

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 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 data.

"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 inadvertently

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-year-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 Shyquale 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 involved."

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 measure."

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.



Bass



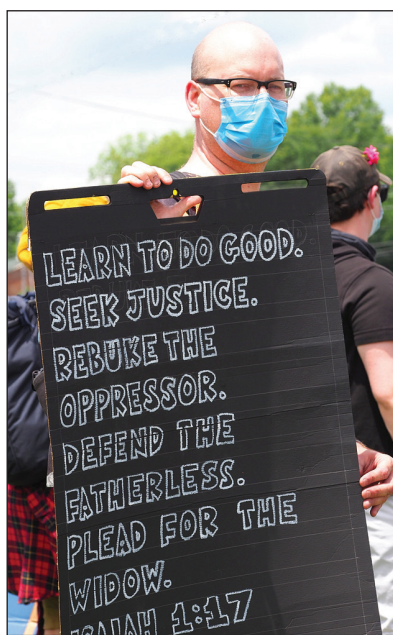
Fisher

Chatham residents show support for racial unity



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

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.



A man 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 Kim Hawks

Hot residential real estate market not cooled by COVID-19

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

See MARKET, page A8



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

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 analysis 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 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 covered

See FOWLER, page A9

IN THE KNOW

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

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

Circle City Books committed to feeding Pittsboro's literary hunger. PAGE B5

Lake Juno: relics of now-closed rec area go on 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 month's 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 effect - a 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 #JMACoronaConcert 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 Day 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 permanently.

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.com.

custom SEATING EVENT

CUSTOMIZE YOUR CHAIR WITH OVER 700 FABRICS!

"Always a Saving"
Dossenbach's
FINER FURNITURE
www.dossenbachs.com

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE DURING THIS EVENT!*

Custom SEATING PROGRAM
As Low As \$899

One of a kind *style* in 3 easy steps

- Choose Your Arm**
 Sock Arm or Beveled Arm or Track Arm
- Choose Your Base**
 Skirt or Tapered Leg
 Distressed Pecan, Espresso, Riverloom
- Choose Your Fabric**
700+ OPTIONS
 Over 700 fabrics in a variety of colors, patterns and styles to choose for your furniture and pillows.

Best Home Furnishings

Downtown Sanford
215 Wicker Street
4 Building 1/2 Block Showroom
(919) 775-7237

MADE IN THE USA
Made in the USA of domestic & globally sourced components.

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

Chatham Media Group LLC

303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, North Carolina, 27344
 COPYRIGHT 2019 CHATHAM MEDIA GROUP LLC

CONTACT US

To subscribe, put your paper on hold, or report a missed issue:
 919-663-3232

To place a classified or display ad:
 919-663-3232; Fax: 919-663-4042

To submit news, or to correct a factual error:
 919-663-3251; Fax: 919-663-4042

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Inside County
 \$45 for 1 year/52 issues
 \$25 for 6 months/26 issues

Outside County
 \$50 for 1 year/52 issues
 \$30 for 6 months/26 issues

NEWSROOM

RANDALL RIGSBEE, *Managing Editor*
rigsbee@chathamnr.com
 919-663-3231
 CASEY MANN, *Reporter*
caseymann@chathamnr.com
 ZACHARY HORNER, *Reporter*
zhorner@chathamnr.com
 CHAPEL FOWLER, *Sports Reporter*
cfowler@chathamnr.com
 OLIVIA ROJAS, *News Intern*
olivia@chathamnr.com
 CAROLINE WATKINS, *Digital Media Intern*
cfowler@chathamnr.com
 KIM HAWKS, *Staff Photographer*
khawksnest53@gmail.com
 PEYTON SICKLES, *Staff Photographer*
peyton@sickles.org

BILL HORNER III, *Editor/Publisher*
bhorner3@chathamnr.com 919-663-3250

NEWSROOM INQUIRIES, PRESS RELEASES AND WEBSITE QUESTIONS
news@chathamnr.com

ADVERTISING

JASON JUSTICE
jjustice@chathamnr.com
 DAWN PARKER,
Advertising Specialist
advertising@chathamnr.com
 919-930-9668

OFFICE

KAREN PYRTLE
karen@chathamnr.com
 DORIS BECK
doris@chathamnr.com
 FLORENCE TURNER
billing@chathamnr.com

The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Subscription rates: 1 year — \$45 in county, and \$50 out of county; 6 months — \$25 in county and \$30 out of county. Periodicals postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Siler City.

N.C. POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

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 doc-

ument 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 "whole-class '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@chathamnc.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 Carolina."

"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 state."

The executive order stated that, as of June 1, Afri-

can-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."

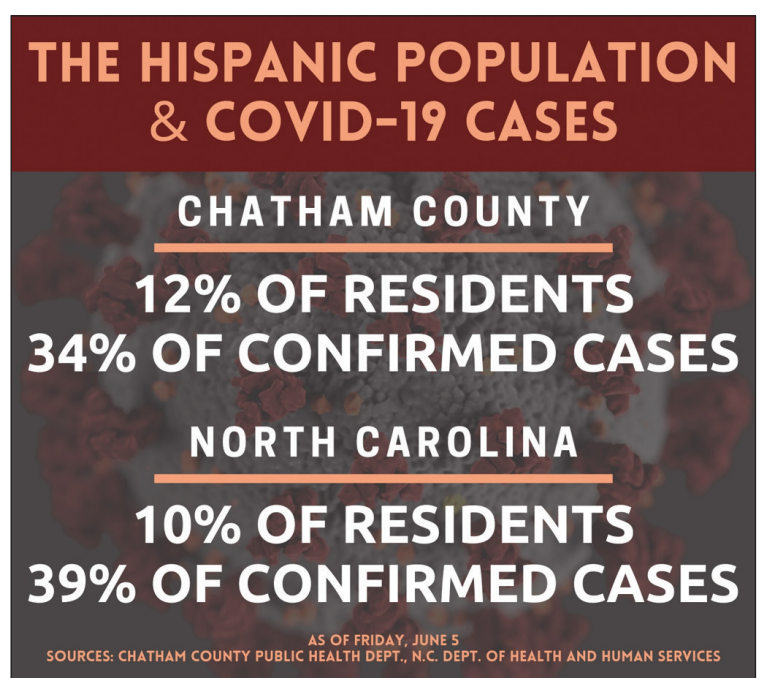
"We remain concerned about the impact COVID-19 is having in Chatham County, and especially among the Latinx population and in long-term care facilities," Zelek said. "This is why, in addition to raising awareness about the virus and ways to reduce its spread across the Chatham community as a whole, we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

"Everyone is at risk for becoming infected with this virus," the press release stated. The latest data can be found at chathamnc.org/coronavirus.



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

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

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 like."

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 us."

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 "individualized 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 all."

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 up."

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, Crayton 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 very smoothly."

What's next

But once all the diplo-

mas have been handed out and tassels have turned, the next step is 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 hammer out each option, and then another option would appear."

Each district and charter school was required to turn in a plan for approaching next year's education by the end of this week. The state government has mandated an August 17 start date and accounting for at least five days of remote learning in the schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. While some of the mandates will be applicable to all schools, others will have individualized decisions to make.

Jordan-Matthews, for example, will have more than 900 students in its halls next year. How will social distancing look in that? How will lunchtime operate? And if remote learning continues through the fall semester, what role does grading and accountability play?

"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," Crayton said. "Should be one of the most interesting summers I've had."

McCullough said one of her concerns was how Chatham Charter's students and staff are handling the changes emotionally.

"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@chathamnc.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.

SELLERS WANTED!

WE HAVE THE BUYERS, BUT NO INVENTORY! CALL ME TODAY TO GET YOUR HOME SOLD.

SHERRY JOHNSON ALLEN
Broker, Realtor®

Mobile: 919-200-2135
1609 E. 11th St. (Hwy 64)
Siler City, NC 27344

sherryjallenrealtor@gmail.com
www.liveinchathamcountync.com

NEW LOCATION

44-A Hillsboro St. in Downtown Pittsboro, NC
919.883.2775
www.joyfuljewel.com

Now Open

44-A Hillsboro St. in Downtown Pittsboro, NC
919.883.2775
www.joyfuljewel.com

VIEWPOINTS

An answer for our ills?

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



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

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 neighbors 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 — responsibly, of course, and adhering to other applicable laws — fire away.

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, includ-

ing 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 target.

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 or foul.

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 Day."

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 tackle.

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 America (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 its 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 as it feels — pass without 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 between urban, rural and suburban. We have political divisions. We certainly have gender and racial divisions.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUMAN
Hope Matters

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.

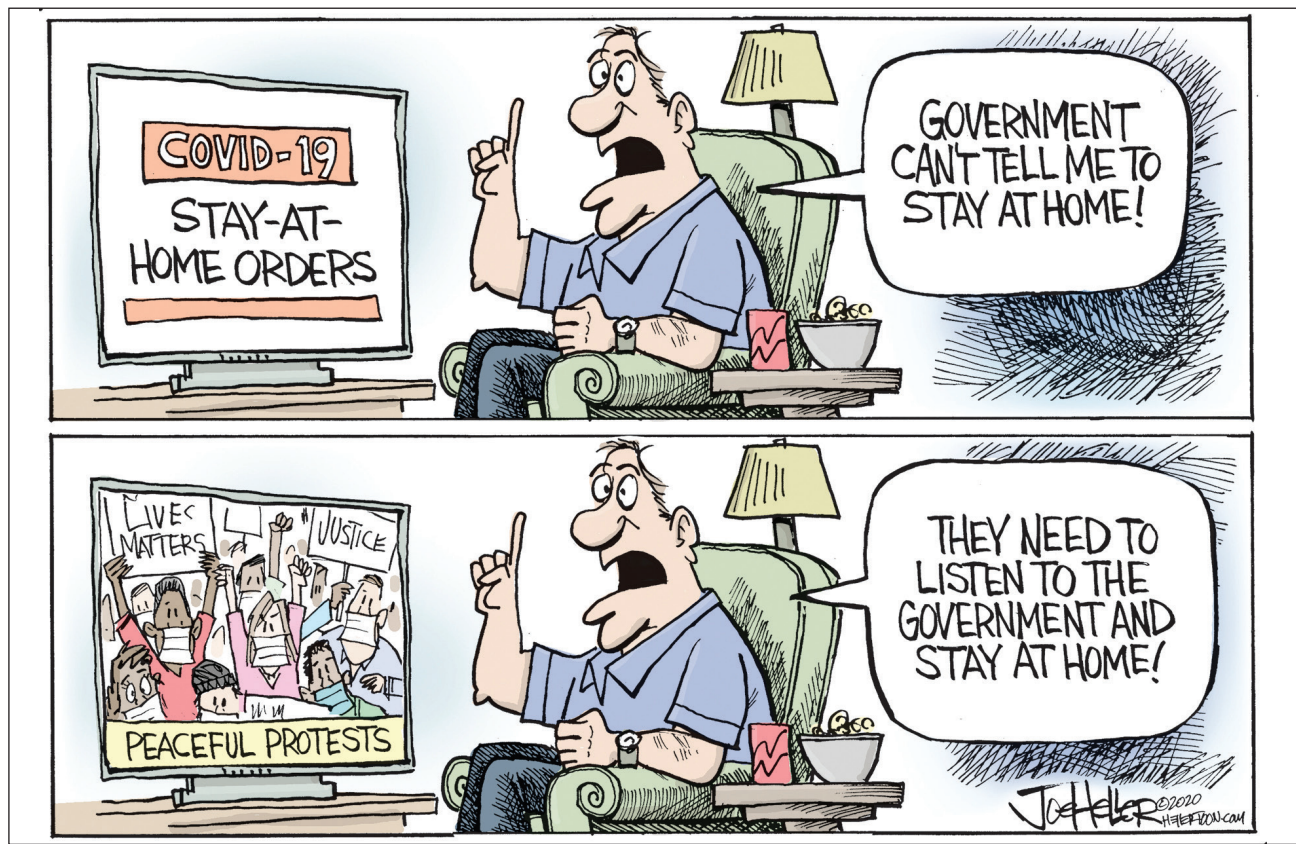
At a recent march organized by the student chapter of the NAACP, I saw dozens of young children walking down the street, hand in hand with their families. As a gentleman sang "We Shall Overcome Someday" in a deep baritone voice, I thought what better time than now.

May we make our mamas proud.

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

- BILL HORNER III, *Publisher & Editor*
- RANDALL RIGSBEE, *Managing Editor*
- CASEY MANN | ZACHARY HORNER, *Reporters*
- OLIVIA ROJAS, *News Intern*
- CAROLINE WATKINS, *Digital Media Intern*
- CHAPEL FOWLER, *Sports Reporter*
- KIM HAWKS | PEYTON SICKLES, *Staff Photographers*



Challenge is to keep local community while going global

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



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

I need to buy, some pictures of the world's greatest grandchildren, and various other important pieces of stuff.

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.

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 dad-

dy 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 dial.

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 celebrations.)

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 hurrier I go the behinder I get."

Let me assure you I haven't.

Yet. 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 mental health.



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 Affairs' 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:

"The soybean industry launched 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. McCance-Katz told The Wall Street Journal that in the instance that a second wave hits, and another shutdown is implement-

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 Brechibel is a research and communications operator with experience within multiple levels of non-profit, campaign and grassroots organizations. After graduating college, Brechibel gained versatile field research experience while working with one of the nation's leading strategic communications firms, America Rising. During this time, Brechibel covered a wide variety of issues in multiple states, and saw his work included in various publications and paid advocacy messaging efforts. Brechibel 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.

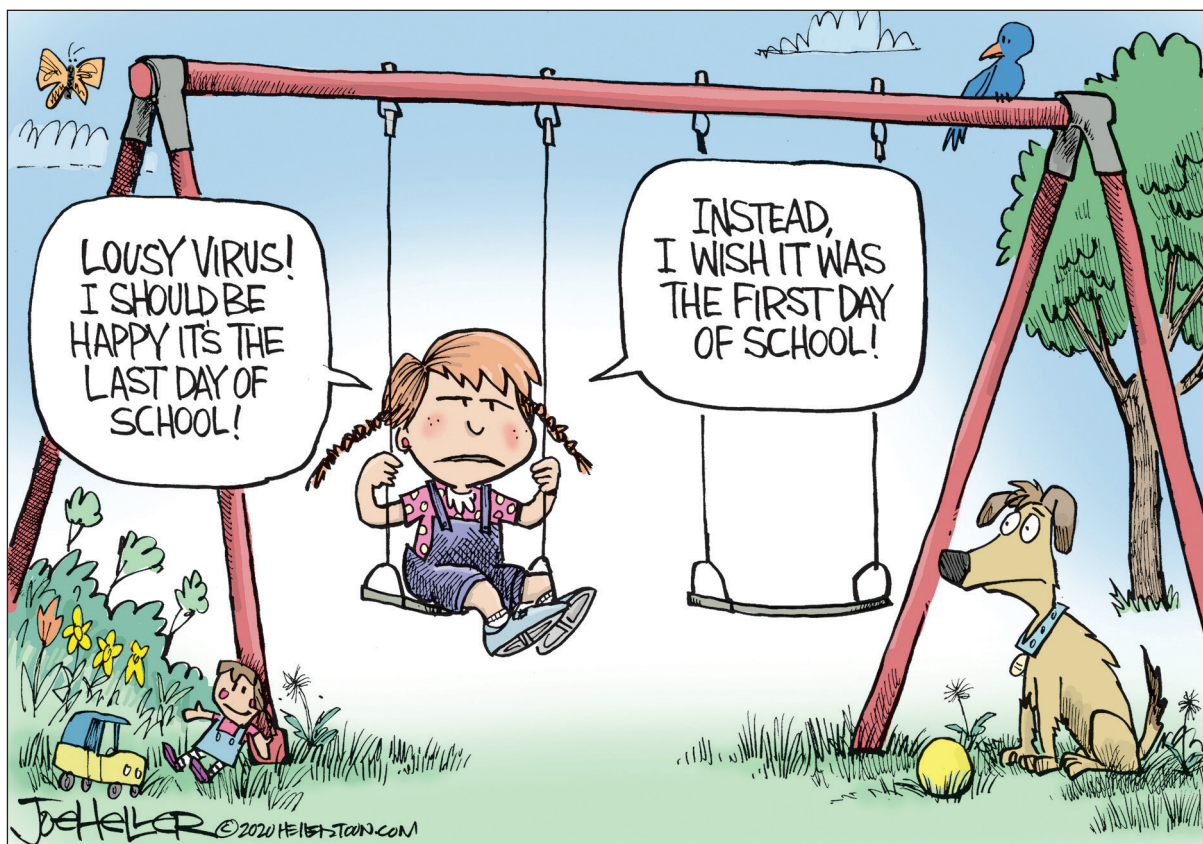
The years continued to pass and Emerson now joined Forest as we painted the mural across from the old General Store, now known as the Pittsboro Roadhouse. Their mom would pick them up after attending school in Bear Creek and drop them off with us. They were so very, very happy to be a part of the community 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 just 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 + Record.

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

Fresh flowers for summertime

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



DOLLY R. SICKLES
The Optimistic Gardener

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) plants."

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 want.

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.



Submitted photo

A summer bouquet.

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 them."

Nicole's Turtle Rock Gardens flowers are available at the Chatham Marketplace, through the Red Roots Farm CSA, and at the Fearington Farmers Market on Tuesdays. I asked if she used any kind of preservatives and she said no.

"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

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.instagram.com/turtlerockgardens/
 - Red Roots Farm CSA: <https://red-rootsfarm.com/csa/>
 - Chatham Marketplace: www.chathammarketplace.coop
 - Fearington Farmers Market: <https://fearingtonfarmersmarket.com>
 - Country Farm and Home: <https://chathamfarmsupply.com>
 - Big Bloomers Flower Farm: www.bigbloomersflowerfarm.com
 - Monterey B.t.: <https://bit.ly/2XO6I06>
 - The Optimistic Gardener: www.OptimisticGardener.com

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

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 — an 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."

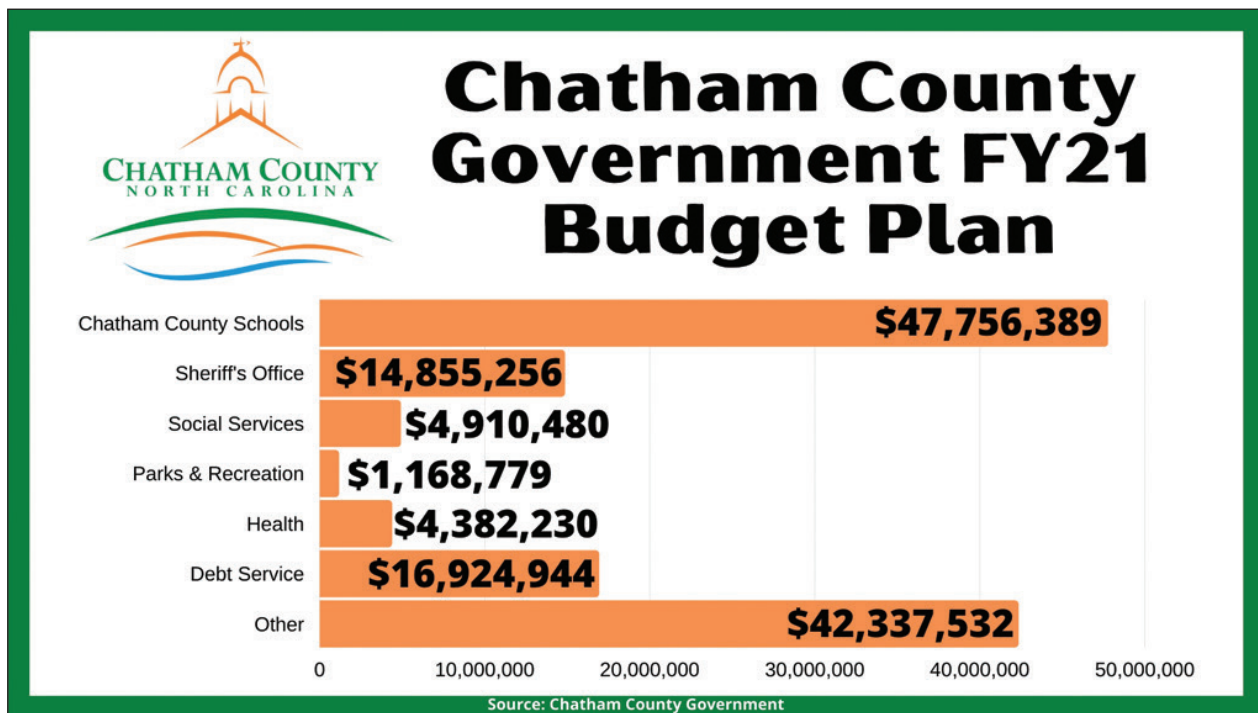
"We have practiced some restraint in forgoing expansion as uncertainty around the ultimate

fallout from the pandemic remains high," she said, "but have adhered to our principles as is reflected in the funding of education, public safety and health and human services."

It's the relative lack of expansion that Howard, Commissioner Mike Dasher and County Manager Dan LaMontagne all said they wish could have been different. Howard said she 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,



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

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 rate, which was denied.

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

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 entirety will be directed to paying for teacher supplements.

"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

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 zhorn-er@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-erCNR.



Benjamin Moore®

Chatham Paint Center
Your New Neighborhood Paint Store

(919) 930-6633 • 1605 EAST 11TH ST., SUITE 100
SILER CITY, NC 27344

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-19 — from the previous year, far below those suggested by the League of Municipalities.

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

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. Meacham 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.

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 you?”

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 CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

FOWLER

Continued from page A1

ered everything from volleyball to men’s basketball to field hockey to lacrosse. He said that he was a “huge believer in boots-on-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 expe-

riences 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 awesome resource.”

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

@NO WRISTBANDS- BUY FROM VENDORS AND LISTEN TO MUSIC FREE – NO COOLERS
@WITH WRISTBANDS- FREE FOOD AND DEEP, DEEP DRINK DISCOUNTS: \$35 FOR ADULTS, \$10 UNDER 21
(\$5 OFF ON ADVANCE PURCHASE STARTING 6/9 AT OASIS MARKET)

Summer Market and Music Kickoff
Oasis Open Air and Fresh Market
June 20 3PM to 9PM
131 S Chatham Ave.

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)*

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 Pennsylvania.

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 dry 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 paste.

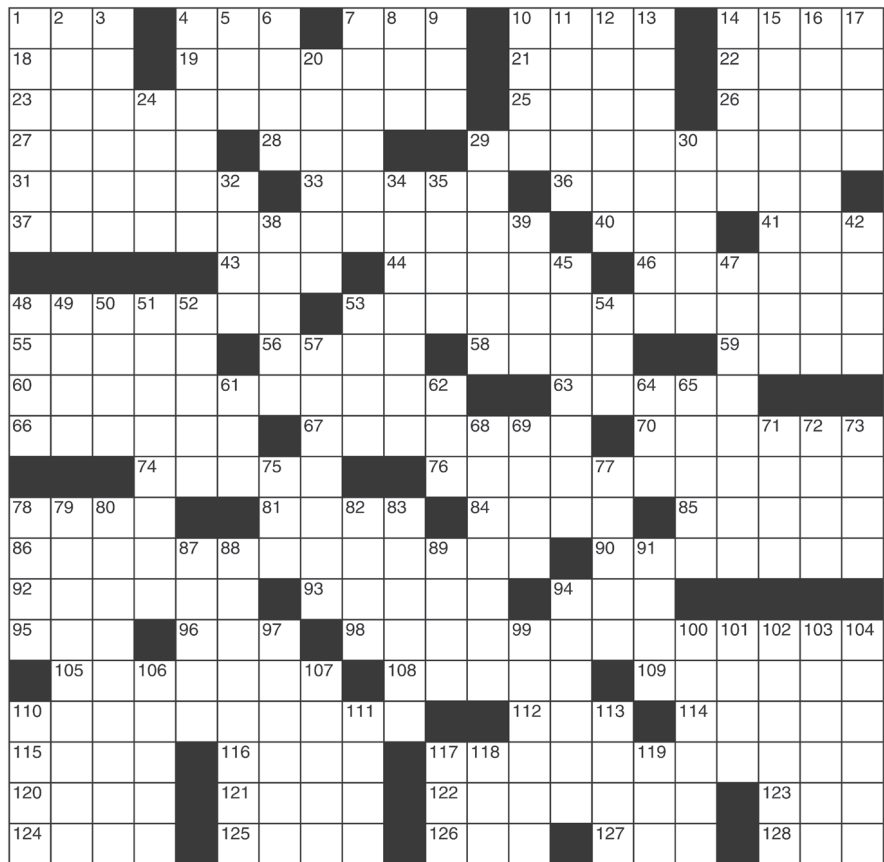
The Sheriff's Office will also be onsite to conduct a medicine take back as a way for residents to safely dispose of unwanted medications. No needles, sharps, or liquids will be accepted.

— CN + R staff reports

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

JUST ADD SALT

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 "Chairman —" (NBA moniker) | 86 Title of a sommelier training video hosted by novelist Gordimer? | 120 Newsy note | 15 "Speaking," for a woman on the phone | 71 Big heads |
| 1 V-J Day prez | 44 Brief review | 90 Goes into overtime, say | 121 Jazzy Simone | 16 Redpack container | 72 Nevada city |
| 4 Not cooked | 46 Lake in north Minnesota | 92 Rival of Sampras | 122 Feeling bad for | 17 GI on the run | 73 City in 5-Down |
| 7 Epoch | 48 Broken stone used in paving | 93 Heat energy unit | 123 Rural tract | 20 "Do not —" (Monopoly directive) | 75 Not Rep. or Dem. |
| 10 Nails, as an exam | 53 Actor Lane after improving his skills? | 94 See 115-Across | 124 California city known for its zinfandel | 24 Non-PC computer | 77 Clean a spill |
| 14 "— boy!" | 55 Amazed | 95 Sharks' org. | 125 Highlander, e.g. | 29 Reckless | 78 Stately bird |
| 18 "There it is!" | 56 "Will you allow me?" | 96 Signing tool | 126 Positive reply | 30 U.S.-Can.-Mex. pact | 79 Attack verbally |
| 19 Went by, as hours | 58 Father, in France | 98 Dilemma caused by quarterback Joe? | 127 Negative replies | 32 "Only Time" singer | 80 Not trued up |
| 21 Whet | 59 Be disposed | 105 Men's neckwear accessory | 128 Bit of work | 34 Dawdles | 82 Violinist |
| 22 Unmask | 60 "Batman Forever" star commanding a warship? | 108 Island porch | DOWN | 35 Pant leg part | 83 Paragons |
| 23 Giving monikers to flower holders? | 63 Barrage of shots | 109 Beethoven's Third | 1 Broadway's "Dear Evan —" | 38 Singer Terrell | 87 U.S. humane org. |
| 25 Whale type | 66 Fail to feed | 110 Really mean porkers? | 2 Debi Mazar's "Entourage" role | 39 Fill totally | 88 TV ratings system |
| 26 Bride's ride, perhaps | 67 Actress on HBO's "Insecure" | 112 Biology subj. | 3 Beast breakers | 42 U2, for one | 89 "— la Douce" |
| 27 It might follow "So I lied!" | 70 Matador | 114 Financier | 4 Go back (on) N. Afr. | 45 Medusa's killer | 91 Old Italian coins |
| 28 That, to Juanita | 74 Levi's material | 115 With 94-Across, designer with the fragrance Fantasia | 5 Mag VIPs | 47 ABA member | 94 Climb, as a tree or rope |
| 29 The lass I love with a twangy voice? | 76 Homer hit by poet Tate? | 116 QED's "E" | 10 Shout at sea | 48 Hr. fractions | 97 — acid (aqua fortis) |
| 31 Fill with fury | 78 Swing about | 117 Rich founder of a loafah-producing company? | 11 Breed of herding dog | 49 Biology subj. | 99 Seer's cards |
| 33 Alaskan parhandle city | 81 Old soda brand | | 12 Set up tents | 50 Vena — | 100 Circular gaskets |
| 36 "No fooling!" | 84 The Beatles' "— Tired" | | 13 Totally enclosed | 51 Tony winners, e.g. | 101 — Raton |
| 37 Embryonic thyroids and pituitaries? | 85 "Better in Time" singer | | 14 Lion in "Narnia" tales | 52 Probe (into) | 102 Likely (to) |
| 40 Many a shareable PC file | | | | 53 Fitness sites | 103 Parrot, often |
| 41 Cry loudly | | | | 54 Stephen of "The Heavy" | 104 Guy's stylish carrier |
| | | | | 57 Foodstuff | 106 As a friend, in France |
| | | | | 61 Griffey of baseball | 107 Kind of bar |
| | | | | 62 Operated | 110 Sandbox toy |
| | | | | 64 Kin of "Inc." | 111 Coup d'— |
| | | | | 65 "There it is!" | 113 Not "fer" |
| | | | | 68 Best Picture of 1988 | 117 Operative |
| | | | | 69 Cry of woe | 118 Crusty treat |
| | | | | | 119 Brian of rock |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

2020 Class OF
congratulations

2020 Chatham Charter

Tiffany

At Cambridge Hills & Twin Rivers
Your Family Is Our Family

CAMBRIDGE HILLS ASSISTED LIVING
140 Brookstone Lane • Pittsboro
919.545.9573

TWIN RIVERS
25 S. Rectory Street • Pittsboro
919-545-0149

www.silver-thread.com

Silver Thread
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Worth knowing.
Worth Reading.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY
\$45 in county
\$50 outside county

call (919) 663-3232 or go to chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY
\$45 in county / \$50 outside county
call (919) 663-3232 or go to chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/

Congratulations,
Jacy

We are so proud of you. Dream big and shoot for the stars! Always keep God first.

*We love you,
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. Roy Cooper's Executive Order No. 121, work on buildings and infrastructure at both Chatham Park and Mosaic at Chatham Park, a mixed-use 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



Submitted photo

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.



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-May.

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 three-phase plan "very measured" 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 re-submitted

The N.C. Division of Water Resources denied

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 for their response in these difficult times."

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

2019 RAM 1500 4WD

\$26,997
 5.7 HEMI, 8 speed Auto, 16k miles
 S557

2017 GRAND CHEROKEE

\$19,455
 V6, 8 speed Auto, 49k miles
 SJ1278A

2018 JEEP RENEGADE

\$16,822
 9 speed Auto, 4WD, 12k miles
 SR1126A

7-Year/100,000 Mile Certified Pre-Owned Vehicle Powertrain Limited Warranty



2624 Hawkins Ave., Sanford, NC 27330
 (919) 775-5588
hiestersanford.com

Ranked #1
 houzz
 CHAPEL HILL
buildBOLDnc.com



To the parents, teachers, graduates, doctors, nurses, & everyone who is **BOLD & brave...**

THANK YOU

BOLD
 REAL ESTATE
www.boldre.com

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 downtown 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



Submitted photo

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 re-opens 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 healthy.”

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-and-a-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 Suckles

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

continue showing visitors 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-

vals — work still had to be 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-year-old 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 “vulnerable 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

masks, and occupancy in 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 zhornerc@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@ZachHornerCNR](https://twitter.com/ZachHornerCNR).



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

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. The sanctuary re-opened to the public for tours for the first time in weeks.

Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

HAND SANITIZER GEL IN BULK

KILLS 99.9% OF GERMS



Available in one gallon bottles by the case (4 one gallons), five gallon buckets, and 55 gallon drums. Large orders by the pallet and save. Shipped directly to your facility from the manufacturer. Free and very fast shipping! Medical facilities, schools, offices, retail spaces etc.

discountsani.com

Pandemic or not, we have you covered!

Call or text 919-753-4826

Email: sales@discountsani.com



Residential and Commercial

“You have a MESS, We have a SOLUTION”

The importance of Disinfecting your home or business has never been greater!

Get in touch to see how we can help!
Ask about DISCOUNTS!



919-770-7308 • www.harriscleaningservices.com

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 past."

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 getting 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 CaseyMann@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-

ancial support for families 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 \$1,100.

"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

restrictions, things are only going to get harder for those who are already struggling."

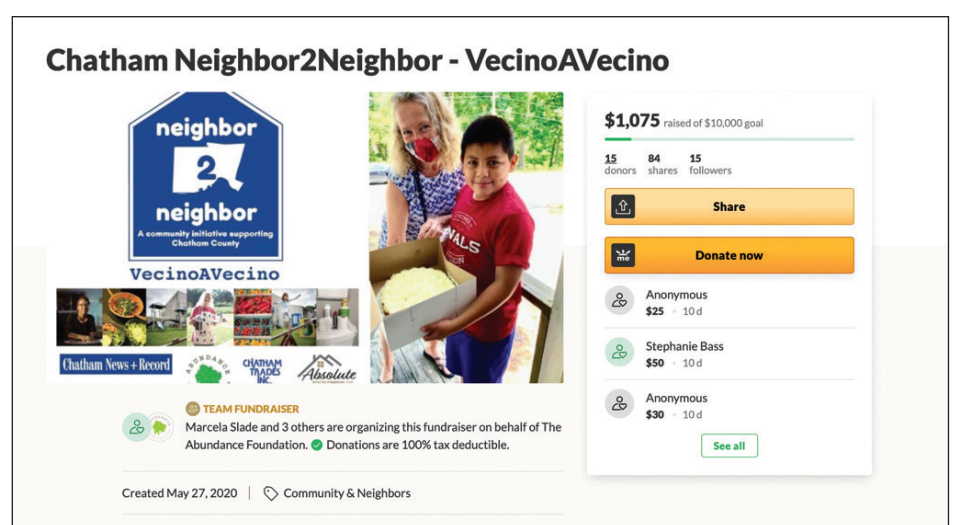
Slade has also noticed that some people who sign up for help are later refusing it, stating they have found another way to get the goods and services whether through family or friends.

"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/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor>.

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-vecinoavecino.

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

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 | SECTION B

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 the former.

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).

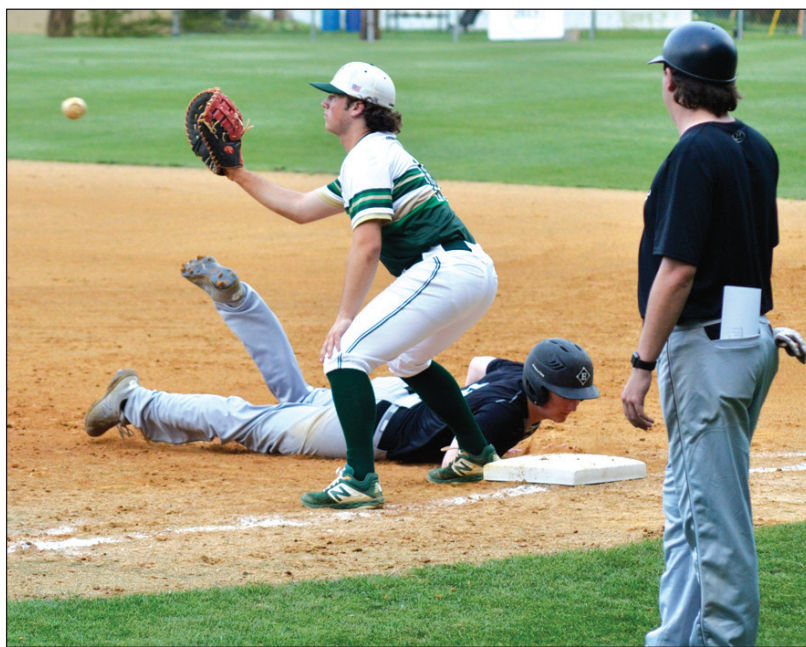
The result? Walden put it simply: "A logjam."

"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 on.



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 I 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 so.

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 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

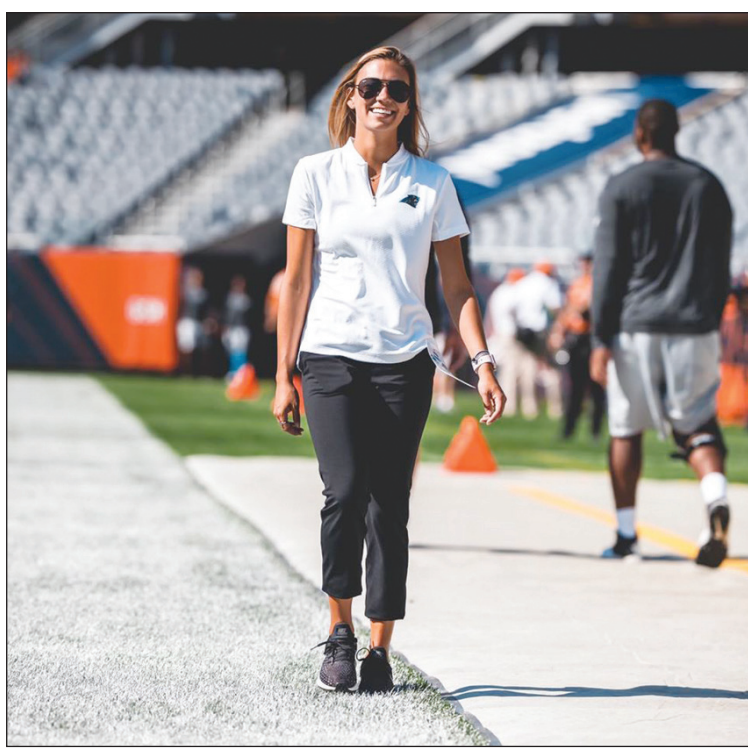


Photo courtesy of the Carolina Panthers

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 coaches 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 relaying 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 LIV in Atlanta in 2019 and Super Bowl LV in Miami in 2020) as a member of the NFL's public relations staff.

"Some of my tasks in this role were to transcribe post-game 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 another."

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 call.

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 state.

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 1800s.

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 academics."

"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 release.

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 it."

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 ceremony," 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 end-of-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 power-

house" 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, too.

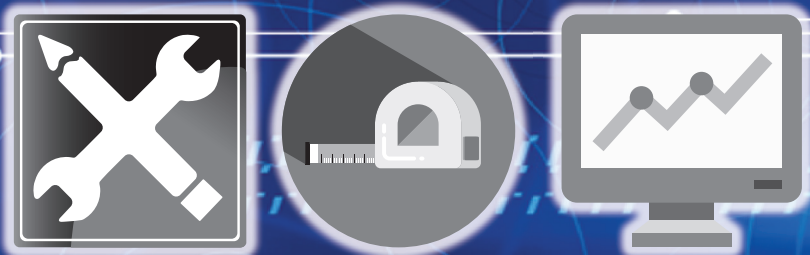
Fields, the athletic director, will wrap up the project June 18 and announce Chatham Charter's male and female athletes of the year.

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.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES



DIRECTORY

CROSSROADS BACKHOE SERVICE

- Install and Repair Septic Systems
- Pump Existing Septic Tanks
- All Sorts of Backhoe Work
- Specializing in Bush Hogging
- Ponds, Ditches & Driveways

Call Monty Justice @ (919) 545-4107

See Us For:
Commercial Refrigeration
Heating & Air Conditioning
Sales & Service

LANGLEY
Refrigeration Company
Ph: 742-2777

FOR THIS SPOT CALL
(919) 663-3232

ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC

Beautiful Yards Start Here!

Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties

205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!

D & G PLUMBING

Plumbing Problems?
Commercial and Residential Installation and Service
Located in Siler City

Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy
Licensed and Insured
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374

Caviness Farms
GRADING AND HAULING
Siler City, NC • 919-548-3064

CHRIS CAVINESS

GRAVEL • TOPSOIL • POND • MULCH • FILL DIRT
DRIVEWAY • LAND CLEARING • SITE DEVELOPMENT

TREEMASTERS

- Brush Chipping
- Tree Climbing • Stump Removal
- Free Estimates

Tommy Dunigan (919) 775-7408
Cell: (919) 548-3542

H&D Fastrak Lawns

Mowing • Landscaping
Trimming, Edging,
Blowing, Pruning • Mulch,
Pineneedles

(336) 858-8021
HDFastraklawns@gmail.com

First application just \$19.99*
Mention This Ad To Redeem

Nature's SelectSM
Biological Lawn, Shrub and Tree Care
Fertilization & Weed Control • Shrub & Tree Care
Mosquito Control • Lawn Aeration & Seeding
Creating Healthy Soils Since 1992
*Offer good for lawns up to 10K sq ft. Larger pro-rated

(919) 240-4239 MySelectLawn.com

THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

Find the help you need in the Services Directory of Chatham News + Record

Advertise Your Business in the Service Directory for ONLY \$20 PER WEEK!

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 — will take 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.freeconferencerecall.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://chathamorganizingracialequity.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 role models.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

This week three chefs were kind enough to play along and answer my two pandemic food-related questions.

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 milk."

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 mushroom. Chicken and blue cheese. Salmon."

Our second contributor is one of the first chefs 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 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.



Chef Jason Cunningham
Submitted photo



Chef Julia Dawson
Submitted photo

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 1/2-inch width. With folded sides facing down, fit foil securely into bottom and up sides of 9-inch square baking pan, allowing excess to overhang pan sides. Spray foil with non-stick cooking spray.

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.

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@bullcitymom.com.



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 number-

ing 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 stress-free and happy as it can possibly be. That's our goal."

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 said.

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 — was "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.

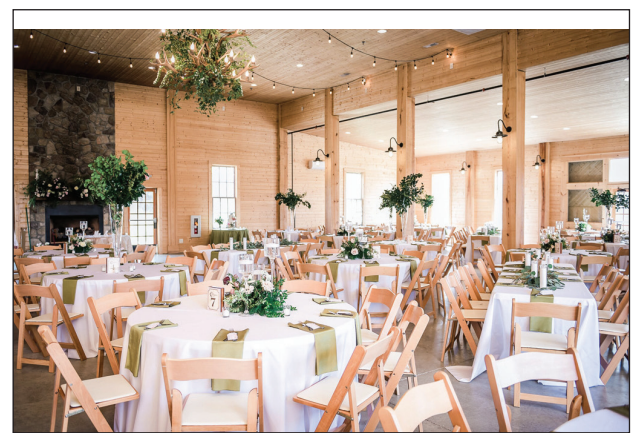
The Bradford, unlike some other wedding venues in the region, hasn't held an event on its grounds since last November, when the venue closed temporarily

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.



Oakland Farms photo

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 else.

Having lived in Pittsboro for more than 30 years, he believed that the town was perfectly situated 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 bookstore" 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-to-date 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 prosperity," 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 clear."

While closed, he still served customers by phone who were searching for a good find. And as the state rules on operating retail 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 disinfectant 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 I can."

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 better."

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 safe."

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 Sanford.

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.

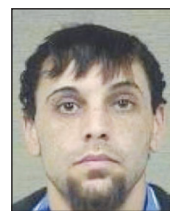
Santos Montiel Aguilar of Siler City was cited June 5 for unsafe movement in the parking lot of Cruisers in Pittsboro.

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

whereabouts, contact the Siler City Police Department at 919-742-5626 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 community 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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

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., included 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 tolerated."



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. "All 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 respectfully ask that you take a moment of silence and contemplate what you can do to prevent a climate of racial injustice."

Chatham News + Record

would like to acknowledge & thank our **online** advertisers.

Visit (our site) to connect with them!



www.chathamnewsrecord.com



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 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 heckuva 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 educational background, and how long have you been with the CCPHD?

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

Health Department later 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 department?

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 health, 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 Hawks

resources can be found at our websites: www.chathamnc.org/coronavirushelp (in Spanish www.chathamnc.org/coronavirusayuda), www.chathamnc.org/mentalhealth and www.chathamnc.org/recovery.

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 "Re-opening 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 share public health information 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

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

The News + Record is providing \$30,000 in matching advertising grants during the months of June, July & August in increments of \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000. Grants will be eligible for use between the day you receive the grant and August 31, 2020. The fund has been established only for locally owned and operated businesses. Grants will be eligible on any News + Record print products, including magazines and special sections.

HOW DO I GET A GRANT?

To claim a grant or to get more information, please contact

Dawn Parker • 919-930-9668
dawn@chathamnr.com

Bill Horner III • 919-774-2728
bhorner3@chathamnr.com

Dental Insurance

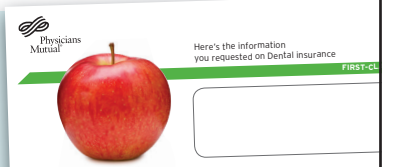
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -

- ✓ Cleanings
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Fillings
- ✓ Crowns
- ✓ Dentures

- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call today for all the details.
844-903-1784

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit!
dental50plus.com/chatham



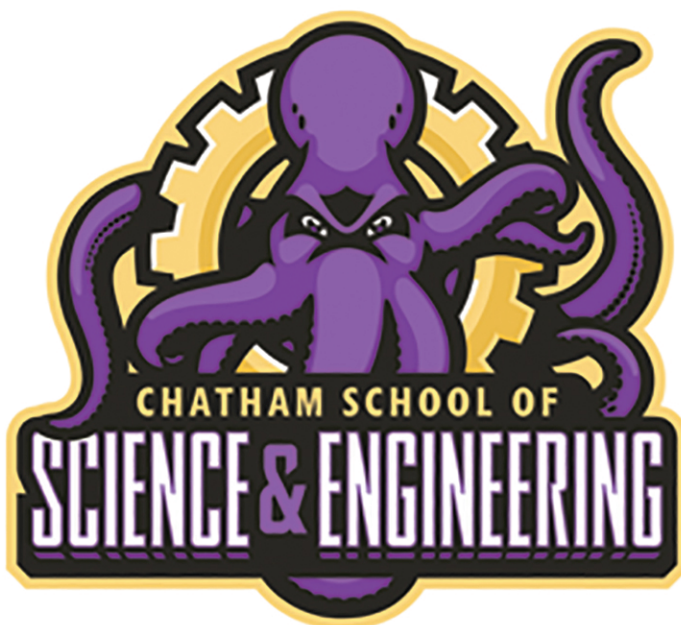
Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439.

Physicians Mutual
Insurance for all of us.™



CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2020!

¡MUCHAS FELICIDADES,
CLASE DEL 2020!



'The King of Staten Island' reigns over a droll life



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

'Saturday Night Live' cast member Pete Davidson stars as a semi-autobiographical version of himself in Judd Apatow's latest film 'The King of Staten Island.'

Part roman-à-clef and part cinematic couch session, "The King of Staten Island" makes no secret about its origins and purpose. Comedian Pete 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-turned-friend 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 him.

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

familial bond, which is the 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 built 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 end up.

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
MPA A 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.

Register NOW!

Chatham County

HEALTH AND FITNESS SCIENCE

This program prepares multi-skilled fitness professionals to be qualified to perform various skills in the health and fitness industry. Careers in the industry include jobs such as chiropractic practices, coaches, fitness studios, hospitals, parks and recreation departments, personal training, sports industries, sports performance facilities, and YMCA staff.

www.cccc.edu

STRICK'S LP GAS
 193 LOWES DR
 SUITE 110
 PITTSBORO, NC

PROPANE DELIVERY GRILLS

PROPANE \$1.799 / GALLON

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
 We're here for you during these times. Set up an account over the phone and have a delivery in a few days.

919-704-8589

Propane Refill Prices

Come visit us in the Lowe's Shopping Center in Pittsboro to save on propane refills!

20# Refill: \$10
 30# Refill: \$15
 100# Refill: \$50

www.strickslpgas.com | 919-704-8589

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New company in Pittsboro; bar-openings still in limbo

Gotta tell you: it's been nice to have some non-COVID-19 news items in the last few Corner Store columns. I think most, if not all of us, are suffering from some

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.

Pittsboro lands 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 job. 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](https://twitter.com/ZachHornerCNR).

cruizers

let's go.

ETHANOL FREE Gasoline

32 Powell Place Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 27

Kid Scoop Together:

Do You Like Scary Stories?

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.



Legend Begins

Replace the missing words.

Long ago, heading out to sea was an adventure into the unknown. People believed that the earth was _____. They thought if you sailed too far away from land, you would sail right off the _____ of the planet!

CREATURES
FLAT

It took great _____ to head across the ocean in a small ship. When sailors looked into the deep, dark sea from the _____ of a ship, they imagined strange and scary _____ swimming there. One of the scariest stories told and retold through generations of _____ was the legend of the terrible, mighty Kraken!

SAILORS COURAGE EDGE DECK

Are Krakens Real?

Like many legends, stories about the Kraken probably started with something real. It may have been based on sightings of a real species of squid called the colossal squid.

Jeepers! Why such large peepers?

Hold this page up to a mirror to use your peepers to read this paragraph:

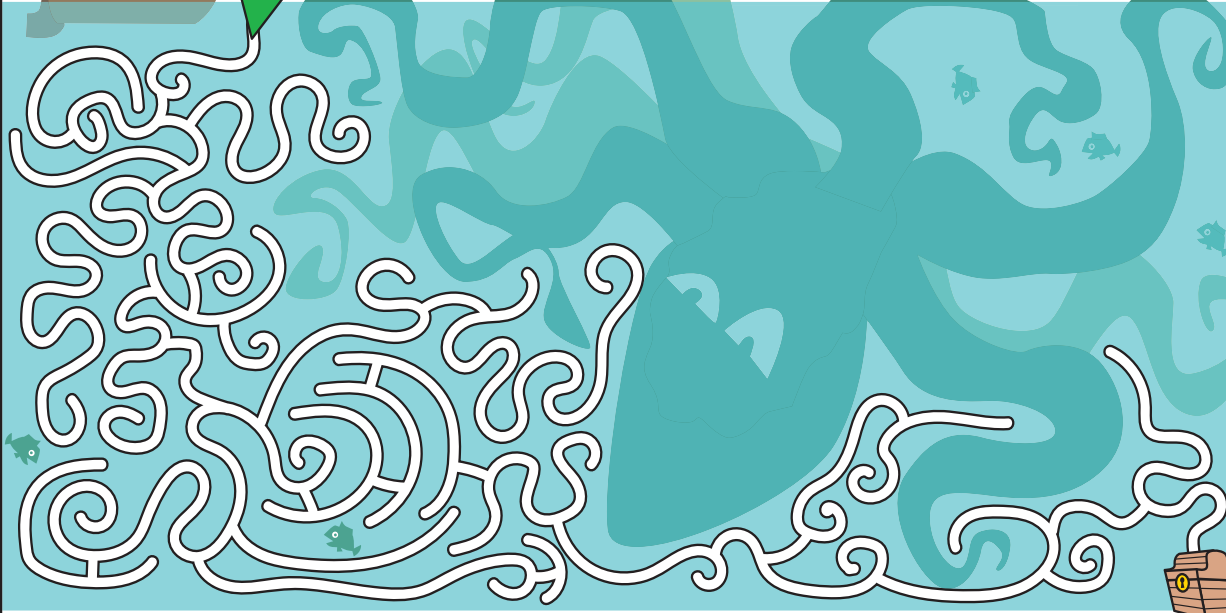
6 zi biupz jnsip 6 ,9l6rtw rmoqz jnsip 6 1o7
?29l6rtw biows v6rt ob woh .l66m nriillit 6cin
t296rt6l 6rt 916 296 2ti - 2969 6rt6l 6v6rt 2biupz?
29t6lq 6rt6rt 26 pid 26 916 v6rt! !66rt6l 6v6rt 6to
929t. 22016 (nit 1) m6c of 6p
of jtr6p6rt 916 219696q jnsip
926l6rtw 6rt 6toq of 6v6l69 6v6rt
biupz 6rt 6rt6rt 6v6rt 16t 6to6t
.6v6rt 6rt 6t 6rt6t

The Kraken is a legendary octopus-like sea monster of gigantic size in Scandinavian folklore. For hundreds of years, sailors told stories of a huge, many-armed creature that could reach the top of a ship's main mast. They claimed it could pull an entire ship underwater!

Sometimes it would swim in fast circles around the ship, creating a whirlpool that would suck the ship under the sea. In these stories, or legends, meeting the Kraken never ended well for the sailors.

Things Aren't Always As They Seem

In some stories about the Kraken it was said that it could float on top of the water and look like a group of islands.



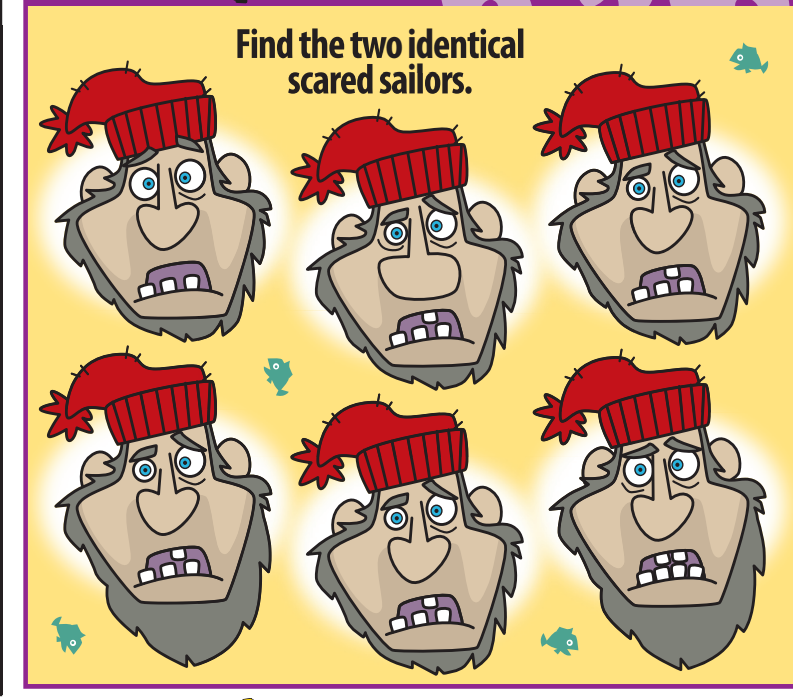
How many fish can you find on this page?

Extra! Extra! Exaggerate!

Find five adjectives in today's newspaper. Make a chart by writing the adjectives in one column and the noun each one describes in the next column over. Then change each adjective and add words to each to exaggerate the meaning of the noun they are describing.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Vocabulary Development.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Find the two identical scared sailors.

Double Double Word Search

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

CREATURES
ENCOUNTER
COLOSSAL
FAMILIAR
SAILORS
STORIES
KRAKEN
LEGEND
RETOLD
WHALES
SQUID
SHIP
REAL
MEAL
EDGE

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

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.

What do you call two octopuses that look exactly alike?

ANSWER: tentacle twins!

Write 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.

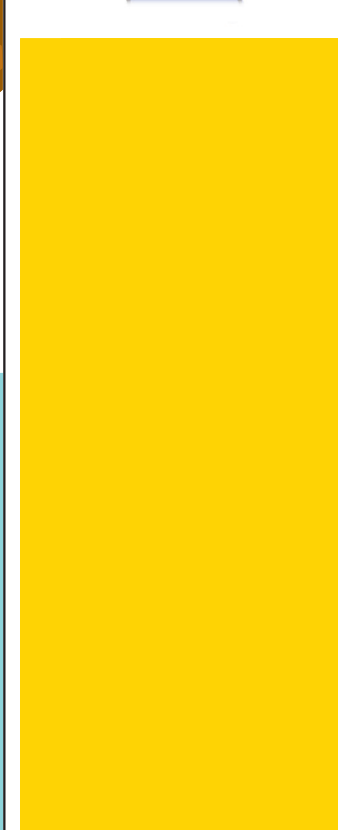
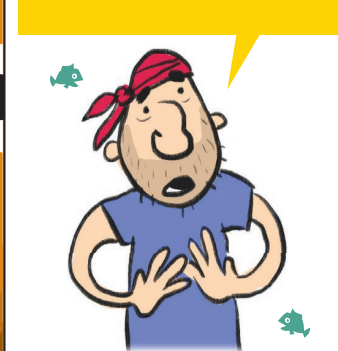
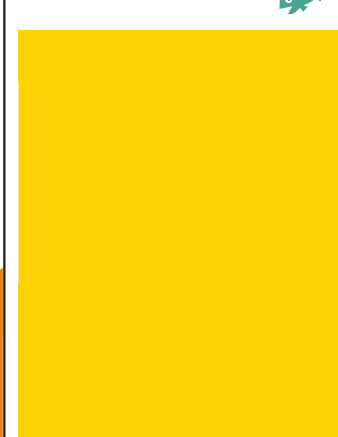
Chatham YMCA

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

287 East Street, Suite 412, Pittsboro, NC 27312
More Info: 919-545-9622

Chatham News + Record

Subscribe Today
919-663-3232



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

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.

ing 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. Vandever, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 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 Estate 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

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, Atty. Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400 Naples, FL 34018 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

Communications Commission (FCC's) Antenna Structure Registration
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 Administration (FAA) to have marking and/or lighting for aviation safety. Interested persons may review the application for this project by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications and entering the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "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/environmentalrequest. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Parties wishing to submit a request by mail may send the request

to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Jn11,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 17 E 427 NORTH CAROLINA 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 Representative 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 skee-ball, 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 gatherings.

“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 area.

“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,



Submitted photo

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 p.m.

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



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 Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

School district personnel also distributed food for children who attend schools in economically-disadvantaged areas of Chatham County.



This year’s Books on Break event, hosted by the Chatham Education Foundation, took on a different look than previous years. School district personnel distributed pre-made bags of books for children who attend schools in economically-disadvantaged areas of Chatham County.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickle