of a waiting game for us," she said, "waiting to hear what the governor decides.'

Elsewhere in Chatham County, other popular wedding venues have also had to adapt.

"We have indeed been impacted by COVID, as the whole country has been," said Gilda McDaniel, director of Weddings & Special Events for Fearrington Village. "Our usually busy spring events season was put on hold, but I am proud to say that all of our couples will still be celebrating with us either later in the year or next year, or on the original date with a slightly altered plan.'

But despite the extra challenges posed by COVID-19, McDaniel said the end goal remains the same.

"We always work extremely hard to accommodate our couples through the exciting time leading up to a wedding," she said, "so this year has been a little extra challenging, both with the need to reschedule and with the world's uncertainty. But we are hopefully still making the process as stressfree and happy as it can possibly be. That's our

The Fearrington events director noted, however, that "a definite trend is for couples to choose to go ahead with their scheduled wedding dates and get married, then planning to still have their big celebration in the future. either here with us, or in their home town if that was the original plan. We have had some really lovely small weddings in the last few weeks.

And Fearrington, she said, has easily adapted, hosting a number of smaller-scale weddings in



Oakland Farms photo

Oakland Farm, an 18-acre wedding venue in Bear Creek, opened in October 2015 and has seen brisk business in its first five years of operation, said venue manager Kaitlyn Hockaday.

recent months.

"Our gorgeous gardens are the prime setting for tiny weddings as well as large groups," McDaniel

Wedding ceremonies held since March "have been extremely intimate," she said, with those weddings (including bride and groom) keeping their parties under 20 people.

Nevertheless, some wedding venue operators are feeling growing frustration with the ongoing uncertainty about full re-opening.

Courtney Hopper, who co-owns The Bradford, a wedding venue spanning 12 acres in New Hill, with her sister Dana Kadwell. is rescheduling a number of weddings planned for the spring.

But she added that her industry — there are approximately 1,500 wedding venues throughout North Carolina -"left out" of plans for North Carolina's Phase Two re-opening.

'The frustrating part is the lack of information coming from the governor's office," Hopper said.

The Bradford, unlike some other wedding venues in the region, hasn't held an event on its grounds since last November, when the venue closed temporarily

for an expansion aimed at making 2020 even more successful.

"Hopefully [the expanded space] will help with future bookings," she said. "We'll make it through and get to the other side of it. Right now, we just need more guidance so we know what kind of conversations we can have with our clients.

As for whether couples hoping to wed should plan a ceremony under current conditions, McDaniel offered her thoughts: "Now is certainly a fine time to start planning a wedding," she said, "either really soon (for a small group) or in the future. I think it is always advisable to try to be flexible and ready for things to come up, and in this time of COVID that is particularly important. Thinking about what is truly important to you and then not stressing all the little things too much will make for a much more enjoyable experience for you and in the end you will be happily married, even if it does not happen exactly as you might have always expected.'

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



With large gatherings prohibited under COVID-19 precautions in place by order of the governor, large wedding parties - Oakland Farm in Bear Creek, pictured here, normally hosts parties of approximately 200 — won't resume until state government gives the all-clear.



Oakland Farms photo

Last year, Oakland Farm hosted 30 events. This year was poised to be even more successful, with 50 events on the calendar before the unanticipated interruption of COVID-19.

# Circle City Books committed to social distancing — and to feeding Pittsboro's literary hunger

BY CASEY MANN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO - For Myles Friedman, the owner of Circle City Books in Pittsboro, "any bookstore is special because there are so few of them

around. When Friedman started his business eight years ago, it was after a long career of publishing magazines in Carrboro. As the internet became more dominant, the company stopped publishing magazines.

We went from having popular publications to none, all in a matter of 18 months," Friedman said. So Friedman thought

about doing something

Having lived in Pittsboro for more than 30 years, he believed that the town was perfectly situat-

ed for a bookstore. "It was close enough to universities to have a highly educated people," Friedman said. "And it was a small town that still had small-town rent and a community of people who were invested in small shops. I decided this was a good place for it and I felt ambitious

enough to try." Located on downtown Pittsboro's main strip, Hillsboro Street, Friedman describes Circle City Books as a "general interest book store" where he tries to offer customers a "little bit of everything"—from the classics "people want their children to read," he said, to current and up-todate titles and "as many beautiful old books" as he can find. He also sells vinyl records and CDs, noting "a lot of overlap" between the two mediums.

Each day, Friedman would see traffic along Hillsboro Street as people traveled to points north and south of town, with many people coming by the store only knowing about it because of the need to travel along U.S. 15-501. He noted that more than half of his customers were coming from places outside of Chatham County.

This, he said, was one of the reasons his store was successful. As one of the few used bookstores in the region, Friedman's gamble on the enterprise was a winner. Each month and year from the time he opened eight years ago was more successful than the last.

"Until the pandemic ended my streak of pros-

perity," he said. Friedman closed his store a week before Gov. Roy Cooper's state mandate in March when he realized that people weren't coming downtown or stopping into the store before the stores were forced to close.

"I could have been open for about a week, but I didn't need to have anyone hit me over the head," he said. "I was worried if I stayed open, I was giving people an incentive to be downtown when they shouldn't be. I didn't want to be responsible for that. It was not a difficult decision because it was

While closed, he still served customers by phone who were searching for a good find. And as the state rules on operating retails establishments during COVID-19 began to loosen, Friedman has found ways to continue to serve his customers even with the restrictions.

Two weeks ago, Friedman re-opened his shop with fewer hours — from noon to 5 p.m., though he's open seven days a



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Circle City Books has reopened, only allowing one customer or group in at a time. Customers must wear a mask and use the distinfectant station prior to perusing the books.

### **Circle City Books**

121 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro

919-548-5954

www.facebook.com/Circle-City-Books-Music-212946965498739/

week. No one is permitted in the store without a mask and each customer must use the disinfection station he has set up at the entry. He is also only allowing one customer or group in at a time as it's "impossible to social distance" in the store because "it's too small."

'Particularly at the front counter where we do the transactions," he said. "It's just not possible to do it safely [without limiting the number of customers at a time.]"

Since re-opening, he said he's done about one-quarter of the business he did before, but he wants to continue to be

open as long as he can. "I want people to know I'm taking seriously the

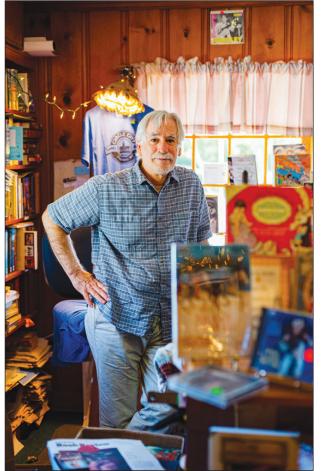
obligation of bookstores

to provide books even

when times are not especially fruitful," he said. "It's easy to provide that when money is rolling in, but I'm happy to do it because that's the role of a local bookstore. To make sure people can get books. And I'm going to keep doing that as long as

How long Friedman can continue to operate depends on several factors.

'It won't last unless things get better," Friedman said. "Some will depend on the government and if it decides to help small businesses into the fall and the winter. It will be different than if everyone is on their own. There is a point where all the money from all my savings and everything will just be gone; whether I want to be here or not,



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Myles Friedman, owner of Circle City Books. believes that 'any bookstore is special because there are so few of them around.'

I won't be able to pay the bills.

But Friedman is hopeful, saying he's not expecting the pandemic to last for two or three years. He said he has "a lot of confidence in the medical community and scientific community." With "smart dedicated people working" on solutions to COVID-19, he believes that in the next two years there will be "some kind of a vaccine or treatment that will make things hetter'

But he's not expecting that to happen this year.

So for the time being, Friedman will continue to help the community get the books it wants.

"I'm going to keep doing that as long as I can," Friedman said. "I'm grateful for people who come to the store and buy books, but understand why they don't want to. It's frightening to go out during these uncertain times. I hope they come back when things get

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

# POLICE REPORTS

### **CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Robert Barron, 49, of Sanford, was charged June 2 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. Barron was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Sanford.

Stephen Welch, 33, of Bennett, was charged June 2 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. Welch was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June

24 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Glosson, 54, of Chapel Hill, was charged June 4 with felony probation violation out of county. Glosson was held under a \$25,000 bond with a July 9 court date in Pittsboro.

Cordell Baldwin, 30, of Mebane, was charged June 4 with second-degree kidnapping, assault by pointing a gun, possession of firearm by a felon, possession of a stolen

firearm, possession of marijuana up to one-half ounce and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon. Baldwin was held under a \$40,000 bond with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

### **STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**

Donat Poirer Sr. of Siler City was cited June 3 for driving while impaired and failure to reduce speed on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in

Siler City.

Dayle Lytle of Pittsboro was cited June 3 for unsafe movement in the Walmart parking lot in Pittsboro.

Anita Weekes of Fuquay Varina was cited June 5 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 421 in Siler City.

Santos Montiel Aguilar of Siler City was cited June 5 for unsafe movement in the parking lot of Cruizers in Pittsboro.

### Siler City Police seeking man on several charges

**CN+R Staff Reports** 

The Siler City Police Department is actively seeking 34-year-old Nathan Garland Matthews, who has several outstanding arrest warrants for breaking and entering, larceny, and other associated charges.

Authorities ask that if you see him or have any information on his



**Matthews** 

contact the Siler City Police Department at 919-742-5626

abouts,

or dial 9-1-1. You may remain anonymous.

### **'WHY WOULDN'T I BE HERE?'**

# Demonstrators gather in Siler City, Pittsboro

BY OLIVIA ROJAS News + Record Staff

Demonstrators gathered in Siler City and in Pittsboro last week to protest the death of George Floyd, to speak out against police brutality and to show communi-

ty unity. About 200 protesters, a diverse group of both the young and old, gathered in front of town hall in Siler City beginning at noon Friday. Many held signs; some chanted "Get your knee of my neck" and "Say their names."

They marched in a loop each hour from North 2nd Avenue to Raleigh Street, and then to Chatham Avenue before going to East 3rd Street in a procession back to

the town hall. The protest was organized and supported by residents — described by organizer Larry Sullivan, 28, of Siler City, as a "rainbow coalition of local millennials" — who felt a call to action to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of Floyd's death in Minneapolis on May 25.

"Siler City may be a peaceful small town, but we don't see any kind of activism at the local level on such issues despite being the home to so many in the minority community," Sullivan said. "We wanted to provide an organized platform for people in the community to exercise their First Amendment rights."

Besides Sullivan, the other organizers for this event include Jazzmyne Wiley, Nikia Marie, Deanna Fox and Emilio R. Vicente.

Vicente, 28, of Siler City, reached out to Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner and played a role in getting approval for a permit before the event. "I've been active around



A girl holds up sign declaring 'Free the Children!' during Friday's peaceful protests in Siler City.

social justice issues for a while now," Vicente said. "I wanted to make sure we have people who are trained to watch out for any situation that might create tensions and ultimately we want this to be peaceful.

Jayden Davis, 17, a student at Jordan-Matthews High School and a protestor, said he was "just tired" of police brutality.

"I'm doing anything to help the cause," he said. "Helping spread awareness and all that. Why

wouldn't I be here?' On Saturday, a "call to solidarity and unity" was held at the Chatham County Justice Center in Pittsboro. The event, which began at 4 p.m., in-

cluded different speakers. Alston Chapel United Holy Church Senior

Pastor Jerry Powell, one of the organizers of the event, said it wasn't a protest or a demonstration.

'Our purpose and focus is to not only call attention to what has recently happened, but we're

about change," he said. Powell said the event also promoted voting.

"Regardless of how many protests and how many demonstrations. the only way to defeat injustice and systemic racism is to do it in the

ballot box," he said. Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson was present at the Pittsboro event and spoke briefly.

"Racism is real, racism is wrong and racism is destructive," he said. "It's either taught or tolerat-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A peaceful crowd gathered Friday in front of City Hall in Siler City to protest deaths of unarmed black individuals at the hands of police.

Roberson said he often asks his team: "How would you have handled this if it were your brother or sister?"

The Pittsboro event ended with closing remarks and a demonstration with attendees laying face down on the ground for 8 minutes and 46 seconds — symbolizing the amount of time Floyd was pinned to the ground by Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who was later one of

four officers charged in Floyd's death.

The Chatham County Chamber of Commerce also showed its support with Black Lives Matter in a statement from Cindy Poindexter, its president and CEO.

"The board and the staff of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce value fairness and inclusiveness," the statement read. "Áll lives are equally important and bring value to

the table. Race does not make a person more or less valuable than their neighbor. Business and community leaders must unite with one another to create an equitable society where families of all racial backgrounds can live, work, and enjoy life without fear of violence or injustice. I respectively ask that you take a moment of silence and contemplate what you can do to prevent a climate of racial injustice.

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Attendees of Saturday's protest in Pittsboro against police brutality laid on the ground for more than eight minutes in remembrance of Minnesota man George Floyd.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

In Pittsboro, Saturday's protest of police brutality brought out dozens of people, who heard speakers and participated in a march.

CHATHAM CHAT | MICHAEL ZELEK, CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# New interim top county health official steps in during COVID-19 pandemic

Chatham County Public Health Department later Health Director Layton Long has just retired after more than 30 years in the field, and more than six with Chatham County. Stepping in to take his place in the interim is Michael Zelek, the department's Health Promotion & Policy Division Director. It's a heckuya time for a changeover in what might be the county government's most critical department right now, but Zelek can rely on nearly eight years of experience in the public health field, a three-year stint with an overseas nonprofit and working side-by-side with Long during the pandemic to get started.

He spoke to the News + Record about the transition, his career and other health issues affecting Chatham right now.

First, a little background information about you. Where are you from originally? What is your education background, and how long have you been with the

I am originally from Nashville, Tennessee, where I lived before going to college at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. After I graduated, I moved to northern Nicaragua, where I volunteered and worked with a nonprofit organization called Fabretto Children's Foundation for three years. I first served as an English teacher and then coordinated health initiatives. That's where I found my calling for public health, and what led me to move to North Carolina to complete a Masters of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. I graduated from UNC in 2012 and started with the Chatham County Public

that year. My first role was as the Social Research Associate for the department. and then I was promoted to Health Promotion & Policy Division Director. So I have been with the department for nearly eight years.

### What was the experience in Nicaragua like, and how did that lead you to Chatham County?

My time in Nicaragua is what led me to public health. In the time I lived there, I saw children in need of healthcare who had difficulty accessing it for a variety of reasons. I also saw the impact of systemic challenges on health, similar to what we see here, though in that setting perhaps more stark. I enjoyed this work but knew I needed further training in public health to be most effective, which led me to North Carolina for graduate school. My wife is also in public health (Jess Edwards an assistant professor of epidemiology at UNC), and she has had a major influence on my career

path as well. After graduating, I was fortunate to be offered a position with the Chatham County Public Health Department. In Chatham County, I have found a welcoming community that is supportive of public health and a kind and talented staff at the health department. Because of this, Chatham County is the best place in the state to do public health work, and I consider myself very fortunate to be here.

What did Layton Long bring to the CCPHD, and what will be most missed about him working with the

Layton brought many things to the department, but I think his willingness to challenge the status quo and readiness to engage partners in this work are what stand out most. His leadership has resulted in many new initiatives, from the Chatham Health Alliance to equity work, and he had a constant vision focused on best aligning the department's services with the needs of the Chatham community. He believes in public health and efficiently utilizing the resources we have to serve the community as best we can. We will certainly miss working with him and his skills, knowledge and experience, but his legacy of collaboration, efficiency and innovation will live on

### What is your first priority as the new interim health director, and why?

We are in the midst of a battle with a global pandemic and expect response efforts to continue for quite some time. Like local health departments around the country, working to slow the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact on our community is a top priority. What is special about Chatham is that people and organizations across the county work well together and understand the importance of partnership. In public heath, during normal times and especially in a pandemic, we know how valuable this is. From Emergency Management, the County Manager's Office, and elected officials to UNC Health, Piedmont Health Services, many nonprofit organizations, and Chatham community members, we rely on our partners every day to meet our objectives and work to support their efforts as well. We know this is not the case everywhere and are extremely grateful for this collaboration.

While COVID-19 has had a major impact on our work, other efforts must continue as well. We are engaged in ongoing conversations to best align our services with those of our partners to meet community needs. For example, with labor and delivery services coming to Chatham Hospital in the coming months, we are in the midst of planning discussions to coordinate related services. We also continue to lead collaborative efforts to address the health impact priorities from our community assessment through the Chatham Health Alliance. And there are cross-cutting priorities that intersect with but also span beyond COVID-19, like health equity and community assessment. All of this in addition to our routine services like environmental health inspections, tobacco prevention and control, care management, and clinical services. So, COVID-19 will continue to be a major part of what we do, but other important efforts continue as well. I continue to be inspired by our team's ability to juggle these tasks during a pandemic, and will support them in every way that I can.

### Are there any other health concerns right now outside of COVID-19 that Chathamites should be paying attention to or be aware of?

Unfortunately, other health concerns don't go away during a pandemic; rather, they can be made worse due to the stress and other challenges related to COVID-19. Our health impact priorities (access to comprehensive health services, poverty, and obesity) are a good place to start when considering health-related issues most affecting the

Chatham community. Looking at access to comprehensive health services, for example, delaying routine healthcare, like check-ups and dental cleanings, can lead to more serious health issues. We are encouraging residents to talk to their medical providers about these visits, which can often be done through telehealth or with other precautions in place to reduce risk of infection.

We also know that the stress of COVID-19 can affect our mental health and exacerbate underlying issues. In addition to reaching out to mental health professionals with whom you have an established relationship, there are resources available you can call, such as the Hope4NC Helpline (1-855-587-3463), the Hope Line for older adults (1-866-578-HOPE) and the Cardinal Innovations 24/7 line (1-800-939-5911). More



Michael Zelek started as the interim health director of Chatham **County on June** 1, succeeding the retiring Layton Long. **Zelek formerly** served as the division director for health promotion and policy.

Staff photo by Kim

resources can be found at our websites: www. chathamnc.org/coronavirushelp (in Spanish www. chathamnc.org/coronavirusayuda), www.cha-thamnc.org/mentalhealth and www.chathamnc.org/

COVID-19 may also affect our level of physical activity as routines are altered and some resources, like gyms, are closed to prevent spread of the virus. That said, remaining active is essential to staying healthy as it can boost immune response and has both physical and mental health benefits, so we continue to encourage folks to get outside and exercise (while maintaining a safe distance from others).

We have also seen the economic impact of COVID-19 locally and around the country, and know that financial well-being influences health outcomes. There are a number of initiatives underway to support those who have been financially affected by the pandemic and resources shared on the website above.

In looking at these issues and many others affecting health, it is always important to pay attention to specific communities and populations that are more adversely affected and to take into consideration underlying issues that may drive these inequities. We are well-versed in using this equity lens in public health, as it is critical to the work we do. COVID-19 has taken advantage of these underlying inequities. As an article I recently came across described it, "COVID-19 is a magnifying glass that has highlighted the larger pandemic of racial/ethnic disparities in health." The virus has also had a greater impact on those with underlying health issues and the aging population. For all of these issues, we must dig below the surface to understand what is really going on so that we can address the root of the problem.

### How has the CCPHD worked to help businesses, organizations and other Chatham residents through this "re-opening" time period?

Re-opening is a gradual process and many strategies together are needed to mitigate the risk of

spread of the virus. In Chatham County, I am very proud of the work our team and partners have done in this realm. We have been sharing guidance with employers since very early in the pandemic through many channels, and formed a COVID-19 business recovery planning team in April to delve deeper into response efforts.

To assist businesses as they plan to reopen and operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chatham County created "Reopening Your Business: A Guide for Safely Opening and Operating Your Business." The guide includes recommendations specific to business type. Several Chatham County agencies worked together to develop the guide, which is continually updated to reflect the latest guidance.

We also partner with Chatham County Emergency Management on weekly coordinating calls with many community agencies, continue to work with our healthcare partners to increase testing capacity, have staff leading the many aspects of response such as contact tracing, organized donation drives for protective equipment for frontline workers and the distribution of face coverings through the Chatham Health Alliance, are conducting a community assessment to better understand COVID-19's impact on and prevalence in Chatham County, regularly mation and guidance with our community, and take on other COVID-19-related tasks daily that are too numerous to keep track of, all while maintaining most of our regular services. So, this is a tremendous team effort, both within the department and beyond, and I am constantly amazed by the dedication and ingenuity of our staff as they respond to an unprecedented challenge in COVID-19.

### What's something on your desk that can help Chatham residents get to know you a little better?

A standing desk! Little things can help us on our paths to better health. While I could stand to use it more consistently, I find it gives me a boost of energy and can help me think more clearly.



# Chatham News + Record

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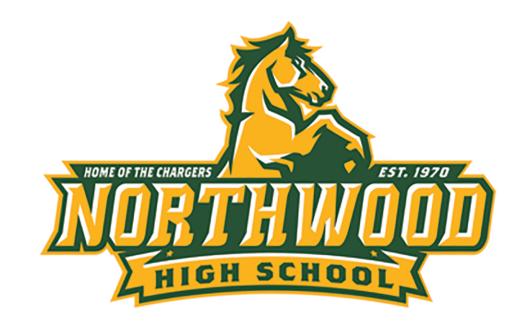


# CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

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# 'The King of Staten Island' reigns over a droll life



'Saturday Night Live' cast member Pete Davidson stars as a semiautobiographical version of himself in Judd Apatow's latest film 'The King of Staten Island.'



Part roman-à-clef and part familial bond, which is the cinematic couch session,



**NEIL MORRIS** Film Critic

makes no secret about its origins purpose. Comedian Pete

King of

Staten

Island'

Davidson, best known for his ongoing roller coaster stint as a feature cast member on "Saturday Night Live," stars as Scott, a name adopted from Davidson's late father. Like Davidson, Scott's dad was a firefighter who perished on the job when Scott was old enough to know him but young enough that he could not cope with the

psychological scars. Now aged 24, Scott still lives with his long-suffering mom, Margie (Marisa Tomei). He whiles away his days playing video games and smoking weed with his coterie of stoner friends (most played by Davidson's real-life mates, including ex Carly Aquilino). Scott sabotages jobs and relationships, including a childhood pal-turnedfriend with benefits, Kelsey (Bel Powley). Scott harbors cockeyed hopes of opening a part-restaurant, part-tattoo parlor, an aspiration that is really just an excuse for him to ignore other attainable vocations. Scott is a loser to the unaware, and he even wields the death of his dad the lone justifiable excuse for malaise and bad behavior as a weapon against anyone who dares to help or motivate

A semi-moderating force in Scott's life is his younger sister, Claire (Maude Apatow). When she leaves for college, Scott and Margie are left with just their uneasy one constant element in their lives but also the one thing hindering each from finally overcoming their shared loss. They seemingly cannot live without each other, but they cannot move on with their lives together, either.

Enter Ray (Bill Burr), the dad of a 9-year-old Scott stupidly agrees to tattoo. Ray is a bit of a ne'er do well with his own personal foibles. but he is also a firefighter dedicated to his job and his station mates. Ray and Claire become smitten, and their burgeoning romance, along with Ray's attempts at tough love, upset Scott's arrested development. Scott starts to scheme ways to break them up, even as he develops an

affinity for Ray's kids. Director Judd Apatow has build his career around portraying misfits struggling to cope with the societal norms and responsibilities: "Freaks and Geeks," "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Knocked Up," "Trainwreck," and even his 2018 documentary about the late Garry Shandling. In "The King of Staten Island," Apatow offers Davidson a platform to exorcise demons and amplify his pain to friends, family, and the general public. Scott is not a particularly likable person — when Margie finally tells him to move out of her house, Scott's petulance tempers any callousness of her demand. With nowhere to live, Scott ends up living at a firehouse with a fireman as a father figure, the last place he wanted to be but perhaps the one place he needed to

Some supporting characters are not developed in a meaningful or consistent manner. We cheer Margie when she finally decides to stand up for herself, yet Apatow laces that with one particularly callous scene

### The King of Staten Island

**GRADE:** B

**DIRECTOR:** Judd **Apatow** 

**STARRING:** Pete Davidson, Marisa Tomei, Bill Burr, Bel Powley, Maude Apatow, and Steve Buscemi

**MPAA RATING:** R **RUNNING TIME: 2** hr. 16 min.

towards Scott followed by her lazy detente with Scott and Ray for the sake of a tidy ending. Both Kelsey and Claire feel like they have engaging individual stories that would have serviced the film better than just being Scott's foils.

The King of Staten Island" is charming and droll, an entirely satisfying slice of streaming entertainment to cut through the darkness of shuttered theaters (originally slated for a theatrical run, the film will open via video on demand on June 12). It ends up in the comfortable place of assuaging Davidson's torment while venerating the bravery and bond of firefighters. But there is also a nagging feeling that the film placates more than it rehabilitates. At one point, Scott is the lookout for a foiled robbery carried out by his pals. They get arrested while Scott flees, never facing legal redress or any ire from his friends, who don't rat him out or resent him. Scott is given a pass, free to mature on his own schedule. Davidson has undoubtedly suffered a high cost. Hopefully he and his friends and family are done paying the bill.



### **BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

# New company in Pittsboro; bar-openings still in limbo

Gotta tell you: it's been Pittsboro lands nice to have some non-



**ZACHARY HORNER Corner Store** 

the last few Corcolumns. I think most, if not all of us, are suffering from

some

COVID-19

items in

COV-erload, and while paying attention to instructions and guidance from public health officials is critical, it's also good to get some time and space away from thinking about the coronavirus.

With that said, here's some of the latest in business news in and around Chatham County, and some of it does involve COVID-19.

### headquarters of therapeutics company

WRAL TechWire reported last week that Propella Therapeutics will place its headquarters in Pittsboro. The announcement came as part of a corporate reorganization of the Virginia-based company Viruzi Health Sciences.

"Propella will continue our successful strategy of identifying promising off-patent medications that we can improve and rapidly develop to provide novel treatments that are safer and more effective," Propella CEO William Moore said in the announcement. "Our risk-mitigated strategy allows us to rapidly advance high-value therapies while greatly reducing development costs.

Some of the medications that Propella is working on, WRAL reported, include a

"novel, non-opioid solution for managing osteoarthritis pain" that is "protected by several patents and is set for a Phase 3 clinical trial."

### Bars could remain closed after Cooper veto

The N.C. General Assembly passed a bill last week that would allow bars to reopen and restaurants to double their capacity, but Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed the measure on Friday. Cooper said in a statement that the legislation would "limit the ability of leaders to respond quickly to COVID-19 and hamper the health and safety

of every North Carolinian.' The bill passed the N.C. Senate 42-5, with the Chatham-representing Valerie Foushee voting in favor, and the N.C. House 65-53, with Chatham's Robert Reives II opposing. It's now up to the General Assembly leadership to decide whether or not to attempt an override. If the Senate votes the same way, the override will be successful, but more votes would be needed in favor on the House side.

### BP to cut 10K jobs worldwide

The gas company formerly known as British Petroleum provides fuel for drivers across Chatham County, but some of its employees will soon be out of a iob. A lot of them. According to the Associated Press, BP will cut 10,000 jobs across the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The global energy industry has been hit hard by the pandemic as the widespread limits on business, travel and public life reduced the need for oil, gas and other fuels," writes the AP's Danica Kirka. 'Supply was also particularly high when the outbreak began, creating a perfect storm for the industry. With storage facilities filling up, the U.S. price of oil went below zero in April for the first time ever."

Chief Executive Bernard Looney said cuts will mostly come this year and, according to the report, "significantly affect senior levels, cutting the number of group leaders by a third.'

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



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**EDGE** 

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

SRFAMILIER AEKPLDSRLE IARAITADAT LLEUOHDLSN OMQRTNSOSU RSIKEAETOO S E E G D E E E L C SNEKARKRON NLSELAHWCE

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

# Kid Scoop Together:

# **Do You Like**

A lot of people do. When a sailor told stories of their adventures, they liked to entertain and even scare their listeners. Each time a sailor retold a story about a giant squid, it most likely became exaggerated and more exciting. And when a sailor came home telling about an encounter with a giant, scary sea creature, it also made the sailor seem very brave.

With a family member, write what you think each sailor's story might be, start by telling about seeing a large octopus, and the next sailor exaggerating it to describe a frightening encounter with the Kraken.





# This week's word:

**COLOSSAL** The adjective colossal means extremely large.

It took 12 people to carry the colossal pumpkin.

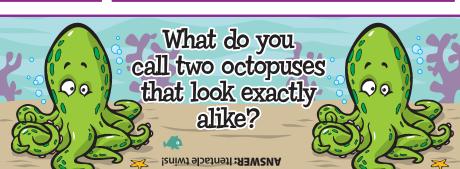
Try to use the word colossal in a sentence today when talking with friends and

family members.

Stretch a Headline

Choose a headline from the newspaper. Add words to the headline to make it longer and say basically the same thing. For example: Mayor Leads in Polls becomes Popular Mayor Leads Rivals in Latest Polls.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a narrative that develops.



# Nrite On! 🚄

### **We Write Words** Wonderfully 🧆

Write a sentence in which all the words, or nearly all the words start with the same letter. Example: The gentle giant greeted the green gobblers.



### **Chatham YMCA**

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### **OFFICE SPACE RENT**

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**POWELL SPRINGS APTS - Ever**green Construction introduces its newest independent living community for LWVODC: Advocates For Inclusive and Diverse Schools Reopening Task Force 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,

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Now** for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, key-less 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**

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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

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498-4077, A2,tfnc **RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTION-**EERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land. Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@ vahoo.com, A2.tfnc

### **SERVICES**

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**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

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### **HELP WANTED**

ALAMANCE GLASS, Commercial, Residential, Automotive, 8 to 5, Mon-Fri, Full time: 202 Alamance Road, Burlington, NC 336-227-6694, Jn11,18,2tp

**TOWN OF SILER CITY - SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESEN-**TATIVE - Performs advanced administrative work receiving, processing, recording, and accounting for the Siler City License Plate Agency and the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, preparing and maintaining records and files, entering data, and assisting the public. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalency. Extensive customer service experience. Valid North Carolina driver's license. Moderate computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of NC Notary Public upon hire. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Experience working in a License Plate Agency. Extensive customer service experience involving heavy public contact. Experience handling large quantities of money, both cash and credit card transactions. Additional **Employment Requirement:** Must obtain NC Notary within three months of hire. Annual

Salary: \$31,984 **TOWN OF SILER CITY - TELE-COMMUNICATOR** - Performs intermediate technical work receiving and dispatching law enforcement, receives and processes emergency and non-emergency service calls, assists the public with informa tional requests, prepares and maintains records and files. Required Education and Experience Requirements: Graduation from high school or high school equivalency. Moderate experience in communications, dispatching, or clerical/ administrative work. Preferred Education and Experience Requirements, DCI certification Modules, I, II, and III upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Annual Salary: \$31,984

**TOWN OF SILER CITY - POLICE OFFICER - Performs protective** service work enforcing laws; investigates criminal activity, ensures safety of public, collects evidence, testifies in court, maintains files and records, prepares reports; serves the public; promotes community policing. Required Education and Experience Qualifications. High school diploma or high school equivalency. Possesdriver's license. Completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training with current certification. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Possession of Radar, Intoxillizer, and DCI I certifications within 12 months of hire. Annual Salary: \$37,290 (depending on relevant work experience, level of education, and bilingual fluency).

**TOWN OF SILER CITY - DETEC-TIVE - Performs intermediate** protective service work enforcing laws; investigates criminal activity; ensures safety of public; interviews and/or interrogates victims, witnesses, and/or suspects; gathers evidence; prepares reports, testifies in court; maintains files and records; serves the public; promotes community policing. Required Education and Experience Qualifications. Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice, or related field, and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Possession of Intermediate Law Enforcement upon hire. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Bilingual. Current Radar, Intoxillier, and DCI I Certification upon hire. One year of experience in an Investigations unit. Completion of Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation and Interview and Interrogation training upon hire. Additional Employment

Requirements Completion of Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, and Interview and Interrogation training within one year of hire if not completed at time of hire. Annual Salary: \$45,004 (depending on relevant work experience, level of education, and bilingual

**TOWN OF SILER CITY - POLICE SERGEANT - Performs difficult** 

**CHATHAM COUNTY** 

protective service work participating in and supervising a squad of police officers on an assigned shift or performing a specialized activity in the Police Department; supervises the community-oriented policing program; maintains files and records; prepares reports.

Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice, or related field and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Possession of Intermediate Law Enforcement certification upon hire. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish, Annual Salary: \$45,004

(depending on relevant work experience, level of education, and bilingual fluency). Please visit www.silercity.org for full job descriptions. The positions are open until filled. A completed application, current resume, and cover letter are required. Sworn police department positions also require a current F-3. An application can be found at www.silercity. org. Documents may be mailed or delivered to Debora Ritter at City Hall, 311 N Second Avenue, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344

or emailed to dritter@silercity. org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business N Chili, NY 1451 concerns if the contract is over C/O EVERETT M BOLTON Howard, McCoy & Bolton, L.L.P.

\$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of ma-terials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Sec ond Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@ silercity.org for accommoda-tions for this request. - Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@

de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jn11,1tc SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS, MHS, INC. is looking for Direct Support paraprofessional to work with individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Please contact Patricia Watkins

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### **LEGALS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against DOROTHY CATHERINE KUHAR, 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, Administra-**Estate of Dorothy Catherine** 

c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney

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M21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 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

PO Box 10305 Raleigh, NC 276052 My21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tp **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of THOMAS HAROLD GRIFFIN, JR. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of August, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their

recovery.
This the 18th day of May, 2020.
C. Todd Roper, Executor of
The Estate of Thomas Harold Griffin, Jr. Post Office Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina

MOODY, WILLIAMS, ROPER & LEE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

27312

(919) 542-5605 My21,My28,Jn4,Jn11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM THE UNDERSIGNED, having

qualified on the 18th day of May, 2020, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE OF MARY LAURA PADDOCK, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to

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the undersigned on or before the 28TH 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 to the undersigned. This, the 28th day of May, 2020.

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- Able to remove defective parts by disassembling equipment; using hoists, cranes, hand and power tools

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- Must possess high school diploma or equivalent
- Must have valid driver's license, CDL preferred

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BENJAMIN FREDERICK GOOD-NOH MASCHAL ADMINISTRATOR CTA **ESTATE OF MARY LAURA PADDOCK** c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney Walker Lambe Rhudy Costley & Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 My28,Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDTORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 20-E-218 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JOHN R. ELKINS, JR. a/k/a JOHN RAYMOND ELKINS, JR. 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 28, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 20th day of May, 2020. Johnny L. Elkins, Administrator. 10224 NC 902 Hwy Bear Creek, NC 27207-9266 My28,Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK 19 SP 198 **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** IN THE MATTER OF FORECLO-OF A DEED OF TRUST FROM JAMES WARREN BROOKS

A/K/A JAMES W. BROOKS AND BRENDA M. BROOKS,

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DATED APRIL 27, 2004, RE-CORDED IN BOOK 1100, PAGE 578, CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTRY

**AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLO-**SURE SALE Pursuant to an order entered

February 17, 2020, in the Superior Court for Chatham County, and the power of sale contained in the captioned deed of trust ("Deed of Trust"), the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at auction. to the highest bidder for cash AT THE COURTHOUSE DOOR IN PITTSBORO, CHATHAM COUN-TY, NORTH CAROLINA ON JUNE 17, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M., the real estate and the improvements thereon secured by the Deed of Trust, less and except any of such property released from the lien of the deed of trust prior to the date of this sale, lying and being in Chatham County, North Carolina, commonly known as 47 Adolph Taylor Road, Pittsboro, NC and being more particularly described as

All that certain parcel of land lying and being situated in the County of Chatham, State of NC, to wit: Beginning at set iron pipe in the southern right of way line of U.S. 64, said pipe being the northwest corner of Arthur Bland, and running thence along the southern right of way line of said highway North 76 degrees 26 minutes 50 seconds West 203 feet to a set iron pipe: Thence along a new line of Wall South 0 degrees 35 minutes East 222.82 feet to an iron pipe set in the northern right of way line of S.R. 2161; thence running along the northern right of way line of said highway North 62 degrees 06 minutes 25 seconds East 211.78 feet to an iron pipe set in the line of Bland; thence along the line of Bland North 3 degrees East 76.22 feet to the Point or Place of Beginning, containing 0.660 acre more or less according to a survey entitled "Property of James W. Brooks" dated August 27, 1974 prepared by Smith and Smith Surveyors, Reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description. Tax Map Reference: 9731-00-29-0177

Being that parcel of land conveyed to James W. Brooks and wife, Brenda M. Brooks, Tenants by the Entirety from Gertrude Walls, Widow by that deed dated 08/29/1974 and recorded 08/30/1974 in deed book 384, at page 369 of the Chatham County, NC Public Registry.

Subject to all restrictive covenants and conditions of records.

Subject to all easements and rights of way of record, including, but not limited to the Right of Way Agreement recorded in Book 386, Page 158, Chatham County Registry and the Easement to Carolina Power and Light Company re-corded in Book 386, Page 234, Chatham County Registry. In the Trustee's sole discretion, the sale may be delayed for up to one (1) hour as provided in Section 45-21.23 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The record owner of the real property not more than ten days prior to the date hereof is James Warren Brooks and

Brenda M. Brooks. A five percent cash deposit, a cash deposit of \$750 whichever is greater, will be required of the last and highest bidder. The balance of the bid purchase price shall be due in full in cash or certified funds at a closing to take place within thirty (30) days of the date of sale. The undersigned Substitute Trustee shall convey title to the property by nonwarranty

deed. This sale will be made subject to all prior liens of record, if any, and to all unpaid ad valorem taxes and special assessments, if any, which became a lien subsequent to the recordation of the Deed of Trust. This sale will be further subject to the right, if any, of the United States of America to redeem the above-described property for a period of 120 days following the date when the final upset bid period has

run. The purchaser of the property described above shall pay the Clerk's Commissions in the amount of \$.45 per \$100.00 of the purchase price (up to a maximum amount of \$500.00). required by Section 7A308(a) (1) of the North Carolina General Statutes. If the purchaser of the above described property is someone other than the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust, the purchaser shall also pay, to the extent applicable, the land transfer tax in the amount of one percent (1%) of the purchase price.
To the extent this sale involves residential property with less than fifteen (15) rental units, including single family residential real property, you are hereby notified of the following: a. An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to Section 45-21.29 of the North Carolina General Statutes in favor of the purchaser and against the party

or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold: and b. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. This 7th day of April, 2020.

**Substitute Trustee** James T. Martin, Manager 116 Cobblestone Court Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Poyner Spruill LLP PO Box 353 Rocky Mount, NC 27802 Jn4,Jn11,2tc

DEACON SERVICES, LLC.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, June 15, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically. More information about the meeting, including options for submitting public input, will be available by June 8, 2020 on the County website at: https://www.chathamnc.org/ Home/Components/Calendar/ Event/29892/45 Additional information is

available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www. chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input,

both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request: 1. A Legislative public hearing for general use rezoning request by Glandon Forest Equity, LLC to rezone Parcel No's. 5050. 4787, 4742, and portions of parcels 4653 and 76194, from R-1 Residential to NB Neighbor hood Business, located off Old US 421 S, Bear Creek Township. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discus-

Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

Jn4,Jn11,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 20 E 217 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LANELLE DEES PROCHNOW, 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 September 4, 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 29th day of May, 2020. Suzanne McLeod, Executor 494 McLeods Way

Bear Creek, NC 27207 Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against RALPH K. ANDERSON aka RALPH KENNETH AN-DERSON [hereinafter "Ralph K. Anderson"] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 23rd day of March, 2020, are notified to present them to Susan M. Anderson, Executrix of the Estate of Ralph K. Anderson in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 10, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Ralph K. Anderson. Those indebted to Ralph K. Anderson are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the **Estate** Higgins, Frankstone, Graves &

Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadow-

Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on June 15, 2020 at 7 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following request: Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §170 Building Setback Require-ments and §173 Cluster Subdivisions (minimum setback from street right-of-way and lot boundary line) of the UDO. The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at imeadows@silercity.org or 919-742 2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present com-ments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on June 8 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the

Town Board. The Town of Siler City as an **Equal Opportunity Employ**er, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of mate rials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@ silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@ silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Jn4,Jn11,2tc

**LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEAR-**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for the Town of Siler City has been presented to the Town Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the Town Manager's Office at City Hall. 311 North Second Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. weekdays or on the town's website at www.silercity.org. A public hearing will be held on

the budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Citizens are invited to submit

written comments to Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org.
The following is a summary of the budget as presented: General Fund \$7,249,865.00 Powell Bill Fund \$596,746.00 Enterprise Fund (Water & Sewer)

\$7,742,250.00 Enterprise Fund (License Plate Agency) TOTÁL: \$15,742,307.00

Jn4,Jn11,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 20 E 152 NORTH CAROLINA

**CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of EDSEL LIONEL DANIEL, 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 September 4, 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 2nd day of June, 2020. Caswell Lionel Daniel, Executor 6515 Glendower Road Moncure, NC 27559

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** 

**CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MARY ANN KENNEY BUCK, Deceased, late of Chatham County, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Marcus Hudson, Attorney, 641 Rock Creek Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before the 4th day of September, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This 4th day of June, 020. Nancy Buck McKenna, Executor Estate of Mary Ann Kenney Buck

Marcus Hudson, Attorney 641 Rock Creek Road Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 20 E 96 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of CHARLES E. HAR-RINGTON, 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 September 4, 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 2nd day of June, 2020. Donald Harrington, Executor 2413 Canoe Creek Lane Apex, NC 27523

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

TOWN OF PITTSBORO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CON-TROL BOARD **PUBLIC HEARING** 

The proposed budget for the Town of Pittsboro Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has been presented to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Town Board of Commissioners and is available for inspection in the General Manager's office at the Pittsboro ABC Store, 70 Sanford Hwy. from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. most weekdays. Interested parties can call (919) 663-2629 to speak with General Manager, Nancy Gooch. A public hearing will be held on

the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsboro ABC Store, 70 Sanford Hwy, Pittsboro, North Carolina. Citizens are invited to submit written or oral comments. Nancy E. Gooch General Manager

Jn11,Jn18,2tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA BEFORE THE CLERK **GUILFORD COUNTY** 20 SP 772 IN THE MATTER OF THE FORE-

**CLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST:** Grantor: Kathy A. Hall Dated: 08/15/2003 Book 5969, Page 2827 NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PRO-CESS BY PUBLICATION To: The Heirs of Kathy Hall: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Fidelity Bank seeks an order disbursing some or all of the surplus funds resulting from the foreclosure of the property at 225 GREEN VALLEY ROAD, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA.
A HEARING IN THIS MATTER

IS SCHEDULED FOR 3:00 PM, AUGUST 10, 2020 IN ROOM ÚG-19 OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, GREENSBORO AT 201 SOUTH EUGENE STREET, GREENSBORO, NORTH CARO-LINA 27401, at which time the attorney for Fidelity Bank will request that the Clerk of Superior Court disburse some or all of the surplus funds. This is the 28th day of May,

W. Eric Medlin, Attorney for Fidelity Bank Medlin Law Firm, PC 114 North Elm Street, Suite 500 Greensboro, NC 27401 (336) 617-4280

Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,3tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**CHATHAM COUNTY ABC** The Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30,

2021 has been submitted to the Chatham County ABC Board. A copy of the proposed Budget is available for public inspection in the office of the general manager of the Chatham County ABC Board at 11312 Suite 302, US Hwy 15-501 North, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, and may be reviewed by the public during normal working hours. Interested citizens are invited to make comments orally at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 3:30 P.M. at the **Chatham County ABC office lo-**

cated at 11312 Suite 302, US Hwy 15-501 North, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Written comments may be submitted prior to that date and should be addressed to the Chatham County ABC Board at 11312 Suite 302, US Hwy 15-501 North, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Matthew Williams

General Manager Chatham County ABC Jn11.1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

Estate of Harold D. McCoy **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HAROLD D.** McCOY late of 11257 US 15 501 North, 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 12th day of September, 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 11th day of June, 2020. Teresa Lynn McCoy Crumley, Executor of

the Estate of Harold D. McCoy Dori J. Dixon Schell Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 3rd day of June, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of LISA KAY 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 9th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2020. David Mansfield, Administrator of the Estate of Lisa Kay Mansfield

191 Moncure Flatwood Rd Moncure, NC 27559 Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.

115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

**MONCURE FIRE DEPT ANNUAL** 

MEETING The Moncure Fire Department is postponing its regular annual meeting until such time

as we may safely gather in sufficient numbers. Board members in seats up for election will continue in place until the annual meeting. Please check back here for the new date and time.

Jn11,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY William Lextor Thompson having qualified as the Administrator CTA of the Estate of **JOAN** CLARK THOMPSON, 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 September 9, 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 8th day of June, 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandeveer, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC

This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandeveer, Attorney of Record

50101 Governors Drive, Suite Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

**CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, Jennifer B. McBee and Jeffrey C, Brewer, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of SHIRLEY S. BREWER, 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 11th Day of September, 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 11th day of June, 2020. Jennifer B. McBee 98 Pine Lake Drive Siler City, NC 27344 1-336-707-7971 Jeffrey C Brewer 929 Landings Drive Chattanooga, TN 37422 1-423-443-5007 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney at Law PO Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344

919-663-2850

Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 

The undersigned, having qualified on the 5th day of June, 2020, as Executor of the Estate of **PAULINE M. GILLIS**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of September, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Éstate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 11th day of June 2020.

Charles A. Gillis, Executor of The Estate of Pauline M. Gillis 4011 University Drive Suite 300 Durham, NC 27707 G. Rhodes Craver, Esquire

Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND** 

OF PATRICIA LEE SCHADE NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against PATRICIA LEE SCHADE, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Curtis W. Schade, as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before September 11, 2020, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400, Naples, FL 34108, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named

Executor. This the 8th day of June, 2020. Curtis W. Schade, Executor c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes &

Holt, P.A. 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400 Naples, FL 34018

Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

**LOCAL NOTICE** as Part of the Environmental Notification Process for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC's) Antenna Structure Reg-

Chatham County is proposing to construct a 310 feet (including appurtenance) telecommunications tower at 486 Church St, Goldston, NC 27252. The antenna structure is required by the Federal Aviation Admin-istration (FAA) to have marking and/or lighting for aviation

Interested persons may review the application for this project by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications and entering the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1167968". Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the FCC within 30 days of this posting. Instructions for filing such requests can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmen-talrequest. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Parties wishing to submit a request by mail may send the request

to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

17 E 427

**NORTH CAROLINA** 

Jn11.1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

**CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **DEBORAH E.** ANDREWS, 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 September 11, 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 11th day of June, 2020. Patrick W. Hamlett. Limited Personal Represen-

2128 Briar Chapel Parkway

Chapel Hill, NC 27516 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tp

# Relics of once-popular, now-closed recreational area on auction block

BY RANDALL **RIGSBEE** 

News + Record Staff

LIBERTY — "Permanently closed." Those two words

emphasized in blood-red letters — top a Google search of Lake Juno Park, the once-popular summertime swimming and recreation destination off 7253 Lake Juno Rd. in Liberty. The establishment -

still fondly remembered by many who swam and sunned there was founded in 1970 by Liberty resident Junior Jenkins, who operated the park until his death, at age 93, two years ago.

Jenkins' obituary from June 2018 noted the park he established "was visited by tens of thousands of people throughout the years.

In addition to the lake itself, the park Jenkins built and operated for 48 consecutive years boasted acres of recreation area that included two large water slides, a swimming pool (with three diving boards), paddle boat rentals, mini-golf, covered picnic shelters. toddler-size water slides on floating docks within the lake, camping and an arcade that included skeeball, air hockey tables, billiard tables, pinball and classics video games of the period, Pac-Man and Galaga.

For a fee of \$10 per adult and \$5 for children 11 and under, the park — and its many amenities — was open



Submitted photo

Pontoon boats are docked and dry now - and on the auction block — but once kept an appreciative public entertained at the now-closed Lake Juno Park in Liberty.

to the public seven days a week. Though primarily a summertime spot, campgrounds and an RV park on site were open year-round.

Lake Juno Park was popular for church retreats and family gather-

"Oh, so many memories there," one former visitor wrote on Lake Juno Park's Facebook page, which despite the owner's passing and the park's subsequent closure, remains active. Though the Facebook page inaccurately declares the business is "open now," a string of comments from those who remember the park from its glory days serve as a continuing tribute to the now-defunct recreation site.

"Used to love going there as a kid," wrote another.

"Sad to hear this," added another. "Love this place."

"Horrible news," another commenter added. "I have so many great memories from Lake Juno.

Michael Rogers, the Chatham County auctioneer, was also among the thousands of folks who once enjoyed the nearby amusement

"I remember going there with a church youth group when I was maybe 10 or 12 years old, in the late 70s, early 80s,' Rogers said. "I didn't go there a lot, but was a really unique place, kind of a mini-Myrtle Beach pavilion."

Today, Rogers, through his auction business, Rogers Auctioneers Inc., is handling Lake Juno Park's last hurrah: the selling of its contents. from the paddle boats to the Pac-man machine, as well as Jenkins' home,



Lake Juno, once a popular summertime recreation area, has been closed since its owner died in 2018, though with an online auction of its amenities under way, fans of the spot can now own a memento of the place.

which is also on the property.

"It's one of the most unique auctions we've ever done," said Rogers.

And it's generating a lot of buzz as many of the folks who formed cherished memories at the park as kids bid on keepsakes, including, Rogers said, several clocks (approximately 20 of them) with "Lake Juno Park" etched into their

design. "We're selling everything," Rogers said.

That includes pin ball machines, arcade and video games, restaurant equipment and boats.

Online bidding began on June 2 and continues through June 11 at 7:30

He's had inquiries about the Skee-Ball machine from as far away as Wisconsin.

"I've had a lot of calls," Rogers said. "We've heard



Submitted photo

Chatham County auctioneer Michael Rogers. who's company is handling the auction sales of Lake Juno Park's inventory, said he's gotten many inquiries about the park's equipment, including an inquiry from Michigan about Skee-ball, the popular arcade game.

from a lot of people who want to have some kind of memorabilia from the park because they have such great memories of

going there."

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

# **Providing Books on Break for Chatham students**

Describing the event as 'essentially a free book fair' for students at economically-disadvantaged schools in Chatham County, the Chatham **Education Foundation hosted a book giveaway** last week at Siler City Elementary School. Employees of the nonprofit packed nearly 1,800 bags containing a total of nearly 7,800 books organized by grade level, according to **CEF Executive Director Jaime Detzi. Chatham** County Schools nutrition staff chipped in to help distribute the bags.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles





Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

School district personnel also distributed food for children who attend schools in economicallydisadvantaged areas of Chatham County.



From left, Joetta Decker of **Chatham Central High School and** Jackie Brady and Venna Price, both of Northwood High School, helped distribute **Books on Break** bags, made by the Chatham **Education** Foundation, at last week's event at Siler **City Elementary** School. Staff photo by

This year's **Books on** Break event, hosted by the Chatham **Education** Foundation, took on a different look than previous vears. School district personnel distributed pre-made bags of books for children who attend schools in economicallydisadvantaged areas of Chatham County.

Staff photo by